

# CASE STUDY

## Connor Graham, Sports a Fine Turf Apprenticeship, Basildon Borough Council



My name is Connor Graham and I work at Basildon Borough Council as a Greens Keeper. I joined the council in September 2019.

### **Why did you choose an apprenticeship?**

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I applied for the apprenticeship roles because I wanted to gain knowledge while acquiring skills and experience in the working environment which would help me develop practical skills that were needed for the role. I was introduced to this through family members, my brother also completed the same apprenticeship many years ago and recommended it to me and he has since progressed. I was working for the NHS before I started my apprenticeship.

### **How have you found the experience of being an apprentice in local government?**

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My experience as an apprentice in local government has been great, I have found the role most interesting, and every day is different.

### **How do you balance working and studying at the same time?**

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I balance my role, and the apprenticeship study by completing my study in my spare time (and sometimes when it's raining) I also spend time at home completing units. Every day is different which is refreshing, and I face different challenges daily with the public and everyday work.

### **On reflection, what do you think are the benefits of an apprenticeship route?**

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The benefits of this apprenticeship route have been the valuable experience I have gained whilst in the role, whilst bringing in an income, plus qualification at the same time. The apprenticeship is a good route to gain experience and a qualification while meeting new people.

## **What's the biggest impact you think you have made in your Council since becoming an apprentice?**

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The biggest impact I have made in the council is me being able to stay at a certain location on my own and have full trust from my supervisors that I will have all tasks completed. The most rewarding part of my role is when the public praise me and appreciate my work. Due to COVID things have been delayed somewhat however we are back on track with my coursework and still working as a Greens Keeper.

## **Why would you recommend an apprenticeship in local government to someone considering one?**

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I would recommend an apprenticeship within local government because it offers so many different types of jobs, gaining experience and bringing in an income while gaining a qualification. I would strongly recommend the apprenticeship pathway as there is so much to learn.

## **Do you have any advice to offer anyone considering an apprenticeship role in local government?**

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I would recommend an apprenticeship within local government because it offers so many different types of jobs, gaining experience and bringing in an income while gaining a qualification. I would strongly The advice I would offer to those starting an apprenticeship is don't feel nervous at the start because you don't know much, you will gain this knowledge through learning every day.

## **What do you hope to accomplish career-wise over the next five years?**

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In the next 5 years I would like to progress to a higher role within the council.