

# WEST: The news from where you live

## Community Involvement Officers

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## York is your home

We are showing our support for the city's international and European communities with additional backing and community events offering advice.

The council has appointed a new community officer, Bianca Vartic to help York's international communities with any concerns they may have over the EU Settlement Scheme.

The news follows a public letter sent last year with a clear message of warmth to EU Citizens and reminding them of the help on offer with their EU Settlement Scheme application.

This community service is in addition to our communities team who work closely to support residents across the city.



Bianca Vartic

Talking about her new role as community officer, Bianca Vartic said: "I'm really pleased to be in this role and helping EU nationals living in York. My main focus initially is working to make sure everyone who needs it has access to the latest information about the EU Settlement Scheme and ensure they feel part of the city which we're proud they call home."

## Acomb Front Street Market

Acomb's monthly Front Street Market is proving a huge success in bringing the community together by offering a fantastic range of market stalls for residents and visitors to enjoy alongside the established shops and traders.

The market takes place on the third Saturday of every month and is open from 9am - 3pm.

Come and join us on the following dates:

**Sat 21 March; Sat 18 April; Sat 16 May; Sat 20 June;  
Sat 18 July and Sat 15 August.**



Applications for the EU Settlement Scheme are now open and the process needs to be completed online. All EU citizens currently living in York are strongly encouraged to apply for pre-settlement or settlement status via the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. The current deadline for applying is 30 June 2021 (31 December 2020, should the UK leave without a deal).

Advice is available at: [www.york.gov.uk/EUSettlementScheme](http://www.york.gov.uk/EUSettlementScheme) and we will keep talking to communities across York to make sure everyone feels welcome.

## Local support

Citizens Advice York offer full guidance to applicants, including help filling out the form and advise on any issues which may arise during the application process. Call **03444 111 444** or visit the drop-in at West Offices (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm) for help with your application.

Book an 'assisted digital' help session with 'We Are Digital' when completing the EU Settlement Scheme online application. If you don't have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to complete the form you can contact us by telephone on:

**03333 445675** or text: 'VISA' to **07537 416944**

EU citizens who do not wish to send their documents by post or are not able to use the government's 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app, can make an appointment at York Register Office to have their ID documents scanned and verified, before applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Call **01904 654477** to book an appointment.

## Community Hubs

You are welcome to join us on the following days to enjoy a range of community activities and refreshments:

### Westfield Community Hub (school term time only)

Wednesdays: 8:45am - 11:45am

Westfield Children's Centre, Askham Lane, Acomb, York YO24 3HP

### Chapelfields Community Hub

Thursdays: 9am - 12pm

Sanderson Court Community House, Bramham Road, Acomb, York YO26 5AR

### Foxwood Community Hub

Fridays: 11:45am - 2pm

Foxwood Community Centre, Cranfield Place, York YO24 3HY.

## A tree-mendous effort

A project launched by local volunteers to plant more trees in the community has raised over £8,000 in funding.

The Little Hob Moor Tree Project was started last summer and within weeks it had raised £4,350 through crowd funding with an additional £4,000 coming from Dringhouses and Westfield Ward Funding.

Little Hob Moor Trees used the crowd funder website to attract interest for their project and within five weeks they had surpassed all expectations allowing them to plant 40 mature trees with the money raised.

For more information on the project please visit facebook page [/littlehobmoortrees](https://www.facebook.com/littlehobmoortrees) or follow us on twitter [@hobmoortrees](https://twitter.com/hobmoortrees).

## York LGBT+ Pride Festival 2020

York Pride raises awareness of LGBT+ issues by promoting and staging events, taking part in campaigning and providing support to other LGBT+ charities and voluntary organisations. We also promote the provision of information, advice and support that celebrate LGBT+ lives and history. We aim for York to be a place where everybody knows that the diversity offered by the LGBT+ community is something to be celebrated and where LGBT+ people can feel safe and accepted.

Join us at The Knavesmire between 1pm and 7pm on 6 June for a fantastic and colourful afternoon of free family-friendly, on-stage entertainment, plus a funfair and over 100 stalls, including food outlets, community stalls and a fully-licensed bar.

For more information please visit [www.yorkpride.org.uk/](http://www.yorkpride.org.uk/)

