

Minutes of the High Wych Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 17th January 2024
8.30pm in High Wych Memorial Hall

Cllr Tom Payne (TP)* Chairman

Cllr John Andreotti (JA)*

Cllr Keith Jordan (KJ)*

*** Denotes present**

Cllr Carrie Payne (CP)*

Cllr David Smith (DS)*

Cllr Jacqueline Jackson* joined the meeting
following co-option

Present: 2 members of the public, Cllr Ian Devonshire, Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8pm.

ACTION

24.001 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: None – all present
2. Others: None

24.002 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. **Interests declared:** None
2. **Dispensation requests:** None received

24.003 Approval of Minutes

1. **RESOLVED: to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May as drafted.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.
2. **RESOLVED: to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May as drafted.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.
3. Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Electorate held on 17th May were received. To be approved by parishioners attending the Annual Electorate meeting in May 2024.
4. **RESOLVED: to approve the Minutes of the Working Group held on 17th November as drafted.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

The meeting was suspended at 8.15pm for public comments

Rev Alison Jackson said the bench by the park entrance was damaged and dangerous and that a parishioner had cut their leg on it. The Parish Council agreed to look into it and remove the bench if necessary. It was also noted that the ground in some areas of the football goals is very uneven and may be a safety hazard. The Parish Council will assess the problem.

KJ

The meeting was restored to order at 8.20pm

24.004 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed the Clerk back after his illness. The Clerk's son was thanked for looking after things during his absence.

24.005 Council vacancy co-option

Jacqueline Jackson came forward for co-option. The Clerk verified that she met the qualification criteria and following an explanation of her interests it was **RESOLVED that Jacqueline Jackson be co-opted.** She signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting. Her portfolio is to be considered.

Clerk

24.006 East Herts Rural Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

No report was received. Subsequent to the meeting, PC Shelly Marshall confirmed that PCSO Amanda Higham no longer works for Herts Constabulary and that PCSO Fallon Collins is now the local PCSO for High Wych. The Clerk agreed to send the Chairman a copy of the crime report produced by PCSO Leon De Bruyn to see if High Wych can be included.

Clerk/TP

24.007 Reports by County and District Councillors

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster's written report is included in these Minutes as Appendix B.

District Cllr Ian Devonshire gave a verbal report. He said that EHDC had convened an Extraordinary meeting on 18th January to consider how to fund the completion of the Hertford Theatre project in light of the budget deficit of £6m. It is possible that assets may have to be sold to fund it. In a lengthy discussion on Gilston Garden Town it was noted that the original 40% affordable housing required by the District Plan is not considered viable for the developer and has been reduced to 23%.

24.008 Planning**1. New Applications:**

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 3/23/2356/HH | 1 Noons Cottages, Beanfield Rd.: Single storey front extension. |
| 3/23/2357/LBC | RESOLVED: <i>No objections</i> |

Clerk

2. Decision Notices. As detailed in Appendix A below – for information only**3. Other planning matters,** including items received too late for the agenda: None**24.009 Finance****1. Report of the Council's Accounts 31st December 2023****Financial summary to 31st December 2023**

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Opening cashbook balance 1st November 2023 | 25,127.73 | |
| Plus income to 31 st December | 90.00 | |
| Minus expenditure to 31 st December | <u>3,251.16</u> | |
| Balance available to Council at 31st December (cashbook balance) | 21,966.57 | |
| Plus unrepresented payments | <u>0.00</u> | |
| Reconciled Bank statement/cashbook balance 31st December | <u>21,966.57</u> | |

RESOLVED: *That the Accounts Statement to 31st December be approved.*

Clerk

2. Accounts Reconciliation at 31st March 2023

RESOLVED: *To agree the bank reconciliation as presented.*

3. Performance against 2023/24 budget as at 8th January 2024

| | Budget | Actual to 8th January |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Income | 94,430 | 18,889 |
| Section 106 | 49,950 | 0.00 |
| PWLB Loan | <u>25,000</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Income balance without S106 or PWLB | <u>19,480</u> | <u>18,889</u> |

£550 insurance refund has yet to be received.

| | Budget | Actual to 8th January |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Expenditure | 98,862 | 12,618 |
| Play Area redevelopment | 75,000 | 0.00 |
| PWLB Loan servicing | <u>3,000</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Income balance without S106 or PWLB | <u>20,862</u> | <u>12,618</u> |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Projected year-end deficit with loan | -4,560 |
| Projected year-end deficit without loan | -1,510 |

4. Payments for approval *All expenditure to be made under The General Power of Competence*

| | | Value | VAT incl |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| High Wych Mem Hall | Hire Post Office subsidy | 87.50 | |
| HMRC | PAYE December (paid January) | 120.00 | |
| HMRC | Employer's NIC Dec (paid Jan) | 12.99 | |
| Clerk reimburse | SLCC membership 1/3rd of £229 | 76.33 | |
| Everflow Water | Water Feb-March | 41.07 | |
| Clerk | Expenses Dec 2023-Jan 2024 | 21.80 | |
| TP Jones LLP | Payroll Oct-December | 64.40 | 10.73 |
| TP Jones LLP | Payroll July-Sept | 64.40 | 10.73 |
| TP Jones LLP | Payroll April-June | 64.40 | 10.73 |
| TEEC Ltd | Website hosting etc 2024 | 194.39 | 32.40 |
| Clerk | Salary January | 480.12 | |
| HMRC | PAYE January (pay Feb) | 120.00 | |
| Air Ambulance | Grant | 100.00 | |
| VAT included <i>To be reclaimed under VAT Act 1994 (1), (3)</i> | | | |

Unanimously **RESOLVED: to approve all payments as per the Clerk's report,**

Clerk

5. Bank mandate additional signatory: Mandate form signed

Clerk

6. Replacement of Parish Council laptop

Following the Clerk's report that the laptop, now 7 years old, is no longer powerful enough and is running very slowly, it was agreed to ask Alex Geller to source a replacement and to quote for its purchase and set-up.

Clerk

7. 2024/25 Budget and Precept

The Council considered the Clerk's draft proposals for the budget and precept that included alternatives for the funding of the new play area equipment depending upon whether the PWLB loan could be secured. It was agreed to proceed as quickly as possible with getting further quotes for purchasing as much as possible with the Section 106 £49,950 funding with a view to purchasing the remainder when and if the PWLB loan application was successful. The need for a replacement laptop was also recognized, as was the need for replacement fencing at the car park and a contingency for car park maintenance.

RESOLVED: To proceed immediately with purchasing and installing as much new play area equipment as possible for the £49,950 Section 106 funding.

Clerk/KJ

The precept was considered, taking into account that increasing it from £18,000 to £19,500 would add £3.14 per annum to a Band D household (26 pence per month).

RESOLVED: That the precept for 2024/25 be set at £19,500. The EHC precept form was signed by the Chairman, the Clerk and two councillors.

Clerk

RESOLVED: To agree the 2024/25 budget as per the draft presented and discussed.

Clerk

8. Air Ambulance Grant request

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £100 to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance as in previous years.

Clerk

24.010

1. Highways

- Overgrown hedges, MOG/Bakers Lane update: This is still an issue and the Chairman agreed to speak again to MOG.
- Other issues: It was recognised that overgrown hedges are a problem elsewhere in the parish that result in footways being unacceptably and dangerously narrowed, a problem in particular for those with mobility scooters or parents with wide child buggies. To be taken up with property owners or reported to Herts Highways.

TP

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| 2. Footpaths and other Public Rights of Way (PRoW) | | |
| 1. Modification Order for footpath near Broadfields, recording the continuation of the Footpath to the Public Rights of Way map: Ongoing with Cllr Tom Payne: This continues to be a low priority for PRoW. | | TP |
| 2. Footpath Broadfields to High Wych Lane: Cllr Tom Payne said ownership has still not been clarified by Clarion Housing. Cllr Dave Smith suggested contacting Danny Reid at Clarion, possibly copying in Gareth Emanuel. The Chairman agreed to follow this up. | | TP |
| 3. Other issues: None reported. | | |
| 3. Other Parish Matters | | |
| 1. High Wych Memorial Hall and car park | | |
| 1. A quote from BB&C Fencing for installing a new chain link fence along the churchyard boundary and adjusting the gate hinges was considered. RESOLVED: To accept the BB&C quote of £860 plus VAT. The Clerk to give Cllr John Andreotti an to arrange for the work to be done. | | Clerk/JA |
| 2. Other issues: Cllr Dave Smith advised that the Memorial Hall is being refurbished in the Spring and that arrangements might have to be made if any Parish Council meetings coincide with the works. | | DS Clerk |
| 2. Bus shelter | | |
| 1. Fitting of the new litter bin has not been done. It appears that the lid to the bin will need fitting. The fitting is in abeyance at the moment. | | TP |
| 3. Commemorative Village sign insurance | | |
| The Clerk confirmed that Zurich has added the sign to the current policy and that approximately £40 will be included in the next premium to cover it. | | Clerk |
| 4. Sawbridgeworth Trust trustee appointment | | |
| No further contact from the Trustees' Clerk, Diana Kitson. Bridget Parrish to continue as the Parish Council's representative. | | Clerk |
| 24.011 | 1. Playing Fields and buildings | |
| | 1. Harlow Theatre Company: pavilion update | |
| | 1. There are ongoing repairs to the roof | |
| | 2. Outside tap: Yet to be done. Cllr John Andreotti to contact HTC to resolve any installation issues. | JA |
| | The Clerk asked Cllr Dave Smith to confirm the procedure for invoicing HTC for the insurance reimbursement and the lease payment. Cllr Smith agreed to send details to the Clerk. | DS/Clerk |
| | 2. Play area | |
| | 1. The way forward was agreed under the budget item 24.009.7 above. | Clerk/KJ |
| | 2. Allotments report | |
| | 1. There are currently 1.5 plots vacant, although there are prospective takers. There are one or two tenants yet to pay their rent. | CP |
| | 2. The Clerk gave Cllr Carrie Payne a Unity Trust paying-in book for allotment cash payments. | CP |
| 24.012 | Correspondence: The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda: | |
| | • Air Ambulance grant request | |
| 24.013 | Late items and items for future agendas | |
| | 1. Late items received. Janet Bellingham: request for permission to use the KJV Field for the Scarecrow Festival. RESOLVED: That permission be granted. | Clerk |
| | 2. Items for future agendas: None requested. | |
| 24.014 | Date and venue of next Parish Council meeting | |
| | 1. Wednesday 20th March, 8pm, Allen's Green Village Hall | Clerk |

2. Calendar of Meetings for 2024

Clerk

The draft 2024 Calendar was discussed, taking into account councillors' availability during the year. The following was agreed for the Clerk to make Hall bookings accordingly:

| Wednesday | Time | Meeting | Venue |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| January 17th | 8 pm | Council Ordinary | High Wych Memorial Hall |
| March 20th | 8pm | Council Ordinary | Allen's Green Village Hall |
| May 15th | 7.15pm | Annual Meeting of the Parish Electorate* followed by the | High Wych Memorial Hall |
| May 15th | 7.30pm approx | Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the | High Wych Memorial Hall |
| May 15th | 8pm approx | Council Ordinary | High Wych Memorial Hall |
| July 10th | 8pm | Council Ordinary | Allen's Green Village Hall |
| September 11th | 8pm | Council Ordinary | High Wych Memorial Hall |
| November 13th | 8pm | Council Ordinary | Allen's Green Village Hall |
| 2025 January 15 th | 8 pm | Council Ordinary | High Wych Memorial Hall |

**The Annual Meeting of the Parish Electorate is NOT a Council meeting (May 15th 7.15pm).*

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.05pm.

Signed.....

APPENDIX A

24.008.2 23.043.2 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES for information only as at 11th January

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| 3/23/2190/FUL | 8 Pole Hole Farm: Change of use, agricultural to residential | REFUSED |
| 3/23/2124/PNHH | 1 Hoskins Cottages: Rear extension | Not req'd |
| 3/23/0848/CUAPN | 4 & 5 Pole Hole Farm: Change of use to Office Class E(c) & (g) | Not Req'd |
| 3/23/0164/HH | Parkview, High Wych Lane: Replace conservatory link with single storey link | GRANTED |
| 3/22/1183/FUL | Sayes Park Farm: Change of use grain silo to Class B1 | GRANTED |
| 3/22/1193/FUL | Rear of Fryars Farm Cottage: Change of use: APPEALED Ref 22/00110 | APPEAL ALLOWED |
| 3/23/0772/HH | Chandler's Lane Cottage: Detached 2-storey outbuilding | REFUSED |
| 3/21/0824/FUL | Land at Leaky Cauldron Corner: Erect 4 No. 4-bed dwellings | REFUSED |
| 3/21/3035/FUL | Mountfitchet, High Wych Rd: APPEALED: Ref 22/00058/REFUSE | APPEAL DISMISSED |
| 3/20/0633/FUL | Crumps Farm APPEALED Ref 00/00008/REFUSE | APPEAL DISMISSED |

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster report for January 2024

Hertfordshire County Council will benefit from a proportion of the Government's allocation of £2.8bn for potholes and resurfacing. This funding will enable us to repair even more potholes and other defects across the county.

As new government figures reveal that Hertfordshire's roads are in an above average condition, Hertfordshire County Council has been carrying out extra pothole repairs to make sure road surfaces are reindeer-ready for Christmas and in tip top condition for the festive getaway.

The council has been putting the £3.9m it received from the Government's Pothole Fund towards trialling new methods of pothole and road repair, leading to an extra 20,000 potholes being repaired, double the number originally anticipated. In November, Hertfordshire was allocated a further £87.8m for potholes and resurfacing, providing long term funding over the next 11 years.

New pothole equipment and techniques trialled include the JCB Pothole Pro, which can repair potholes faster and over a larger area, Roadmender, a technique that uses asphalt made from recycled tyres and Thermal Patching, a less noisy method that re-uses the existing road surface. These techniques aim to repair the pothole permanently, helping to extend the lifespan of the road.

Road surfaces across the county suffered significant damage last winter due to snow, ice and heavy rainfall, resulting in an increase in potholes. However, the county council's highways team have been working hard to repair potholes and resurface roads, and Hertfordshire's roads are now reported as being in better condition than the national and regional average.

Update regarding the closure of Ward Freman Pool, Buntingford

East Herts Council closed Ward Freman Pool in Buntingford from Saturday, 23 December, while options for its future operation are assessed. On Tuesday, 28 November, the council's Executive considered a report detailing the decision to close the pool. The report makes it clear that shutting the pool is necessary due to the substantial investment needed to upgrade the facilities to meet essential standards. The site was managed by Everyone Active on behalf of East Herts Council and is owned by Hertfordshire County Council.

Changes to East Herts waste collections from 2025

The Press Release details are below. There are some significant changes to what was originally announced and consulted upon earlier in 2023. Disappointingly the new administration couldn't find time to go out to public consultation with these changes. They even refused to discuss this at full council so purely decided by the Executive without asking for what people think. Contrary to the concept of the listening council announced just a month before. Residents will now have 5 containers on their premises including the brown bin for green/gardenwaste.

The following three bins will be collected in three weekly cycles

- Fibre bin for cardboard and paper
- Dry Recycling bin for Containers and bottles
- Residual waste bin for non recyclables

The following bin will be fortnightly

- Paid for Brown bin for green/garden waste

The following container will be weekly

- 40 litre container for food waste

There will need to be an effective way of people knowing what is collected in any given week owing to the different combinations that will arise over a 6 week cycle.

"East Herts and North Herts Councils jointly provide waste services to approximately 124,000 households and over 1,920 commercial customers as well as street cleansing services across the combined districts.

The councils have now confirmed that a number of changes will come into operation in May 2025. These are designed to ensure the continued delivery of high quality and well-performing waste and street cleansing services which are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

The changes will include:

- Three weekly collection of mixed paper and cardboard and three weekly collection of the remaining mixed dry recycling (glass, plastic and cans, plastic bags and wrapping)
- Collection of food waste on a weekly basis'
<https://eastherts.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4f62fcd04dd88042000769ccb&id=7f59c5c0f1&e=51732894ef>
- **Hertfordshire and Essex confirm reciprocal arrangements for recycling centres**
- Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council are pleased to confirm that current reciprocal arrangements enabling residents to access recycling centre services is being maintained.
- The change comes following the announcement earlier in the year that Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) would be adopting a policy restricting access to non-residents at Hertfordshire's

network of 16 Recycling Centres. Discussions have taken place between HCC and Essex County Council since the announcement was made, with agreement being reached to allow for the reciprocal access.

- From Friday 1 December 2023, Essex residents will need a digital permit and will only be permitted to use Bishops Stortford, Hoddesdon, Turnford and Ware Recycling Centres. Hertfordshire residents wishing to use Essex Recycling Centres will need to make a booking in advance.
- To register for an instant, annual permit free of charge, Essex residents will need to visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrepermits
- To make a booking to visit an Essex County Council recycling centre, Essex and Hertfordshire residents will need to visit www.lovesessex.org/bookings
- **Cllr Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for The Environment at Hertfordshire County Council said:** "I'm pleased that Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils have been able to come to an agreement that enables residents from each county to continue using a recycling centre that is close to where they live.
- "Like many other council-run services, our recycling centres are experiencing additional costs and it is only prudent that we look at all possible forms of mitigation for Hertfordshire taxpayers who are currently paying for waste being produced outside of Hertfordshire.
- "Resident only policies are commonplace across the region and country, with many of our nearest neighbours having had this policy in place for some time."

East Herts Community grant scheme launched

We're inviting voluntary and community groups, not-for-profit organisations, faith groups, and town and councils to apply for funding through our community grant scheme.

Three types of funding are available:

- Community grants, with priority given to initiatives which support areas of disadvantage and low income
- Cultural activities grants to broaden cultural opportunities
- Environmental sustainability grants

Community grants provide support and impetus to many extremely valuable community initiatives across Herts while helping to build stronger, better connected communities."

Hertfordshire residents given record number of free slippers to help prevent trips and falls

Hertfordshire County Council held its sixth and final slipper swap event of the year yesterday, Thursday 7 December, where 93 Hemel Hempstead residents got hold of some fancy new footwear that will help to prevent them tripping, slipping, or falling in their homes.

This slipper swap was the last event of the year, and over the last few months Hertfordshire County Council have organised and run a total of six slipper swaps and given out 536 pairs of slippers to some very happy new owners. We've succeeded in doing away with even more old, broken and often dangerous slippers after handing out 141 more slippers when compared with last year.

According to the [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#), falls are the largest cause of emergency hospital admissions for older people, and significantly impact on long term outcomes, for example often meaning people moving from their own home to long-term nursing or residential care.

At each event, occupational therapists were on hand to offer advice on fall prevention, and other health and wellbeing charities and organisations were also in attendance to offer help and advice to residents.

Sustainable Hertfordshire updates

Sowing wildflowers for our pollinators

Our Countryside and Rights of Way Service has been continuing work in partnership with district councils to create wildflower meadows across Hertfordshire this autumn. Areas within North Hertfordshire, St Albans and East Herts were identified as being suitable for sowing wildflowers in Green Space Opportunities audits in 2020 and 2021. These areas have been carefully chosen so that they do not impact existing facilities. There were 20 sites identified for wildflower meadow creation this autumn, with another eight sites in East Hertfordshire to follow in Spring 2024

HertsLynx expands into Hertford and Ware

HertsLynx, the on-demand bus service that has been serving residents in east and north Hertfordshire since September 2021, is expanding into Hertford, Ware and surrounding villages. Two additional minibuses are being launched into the service, including the service's first Electric Vehicle (EV) bus.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is underway in Hertfordshire

The Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership (HNRPP), the partnership responsible for creating the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) had its first meeting in October. There was enthusiasm from Steering Group members to meet monthly to keep the momentum going on the project and the Steering Group is now finalising a project timeline and comprehensive engagement plan for publication in January 2024.

Public consultation demonstrates strong support for Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) Nearly two thousand people responded to our public consultation around the Hertfordshire Essex Rapid

Transport scheme, with 75 per cent supporting or strongly supporting the scheme. The scheme could help improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions by reducing the number of journeys made by car road by providing a reliable public transport route.

'Let's clear the air' agency celebrated with awards win

Magpie Creative, the agency which supported the delivery of our 'Let's clear the air' communications campaign, was awarded 'Best work by an agency/freelancer' at the Comms2point0 UnAwards. The award is a recognition of the fantastic use of behaviour change theory and evaluation that went into the campaign.

Get involved

Trees not just for Christmas as thousands of Hertfordshire residents take part in green fingered giveaway

Thousands of green fingered Hertfordshire residents are playing their part in tackling climate change by taking up the offer of free trees from Hertfordshire's Your Tree Our Future scheme.

Over 4,300 people arranged to collect more than 74,000 trees at twelve pick-up points across the county on Saturday 9 December. The trees are made up of species selected for their suitability for Hertfordshire's geography and climate. Over 58,000 of them will go on to form nearly 10km of hedgerow, which has positive benefits for wildlife looking for shelter and food. It is expected that the trees could take close to 125,000 tonnes of carbon out of the atmosphere if they reach full maturity.

The giveaway has been delivered by a partnership of Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire's district and borough councils, as well as local charity Growing People. Herts FullStop provided its facilities and logistical expertise to help prepare and deliver the trees to the relevant pick-up points across the county.

The tree giveaway is just one of the ways the county council hopes to deliver on its Tree and Woodland Strategy, which outlines plans to establish 1.8m new trees in Hertfordshire by 2030.

Adopted in 2022, the county council has already helped establish 213,473 trees since declaring a climate emergency. This has been achieved in part through appointing two dedicated Woodland Creation Officers, to deliver planting schemes including 600 trees at Aldenham Country Park, 1,780 at Hornbeam Wood Hedgehog Sanctuary, and 10,000 in Abbots Langley in partnership with Watford Community Housing Trust.

Councillor Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for the Environment at Hertfordshire County Council said:

"We are thrilled that the Your Tree Our Future scheme continues to go from strength-to-strength, with an additional 27,000 trees given away this year compared to last year's total. The fact that so many residents from across Hertfordshire have taken part in this scheme is a testament to the positive benefits of trees on the physical and mental wellbeing of our communities, as well as for our environment."

"We have already delivered more than the 100,000 trees we planned at the start of this project and look forward to next year when we hope even more residents will take part."

Anyone looking to take part in the Your Tree Our Future scheme can sign up to receive an email when the window re-opens in Summer 2024 at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/yourtree

Donate an unused bike to someone who needs it

Colleagues from our Active and Safer Cycling Team are working in partnership with the Herts Disability Sports Foundation and Hertford Cycle Hub, to accept bikes of all sizes, conditions and makes. The team will take the bike in, service it and pass it on to a new home that would really appreciate a bike. Just pop along with the bike you'd like to donate to the rear of County Hall, Hertford, on Wednesday 13 December between 8am and 1pm to donate your bike(s). Please note; this event is for county council staff and councillors only, so please do not share this with your communities.

Relight my fire? Investigating the true cost of wood burning stoves

Global Action Plan, the agency behind Clean Air Day and Clean Air Night, hosted a webinar which explained the details of recent economic research comparing the cost of heating your home through burning wood, gas boilers and heat pumps. Watch the recording of the webinar and start busting myths around the cost of burning wood in our homes.

Clean Air Night content is now available

The county council is supporting the first ever Clean Air Night, a campaign aimed at raising awareness around the impact of burning wood in our homes by debunking myths around cost, the environment and health. Find out more about the campaign, and if you'd like to share these messages on your own communications channels, content is now available to download.

Explore the new Historic Environment web viewer

The Historic Environment Record (HER) viewer for Hertfordshire has now launched. This has been a joint project between the LEADS (Landscape, Ecology, Archaeology, Design Sustainability) team and the GIS team, with support from a Graduate Management Trainee. This viewer provides access to resources relating to archaeological sites, finds and historic monuments within Hertfordshire. Clicking on an icon will give you information about buildings and sites, from finds of prehistoric flint tools, medieval castles, and pillboxes from the Second World War. This is a great way for Hertfordshire residents and staff to connect to their local area and their past. Please spread the word about this wonderful resource, and take a look at our other GIS maps.

Upcoming events

Cleaner air seminar for members: Thursday 29 February 2024

The Cleaner Air project team is hosting a seminar for county and district and borough councillors. The seminar gives an opportunity to find out what's happening in this agenda from officers and external experts including hearing from Global Action Plan around the Clean Air Night campaign. To book onto the reserve list please respond to the email invite previously sent out or email cleaner.air@hertfordshire.gov.uk. Spaces are now limited.

For more information about any of the items in this newsletter, email sustainable@hertfordshire.gov.uk. Visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sustainability for all our external facing sustainability updates.

Plans put into gear for first electric buses in Hertfordshire

Bus journeys across the county are set to become greener as Hertfordshire County Council and bus operator Uno reach agreement to phase out part of their diesel fleet and introduce 27 new electric buses.

The first new bus is scheduled to be in service during 2024, with all 27 in operation by 2026, travelling on routes in the Hatfield, St Albans and Welwyn Garden City areas.

The Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme is a Central Government initiative, funded by the Department for Transport (DfT), to help local transport authorities introduce zero emission buses, together with the infrastructure needed to support them.

The County Council, in partnership with Uno, have been able to agree a business plan following the withdrawal of a previous operator which will see Hertfordshire's bus fleet become more environmentally sustainable.

In addition to their environmental credentials, the new electric buses will:

1. Provide enhanced comfort, quieter operation and a smoother journey;
2. Improve reliability given the reduced maintenance requirements;
3. Provide savings due to the cost-effective nature of electric buses in comparison to traditional diesel counterparts.

Speed and Volume updates etc

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Eastwick Village | Traffic Speed & Volume Surveys | Surveys Completed – Data to be analysed |
| Acorn Street, Hunsdon | Traffic Speed & Volume Surveys (Three Devices) | Completed |
| Pye Corner, Gilston | Footway Siding Out / Pedestrian Guardrail Replacement | Completed |
| High Street, Hunsdon | 20 MPH School Advisory Signs - Design | Ordered |
| Burntmill Lane, Gilston | Vegetation Clearance | Ordered |
| Reserve List Schemes for 2024/25 | | |
| Burntmill Lane, Gilston | Signage | |
| Acorn Street, Hunsdon | Road Sign Improvements | Ringway |
| Acorn Street, Hunsdon | Hunsdon | Traffic Measures |
| The Homesteads, Hunsdon | Footway / Carriageway Improvements | |

Eric Buckmaster January 2024

COUNCILLOR ACTIONS ARISING

Cllr David Smith*

- Give HTC pavilion lease and insurance invoice information to Clerk
- HWMH liaison

Cllr Tom Payne*

- Contact MOG re overgrown hedge
- Liaise with Sam Clark on Modification order for footpath and adoption of FP from Broadfields to High Wych being adopted by HCC
- Footpath from Broadfields to High Wych Lane: contact Clarion Futures Charity
- New play equipment Working Group
- Allotments (with Cllr Carrie Payne)
- Contact police to get regular crime report
- Gilston development

Cllr John Andreotti*

- Order car park fencing
- Car park and trees
- New play equipment Working Group
- Oversee fitting of tap to rear of pavilion
- HTC liaison

Cllr Keith Jordan*

- New Play Equipment Working Group

Cllr Carrie Payne*

- Monitor Highways issues, including parking
- Allotments (with Cllr Tom Payne)
- New Play Equipment Working Group

*Cllrs Tom Payne, John Andreotti, Keith Jordan, Carrie Payne, Dave Smith under delegated powers granted to the Clerk: Taking forward the new play area proposals.

Clerk

- Submit Precept to EHDC
- Raise car park fencing order for Cllr John Andreotti
- Set up agreed bank payments
- PWLB loan application
- Follow up adding Cllr John Andreotti to bank mandate
- Planning comments
- Raise insurance and lease invoices to HTC
- Send crime report to Chairman
- Ask Alex Geller to price new laptop and set up