

Rochford District

Matters



SPRING 2022

**Exciting news
and stories
from across
our district**

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INSIDE: Find out about the Queens Platinum Jubilee events in and around the district, how we are supporting businesses across the district. Meet your Elected Members.

2 The Councillor Executive Team

The Council has 39 elected members. The Leader, Deputy Leader and six of the elected members make up the Executive team and make the major decisions about council services that residents use on a day-to-day basis.

Welcome

As we emerge after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, it feels right to reflect on how the Council has performed in these challenging times, and to consider how we will continue supporting our communities as we recover towards a healthier and sustainable financial future.

During the pandemic we launched the 'Reopening High Streets Safely' and 'Welcome Back' initiatives to support the safe reopening of high streets along with distributing over 30 million in grant funding to local businesses.

Over the next year, this Council will be exploring various ways to support regeneration and to ensure that current and future generations are able to access high quality, sustainable homes and help stimulate the local economy and employment opportunities for everyone.

I am committed to ensure that the Council continues to deliver high quality services, which our residents, communities, and businesses rely on and help our district to thrive.



Cllr, Simon Wooton
Leader

CLLR CHERYL ROE,
Deputy Leader



I am extremely proud to have a team of wonderful staff at Rochford District Council who have gone over and above to continue to provide an excellent service to residents during the pandemic. I wish to personally and publicly thank them all.

CLLR SIMON SMITH,
Portfolio Holder Financial Services



We help and support many of our most vulnerable residents through the provision of housing and financial support. We also collect Council Tax and business rates which is an important task as it allows us to pay for all the important services we deliver like collecting the bins and new playground equipment.

CLLR DANIEL EFDE,
Portfolio Holder for IT,
Tourism, Housing & Parking



We continue to invest in our green spaces, including Cherry Orchard Country Park with an extended car park and through traditional management of wildflower meadow and woodland.

We have invested in our district car parks with improved surfaces and lines and with new parking machines which will be installed this year. We have also decided to pause any increase to car parking charges, to help our town centres recover from lockdown.

CLLR DAVE SPERRING,
Portfolio Holder Environment & Place



We have continued an efficient waste collection service across the district, despite the severe strains placed on us during the pandemic and have one of the highest recycling rates in the country. We are also progressing our efforts to become carbon neutral by 2030. We have maintained our open spaces 'the green lungs' of the district and will be undertaking further tree planting in the year ahead.

CLLR IAN WARD,
Portfolio Holder Strategic Planning



In the last year, the national trend has shown a significant increase in the number of planning applications being submitted. Whilst this has been a challenge for our Planning Team, they have worked hard to process the increase in applications and work to the government's set deadlines. I am happy to report our performance on decision making and appeals has been maintained but we understand there is always room for improvement and continue to look at ways in which the customer experience can be improved.

CLLR MIKE WEBB,
Portfolio Holder Commercial,
Business, Local Economy & Leisure



I am proud that as a council we were able to support our business community through managing around 15 different grant rounds that provided over £31 million in funding to thousands of businesses. I am also pleased that we were able to re-open our leisure centres, including our swimming pool, providing vital services for the health and wellbeing of our residents.

CLLR ARTHUR WILLIAMS,
Portfolio Holder Community



We have been working with organisations such as RRAVS and the MegaCentre to help deliver care and support our residents and directing funding to where it is needed most. I would sincerely like to thank all of our volunteers for all they have done during these very difficult times. I myself have also volunteered as a marshal during covid vaccinations at a local doctors surgery.

CONTACT US

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rochford.gov.uk

FOLLOW US

Rochford District Council
@RochfordDC
@rochforddistrictcouncil

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

Historic celebrations this summer for Queen's Platinum Jubilee



This year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

The landmark comes after 70 years of service to the Commonwealth, having acceded to the throne in February 1952. The celebrations will be an opportunity for communities within the district to come together to commemorate the occasion.

A programme of national events will take place between 2-5 June, and here in Rochford, there are some exciting things happening too.

The Millennial Beacon will be lit at 9:45pm on 2 June as part of a chain of light ups across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth. This will be a public event and we would love to see residents flock to the high street to enjoy the celebrations.

The council is planting an avenue of 70 hornbeam trees in Cherry Orchard Country Park as part of the Queen's Green Canopy - a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee by inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

The Council's Chairman will also be hosting their annual garden party, themed to commemorate the jubilee and raise funds for charity, recognising Her Majesty's lifelong commitment to charitable work.

Rayleigh Windmill will be exhibiting local artworks that celebrate the jubilee and will have special Bank Holiday opening hours.

Residents wanting to host street parties in their area can apply for a licence to do so, but please submit any requests at least eight weeks before the jubilee. You can submit a request for your street by visiting: www.rochford.gov.uk/guidance-organising-street-party

You can also take a look at the Government's website for some creative ideas on how you can take part at: www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk/get-involved-with-the-platinum-jubilee/

The council's Platinum Purse fund will make available a total of £10,000 to help community groups across the district who need additional funding to support their celebrations. Eligibility requirements and the application process will be advertised on the council's website.

The district's town and parish councils will also be organising events local to you. To find out what is happening in your community, we are asking all event organisers to promote their celebrations on our website to spread the word across the district, so please send in photos and tell us about your event at: www.rochford.gov.uk/PlatinumJubilee



Get married with us!



We have some stunning venues for weddings and celebrations that you can enjoy exclusive use of throughout your special day.

The Old House, Rochford

Dating back to 1270, the medieval Old House is a hidden gem that can host 24 ceremony guests in the heart of Rochford.



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*See website for terms
and conditions

The romantic venue offers two glamorous rooms for wedding party members to get ready, and cosy reception rooms to toast the happy couple. Plus a picturesque garden that's perfect to capture memories of your special day.

The Rayleigh Windmill

Venues to host your special ceremony don't get more iconic than the Rayleigh Windmill.



Seating up to 20 guests, the Windmill's garden and majestic sails are a stunning backdrop to capture a day to remember.

Get in touch to find out more:

T: 01702 318120

**E: celebrations@rochford.gov.uk
www.rochford.gov.uk/weddings**

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

4 Tourism

Experience everything the Rayleigh Windmill has to offer

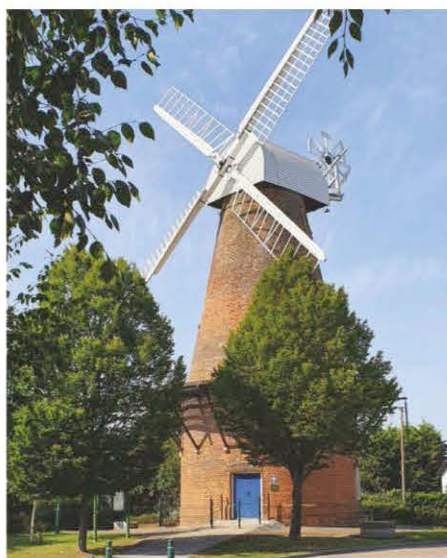
Have you ever visited the Rayleigh Windmill? If not, you really are missing out!

At 212 years old, the Grade II listed building is one of our district's most iconic landmarks, and it packs a lot more than you might expect inside.

The tallest tower mill in Essex, the space provided employment not just for mill workers, but also farmers, bakers, and builders operated from within the building through the 1800's and until just before the start of World War II.

Reopened as a museum by Rochford District Council back in 2006, the 67-foot-tall structure with spectacular 40-foot sails has four floors accessible to the public, hosting a variety of exciting different exhibits and artefacts where you can learn about the history of both the Windmill and the wider district during the time it was operational.

You can try on a wardrobe of historical costumes, watch a hand operated demonstration of how the machinery was used to produce crucial raw materials, view a display of Rayleigh's agricultural and rural past, discover the history of the nearby Rayleigh Mount and the former Rayleigh Castle, discover household items from both world wars, and see the vast array of cuttings and photos that show the life and times of Rayleigh.



And once you've been round and experienced all that and more, take our interactive quiz to see how much of it you can remember!

You can also look out at the fantastic views from the highest floor across Rochford District and beyond, and the windmill garden provides a peaceful area to relax in the grounds of such a beautiful building.

Our fantastically passionate volunteers, are extremely knowledgeable and can reveal all the gems of the windmill's history.

The Rayleigh Windmill will be open to the public from Sunday 3 April - Wednesday 28 September 2022, with the opening times being Wednesdays between 10am-1pm and on Saturdays and Sundays between 1pm-4pm. We are delighted to continue running weddings at the Windmill, which may affect some opening dates. Please check the website for planned closure dates before visiting.



Watch our virtual tour of the Rayleigh Windmill

Rochford District Council is delighted to showcase a virtual tour of the Rayleigh Windmill.

The virtual tour uses a combination of footage from inside the Windmill, drone footage and historical photographs to highlight what makes the Windmill such a special and well-loved landmark and visitor attraction.

You can watch the tour at:
www.rochford.gov.uk/windmill



Look out for further information about Mills' weekend and Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at:
www.rochford.gov.uk/windmill
Or you can find us on social media:

@RayleighWindmill
 @Rayleigh_Mill
 @rayleighwindmill_essex

If you are interested in volunteering at the Rayleigh Windmill or taking part in a group tour, you can email leisure@rochford.gov.uk or call Elizabeth to discuss further on 01702 318120.

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

Careers Options Programme

showcases exciting opportunities for Rochford's young people

An exciting Careers Options Programme has been delivered to hundreds of students across our local secondary schools, to contribute towards our young residents developing into Rochford's highly skilled workforce of the future.

Delivered to Year 9 pupils at Sweyne Park School, Greensward Academy, and The King Edmund School, the sessions were to help students better understand how they can build up the types of skills that will be in high demand in the future, but which are currently facing a shortage of young talent in the local area.

Through the eyes of local employers including IPECO and 'London' Southend Airport, the fun and interactive sessions allowed students to engage in group workshops, completing company-related tasks to help inspire the students about their future careers, and about which GCSE subjects will help to get them there.

The 2022 programme has been kindly supported by Anderson Group (construction), Olympus Keymed (manufacturing and medical technology), Network Rail (advanced engineering), IPECO (advanced engineering) and Southend Airport (aviation). The Economic Development Team would like to extend its sincere thanks to Enterprise in Education, the local schools, and employers for their continued support of the programme.



Airport Business Park ready to take off

The new hi-tech Airport Business Park is taking shape just off of Cherry Orchard Way.



The development is a result of the Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP), a long-term strategic planning policy developed by Rochford District Council and Southend-On-Sea Borough Council, which hopes to deliver up to 7,000 new skilled jobs by 2031 in the area surrounding Southend Airport.

Already home to world-leading aerospace manufacturing firm IPECO, the site will provide a high-quality environment for a range of businesses of all sizes, and will reduce the need for residents to commute elsewhere for higher-paid jobs.

Keep an eye on the area in the coming months as the site continues to take shape.

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

6 Planning and Development

Connecting our Historic Past to Our Future

Rochford District Council's Asset Delivery Programme is a long-term regeneration programme taking place in the District.

The programme aims to boost the local economy through the creation of local trade, apprenticeships, and work placements and deliver sustainable enhancements in our community facilities, whilst also reducing costs and supporting the council's carbon reduction targets.

Engagement with the public and consultation has been an important part of the process and wherever possible, residents' feedback has been reflected in the proposed schemes at The Freight House in Rochford, The Civic Suite in Rayleigh, and homes in South Street, Rochford.

You can see the changes that have been made to the designs for each site as a direct result of public feedback at www.voyage-partnership.co.uk/feedback/

A sustainable future for the Freight House in Rochford

This environmentally sustainable scheme will see the existing building refurbished, with a new extension and a glazed central atrium.

The Council is committed to addressing climate change and this project is an example of how to minimise energy use and carbon production.

The proposals actively promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, providing secure and covered bicycle storage and 83 car parking spaces including electric car charging points.

The existing community hireable function space within the Freight House will be upgraded whilst also providing flexible space for the Council's public meetings. The extension will be highly environmentally and financially sustainable and provide flexible and efficient working space for the Council.



An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

Breathing new life into the Civic Suite, Rayleigh

The proposals for this conservation site, home to Rochford District Council's Civic Chamber, will see part of the existing Civic Suite retained and refurbished for use as new office space, supporting the local economy. The remainder of the site will be redeveloped for 12 high quality, sustainable, residential homes.

The environmentally sustainable proposals incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels for electricity generation and Air Source Heat Pump heating.

The use of sustainable modes of transport is also promoted, with secure and covered bicycle storage.

Further environmental measures include enhanced insulation within walls, floors, roofs and glazing, and the use of low carbon materials.

Green landscaped areas will be retained, along with as many good quality trees as possible. A planting scheme will replace any trees that are lost.



NEW HOMES for South Street, Rochford

3-15 South Street

20 high quality, energy efficient new homes are being created in the heart of our historic town of Rochford, helping to address demand for local housing.

The proposals for the sensitive restoration and sustainable reuse of this important heritage site on South Street, back to its former use as residential homes, include four, separately listed Grade II buildings. This will be a highly energy efficient development with a modern all-electric energy solution that isn't reliant on fossil fuels. Solar panels have also been added to the roofs of the buildings at the rear of the site as a renewable source of energy.

The proposals include the retention and preservation of a historic walled garden and retaining the existing trees.

19 South Street

No 19 South Street already has planning permission however an application has been submitted to enhance the design of the proposed refurbishment.

57 South Street

The revised proposals for No. 57 South Street have been reduced in height and the proposed building has been raised to a higher level than the existing building to avoid any flooding risk.



For the latest information on the Council's Asset Delivery Programme visit: www.voyage-partnership.co.uk

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

8 Elections

Get ready for May elections

On Thursday 5 May, there are elections taking place to elect 13 Rochford District Councillors in each ward.

These wards are Downhall & Rawreth, Foulness & The Wakerings, Hawkwell East, Hawkwell West, Hockley, Hockley & Ashingdon, Hullbridge, Lodge, Roche North & Rural, Roche South, Sweyne Park & Grange, Trinity, Wheatley.

Elections will also take place to elect councillors to Rawreth Parish and the Rochford North and Rochford South wards of Rochford Parish Council.

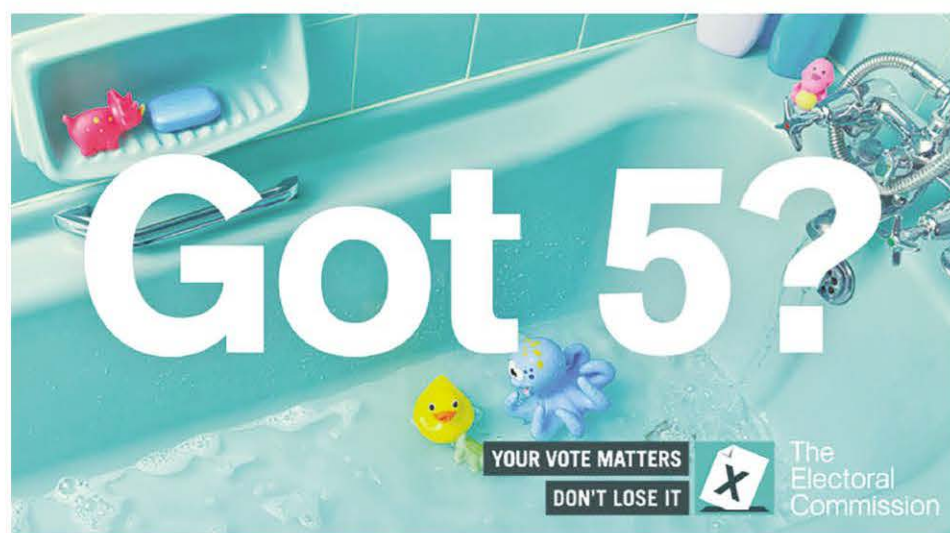
Look out for polling cards which will be hand delivered to you from the end of March/early April; providing full details, including the location of your local polling station.



PLEASE REGISTER TO VOTE

To have your say, you need to be registered to vote on the electoral register. You can now register to vote online, please visit:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
and note that the deadline to register is Thursday 14th April



Candidates

The details of the candidates standing for each of the District wards will be published on our website as soon as possible after nominations close at 4pm on 5th April and can be found at www.rochford.gov.uk/elections

Coronavirus

All polling stations will be Covid compliant. Please wear a mask, follow social distancing measures and bring your own pen to polling stations.

On Thursday 5 May, the polls will open from 7am and close at 10pm.



If you would prefer to apply to register to vote using a paper form, you can still download the form from the registration site or you can request one from the council's electoral services team on 01702 318187 and send it back to us by Thursday 14 April 2022.

Postal Votes

We understand people may want to apply for a postal vote this year. Please get your postal vote application in as soon as possible and please be aware that the deadline for the Returning Officer to receive your application is 5pm on 19th April.

To apply to vote by post you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. For more information visit www.rochford.gov.uk/elections

Important dates

- The deadline to register to vote for the May 2022 elections is **Thursday 14 April 2022**
- The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on **Tuesday 19 April 2022**
- The deadline to apply for a proxy vote (whereby somebody can vote on your behalf) is 5pm on **Tuesday 26 April 2022**
- The deadline for receipt of Emergency proxy is 5pm on **Thursday 5 May 2022.**

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

Tackling fly-tipping to help clean up our town

Rochford is a lovely place to live, and we're doing our best to keep it that way.

Flytipping is a totally unacceptable act and one that as a council we're really trying to clamp down on.

Having only launched our enforcement team in 2017, this last year has been our most successful so far, and we're looking to step it up even further over the next year.

The last 12 months have included 29 successful prosecutions for fly-tipping offences, including some notable cases.

One of our recent efforts to tackle flytippers is the purchasing of our wildlife cameras, which we now have 10 of that can rotate between locations around the district.

One of these cameras managed to capture a local restaurant unashamedly dumping their rubbish within Back Lane car park. Thankfully, due to these covert cameras, we successfully fined the restaurant in question and no further flytips have taken place at the location.

In another instance, a resident and persistent fly-tipper was finally caught and punished, facing 200 hours of unpaid work through a 12-month Community Order, and a hefty 1,548 in compensation and 1,000 in court costs.

That's a lot more expensive than the alternative ways residents can get rid of their waste.

You can book a bulky waste collection to collect unwanted items of furniture by calling us on 01702 318191, you can utilise our waste collections on the third Saturday of every month from 9am until 12pm at Great Wakering Recreational Ground, or you can visit Rayleigh

Recycling Centre to dispose of your waste every day between 9am to 5pm.

Residents can also help in our pursuit to clean up our district by reporting any dumped rubbish you see, by submitting the location details and as much information as possible at: www.rochford.gov.uk/flytipping



How well do you know your bins?

We have three different bins in Rochford, and collections each week are different. So how well do you know your bins and what goes in them?

Plastic Recycling – your grey bin

You can recycle all plastic bottles, plastic tubs, pots and trays in your fortnightly collected grey bin, but make sure to empty and rinse all containers beforehand.

Why not save money by using plastic tubs for freezing leftovers or storing crafts materials?



Compostables – your green/yellow bin

Your compostables bin, collected weekly, gives your food and garden waste a second life as compost.

Any human food waste can go in your compostables bin, from cooked to raw food, to peelings and bones... plus all your garden cuttings. Put items in either loose, wrapped in newspaper, or in a compostable liner.



Non recyclables – your grey/purple bin

It's got its place - but your fortnightly collected grey and purple bin is our least favourite!

Rubbish from this bin goes to landfill, which causes significant problems for our environment. Think about whether items can go in one of your other bins or be reused instead.



If you're ever in doubt about whether you can recycle an item, check out our A to Z index at: www.rochford.gov.uk/recycling

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

10 Finance

Grants supporting Rochford businesses through the pandemic

Navigating the course of the pandemic hasn't been easy for anyone. As a council, we've tried to support the survival, recovery, and growth of Rochford businesses at various stages of it through a wide range of business grant schemes.

We've delivered around
15 different grant rounds
since the start of the pandemic,
providing over £31 million
in grant funding
to support thousands of district businesses



Grants available have ranged from covering lost trade and unexpected costs as a result of Coronavirus restrictions, to funding longer-term adaptations to make our local businesses more adaptable, such as improving their online footprint.

With the Additional Restrictions Grant (a discretionary scheme), we were able to help businesses who had experienced a real drop in trade, but were not eligible for any of the core grants. The important industries in our community we could support with the grant included:

- Hospitality
- Leisure
- Catteries and kennels
- Home and mobile beauty
- Taxi drivers
- Driving instructors

The grants dished out so far equals over **£350 per local resident**



Lynn Peacher, owner of Perfectly Peachie Gift Shop, said:

"I would like to personally thank the Council for their professionalism and efficiency.

"Once I had all the information needed, it was a very simple process of completing the online form and emailing it across. The grant came through within a couple of days and has relieved a lot of stress and worry."

Local business owner? Stay up to date

If you're a local business owner, keep up to date with the latest support available by subscribing to weekly email updates from the council's Economic Development team.

Visit www.rochford.gov.uk/TellMeMore and selecting 'Business' upon sign-up.



It has cost 20p per household to prepare, print and send you this information.
We have used local printers and distributors.

An online version of this newspaper is available at www.rochford.gov.uk/rdm

Message from the Chairman



I am honoured and proud to be Chairman of Rochford District Council this municipal year – 2021/22. Being the First Citizen of the Rochford District includes representing residents, chairing formal Council meetings, supporting local organisations, charities, and promoting positive events happening around the district. We have so much to enjoy and celebrate in our beautiful rural district in which we all live.

The role is varied and has given me the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the diverse community projects going on, such as the Rochford District Heritage Tapestry. Around 200 people worked together to create 10 hand-crafted tapestry panels depicting 1000 years' history of the Rochford district. I was delighted to see many people showing great interest in this project.

Recently, I attended a Holocaust Memorial Day Service held at Rochford District Council's specially commissioned Memorial, in Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, to Victims of Persecution. I believe it's imperative

that we all remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. I took part by giving a reading during the service. Collective 'services of remembrance' are rightfully given a high profile and are greatly respected by leading councillors and officers of the Council.

Another area which I lend my support to is highlighting inspirational local charities that are doing a great job helping out their local communities. A recent example of this is two admirable citizens, Billy Ray Mansell and his son Noah, who have so far raised £1500 for Mid-South Essex Charities for local hospitals by walking 1000 miles to say thank you to our NHS. This father and son are amazing role models who have done their charity walk dressed as superheroes – incredible.

I have particularly enjoyed being invited to support local businesses just starting back after the pandemic. One such promotional event involved Nana Cha Cha's, a small café in Hullbridge. The building was brought back to life and renovated following the last national lockdown and has contributed to the local economy by moving the business into the district.



Holocaust Memorial Day flag raising

Other entrepreneurs have also started their business from home including, Naseem's Indian Kitchen. Simeen creates Indian cuisine using her mother's tried, tested and loved recipes. Simeen uses her skills, qualities, and warm personality to introduce her culture - sharing her skills and tips with people interested in learning authentic Indian cooking using all the various spices to make her special dishes.

Given my background, it is no surprise that my passion lies with supporting youth organisations. I recently visited Kaos Youth Club to support leaders at an event celebrating the young people's achievements.

My chosen Chairman's charity for this year is East Essex Hackspace. I am pleased that this community hub has been brought back into use in Hawkwell. It is a space where people can socialise while creating fabulous practical opportunities to develop skills using outstanding technology which is made available to all within the local community.

Cllr Julie Gooding
Chairman of Rochford District Council



Clements Hall Leisure Centre & Rayleigh Leisure Centre

£350,000+ INVESTMENT

Brand new gym equipment **COMING SOON!**

We're investing over £350,000 in all the latest and best equipment across our two leisure centres!

Including:

NEW cardiovascular machines

NEW fixed weight resistance machines

NEW free weights

NEW functional training equipment

Great **membership options** available

Visit fusion-lifestyle.com/offers for your **FREE*** trial

*Terms and conditions apply

Clements Hall Leisure Centre

Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell, SS5 4LN

chlc-sales@fusion-lifestyle.com

01702 207777 | clementshall-leisurecentre.com

Rayleigh Leisure Centre

Priory Chase, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 9NF

rylc-sales@fusion-lifestyle.com

01268 654510 | rayleighleisurecentre.com

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