

# SOUTH: 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."

## Red Tower Community Hub

Join us every Monday from 11.30am - 2pm at Red Tower Community Hub, where you can enjoy hot and cold food at our pay-as-you-feel café or visit our pay-as-you-feel 'shop' with food items donated by supermarkets. You can also receive weekly Citizens Advice; speak to a Local Area Coordinator; enjoy bi-weekly craft sessions and hear from the Older Citizens Advocacy York, Police and Business Improvement District (BID) officers.

Red Tower Community Hub, Foss Islands Rd, York YO1 9UJ



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.

## Branching out



A team of volunteers from VINCI Construction UK have branched out to help us build new compost bays in Rowntree Park.

The new bays have been built as a solution to the build-up of leaves on the park's tennis courts.

The compost made by the leaf litter will then be used by the Friends of Rowntree Park to mulch and nourish the garden beds.

Having recruited new volunteers to clear leaves last autumn, these bays will support their work and maintain the quality of the tennis club courts which are surrounded by mature trees.

## 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/)

