

Birmingham isn't just a place on a map, it's the city we all choose to call home.

So what makes Birmingham *our* home? Is it the people, the history, the food, the music, the location, the transport links, the parks and gardens, *etc.*?

Share your thoughts

By sharing your thoughts and experiences, you can help build a clearer picture of Birmingham.

Every memory, moment of pride, or hope for the future helps the Council understand the many stories that make up our city. Your voice can add to the conversation and to help the Council explore how Birmingham can continue to grow, connect and thrive.

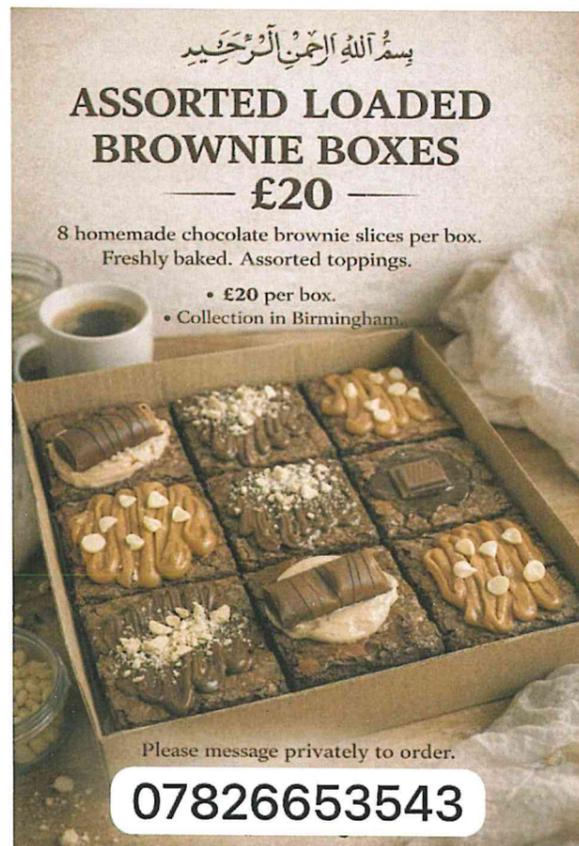
Birmingham Council wants to hear it all, what you love, what inspires you, and what *could* make our city even better.

Please complete the survey, which runs until **Thursday, 19th March 2026**. If you don't tell them, how will they know? It can be found at:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/whatisamodernbrummie/



Support Local Small Businesses



Volunteer for Birmingham 2026

European Championships



The European Athletics Championship is coming to Birmingham in August, and the organisers are looking for 1,500 volunteers to help deliver the event.

With roles across ticketing, transport, medal ceremonies, media operations and more, apply to be a part of the team for this major sporting event!

You must be available to volunteer between 8th and 17th August, with some pre-event shifts also available (25th July - 7th August).

Go to:

www.birmingham26.com/home/competitions/european-athletics-championships/volunteer



Holly Rise Newsletter

March 2026



Housing Manager's Message

I'm not sure if being cooped up in our homes during all the wet weather has made people a little stir crazy, but I've had an influx of complaints about neighbours behaving thoughtlessly and even aggressively towards each other. Examples, have included:

1. Carrying out DIY tasks involving drilling and hammering very late at night
2. Vacuuming at 12 midnight and 1 am
3. Children shouting and running up and down hallways, again around midnight
4. Washing machines being used after 11pm
5. A resident verbally abusing other residents in the Claverdon car park on at least 2 separate occasions
6. A resident addressing the Fortem Customer Care team aggressively whilst they were delivering invitation letters to the regeneration Open Forums

These are just a few examples and they sadden me especially when, as a community, there is so much to look forward to.

The regeneration plans, first talked about in 2009, are finally becoming a reality. The Open Forums at The Ark were well attended with many questions asked and answered.

I'm sure there will have many more queries and concerns before this is over. It is very unlikely every experience and interaction with the contractors and the council's project team will be as positive or productive as we would all like. Not everyone will like or agree with some of the works being planned. However, the programme has been designed to ensure every home meets the national Decent Homes Standard. This is a legally binding set of guidelines all social landlords

must adhere to. Birmingham City Council is no exemption. In May 2023, 39% of the council's housing stock was categorised as "non-decent". As a result, the council has developed a 5 year plan to ensure that by 2029, all BCC tenants live in warm, dry, energy efficient and safe homes.

Over the next few months, a number of surveys will need to be completed as every flat is different. Some tenants have carried out their own repairs and adaptations, some have taken part in all or some of the Holly Rise Projects whilst others have had no work done for many years.

If you cannot be at home in the daytime, please arrange for a friend or family member to be present to allow access. The contractors should provide dates/times, *etc.* directly to you.

It's really important every flat is surveyed as soon as possible so works to the whole block are not delayed. Nobody wants to have their existing windows removed in the middle of winter, even if they are going to be replaced by AAA rated double glazing within hours.

And please remember, when your buzzer goes or there is a knock on your door, always ask to see ID before you let anyone in. Your personal safety must always be your priority.

Jane



Watch out for the Spring Newsletter



The next committee meeting will be at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, 8th April 2026