

the Brighton Bell



Issue
No. 127

**BASINGSTOKE'S LARGEST CIRCULATING
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE**
NEWS • VIEWS • LOCAL EVENTS
June – August 2026



Inside this Issue:

- Upper Swallick Plans South of M3
- Cranbourne School
- Brighton Hill Cubs & Scouts

Upper Swallick taken from the Design
and Access Statement Part 1

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Distributed by volunteers throughout Brighton Hill, Cranbourne, Viables and Camrose areas.

Chairman: Ian Edney – Tel: 01256 327657

You can email your articles and views to the Brighton Bell team at brightonbellmag@gmail.com.

Welcome to the 127th edition of the Brighton Bell.

In this issue, the big news is that a planning application has been received for 2,500 houses at Upper Swallick, south of the M3. This has massive implications for Brighton Hill, Harrow Way, Grove Road and Black Dam residents, with additional traffic on Hackwood Road and coming under the M3 at Woods Lane. Stand Up for North Hampshire Downs have supplied us some information for this magazine. If you have any concerns/objections, it's important you get them in as soon as possible. The application reference is 26/00802/OUT.

Write to: the Planning Department, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AT, or telephone 01256 844844, or email planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk quoting the reference above.

Committee Members: We are on the look out for new committee members to take our magazine forward. We will need new blood to go forward in the next few years. If you would like to be a part of our team, please contact Ian, our chairman, using the details at the top of this page.

Web Site Administrator: We need someone to take on our web site www.brighton-bell.co.uk. If you can spare a few hours a week, please contact me using the details below.

Advertising Manager: We're on the look-out for someone to help with Sales and Marketing of our magazine. If you can spare a few hours a week, please contact Ian, our chairman, about what the role might involve.



It remains for me to wish you a happy summer.

Yours sincerely,

Andy McCormick
Editor

brightonbellmag@gmail.com
07879 436985

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PLEASE READ ME! Hello Everyone. Grateful thanks to the people who are currently taking on EXTRA deliveries for us to tide us over - how incredible are they! We still need help with the following roads please:

Heathfield Road (59); Wagner Close (75); Verdi Close (76); one third of Quilter Road (evens) 2-210 (106); Ketelby Rise (50); Rossini Close (86); Grainger Close (86); Mozart Close (81). If you can help with any of the above (for 1-2 hours, 4 times a year) please contact **Anne** on 01256 327657; 07980 471201; or by email at edneyanne@yahoo.co.uk even if you have been in touch before or if you think someone else must have offered by now or if you haven't been approached personally!

One extra area on offer this time is part of **Britten Road** please - Odds ... 139-225 (44) and Evens ... 242-304 (32). Total: 76. One of our stalwarts, who has helped for **many** years, has needed to step down. We offer our **very** grateful thanks to that person. I look forward to hearing from **YOU** now!

PS We still need a **voluntary Sub-Editor** AND committee members!! If you fancy coming along for a 'taster' for either, please get in touch with Anne.

PPS Is there any particular time that committee meetings would suit you? At the moment we hold them on a Tuesday evening, but we're happy to reconsider!

NEXT EDITION DEADLINE JULY 31ST

Whilst every reasonable care has been taken by the Brighton Bell team in presenting the information in this booklet, no responsibility can be taken by them for any inaccuracies.

2026 LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Brighton Hill			
Andrea Bowes	Lib Dem	1007	Elected
Keith Vaughan	Reform	892	
Shibaji Shrestha	Labour	515	
Carolyn Davison-Roper	Green	284	
Edward Norman	Conservative	231	

Eastrop and Grove			
John McKay	Lib Dem	1527	Elected
Richard Bailey	Reform	765	
Niamh Harrison	Green	346	
Nick Bates	Conservative	323	
Lilly Rose Beeson	Labour	232	

Reform gained two seats from Labour.
Labour gained two seats from independents and Greens.
Lib Dems no change. Conservatives lose four seats.

Hampshire County Council

Basingstoke South East			
Gavin James	Lib Dem	2551	Elected
Christina Jordan	Reform	1671	
Andrew McCormick	Labour	897	
Zander Fitzgerald	Green	765	
Kishor Patel	Conservative	783	

Basingstoke South West			
Stephen Reid	Conservative	1980	Elected
Spencer Cleary	Reform	1889	
Stacy Hart	All In Party	1144	
Lilly Rose Beeson	Labour	723	
Jenny Gumbrell	Green	592	
Andrea Bowes	Lib Dem	582	

Reform gain 20 seats.
Labour lose two (Basingstoke Cen, Aldershot S).
Lib Dems gain nine seats including Tadley.
Conservatives lose 29 seats.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



What does the Renters’ Rights Act mean for you?

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice for local people.

Here, we look at the Renters’ Rights Act, which came into effect on 1st May 2026, bringing some big changes for renters in England, including:

- You can’t be refused by a landlord or letting agent because you have children or receive welfare benefits.
- You won’t have to enter a bidding war. Landlords can only advertise a fixed price and cannot accept higher than what they advertised for.
- You won’t have to pay more in advance. Landlords can only charge one month or four weeks’ rent before you move in.
- Your landlord will only be able to evict you if they have a reason, called a ‘ground’, e.g. if you have rent arrears, cause a nuisance to your neighbours or if they want to sell the property or live in it.

You can find out more about preparing to rent from a private landlord on the Citizens Advice website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/starting-to-rent-from-a-private-landlord/preparing-to-rent-from-a-private-landlord/



If you are in need of advice, whatever your enquiry involves, please call our Advice Line free on 0808 2787829. Details of our weekly drop-in advice sessions held in Buckskin, Oakridge, Popley and the town centre library can be found on www.cabasingstoke.org.uk. Alternatively, please send in your enquiry online using our client enquiry form: www.cabasingstoke.org.uk/email.

BRIGHTON HILL CUBS



The winter and spring months have been busy for our Cub Packs. December was filled with our usual activities of the District Christmas carol service and the annual collection for the food bank, as well as a Christmas party and an evening of decoration making. We had a Saturday afternoon trip to the swimming pool, this year we also went to the Willis Museum which completed elements of the Local Knowledge badge and afterwards had a walk around the town to admire the Christmas lights.

In January, both Packs spent an evening at the fire station learning about causes and prevention of fire, and the importance of having both a smoke detector and an agreed fire plan for your home and family. Cubs were able to climb into a fire engine and ask lots of questions about the role of fire-fighters. During both visits the alarm rang and some of the fire fighters raced into action.

During January, we have also worked on the Space badge, Cubs have dropped balls into flour to demonstrate the effect of meteors when they hit the moon, sewn buttons to make constellations and made junk models of space craft of the future. Did you know that of the 12 men who have walked on the moon, 11 were once Scouts? What an amazing fact which reflects our ethos of adventure and teamwork.

The last weekend of the month provided the 16 oldest Cubs an opportunity for an evening hike and a sleepover in the hut. All other cubs were invited to join us for an activity morning where we cooked lunch of hotdogs, dough twists and ‘smores’ (chocolate biscuits and marshmallows) on an open fire. Cubs also organised some games

of their own in the wooded area and tried their hand at making pictures using compass directions and spaghetti.

More recently, Cubs have attended a day organised by the Gang Show team where they were able to complete their Entertainer Badge in a day by rehearsing a song and dance before performing it to parents at the end of the day. 29 of the Cubs spent a whole day at a local lake enjoying sailing, stand-up paddle boards and 2 different types of canoes during the day. A Saturday evening in early March provided the older Cubs with the opportunity to hike around the fields and tracks of Overton. It was a clear, dry and mild evening and after a walk of a couple of hours, Cubs were rewarded with a hot dog and hot chocolate.

Activities during our weekly meetings have included printing rangoli patterns, making Buddhist prayer flags, finding out about the Country Code and making ballista out of canes and elastic bands. Just before the Easter holiday, Cubs were given 2 mini chocolate eggs and challenged to ‘protect’ them using card and ribbon. The eggs then had to be thrown into the air and unwrapped after landing. Some eggs were well cushioned and remained intact, while other Cubs had a lot of chocolate crumbs!

Brighton Hill Scout Group is divided into 4 sections which range in age from 4 to 14, all cater for both boys and girls. It also hosts one of the District Explorer units for young people aged 14 to 18. To find out more about helping, the different sections or to add a name to our waiting list, please get in touch with me at sharon.duffy@BHSG.org.uk . Currently spaces are available in the Cub Packs (ages 8 to 10.5) and the Beaver colony has a short waiting list.

Sharon Duffy



You're Welcome  **BASINGSTOKE baptist church**

Sundays 10.30 am
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Bible-based talk
Prayer

Tuesdays 12.00 - 2.00 pm  **King's CAFE**
Drop in for homemade soup & roll, cake, fruit & coffee
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See website for other activities during the week

Gershwin Rd,
Brighton Hill, RG22 4HL
01256 324297
basingstokebaptist.org.uk

  **YouTube** 

 **King's Church**

Welcome to King's Church
Basingstoke

You are invited to join us any Sunday at 10:15 when we start with Tea and Coffee and the warmest of welcomes.

Meeting at Manor Field Junior School, Haydn Road, Brighton Hill

Any date changes will be on our website
www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com

FREE community breakfast.
2nd Sunday of each month. Everybody Welcome



BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT 2026

WOW — WHAT AN AMAZING DAY!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and made the event so special. We're also incredibly grateful to all the exhibitors who brought their fantastic vehicles, the stall holders, the food vendors, and the motor dealers — your support helps us raise vital funds while still keeping the event free for everyone to enjoy.



A massive shout out, too, to our brilliant volunteers. Our regulars and some newbies who signed up. The Scouts and their leaders, Army cadets, our and our Rotary colleagues from other clubs. They all give their time so generously to help us set up, run, and pack down the event, and we simply couldn't do it without them. And of course, our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful partners at the Hants and Berks 4x4 Club for their invaluable support and Basingstoke Deane Borough Council.

It's a great free day out for families, yes, we do make a modest charge for car parking — but that goes to the charities we support.



SUPPORTING SAFER CHILDBIRTH FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

The Maternity Department at Basingstoke Hospital urgently needs new **Cardiotopography (CTG) machines** — vital equipment used to monitor pregnant women, women in labour, and the wellbeing of their unborn babies. The current machines are outdated and can't be upgraded, meaning they no longer meet the standard of care our community deserves.



By helping to replace them with **modern, data rich, fully updatable CTG machines**, we can make a real and lasting difference. These state of the art monitors provide clearer, more reliable information for midwives and doctors, supporting safer decision making during pregnancy and childbirth. Ultimately, they help protect mothers and babies at the moments when it matters most.

This investment will directly benefit families across Basingstoke and the surrounding area, ensuring our local hospital has the tools it needs to deliver the safest possible care.

Alongside this important project, we will continue to support a range of **local charities** and selected **international causes**, extending our impact to communities near and far

CONTACT – Paul Temple: tempaul45@gmail.com OR Alf McCarthy: alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 25 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Alf, alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com or Paul, tempaul45@gmail.com to find out more.

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: [@RotaryBasingstokeDeane](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryBasingstokeDeane) | [@RBStokeDeane](https://www.instagram.com/RBStokeDeane)

GARDENS IN SUMMER

We hope that by the time you read this, after the unpredictable weather we've been experiencing this year, we will be enjoying regular, warm, sunny days. It's been a very late start for gardeners, seed germination and plant growth but unfortunately some unwelcome bugs have survived. Don't allow slugs, snails, whitefly, greenfly, lily beetles and fungi to destroy your plants – be vigilant and deal with them at first signs. Consider growing plants such as salad crops and strawberries in hanging baskets out of reach of slugs if other preventative measures are not working.

Now is the time when we should safely be planting out bedding plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, French beans, runner beans, courgettes, sweetcorn and a succession of salad leaves. If they have been grown inside harden them off before planting outside. Moist, fertile soil with the addition of compost will promote healthy growth. Remember to weed regularly. Hoeing between crops is a quick and easy way to prevent weeds growing.

Soft fruit such as raspberries and strawberries will be ready soon but you might need to protect them from birds with netting otherwise they will be enjoying them and not you! Tuck a thick layer of straw around strawberry plants so that the crop will be off the moist soil to prevent rotting and slug damage. Train blackberries on canes/wires now for easier picking in the autumn.

In dry weather plants can become dormant and stop growing so remember to water regularly preferably with rainwater that you have collected. Established lawns quickly recover after dry conditions when it rains. You will need to replenish your pond with rainwater when the water evaporates in the heat. Warm weather can stimulate the growth of pondweed which will clog up the water and ruin the balance of life in your pond so carefully remove it (leave the weed on the edge of the pond for a while so that any creatures can return to the water).

Most roses are at their best in June and July. Check regularly for pests and diseases so that



any problems do not get out of control. Remove the grubs of sawfly which feed on leaves and also any curled-up leaves which are protecting the emerging larvae. Deadhead regularly and pick roses for enjoying indoors to encourage more blooms. Cut off any suckers which will weaken the main plant. The National Trust property, Mottisfont has a lovely rose garden in early summer and the grounds stay open late on some evenings in June so that the rose flowers and scent can be enjoyed.

There are many gardens open to the public in Hampshire, some National Trust, some RHS and some private gardens open on certain days for charity. As well as admiring other gardeners' labours, these will give you inspiration for developing, maintaining and enjoying your own garden.

We hope you have a successful summer with beautiful gardens and that you enjoy your home-grown fruit and vegetables. If you do not grow your own, please buy British produce as it will be fresher and tastier and will help our farmers and growers.

Gavin and Doreen Bunce.

SUMMER RECIPES

These are just a couple of recipe ideas for using those delicious summer fruits. We are likely to have a good harvest this year so you might also want to make jam, chutney, pies, crumbles or a lovely summer pudding.

PAVLOVA (serves 6-8 depending on appetite)

Ingredients: 3 egg whites, 200g caster sugar, 1 tbsp. cornflour, 1 teasp. lemon juice, 300ml whipping cream, seasonal soft fruit (eg. raspberries, strawberries, blueberries).

1. Preheat oven to 150c/300f/gas2
2. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper. With a pencil, draw a circle (approx. 23cm) on the paper (use a plate/cake tin to draw round).
3. In a large bowl, beat the egg whites until soft peaks are formed. Add 150g of the sugar gradually whipping continuously. Mix together the remaining sugar with the cornflour and lightly fold into the meringue with the lemon juice.
4. Spread a layer of meringue onto the greaseproof paper to fit the circle, then spoon or pipe the remaining meringue round the edge to form a shallow bowl shape.
5. Bake in the oven for 1 hour. Turn off the heat and leave the meringue in the oven for at least another 30 minutes. When cool, the meringue should be hard on the outside and slightly moist on the inside.
6. Top with whipped cream and soft fruit and enjoy!

For a less calorific dessert, use low fat fromage frais or Greek yoghurt instead of cream.

**RASPBERRY AND CHOCOLATE MUFFINS (makes 10)**

Ingredients: 275g plain flour, 1 tbsp. baking powder, 140g caster sugar, 50g white chocolate chips, 100g unsalted butter (melted), 2 large eggs, 200g Greek yoghurt, 6 tbsp. milk, 140g raspberries.

1. Preheat oven to 170c/325f/gas 4.
2. In a large bowl sieve the flour and baking powder, add the sugar and chocolate and mix together.
3. In another bowl mix the cooled butter, eggs, yoghurt and milk together.
4. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and pour in the egg, butter and yoghurt mixture. Fold together with a metal spoon until well combined and then gently add the raspberries.
5. Put the mixture into muffin cases and bake for approx. 20 minutes or until golden and risen.

These are lovely when slightly warm but will keep for a few days in an airtight container.

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Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon

Join **Basingstoke Concert Band**
for a relaxing afternoon of live jazz
and summer favourites on
Sunday 5 July 2026 at 3.00pm

Sit back and enjoy an entertaining programme of
toe-tapping music in the welcoming surroundings
of **Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Garden**

Your ticket also includes tea or coffee and
a delicious slice of home-made cake

Venue: **Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall,
Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon
RG27 0EZ**

Tickets: **£12 (under 16's £5)** available from:
<https://ticketlab.co.uk/events/BCBand#/>
or directly from band members

Bring family and friends and spend a delightful
summer afternoon enjoying great music,
refreshments and community spirit

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Basingstoke Green Week** runs from 14th to 16th June. Green Market in The Malls, Basingstoke Town Centre from 9am to 5.30pm Live stage shows in The Malls from 10am to 3.30pm More info at sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk.
- **Model Train Rides at Viabes** Sunday 7th June from 11am to 4pm. Run by Basingstoke and District Model Engineering Society. More info at www.basingstoke-dmes.co.uk.
- **Bee Exhibition at the Willis Museum** runs until **June 28th**, Willis Museum, Market Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7QD
- **Basingstoke Male Voice Choir Sounds of Summer Saturday 6th June 7.30** All Saints Church, Southern Road, RG21 3EA
- **Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon with Basingstoke Concert Band Sunday 5th July at 3.00pm** Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall, Reading Road, Sherfield RG27 0EZ
- **Neighbourcare** run a 'Community Café' on Wednesdays from 10am until 12 noon at Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, RG22 4JZ.
- **The Basingstoke Railway Society** meet Wednesdays 7.45 to 10 pm, every 2 weeks at The Wote St Social Club below the surface car park north of The George Hotel, continuing 50 years of our Society.
- **Coffee Morning and warm space 9.30 to 11.30 am every Friday** at The Church of Christ The King, Sullivan Rd, RG22 4EH.
- **Basingstoke and Deane Disability Forum (BDDF)** run free Monthly Support Groups, please see website for dates and times, or contact office@bddf.org.uk or 01256 423869
- **Basingstoke Area Stroke Association** meets every Wednesday 2 – 4 pm at Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, RG22 4JZ.
- **Steady and Strong** meet every Friday 9.45 – 10.45 am at Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, RG22 4JZ.
- **Hampshire Armed Forces Breakfast Club** first Saturday of each month for Breakfast and banter from 9.30 – 11am at Basingstoke Golf Club RG25 2AD. Food and tea/coffee cost £10 or £8. Contact John McClean on 07767 610735.
- **Scouts (10 ½ to 14 years)**, Tuesdays in term time, 7 – 9 pm, Brighton Hill Scout HQ, Beethoven Road, RG22 4BP.
- **Cubs (8 – 10 ½ years)**, Gladstone Pack, Thursdays in term time, 5.15 – 6.45 pm, and Baden Powell Pack, Thursdays in term time, 7 – 8.30 pm, at Brighton Hill Scout HQ RG22 4BP.
- **Beavers (6 – 8 years)**, Wednesdays evenings in term time 6.15 – 7.15 pm, at Brighton Hill Scout HQ, RG22 4BP.
- **The Adventure Rangers** meet every Thursday 7 – 9 pm at Hill Rise Hall. Bach Close, RG22 4JZ.
- **Open Sight Information Hub drop-in session for people with sight loss.** Talk to a friendly and knowledgeable Open Sight Advisor on all matters related to sight loss on the second Monday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Festival Place, RG21 7LS.
- **Open Sight Social Club for visually impaired adults** meets every other Thursday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, RG22 4JZ.
- **Open Sight WAG, Working Age Group**, for visually impaired people aged from 18 to 65 meet on the third Thursday of the month 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the Activity Room at Basingstoke Sports Centre, Festival Place, RG21 7LE.
- **Over 55s Forum** meet bi-monthly, usually on the second Wednesday of the month from 9.30 am at Carnival Hall, Council Rd, RG21 3DH. Contact Gerald Merritt on 01256 412119, or visit their website.
- **Trefoil Guild (older members of the Scout and Guide movement)** meet on the third Monday of the month from 2pm to 4pm at the Church of Christ the King, Sullivan Rd, RG22 4EH.

Basingstoke Festival 2026

Fri 19th June - Sun 5th July

Indoor and Outdoor programmes
more info at basingstokefestival.co.uk
or call 01256 844844

USEFUL COMMUNITY CONTACT LIST

Churches

Church of Christ the King	Sullivan Rd RG22 4EH	Basingstoke Church	01256 329528
Basingstoke Baptist Church	Gershwin Rd RG22 4HL	Minister Dave Bishop	01256 324297
The King's Church	Manor Field Junior School		07741 856437
West Basingstoke Baptist Church	Sullivan Rd RG22 4DP		01256 844222

Community / Craft Centres

Hill Rise Hall	Bach Close RG22 4JZ	answerphone	01256 332596
Brighton Hill Community Centre	Gershwin Rd RG22 4NN		01256 869851
Viabes Craft Centre	The Harrow Way, RG22 4BJ		01256 473634

Dentists

MyDentist (Gillies Health Centre)	Sullivan Rd Brighton Hill Centre RG22 4EH		01256 468112
Stanford Rd Dental Practice	Stanford Rd RG22 4LP		01256 461135

Doctor / GPs / Hospital

Emergency			999
Less Urgent / Advice			111
Gillies Health Centre	Sullivan Rd Brighton Hill Centre RG22 4EH		01256 479747
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital	Aldermaston Rd RG24 9NA		01256 473202

Local Council

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council			01256 844844
Hampshire County Council			0300 555 1375
Adult Services / Social Care		0300 555 1386 (Out of hours)	0300 555 1373)
Roads and Transport			0300 555 1388
Trading Standards			0345 404 0506

Police / PCSO

Emergency			999
Less Urgent / to report a crime			101
Crimestoppers			0800 555 111
Community Safety Patrol Team			01256 845700

Education, Primary, Secondary, College

Chalk Ridge Primary School	Tallis Gardens, off Sullivan Rd RG22 4ER		01256 461733
Manor Field Infant School	Haydn Rd RG22 4DH		01256 350300
Manor Field Junior School	Haydn Rd RG22 4DH		01256 329826
Hatch Warren Infant School	Gershwin Rd RG22 4PQ		01256 350313
Hatch Warren Junior School	Gershwin Rd RG22 4PQ		01256 328252
St John's School	Kingsmill Rd, RG21 3JU		01256 324121
Brighton Hill Community School	Brighton Way RG22 4HS		01256 350606
Cranbourne School	Wessex Close RG21 3NP		01256 868600
Bluecoat (formerly Aldworth) School	Western Way RG22 6HA		01256 322691
Basingstoke College of Technology	Worting Rd RG21 8TN		01256 354141
Queen Mary's College	Cliddesden Rd RG21 3HF		01256 417500

Vets

St Kitt's Vets Basingstoke	Unit 4B Brighton Hill Parade RG22 4EH		01256 844944
Brunswick Place Veterinary Clinic	Unit A, Brunswick Place RG21 3NN		01256 473371

Other

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	www.cabasingstoke.org.uk		03444 111 306
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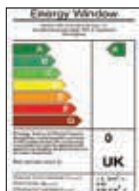
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