

UNAPPROVED DRAFT2

Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 7.30pm in Widford Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Mike Allen (MA) -Chair; Cllr Ian Collins (IC); Cllr Josh Warren (JW)

Seven members of the public, Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

ACTION

24.067 To receive and approve apologies for absence

1. Councillors: None
2. Others: None

24.068 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. Interests

Noted. Cllr Mike Allen: An interest in Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Cllr Ian Collins: a DPI because his wife has the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

2. Dispensation requests:

None

24.069 Approval of Minutes

1. **RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2024 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.
2. **RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2024 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.
3. **RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2024 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Clerk/MA

Clerk/MA

Clerk/MA

24.070 Co-option to fill the casual vacancy

No one has applied to be co-opted to fill the vacancy, but Cllr Josh Warren said he will be following up a potential candidate.

JW

24.071 Police report

The Chairman gave the following report that had been received from PCSO Leon De Bruyn:

Crime Report May 2024

ANSTEY: No reported crimes

HORMEAD: No reported crimes

BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN: No reported crimes

STOCKING PELHAM: No reported crimes

FURNEUX PELHAM: No reported crimes

ALBURY: No reported crimes

LITTLE HAHDAM: No reported crimes

MUCH HADHAM: Attempted Residential Burglary – South End – 3 suspects have been disturbed by an alarm when attempting to break into a garage at a residential property

- Residential Burglary – the window of a conservatory was discovered smashed and the house alarm ringing when occupants have returned home. Entry to the property was not gained.
- Business Burglary – Trimms Green – unknown suspects have removed a trailer that was locked and secured at a business premises
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle – Windmill Way. A motorhome has been stolen from outside a residential property in Windmill Way.

HUNSDON: No reported crimes

WIDFORD: No reported crimes

WARESIDE: Residential Burglary – An outbuilding has been broken into at a farm. The building was left locked and secured and unknown suspects have broken the lock to gain entry.

EASTWICK & GILSTON: Theft Of Motor Vehicle – Gilston – a vehicle has been stolen from outside a residential property on Terlings Estate in Gilston

BRAUGHING: 2 x Attempted Burglaries in Hay Street. Suspects have been disturbed when trying to gain entry to the property and have made off in an unknown direction. A second property has identified a smashed window which is believed to have been an attempted break in to a residential property in the same location. Entry has not been gained.

STANDON & PUCKERIDGE: Theft – Rib Close – car parts that had been left unattended have been taken from outside a residential property in Rib Close, Puckeridge.

- Theft – Wickham Way – unknown persons have removed a dishwasher from outside a property in Wickham Way, Puckeridge.

Other news and updates:

Burglaries statistics appear to have reduced slightly, for dwelling and non dwelling. Please continue to ensure your property secure and valuables are not left easily in view or accessible. Document serial numbers and use property markers.

Photograph expensive jewellery and record in a safe location, which can be accessed by any of your devices.

On most makes of vehicle, keyless entry can be disabled.

To reduce the risk of theft, ensure car keys (particularly any spare keys) are secured in a secured location using a signal blocking/Faraday pouch when not in use. Hiding the keys in a metal tin can also restrict the signal from vehicle keys.

Your local policing teams are continuing regular patrols in hotspot areas at key times.

Please continue to report suspicious vehicles that may be seen driving around in your area. If you are able to record the MAKE, COLOUR and REGISTRATION number of the vehicle, that would be very helpful.

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

The Chairman said he expected an addendum to be received within the next few days.

24.072 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman made the following comments: The Bell Lane boundary continues to be debated in the light of a definitive original boundary plan. The Chairman said he will follow up the Greenacres wall and verge issues with Cllr Eric Buckmaster and will attempt to get a site meeting with the Planning Enforcement Officer (? Jon Wragg). The Chairman also noted that a new water pump has been bought to run the allotments water supply.

MA

24.073 Reports by County and District Councillors

No report received from District Cllr David Andrews.

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster: June report is included as Appendix A at the end of these Minutes. Cllr Buckmaster also drew attention to the appointment of the new HCC CEO, Angie Ridgwell, effective from September. This will aid restructuring to make the County Council more efficient. He also highlighted the recycling rates and arrangements that will come into force.

24.074 Planning

1. New Applications:

3/24/0711/FUL: 15 Benningfield Road. Erect 1 detached building and 1 rear extension to existing.

RESOLVED: No objections

Clerk

3/24/0926/FUL: Adams Barn, Hunsdon Road. Change of use, agricultural to residential.

RESOLVED: No objections

Clerk

3/24/1031/HH: Ashbourne Manor. Extension to single storey garage.

RESOLVED: No objections

Clerk

2. **Decision Notices.** For information only, the following were noted:
- 3/24/0544/VAR **Westbury:** Variation of conditions. **GRANTED**
- 3/24/0632/FUL: **Priory Farm.** Erect agricultural building. **GRANTED**
- 3/23/2283/OUT: **Land south of Levenage Lane:** Outline for 4 dwellings: **APPEALED**
- 3/19/1045/OUT **Land North of the Stort Valley & A414, Gilston:** Outline planning. *Awaited*
- 3/24/0773/LBC: **2 Hillside.** Demolish single storey projection, alter fenestration **GRANTED**
3. **Other planning matters,** including items received too late for the agenda
1. None received

24.075 **Finance**

1. **Report of the Council's accounts to year end, 31st May 2024**

Finance Summary to 31st May	£
Opening cashbook balance 1st April	34,842.02
Plus: income to 31 st May	8,303.90
Minus: expenditure to 31 st May	<u>4,987.57</u>
Balance available to Council at 31st May (cashbook balance)	38,158.35
Plus unrepresented cheques/payments	<u>0.00</u>
Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 31st May	<u>38,158.35</u>

RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 31st May 2024 be approved.

2. **Bank reconciliation 31st May 2024**

Cashbook balance £38,158.35 Unity Bank balance £38,158.35

RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented

3. **Performance vs budget at year-end 31st May 2024**

The Clerk's detailed report on the performance vs budget to 31st May was received.

Income: Budget £17,145 Performance to date £8,304

Expenditure: Budget £28,605 Performance to date £4,827

The income/expenditure surplus to date is £3,477 against -£11,460 deficit budgeted.

The income/expenditure deficit forecast is -£10,456 against -£11,460 deficit budgeted.

RESOLVED: The performance report to 31st May be accepted as presented.

4. **List of payments.**

RESOLVED: to approve the list of payments as presented by the Clerk

Clerk

All expenditure made under the General Power of Competence.

		Gross	VAT incl
Sharon Collins	Closed churchyard 2 of 4	310.00	0.00
Mrs J English	Litterpicking June 3 of 12	150.00	0.00
Clerk	Salary June	462.65	0.00
HMRC	PAYE June	115.80	0.00
Clerk	Expenses June-July	18.65	0.00
Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly service charge	18.00	0.00
Sharon Collins	Closed Churchyard 3 of 4	310.00	0.00
Ian Collins reimburse	Allotments water system repair	16.99	0.00
TP Jones & Co LLP	Payroll April-June	64.40	10.73
Mrs J English	Litterpicking July 4 of 12 £150	150.00	0.00
Clerk	Salary July approx £462.65 TBC	462.65	0.00
HMRC	PAYE July approx £115.80 TBC	115.80	0.00
Recoverable VAT included			£10.73

5. **AGAR 2023/24**

The Clerk reported that the AGAR had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn on time, that they had acknowledged receipt and that no further action is necessary unless a parishioner raises issues under their Exercise of Public Rights that runs from 3rd June to 12th July.

Clerk

24.076 Correspondence: The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- PRoW: Report on FP1, FP17, FP18, Nether Street kissing gate (24.078.1.1)
- Complaints that the open churchyard is overgrown and needs attention

24.077 Village Reports

1. Village Hall

1. It was noted that Wayne Burlingham is the new Village Hall Chairman.
A pub night event is planned for 12th July.

2. Playing Field

The Chairman said the PFMC is desperately trying to get the grass cut.

MA

3. Allotments

1. No problems to report. Tenants are looking at compliance with the new Tenancy Agreement. Problems with the water supply is being resolved. It is now proposed to hold the AGM at the allotments on 30th July. Allotmenters are considering applying or lottery funding to lay on mains water supply.

IC

4. Closed Churchyard.

1. No outstanding issues were reported. The problem of the unsafe bench has been addressed.

PCC request to help maintain footpath: The PCC has yet to come back to the Parish Council with a proposal.

24.078 Highways, Footpaths and byways

1. Footpaths and PRoW.

1. FP1 Notices, stile and trimming vegetation: Resolution of the issues is ongoing.
2. FP18 Hedge trimming update: This is being sorted but it is noted that a lot of work needs to be done.
3. FP17 Repair of collapsed steps: The necessary repairs have been done.
4. Nether Street kissing gate: repairs to the rotted post, step and rail are in hand with Nicholas Maddex.

MA

2. Highways and footways

1. Update on general clean-up of verges, gutters and overgrown footways: The Chairman is talking to people on specific areas needing attention. Through the whatsapp group he is looking for volunteers to offer a couple of hours work. The Hunsdon path is the first priority, with the Wareside path following.
2. Abbots Lane blocked gully: Raj Goutam (HCC/Ringway) has said this will be attended to.
3. Update on Enforcement issues by Greenacres: The Chairman and Cllr Eric Buckmaster will pursue with EHC etc.

MA

MA

3. Other parish matters and concerns

1. Complaints of overgrown vegetation at the open churchyard were reported to the PCC.

Jill Buck responded that she had spoken to the Rector and the Secretary. The Rector thanked the Parish Council for the message, but felt that the Rector and the Churchwardens should talk directly to the complainant/complainants rather than through the Parish Council (especially as it is a common misunderstanding that most of the graveyards are administered by the Local Authority). The PCC is very grateful for the good work already undertaken by the Parish Council in the Closed Churchyard and for the grant that it provides towards the upkeep of the New Graveyard.

The Clerk said he would forward to Jill details of the King's Coronation low-maintenance bench to see if a similar one might be a viable replacement for the current bench that overlooks the valley. She is trying to discover if there is a maintenance fund that could be used.

Clerk

Jill further reported that the grass and inside hedge have now been cut and, regarding comments on the dead electric power point, that the electric point in the hedge was installed by a previous owner of the bungalow Green Acres to assist with his maintenance of the hedge. It was never for general use and has been decommissioned for many years.

24.079 Benningfield Green

No current issued noted.

24.080 Village Archive

No report received.

24.081 Widford Relief in Need Charity

RESOLVED: to appoint Cllr Ian Collins as the charity representative.

IC

24.082 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda:

None received.

The meeting was not suspended for further public comments.

24.083 Items for future agendas

1. None raised.

Clerk

24.084 Date of next Parish Council Ordinary Meeting

1. Tuesday September 3rd 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.47pm.

Signed.....Dated.....

APPENDIX A

E Buckmaster County Councillor Report June 2024

New Chief Executive for Hertfordshire County Council

Angie Ridgwell has been selected to be appointed as the new Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).

This recommendation was made by the council's cross-party Employment Committee and will now be put forward to Full Council at its meeting on 25 June 2024 for approval. It follows an extensive recruitment and selection process to identify the best candidate to lead Hertfordshire County Council in delivering vital services for residents.

Angie will be joining from Lancashire County Council where she has been Chief Executive since 2018. Angie is an experienced leader, a qualified accountant by profession and has worked in a wide range of public sector bodies, including central and local government and the private sector. Angie grew up in Hertfordshire so she has a special emotional connection with the county.

Sally Hopper, Director of Human Resources at Hertfordshire County Council, said: "After a competitive process the cross-party Employment Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Angie's appointment by Full Council on 25 June."

More than 200 children faced permanent exclusion from Hertfordshire schools in just one year

As reported by [Hemel Today](#), more than 200 children have faced permanent exclusion from Hertfordshire schools since the start of the academic year, data shows. Headteachers can permanently exclude any child where there has been a 'serious breach' or 'persistent breaches' of the school's behaviour policy.

Or, alternatively, they can permanently exclude if they believe that a child remaining in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.

Covered by Local Democracy reporter, Deborah Price

My Letter to Government Minister for Water and Rural Growth

Last month, just before the election was called I wrote to a government minister with a number of concerns, all water related. Hertfordshire is proud to be home to nearly 10% of the world’s chalk streams, which are an internationally important habitat and a quintessential feature of the English countryside

The Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership (HNRP), which HCC is coordinating as Responsible Authority, is committed to developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that will champion the recovery of key local habitats and species. The HNRP fully expects that chalk streams and their constituent flora and fauna will be recognised as priorities within the final document. We have a Local Nature Recovery Board, which I chair. Under that there is a steering group and working groups looking at sites and species. One of our District Councillors, there is an HAPTC rep on the steering group. On the Board we have reps from Natural England, Environment Agency, HMWT, Herts Growth Board, and HCCSP. We have appointed Meeting Place to do the Stakeholder engagement. We are aiming to have a draft plan by March. We are using Meeting Place to coordinate the stakeholder engagement across the County’s Districts and Boroughs which will commence very soon.

I also attended a meeting with the CEO and chairman of HMWT. We are aiming to collaborate to ensure that once we have a DEFRA approved plan that we also have mechanisms and partnerships in place to deliver. We don’t know what funding there might be but we’ll be looking for green infrastructure investors, delivery groups such as Groundwork’s, skill building etc.

Certainly a strategic site such as Gilston does come under the scope of the plan and there is also a land owners and land managers forum and work being led by Gascoign Cecil estates. Also the numerous green space action plans undertaken by Hcc Countyside Rights of Way on behalf of the Districts and Boroughs.

Here are extracts of the letter to the minister::

- 1. **More action to prevent sewerage discharges during wet weather**:, urging government to go further and faster to tackle this blight on our chalk streams (and other water courses) Our aspiration would be for Hertfordshire’s chalk rivers to achieve Good ecological and chemical condition by 2027. We also seek assurances that the widely reported financial uncertainty surrounding Thames Water will not impact on the delivery of the Government’s Plan.
- 2. The **implementation of Schedule 3** of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 would encourage good growth in Hertfordshire while also stimulating aquifer recharge and mitigating the risk of undesirable sewer discharge and flooding.
- 3. **Clarifying the role of local authorities and the LLFA**: the actions taken by local authorities in Hertfordshire to positively address the condition of chalk streams vary between authorities. Through our efforts to coordinate action to address flooding, HCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority has found that the understanding of local authority responsibilities for the condition of our river environment is unclear. Furthermore, with new burdens funding, Lead Local Flood Authorities would be well placed to coordinate local action to address water quality issues alongside their current responsibilities around flooding.
- 4. **Making landowners responsible for curtailing excess runoff from their land**: the county council asks that Government consider and explore the value and viability of introducing new legislation that sets out landowner responsibilities for curtailing excessive levels of runoff from their land. While we have found that the EA is well placed to take enforcement action around point source pollution, it appears that the challenges arising from diffuse pollution cannot be so easily addressed through existing legislation.
- 5. **Accelerating work to reduce abstraction**: we recognise the steps being taken by Affinity Water and others, in discussion with the regulator, to reduce abstraction in particularly sensitive areas. We would hope to see this work accelerated and expanded to investigate the broad relocation of abstraction points from the upper reaches of chalk streams to down-channel, substantially reducing instances of low and no-flow in these vital habitats.

As the election has been now called I feel the need to resend to whoever is the appropriate minister after July.

New Hertfordshire Highways Projects Announced for 2024/25

Hertfordshire County Council has published details of a significant number of new highways projects taking place across the county over the next 12 months. Work has been made possible through the reallocation of HS2 funding from the UK Government, who announced in

November 2023 that Hertfordshire would receive £87.8m over the next 11 years to support local highway maintenance.

The first two years of funding amounts to a total of £5.6m and will be used to make additional improvements across road surfacing, carriageway barriers and street lighting.

The majority of the funding, £4m, will go towards renewing and refreshing road surfaces. A further £1.1m will be spent on repairing and replacing carriageway safety fencing on high-speed roads, while £500,000 will be allocated to replacing streetlights.

This supports our existing plans to maintain and improve 3,200 miles of roads and 3,500 miles of pavements and cycleways. Including the funding from UK Government, a total of £111.6m will be invested in 2024/25 on over 1,100 strategic maintenance and improvement schemes across the county.

Hertfordshire Corporate Plan sets out how we will work with partners to deliver this vision: A cleaner and greener environment, healthy and fulfilling lives for our residents, sustainable, responsible growth in our county and excellent council services for all.

Our Adult Care Services rated as 'Good' by CQC

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has given our adult social care services an overall rating of "Good". The CQC found we provide good quality care and support across every element of our adult care service

Hertfordshire's plan for children and young people

The Plan for Children and Young People sets out the County Council's strategic ambitions for children and young people. A new set of annual priorities for 2024-25 have been developed to build on the previous year's priorities and include a strengthened focus on supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families, as well as supporting children not in school. and that the people who use our services are positive about their experience and the support they receive.

Hertfordshire Care Leaver Covenant We have signed the Care Leaver Covenant, pledging our continued commitment to support care leavers as they continue their journey to live independently. As part of our commitment, we are calling on other local businesses, organisations, district and borough councils to also sign up. Encouraging local employers and housing providers to reach out to these young adults by offering support and opportunities as they take their next steps into adulthood.

Hertfordshire Growth Board Vision and Missions Hertfordshire's leaders have launched an ambitious vision for sustainable growth that will benefit residents, businesses and communities for future generations.

independent Review to examine SEND needs assessment decision making As part of Hertfordshire County Council's commitment to giving every child the best start in life and improving the services we provide to children with special educational needs and disabilities, an independent review has been commissioned into the Education and Health Care Needs Assessment Process.

Innovation in flood resilience We have been working with Central Bedfordshire Council on a project to trial measures to help better respond and adapt to flood risks. Based on work at the Pix Brook, which rises in North Hertfordshire before flowing through Bedfordshire, the project will trial innovative techniques and technologies to manage water flow using urban drainage systems and natural flood management.

Launch of Invest Hertfordshire A new service managed by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, showcases the county's key strengths, business clusters and opportunity sites, and is the gateway for companies looking to relocate or expand. Support is available to both national and international firms of all sizes that are considering or wish to relocate to or expand in Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire Music Service As part of an ambitious national programme to provide high-quality music education for all children and young people, the [Hertfordshire Music Service](#) has been appointed by Arts Council England to [lead the Hertfordshire Music Hub](#) from September 2024.

Better Health Bus This June, Hertfordshire County Council will launch a new initiative called the [Better Health Bus](#), a vehicle that travels around the county providing free services, support and advice to help residents improve their health and wellbeing. [A communications toolkit of assets is available from 6 June onwards.](#)

Going in or out of hospital A new co-produced leaflet is available to help support people leaving hospital and their family and carers. The Leaving Hospital [leaflet](#) focuses on the support offered by [Adult Care Services and in the community for those going in or out of hospital.](#)

Carers Week is 10-16 June 2024 This year it's all about *Putting Carers on the Map*. That means finding carers and making sure they are recognised, valued, and supported. It's something we work at all year to ensure unpaid family and friend carers are aware of the information and support which is available for them and how they can access it. [There's a mix of online and face to face activities and information events to connect more carers to the support that is available.](#)

East of England local authorities join forces to help thousands of children

Eleven local authorities across the East of England have joined forces in a bid to collectively recruit more foster carers to look after some of the region's most vulnerable children. Hertfordshire County Council is taking part in a new initiative for fostering under the banner Foster East. There is an urgent need for foster carers in the East of England with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month. In Hertfordshire there are 975 children and young people ranging from babies to 17-year-olds who need safe, loving and nurturing homes where they can thrive and develop.

The Foster East initiative which is funded by the Department of Education is a new, collaborative approach to foster carer recruitment and support. Councils will work together to provide more comprehensive training, support and best practice. Each applicant will be nurtured through their fostering journey with their local council and via a buddy network. Foster East advisors will help people find out how fostering can become part of their lives. Every local authority aims to keep children and young people local to their support networks, but a shortage of foster families in our area means this is not always possible. Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children.

Hertfordshire residents help to save more than four tonnes of items from disposal

More than 900 pieces of furniture, bikes and household items were sold at Hertfordshire County Council's County Show pop-up Reuse Shop over the weekend – all items that would have otherwise been broken down, recycled, or disposed of. This means that shoppers saved more than four tonnes from disposal, the equivalent weight of eight, 20-foot oak trees, from disposal.

HCCSP has submitted an 'Expressions of Interest' for a pilot [Local Area Retrofit Accelerator](#)

for support to develop Local Area Retrofit plans. Successful areas will be notified by the beginning of June. The MCS Foundation is seeking expressions of interest from Local Authorities and Combined Authorities who are wanting to develop a Local Area Retrofit plan. The MCS Foundation will provide funding for facilitators to work with the local authority, local partners and installers, to develop and write a retrofit plan tailored specifically to your region and the unique circumstances you have. I understand we have been successful

Spring 'push' for Home Upgrade Grant programme

HUG (Home Upgrade Grant) programme is for energy efficiency works to homes (off gas) for lower income families. The scheme finishes on the 31st March 2025, with applications likely to close before December 2024. It can take several months before improvements are made due

to the application process so HCCSP has been working with Communications and Sustainability officers to encourage residents to apply as soon as possible at <https://hugapply.co.uk/>. Please see attached information to share with any stakeholders who work with relevant groups (such as food banks, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Groups etc) to help spread the word.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) site matching service has first successful match In February we reopened our BNG site matching service due to the implementation of mandatory BNG and we are pleased to announce that our first match between a developer and landowner has been made. This begins our process of better connecting developers who are looking for land to deliver their offsite BNG with landowners who can support this. With more landowners and developers submitting sites, we hope to continue this work to better protect and enhance Hertfordshire's natural environment. [Learn more about the BNG site matching service and the process involved in making a match.](#)

Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership website gets a new look The Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership (HNRP) webpage has just had a major makeover. With new images, graphics, and logo, we hope to use this page to better represent the partnership and the hard work of its members. The new page ties in our recently developed engagement strategy, showing how residents and organisations can get involved, a timeline to track the partnership's progress, and the exciting events we have coming up and how you can be involved. [Visit the HNRP website to see what the partnership is up to.](#)

Clean Air Day 2024

Clean Air Day is on Thursday 20 June. This year we are celebrating Clean Air Day by asking schools to create a video over why clean air is important. Their video will showcase steps that can be taken at school and at home to help clear the air, along with a school pledge for cleaner air.

All entries that meet the criteria will be entered into a prize draw with school and individual prizes available. Schools can win bikeability training for their pupils and the individuals that participate could win a fitness tracker or a scooter. Schools should submit their entry by Friday 28 June by [filling out the entry form](#). Please support us by mentioning the competition to schools that you have contact with to maximise the number of entries. If the school have any questions, the team can be contacted at cleaner.air@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Future Announcement. Help to create a greener Hertfordshire as the Your Tree Our Future scheme returns with over 50,000 free trees available to residents. This follows on from successful previous years of the scheme from which residents claimed over 120,000 free trees to support Hertfordshire's ambitious tree planting targets. Trees planted by thousands of residents during the scheme's first two years could remove almost 200,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.

Innovative social care solution wins at national awards Hertfordshire County Council's custom-built Assistive Technology solution for social care planning was recognised for its innovation at the [prestigious Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) Awards 2024](#) yesterday (Wednesday 12 June 2024)

The technology, called Data Inspired Living, which has been developed with and for social care practitioners, is helping us to support residents to remain safe at home for longer, maintain independence and provide family carers with reassurance about the person they support. Carers and social care professionals have access to an easy-to-understand digital dashboard which shows whether a person is following their usual routine, using information from various small discrete sensors that are placed around the home, measuring movement, temperature, door usage along with smart plugs, bed mats and pill dispensers. The data dashboard can trigger alerts if routines change or if intervention is needed, such as increased toilet usage suggesting a possible urinary infection or decreased mobility over time to warn of possible heightened risk of falling.

Herts Sustainable Families Highly Commended in Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management Award. WasteAware's "[Herts Sustainable Families](#)" discount scheme, offered as part of the county's Waste Partnership has been highly-commended in the "Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative" category at the prestigious [Awards for Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management](#).

The trio of schemes within the Herts Sustainable Families banner encourage residents to choose reusable items instead of single use products by offering a 15% discount on reusable nappies, sustainable period products and washable incontinence products. Around 2,500

residents have already taken advantage of the scheme, purchasing items from across 19 suppliers, including local companies, major retailers and brand leaders. Receiving a high commendation recognises the exemplary leadership demonstrated by the WasteAware team and dedication to promoting waste reduction initiatives within Hertfordshire. Through collaborative efforts and community engagement, the initiative has successfully provided free period products to those in financial hardship and engaged in training for 56 teachers on the benefits of sustainable period products, ensuring they included as mainstream options when menstruation is discussed in school. Two further training dates are booked for June

Consultations/stakeholder Engagement

- **Local Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan. Starts 8th July**
- 420 people pre registered interest
- Saw website so there will be draft walking maps and draft cycling maps with the ability for people to comment in text boxes. Darker blue Primary routes lighter blue secondary.
- Adoption early next year, then apply to Active England for any funding gaps.

Local Nature Recovery Plan Stakeholder Engagement also starting soon, Highlighting work from the steering groups looking at sites and species.

My Environment Cabinet Panel is on Friday

We'll be considering

- REPLACEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE HERTFORDSHIRE IMPACT ASSESSMENT WITH THE DECISION MAKING SUPPORT PORTAL (DMSP)
- SUSTAINABLE HERTFORDSHIRE AMBITIONS AND HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD VISION AND MISSIONS
- AIR QUALITY STRATEGY - ENGAGEMENT
- SUMMARY OF THE REUSE SHOP COMMUNITY DONATION SCHEME

UPDATE ON RESIDUAL WASTE ARRANGEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE District

- Overview and Scrutiny, we'll be considering the waste, recycling and street cleansing contract
- EV chargers. Contacted Exec member at East Herts

There are now two threads to this - the EHDC procurement for our car parks, plus our participation in the procurement for everything else on street via LEVI.

He said For the EHDC thread we are not yet out to procurement, but we're close. In real terms, this means 2-3 weeks off being ready for pre-market engagement, or 4-5 weeks off full tender launch - whichever approach is most expedient. To manage expectations, however, the stage we're in now is painstaking, complicated and important to get right so there's a preference being later than rushing and being wrong. With all that explained, the net result for delivery on the ground in Sawbridgeworth is still looking like early 2025.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster, June 2024