

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Strategic Plan



Contents

2 Introduction

3 Our Ambition

4 Five Priorities

5 Climate Action

7 Our Environment

9 Sustainable Growth

11 Vibrant Economy

13 Community Wellbeing

Dear neighbours

For most people Tunbridge Wells is a great place to live, a great place to work and a great place to visit.

Our towns and villages are full of caring, creative and community-minded people.

Our Borough oozes passion and dynamism!

**I believe
Tunbridge
Wells Borough
Council is a
force for good.**

As a Council, we are unashamedly ambitious for our Borough and we are about much more than the services we provide to residents and businesses.

This document sets out what your elected councilors and our talented Council staff want to achieve.

It contains our priorities that we believe will make Tunbridge Wells an even better place to live, work and play.

I hope you enjoy exploring our Corporate Plan.

**Cllr Ben
Chapelard**

Leader of
Tunbridge Wells
Borough Council



**A place where all generations can live
healthy and fulfilling lives in vibrant
and connected communities**

Our Ambition

FIVE PRIORITIES

Climate Action

Our Environment

Sustainable Growth

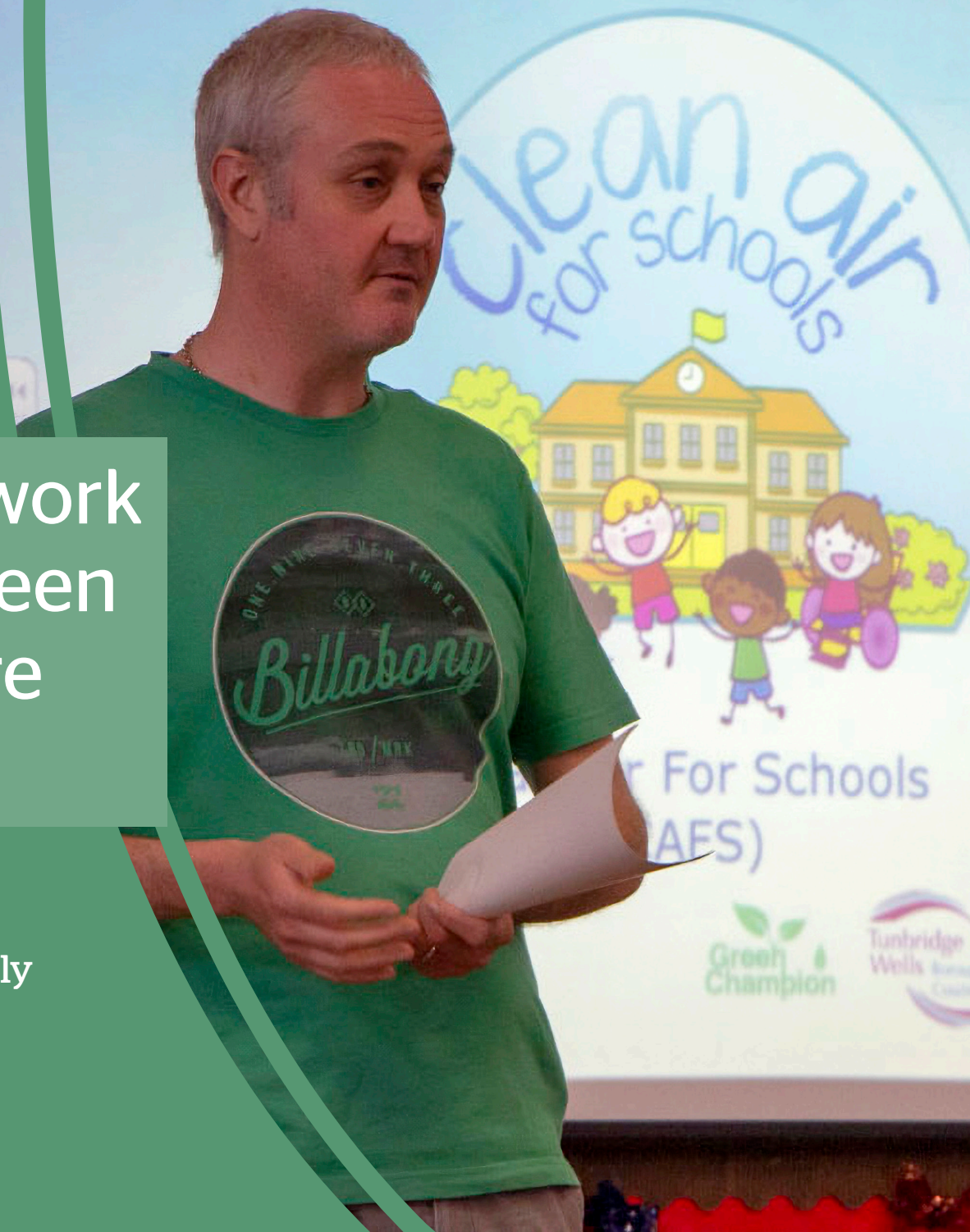
Vibrant Economy

Community Wellbeing

Climate Action

We will continue our work to create a cleaner, green and carbon zero future for our Borough.

Climate change is real, and the clock is ticking: we have our role to play alongside national government and must all act locally if we are to win the fight globally.



84.5% of households have 1 or more cars or vans



Corporate Emissions % Change
21% reduction from 2018/19
(Tunbridge Wells Borough Council)

0.9% of people in employment travel to work by bicycle



Borough Emissions % Change
39.9% reduction from 2005 to 2021
(Department for Energy Security and Net Zero)

- We will reduce the Council's emissions to net zero by 2030.
- We will look to reduce congestion and carbon emissions from vehicles.
- We will look at ways to encourage alternative modes of transport to the car.
- We will deliver more or better quality natural habitat.
- We will explore options to deliver renewable energy generation to help meet our net zero carbon commitments.

Our Environment

We will protect and enhance nature and our heritage.

We are fortunate to enjoy stunning and historic landscapes. We must protect our natural environment, enhancing its biodiversity as well as our historic settlements. We want to be proud to welcome new neighbours, businesses and visitors to our town and village centres.



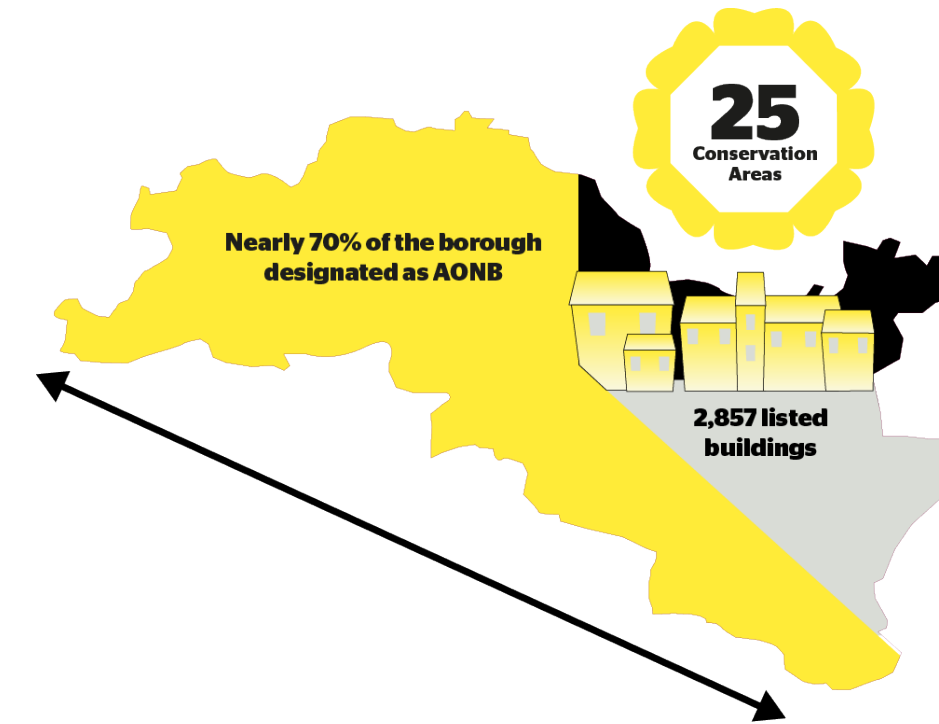
113.25 Hectares of parks, open spaces, sports grounds, cemetery and grass verges on behalf of the Estates team. (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council)

- We will maintain a clean and tidy Borough.
- We will promote safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists.
- We will take targeted action to combat graffiti and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

Sustainable Growth

We want the right types of homes in the right places with the right infrastructure, jobs and local businesses.

Our Borough needs more homes and we must meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



- We will balance the need to deliver more housing with the need to protect and enhance our natural and built environment.
- We will support local towns and villages to shape their own local areas.
- We will improve the supply of affordable housing.
- We will create a more vibrant and sustainable Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre.

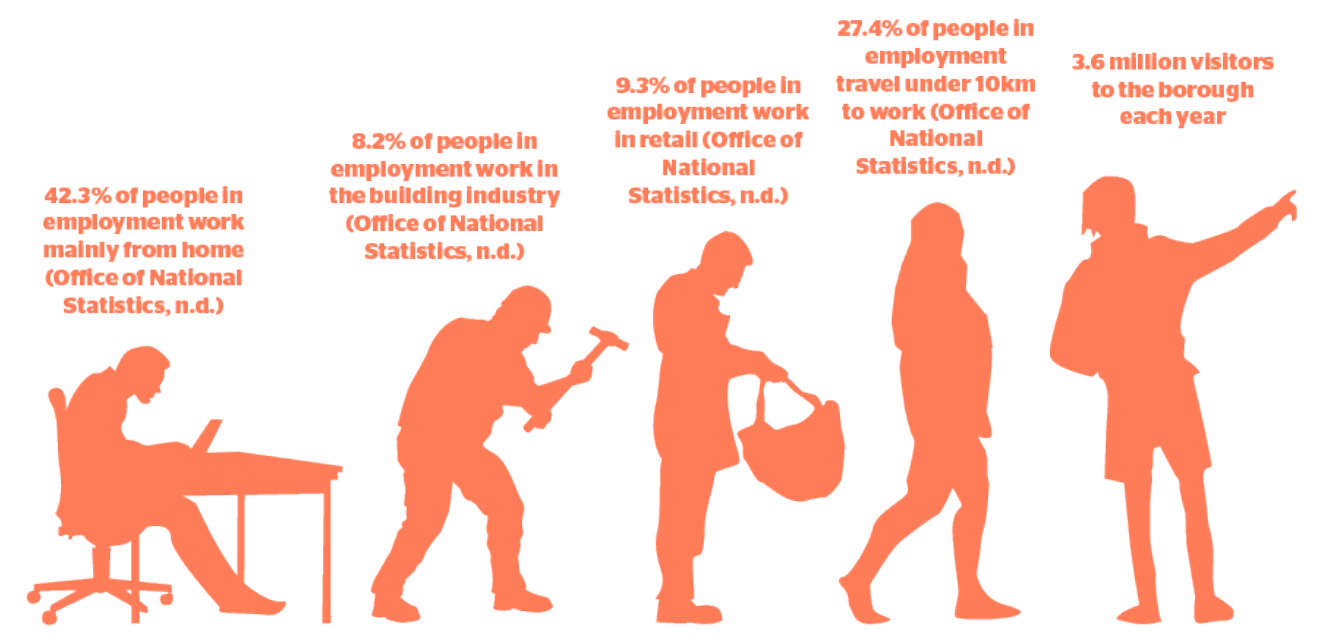


Vibrant Economy

We want to support our urban and rural economies to thrive, creating local jobs in our local communities.

Our borough is full of brilliant, creative and innovative businesses who are at the heart of our communities. We must adapt to the reality of the digital age if our high streets are to flourish.

- We will enhance the vitality of Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre.
- We will support the creation and growth of local businesses.
- We will increase tourism in our towns and villages.
- We will capitalise on funding opportunities to promote businesses and the rural economy.
- We will balance visitor and resident parking and encourage responsible car use.



Vibrant Economy

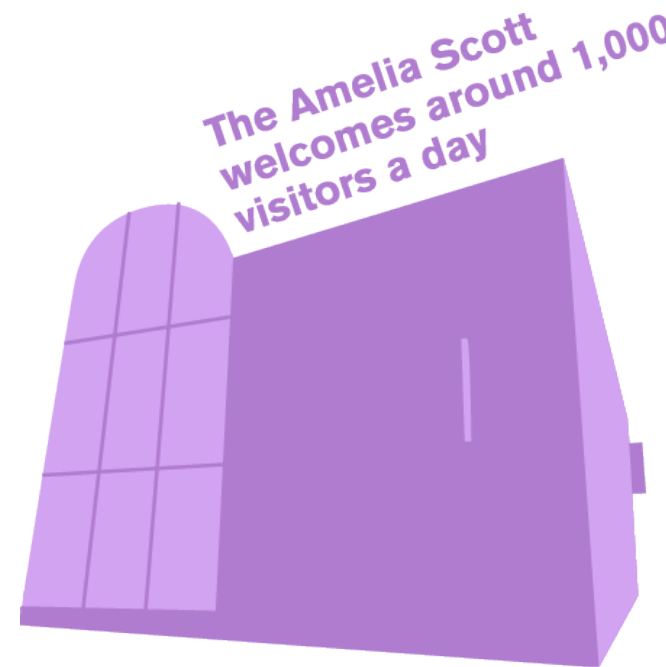
Community Wellbeing

We will support our urban and rural communities to flourish and fulfil their potential to be caring, healthy, connected and inclusive.

Many of our residents enjoy an enviable quality of life and we are fortunate to have a wide range of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities. At the same time, for some of our residents, poor health and lower income deny them a quality of life we would all expect. The Council can and must play a transformative role in improving the lives of those residents.



Life satisfaction - 7.56 out of 10
(Office of National Statistics, n.d.)
Anxiety - 3.57 out of 10
(Office of National Statistics, n.d.)



- We will work with clubs to invest in and improve sports facilities and playing fields.
- We will improve the Council's leisure centres.
- We will support parish and town councils to develop their own community facilities.
- We will work to ensure that the Borough remains one of the safest places to live.
- We will support the provision of modern healthcare facilities.