SOUTHAMPTON MAGAZINE



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DIGITAL EDITION

August 2026

Compiled from stories published online in August 2026

SOUTHAMPTON MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Southampton to Host Free Electric Vehicle and Green Energy Event, page 6. Photo supplied by Southampton City Council.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in August 2026. Southampton Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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Photo supplied by Southampton City Council

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Launches New Tenant Charter

Southampton City Council celebrated the launch of its new Tenant Charter and Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement Strategy with a symbolic signing ceremony at the Civic Centre on Wednesday 12 August.

Senior council figures, including the Chef Executive Jillian Kay, Director of Resident Services Carol Maclellan, Director of Housing Jamie Brenchley, Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Sally Goodfellow, Leader of the Council, Councillor Sarah Bogle and council tenants came together at the event, pledging the full implementation of the new charter and strategy.

The Tenant Charter provides tenants with a clear, actionable list of priorities that the council will do for its tenants. Spanning the whole service, the Tenant Charter aims to positively impact the lives of all tenants by improving the delivery of new homes and services, being honest in its communications with tenants and making it easy for tenants to provide feedback and say when things have gone wrong.

The Tenant Charter compliments the Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement Strategy, approved by Cabinet earlier this year. The strategy was co-created alongside tenants across the city. The council's Tenant Engagement team utilised focus groups and resident working groups alongside a 12-week city-wide consultation which gathered

significant feedback from tenants on how they wanted the strategy to work for them and reflect their voice in the service. Both the charter and strategy will play an integral part in placing residents at the heart of the housing service, a key requirement of the social housing regulator.

The strategy has three main focuses, each of which strengthen tenant participation and decision making in the housing service. These three focuses and their aims are:

An integral role in decision making, tenants can expect to have meaningful ways to review and challenge the performance of the council as well as having more power to hold the council to account for the decisions it makes

Effective scrutiny, tenants will be able to review and challenge the council's performance. Additionally, the council's actions will be tracked from start to finish ensuring more transparency

Communication and interaction, the council will be better at gathering, recording and acting on feedback, good and bad and explain what has changed as a result. This ensures that tenants are not only listened to but shown that what they say leads to real change.

Councillor Sally Goodfellow, Cabinet Member for Housing at Southampton City Council said:

This charter serves as a solemn commitment from the council to all of our tenants and leaseholders. The people who live in our homes rightly expect a council who communicates with them honestly, fairly and on an equal level. This will help us become a better landlord and provide our tenants with safe, decent homes along with a landlord service they can trust.

Kim Ayling, Vice Chairperson of the Tenant Insight Panel said:

Today was an important day for our housing service. I am delighted that the council is addressing the concerns of the Housing Regulator and publicly committing to addressing the needs of tenants and leaseholders in the city. All people who live in council properties deserve a safe, decent place to call home. The Tenant Insight Panel will be measuring the progress of the council over the next couple of years to ensure improvement continues to be made.

By Albert Nelson Online 13 August 2026
Read more: **southamptonmagazine.co.uk**

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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton to Host Free Electric Vehicle and Green Energy Event



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Photo supplied by Southampton City Council

People across Southampton are being invited to explore the latest electric vehicles, sustainable transport options and green energy solutions at a free public event on Friday 11 September, from 10am to 3pm.

My Electric Journey: Sparking Change is taking place in Guildhall Square and is being delivered by Southampton City Council with support from Let's Experience Electric as part of its commitment to a greener, healthier and growing city.

The event will give residents, visitors and local businesses the chance to get up close to a wide range of electric vehicles, including cars, buses and e-bikes, while speaking to industry experts about the benefits of making the switch to cleaner, greener forms of transport. Attendees will also be able to learn more about sustainable travel options and other green energy technologies for the home.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the latest developments in electric vehicle technology, find out about projects being delivered in Southampton to support the transition to electric transport, learn more about the city's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) programme, and take part in electric vehicle charging demonstrations. The event will also include opportunities to test drive electric vehicles and speak directly with local dealers and specialists.

Councillor Jacqui Rayment, Cabinet Member for Transport, said:

By Albert Nelson Online 3 August 2026

Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-to-host-free-electric-vehicle-and-green-energy-event

Assemble Programme Opens Creative Career Pathways in Southampton



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Young people with disabilities and additional needs have been developing skills, building confidence and exploring careers in the creative industries through a partnership between Southampton City Council's Employment Support Team (EST) and Mayflower Theatre.

Over June and July, the Assemble programme supported young people aged 18 to 25 who are deaf, disabled, learning disabled or neurodivergent to take their first steps towards a future in the arts and cultural sector.

Provided by Mayflower Theatre in partnership with the EST, Blue Apple Theatre and Minstead Trust, participants were given the opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence, meet industry professionals and gain hands-on experience across a range of theatre departments, including Front of House, Marketing, Technical Theatre and Participation.

The programme forms part of a wider national initiative led by the National Youth Theatre and funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, which aims to create lasting change in how the creative sector recruits, supports and retains deaf, disabled and neurodivergent talent.

The EST played a key role in recommending and supporting 14 young people interested in exploring careers in Southampton's thriving arts and cultural sector to take part.

By Zoe Walker Online 14 August 2026

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/assemble-programme-opens-creative-career-pathways-in-southampton**

Your turn

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Southampton Council Invests £250,000 in Shirley Ponds Skate Park



8

Work is due to begin this week on the refurbishment of Shirley Ponds Skate Park, transforming the ageing steel facility into a more durable concrete skate park for local people.

The existing skate park has reached the end of its practical service life and Southampton City Council is investing £250,000 in replacing the current steel ramps and features with reinforced concrete structures, using the existing layout as the basis for the new construction.

By Catherine Williams Online 28 August 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-invests-250000-in-shirley-ponds-skate-park

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Common Play Area Reopens After Major Refurbishment



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Families across Southampton can once again enjoy one of the city's most popular outdoor play destinations, as the refurbished Common Play Area has officially reopened.

Located in the heart of Southampton Common, the much-loved play area has undergone a major transformation, with new play equipment, improved sand play areas and upgraded water play features, creating more opportunities for children to play, explore and be active outdoors.

The improvements form part of Southampton City Council's ongoing investment in parks and green spaces, helping ensure residents have access to high-quality outdoor facilities that support healthy, active lifestyles.

By Barbara Parker Online 11 August 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-common-play-area-reopens-after-major-refurbishment

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Park and Ride Service Ready for New Football Season



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With the new Championship football season kicking off this weekend, Southampton City Council is encouraging Saints supporters to make matchdays easier by using the PR2 Park & Ride service to travel to and from St Mary's Stadium.

As Southampton FC prepare for their opening home fixture against Stoke City (22nd August at 3pm), fans can plan their journeys to take advantage of the dedicated PR2 matchday service offering a simple, convenient, and affordable alternative to driving into the city and searching for parking near the stadium.

By Zoe Walker Online 17 August 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-park-and-ride-service-ready-for-new-football-season

SOUTHAMPTON

Itchen Bridge Maintenance Works Enter Final Phases



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Maintenance works on the Itchen Bridge are due to continue for the remainder of August as the scheme enters its final phases.

Southampton City Council and our Highways partner Balfour Beatty Living Places are pleased to confirm that the carriageway resurfacing has been successfully completed, allowing the removal of the temporary 20mph speed limit across the bridge.

Night-time working with bridge closures to vehicles from 8pm to 6am will continue to operate, with the bridge remaining open to pedestrians and cyclists throughout. During these times, our teams will be working on the bridge expansion joints, drainage connections and all associated cycle marking and lining which will need to be finished before the project can be declared fully complete.

By Albert Nelson Online 17 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/itchen-bridge-maintenance-works-enter-final-phases**

In brief



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Employment Programme Supports Young People into Work

Southampton City Council is helping more residents take positive steps towards employment through its Connect to Work programme, supporting people who face barriers to finding or keeping a job and delivering on the city's long-term ambition to ensure everyone has the skills, support and opportunities they need to succeed.

By Zoe Online 4 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-employment-programme-supports-young-people-into-work**



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Bus Changes Bring New Route to General Hospital

Local people in Bitterne, Townhill Park and east Southampton will soon benefit from a new direct bus service to Southampton General Hospital as part of major improvements to the Bluestar 16 service.

By Zoe Walker Online 18 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-bus-changes-bring-new-route-to-general-hospital**



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton City Council Adopts Updated Minerals and Waste Plan to Guide Growth Until 2040

An updated plan that will guide how minerals are supplied and waste is managed across Hampshire and Southampton until 2040 was adopted by Southampton City Council on Wednesday 15 July 2026.

By Barbara Parker Online 6 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-city-council-adopts-updated-minerals-and-waste-plan-to-guide-growth-until-2040**



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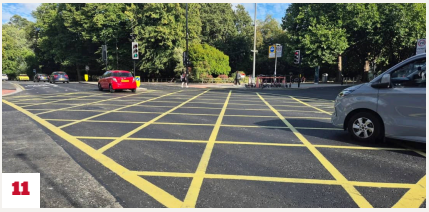
SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Confirms Bus Gate Cameras for Woolston

Camera enforcement of the bus gate at Cooper's Lane in Woolston will begin on Wednesday 26 August 2026, helping to keep buses moving efficiently across the Itchen Bridge.

By Catherine Williams Online 24 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-confirms-bus-gate-cameras-for-woolston**

In brief



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton to Introduce Camera Enforcement at Bus Gates and Yellow Box Junction

Southampton City Council is preparing to bring in camera enforcement of the bus gate and yellow box junction at Above Bar Street, New Road and Civic Centre Road and the bus gate at Cooper's Lane, Woolston.

By Catherine Williams Online 16 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-to-introduce-camera-enforcement-at-bus-gates-and-yellow-box-junction**



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Residents Invited to Have Say on Glen Eyre Road Plans

People who live, work, study or travel through Glen Eyre Road are being invited to have their say on proposed changes to the road as Southampton City Council launches a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation.

By Zoe Online 3 August 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-residents-invited-to-have-say-on-glen-eyre-road-plans**



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PORTSMOUTH

Victorious Festival Set to Bring Community and Economic Boost to Portsmouth

As Portsmouth prepares to welcome Victorious Festival back to Southsea Common, Portsmouth City Council is highlighting the positive impact the event has on the city and the extensive work taking place behind the scenes to ensure another successful weekend.

By Albert Nelson Online 25 August 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/victorious-festival-set-to-bring-community-and-economic-boost-to-portsmouth**



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PORTSMOUTH

Southsea Food Festival Generates £2.18m in Visitor Spending

Southsea Food Festival 2026 generated an estimated £2.18 million in visitor spending, highlighting its growing role in supporting Portsmouth's economy and tourism sector.

By Zoe Walker Online 27 August 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/southsea-food-festival-generates-218m-in-visitor-spending**

In brief



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PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Foster Carers Celebrated at Annual Foscars Event

A celebration of Portsmouth foster carers took place at the annual 'Foscars' to recognise their dedication to local children and young people.

By Zoe Online 4 August 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/portsmouth-foster-carers-celebrated-at-annual-foscars-event**



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PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Guildhall Clock Undergoes Vital Restoration

An iconic building in the city centre is getting some TLC to keep on chiming.

The historic Portsmouth Guildhall clock is undergoing vital restoration work. As a result, the clock will not chime for roughly nine weeks.

By Catherine Williams Online 16 August 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/portsmouth-guildhall-clock-undergoes-vital-restoration**



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BRIGHTON

Brighton Wheel Could Return to Seafront Next Summer

The popular Brighton Wheel looks set to return to the city next year. The much-loved attraction, which was dismantled in 2016, could be back in action by next summer.

By Albert Nelson Online 19 August 2026
Continued at **brightonmagazine.co.uk/brighton-wheel-could-return-to-seafront-next-summer**



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SUSSEX

Thousands Attend Chichester Emergency Services and Community Day

Thousands of people gathered at Oaklands Park on Sunday 2 August for Chichester's Emergency Services, Armed Forces and Community Day.

By Zoe Walker Online 8 August 2026
Continued at **sussexmagazine.co.uk/thousands-attend-chichester-emergency-services-and-community-day**

In brief



SUSSEX

Lewes Hosts Sussex Organ Donor Awards

The Order of St John, in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), held its Organ Donor Awards presentation at Lewes Town Hall on 16 July 2026.

By Joshua Gill | Online 23 August 2026
Continued at **sussexmagazine.co.uk/lewes-hosts-sussex-organ-donor-awards**

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