



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

20th November 7.30pm – Hunsdon Village Hall 2023

Present: Cllrs B Toll (Chair) D. McDonald, O'Shea, Ottolangui

In attendance: Clerk, Cllr Dunlop, 6 members of the public

- 23.10.01 To receive and accept apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr Oliver and Cllr Buckmaster
- 23.10.02 Declaration of Interest and dispensations**
1. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
 2. To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and
 3. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
- None received or made.
- 23.10.03 Minutes**
- To confirm the Minutes of Hunsdon Parish Council Meeting held on October 16th, 2023, as an accurate record of proceedings. Confirmed and agreed
- 23.10.04 Matters Arising**
- 23.10.05 East Herts District Councillor Report – Cllr John Dunlop (Appendix 1)**
- Cllr Dunlop offered to present on Waste Aware but will post something on Facebook.
1. Hunsdon grass cutting – produce a plan as to how we would like the St. Dunstan grass area (wild meadow) to look like. Anything that encourages biodiversity is to be welcomed. Cllr Toll suggests we work with EH on moving this project onto the next stage. **Action: clerk to contact Elgin to develop a plan. Done. Have contacted the Land Management Projects Officer at Herts County Council, who has offered to visit to discuss what could be done.**
 2. Development Forum is for developments of 50 properties or more. The idea is to consult with people before planning permission is given. Community forums - Cllr Dunlop said one is being set up in Bishops Stortford. Cllr Dunlop will share any ideas and thoughts he gets from that forum. Cllr O'Shea noted that the NPG are keen to get the forums up and running.
- 23.10.06 County Councillor Reports – Cllr Eric Buckmaster (Appendix 2)**
- Cllr toll wishes to share with Cllr Buckmaster and his family our condolences for his sad loss.
- HCC are currently consulting on the introduction of new 20mph areas across the county, to improve road safety, create calmer streets and encourage more walking and cycling.
- Action: Cllr Ottolangui asked that Cllr Buckmaster provide a summary and review of :**
1. **Current data we have on speed and volume data surveys within the parish and to identify gaps that need to be filled.**
 2. **Status of consultations and implementation plans on any new 20mph zones for Hunsdon and surrounding villages**
 3. **Provide an update on the plan for implementation of the 20mph zone at Hunsdon school**
- This status review is not only important to help the council understand the current state of traffic calming initiatives but also to provide a baseline for traffic speed and volume prior to the start of any work on village 7**



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23.10.07 Finance – Clerk (Appendix 3)

1. To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget for authorised expenditure. Authorised.
2. To note receipt of Income, including grants and VAT refunds. Noted.
3. To receive Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliations. Councillors agreed to accuracy of reports and reconciliation.
4. Email providers – update. **Action: Clerk to work on this in December. Present in January.**
5. HAPTC subscription. Cllr Toll acknowledges access to HAPTC is very useful. The clerk confirmed they are a great asset and we should re-subscribe. Cllr Toll proposes we continue with the subscription. Cllr O’Shea seconded. All councillors agreed to the renewal of the subscription.
6. Finance subcommittee meeting – January 8th, 2024
7. Hunsdon PCC donation
The PCC are asking for extra costs for the printing and distribution of the Christmas edition of the Village News. A £100 of support for the village news has been agreed.

Councillors had already agreed to the donation of £1,000 towards the upkeep of the lower graveyard, which has cost £2,604 this year.

The PCC are asking for a contribution towards the pruning of trees in the lower graveyard of £576. Cllr Ottolangui suggests we offer a one-off payment as a gesture of good will. Cllr Ottolangui suggests £200, Cllr Toll seconded, all councillors agreed.

A request for a donation towards the Church car park was made. The cost of the works was originally £5,150 without the short section of fence to the north of the entrance. The Parish Council do not feel able to contribute towards this project, at this time.

23.10.08 Hunsdon Area Planning Applications – Cllr Toll (Appendix 4)

1. PC Responses and Decisions - See Planning Report

23.10.09 Strategic Planning Issues and Community Activities

1. Gilston Area development - planning applications at EHC Master Planning, Stewardship Village 7 and Engagement - Cllr Toll, Cllr O’Shea (**Appendix 5**)
2. HANP Task List – Cllr Toll. Cllr Toll advised that the majority of tasks have been actioned and asks for approval for a detailed plan of the Dell be set up for public consultation in the new year. Cllr Ottolangui has concerns regarding costs and what is practicably achievable. **Action: Cllr Toll will remind the project coordinator at HCC (Elgan Adlard) of that question and also ask for what the costing is likely to be.** The Dell project is a rolling 5-year programme. Cllr O’Shea said the report is taken up with a considerable number of procedures and is fearful the dell project may be wrapped up in preliminary work and we won’t get to what we want to do. Cllr Toll proposed agreement to commission to the next stage, whilst ensuring an outcome is determined. All councillors agreed.
3. Village Improvements – Cllr Ottolangui (**Appendix 6**)
4. Consultations – HCC Minerals and Waste Plan – Cllr Toll - Nothing to report
5. Community Activities – events, communications – Cllr Ottolangui (**Appendix 7**)
6. Hunsdon Community Flood Plan – Cllr McDonald (**Appendix 8**). Cllr McDonald wants to thank Cllr Buckmaster for all the work he has put into getting and keeping this project on



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target. And for the personal time he has given in meeting with residents, helping at flooding incidents and being a point of contact.

7. Village flags – Cllr Toll – Mr Gibbs read out his statement in relation to whether the Ukrainian flag was to be raised on the flagpole. Cllr Toll thanked David for his diligent work and the huge effort he took in ensuring we are complying with all protocol in relation to the flags. Cllr toll asked if we should have more than one flag flying. Cllr Ottolangui said he didn't feel it was appropriate at the moment, as there are many other conflicts around the world, do we fly flags for those. Cllr O'Shea agreed that we should not fly the flag. Cllr Toll proposes we just fly the union flag. All councillors agreed. Suggestions: **Action: clerk to send the Ukrainian flag back to the company to see if we could exchange it for replacement union flag. Done. An exchange is possible, with an extra £42.15 for the larger Union flag.**
8. MUGA funding – Jackie Carthy said we could have the tennis court / MUGA up and running by the summer. Currently the playground inspections are carried out by Kompan, who charge £180 for one operational inspection per year. We have sourced a much more competitive quote from Sovereign, of £399 for 10 operational inspections over 5 years. Neither quote covers the zip wire, which needs an in-depth inspection every 2 years, which is £449. To be added to the PC's Finance / Precept meeting for inclusion in next year's budget. Cllr O'Shea proposes we accept the Sovereign quote and add this to our precept. All councillors agreed.

23.10.10 Correspondence

1. Free Trees for Community Groups and Schools – recreation ground, Dell. Look into see what we can have and where they can go. **Action: clerk to look at where the trees can go. Have contacted the Land Management Projects Officer at Herts County Council, who has provided an audit to where the trees could go.**
2. Street cleaning / bin emptying – update. The bins are emptied by East Herts / Herts CC waste teams but will not pick up the East Herts bags left by the litter pickers at the entrance to the Dell and the Playing field. The clerk has joined Adopt and Area and the litter from the Dell and Playing field is left by the two bins, rather than taken to her house to leave by the household bin. **Action: Cllr Dunlop to see if the bags could be collected by the Waste department when they empty the village bins.**

23.10.11 AOB – Cllr O'Shea asked when the hedge on the playing field is to be cut and could it be done before Christmas. **Action: clerk to get hedge cut asap. Done, a request for the hedge to be cut has been made and will be done before Christmas.**

Volunteer footpath surveyor has withdrawn from Hunsdon.

23.10.12 Date of Next Meeting: 20th January 2024

23.10.13 Close of meeting – 9.33



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Appendix 1 – District Councillor report November 2023 - Cllr. John Dunlop

Matters arising

1. Gilston development: various actions, Village 7 consultations and chasing setting up meeting between NPG, Ben Crystal, and Vicky Glover-Ward.
2. Air pollution consultation - 09:00 13th December deadline
3. Waste Aware - it is worth promoting the Waste Aware campaign to help people save money by throwing out less food. **24% of all food in Hertfordshire is thrown in the bin!**
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/recycling-and-waste/wasteaware-campaigns/worth-saving.aspx>
4. Letsgozero - only 4 schools signed up in East Herts a £10m initiative.
5. Forward plan - see below, several items of interest around HGGT

Try A Walk This Winter

Walking during the colder, damper months may feel like a difficult thing to do and not especially exciting. However, a walk in the fresh air is a great way to clear your head and boost mind and body. Across East Herts, there are 12 free walking groups. Walking in the company of others is fun and hugely rewarding. Our trained volunteers will ensure the pace is suitable for everyone.

Volunteer Marion, who leads a First Steps Walk in Hatfield, said “Whenever people go on a Health Walk, they tell me they are glad they came along and feel better for it. Its mood lifting, relaxed and free. Not many things are these days!” New walkers are wanted for our short 20-minute walks in Sele Farm, Hertford, and Castle Park in Bishop’s Stortford. If you are still unsure if walking is for you, call 01992 555 888 to speak to a member of the Health Walks Team. People who want more of a work-out might want to pop along to one of our longer walks (60 to 90 minutes) in Stanstead Abbots, Wadesmill and Hartham Common.

So why not try walking this winter? We promise you won’t regret it. Find a walk near you on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks

Claire Pullen

Projects Officer, Hertfordshire Health Walks | Environment and Transport |
Hertfordshire County Council

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Air Quality Action Plan Consultation Launched

East Herts Council has launched a consultation on its draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the council’s approach to working with partners and the community to improve air quality and reduce residents’ exposure to air pollution. Mounting scientific evidence highlights the impact of poor air quality on health. Based on local evidence, four key priorities for tackling air pollution in East Herts have been identified:

- Reduce the impact of traffic levels and congestion on air quality
- Mitigate the impact of future growth on air quality
- Support residents in making active travel choices
- Reduce East Herts Council’s own impact on air quality.



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The Air Quality Action Plan details a wide range of actions to deliver against each priority and includes installing more electrical vehicle charge points and the development of personalised travel planning for residents to encourage alternatives to car use.

Councillor Tim Hoskin, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability at East Herts Council, said: “The council has a good track record for tackling air pollution but more still needs to be done. Whilst air pollution will mostly affect residents in Air Quality Management Areas, such as those in Bishop’s Stortford, Hertford and Sawbridgeworth, this new Action Plan is aimed at improving air quality for everyone who lives in, works in, visits or travels through East Hertfordshire.

“This consultation period is critical to the success of the East Herts Council Air Quality Action Plan (2024 – 2029), as we cannot achieve our targets alone. Because our direct control is limited, we need the support of our local communities and every other organisation and employer in order to successfully improve air quality and reduce exposure to air pollution.

“With your help, I am hopeful that the interventions and initiatives outlined within this action plan will reduce the impact of air pollution on the health of our local communities.”

Have your say on the East Herts Council Air Quality Action Plan (2023 – 2029) before 9am on 13 December 2023: www.eastherts.gov.uk/airqualityactionplan

Find out more about the air quality within our district: [Air Quality | East Herts District Council](#)

Home upgrade grants for low-income households

Our Home Upgrade Grant programme (HUG2) is designed to help residents whose home isn't heated by mains gas. It aims to tackle fuel poverty and make progress towards the UK's 2050 Net Zero Carbon commitment.

If you have a gross household income below £31,000 (or below £20,000 once your household's composition, housing and benefits are taken into account), you could qualify for a grant. If you live in an area identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), you are also eligible to apply.

Upgrades could include insulation and ventilation, modern heating systems such as air source heat pumps, new heating controls and energy efficient lighting. Approved installers will visit each home to work out which improvements would reduce heating costs the most.

Apply here -

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/vision-and-corporate-priorities/environmental-sustainability/hug2-grant-help-towards-your-energy-bills>

Forward Plan

The Forward Plan for November 2023 - February 2024 has been published online. You can view via this link [here](http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=324&RP=119&J=2). <http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=324&RP=119&J=2>

New £10 Million Initiative To Decarbonise Schools

A new £10 million partnership between [Green Future Investments Ltd \(GFIL\)](#) and [Let's Go Zero](#), the campaign for all schools to be zero carbon by 2030, is set to boost climate action in schools across England. The collaboration will bring expert advice to thousands of individual schools, colleges, and nurseries via 30 climate advisors in nine regions of England, while also unlocking finance at scale from the public and private sectors. <https://letszero.org/new-10-million-initiative-to-decarbonise-schools-lowering-emissions-and-inspiring-students/>

Free body image webinar - 21st November 12:00



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Find out how to build your child's confidence through this webinar on body image. It will be relevant to children of all ages.

Sign up - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/masterclass-supporting-children-with-their-body-image-tickets-733397410397>

Customer Relationship (CRM) - Service Portal Update

The [East Herts MyAccount](#) online CRM platform is set to enter its next phase, after a successful alpha launch.

Key highlights

- Introduced over 100 service forms.
- Achieved over 4000 form submissions from customers.
- 1500 customers have signed up for an [East Herts MyAccount](#).
- The platform is already aiding our Customer Service Team in managing face-to-face interactions. It'll soon be extended for telephone interactions.

What's Next?

- Launch of the next iteration of [East Herts MyAccount](#) based on customer feedback, which includes renaming and a refreshed layout.
- Development and implementation of the user testing strategy.
- Collaborative integration with the Environmental Health Uniform IT system with the CRM to improve business processes and efficiency.
- Development and launch of the internal case management portal for holistic customer case management.

Signing up and Feedback

If you would like to sign up for an [East Herts MyAccount](#) you can do so by following the instructions on this URL: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/myaccount>

We want to make the digital platform as user-friendly and accessible as possible. If you have any feedback or would like to discuss the roll out plans further, please contact us at digital@eastherts.gov.uk

Listening Council - presented at the O&S committee on 7th November.

(Items 5&6 <http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=515&Mid=4234&Ver=4&J=9>)

A clear set of principles the council will follow when seeking to inform, engage and consult residents, businesses, and stakeholders.

Community Forums

For large strategic sites being developed across the district in order to provide an opportunity for developer/s, residents, community groups, elected members and council officers to engage with each other, raise issues of interest or concern for existing and new communities with a view to enhancing the quality of community life and communication.

Development Management Forums

For planning applications which meet certain criteria. Generally, these would be complex/sensitive major planning applications for development of 50 or more homes. If the criteria are met then a Development Management Forum can be held early on in the planning application process in order for residents to share planning concerns with Members, Officers, and Applicants in an open and transparent way.

Waste, recycling, and street cleansing service design - 28th Nov Exec decision

Contact: Chloe Hipwood, Service Manager - Waste, Recycling and Street Cleaning

Email: chloe.hipwood@north-herts.gov.uk



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Appendix 2 – County Councillor Report – Cllr Eric Buckmaster Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is seeking your views on its future



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) has opened a new survey so that people who live and work in the county can have their say on its future.

The survey is open from 25 September to 19 November, and it takes less than 10 minutes to complete. You could win one of three £50 high street vouchers – enter your details at the end of the survey for a chance to win.

Read our plan for a safe and resilient Hertfordshire and take the survey on our website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/CRMP

Clean Air Night launched as Winter counterpart to Clean Air Day

Global Action Plan – the organisers of Clean Air Day, the UK’s largest public engagement campaign on air pollution – are launching a new sister campaign to shine a light on the uncomfortable truth about wood burning.

Clean Air Night will bust key myths about wood burning by providing information to the public highlighting that wood burning is a significant source of air pollution that harms our health.

The campaign will run for four weeks, culminating in Clean Air Night on Wednesday 24th January 2024 next year. Starting at sundown (4:35pm) on Clean Air Night, leading experts will further reveal the truth about wood burning to the public through a series of videos. There will also be a Clean Air Night Summit, where organisations and local authorities can speak directly to experts and share learnings.

There are two ways that members of the public can get involved with the first-ever Clean Air Night:

- Learn: from experts on the night in our explainer videos and find out more about burning wood by visiting the [Clean Air Hub](#) and exploring the hashtag #CleanAirNight.
- Share: this information with your community, family, friends to shine a light on key myths and protect people and planet from the harms of woodburning.

Clean Air Night has been developed using the latest research into how to communicate about wood burning, recently shared with the sector in a [toolkit](#) produced by Global Action Plan in partnership with Impact on Urban Health, behavioural experts Kantar and creative agency Dog, Cat & Mouse

Hertfordshire County Council welcomes decision not to close rail ticket offices

Hertfordshire County Council has welcomed news announced yesterday (Tuesday 31 October) that plans to close ticket offices in railway stations across the county have been cancelled.

The announcement, made by Transport Secretary Mark Harper MP means that the threat of ticket office closures has passed, with the Minister saying that “the proposals did not meet the ‘high thresholds’ set by government.”

The announcement by Government comes at the end of a public consultation process which saw 750,000 responses sent to London Travel Watch and Transport Focus who objected to the proposals saying it had heard “powerful and passionate concerns about the changes”.

Hertfordshire County Council responded to the consultation on behalf of residents stating that the proposals went too far too fast. In addition, the county council highlighted that the proposals had not properly considered the difficulties many passengers would have purchasing tickets online or from ticket machines, particularly those with visual impairments, those without access to the internet and those who do not own or use smart mobile devices.



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The county council has highlighted that wider reforms to fares and ticketing are needed to make train travel much easier.

Funding boost doubles number of potholes repairs with over 16,500 fixed ahead of winter.

The allocation of nearly £4 million from the Government's Pothole Fund has helped to double the number of pothole repairs across the county, taking the total to an expected 40,000 repairs this year.

Since the beginning of June 2023, when activity using the additional funding started to take place, 16,556 potholes have been repaired (as of 31 October 2023), 82% of the targeted total of 20,000 potholes.

New pothole equipment and techniques are also being trialled. These include the JCB pothole pro, which is designed to cut the road surface where a pothole has formed to allow for a watertight repair. It brushes up and collects the waste material with the team then completing the work. Thermal patching is another new method, which is less noisy and heats the surface before mixing the existing road material with an amount of new asphalt and then being compacted.

Pothole pro allows for repairs to take place quickly and works especially well on large areas, while thermal patching is useful to use at night-time or where works need to be undertaken in restricted hours.

These techniques, plus other methods such as spray injection patching and roadmender, aim to repair the pothole permanently, helping to extend the lifespan of the road.

Road surfaces across the county have suffered from exceptional damage in the last twelve months due to snow, ice and heavy rainfall, resulting in an increase in potholes.

Under 11s - Applying for primary, junior and middle schools in 2024

The process for applying to primary, junior and middle schools in Hertfordshire opens on Wednesday 1 November.

If your child is due to start primary school or move on to a junior or middle school next year, make sure you apply for a place in good time.

The easiest way to apply for a school place for September 2024 is to visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and complete the online application form.

Online applications can be amended at any time before the closing date, and you can access your school offer before allocation letters are received and accept your school allocation online.

Last year, 99 per cent of parents applied this way and found the system quick, easy and secure.

Supporting local families with the cost of living

Are you having to help members of your community with support to cope with the rising cost of living?

They might qualify for a weekly payment for fresh fruit, vegetables and milk through the NHS Healthy Start Scheme. Visit the Healthy Start [website here](#) for more information to encourage eligible families to apply.

We are also working closely with Health and Family Centres to promote the scheme.

Did you know . . . in Hertfordshire we are under-claiming just under £1M per annum for this funding.

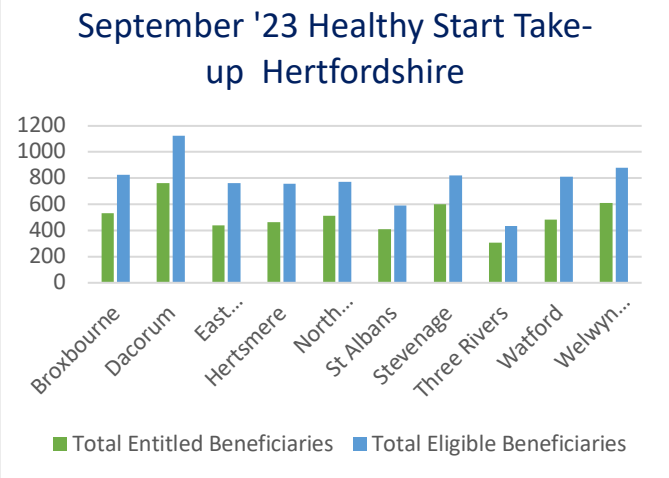
The data below shows Hertfordshire's Healthy Start take-up as at September '23

- Eligible Beneficiaries are those who *can* qualify
- Entitled Beneficiaries are those who *have* applied, successfully



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Local Authority	Total Entitled Beneficiaries	Total Eligible Beneficiaries	Uptake (%)
Broxbourne	530	825	64
Dacorum	764	1124	68
East Hertfordshire	439	761	58
Hertsmere	464	758	61
North Hertfordshire	513	770	67
St Albans	408	593	69
Stevenage	603	819	74
Three Rivers	305	436	70
Watford	481	809	59



It is pleasing to note however, that from a 60% take-up at the beginning of the year, we are climbing and now stand at a 66% take-up.

To find out more about the scheme, go online at www.healthystart.nhs.uk. If you can't go online, call 0300 330 7010 or email healthy.start@nhsbsa.nhs.uk. If you would like any articles or social media graphics to share on your council or community channels, please contact dee.debruin1@hertfordshire.gov.uk

A helping hand to get around – new bus SaverCards launched in Hertfordshire

Two new bus saver cards have been unveiled by Hertfordshire County Council and the Intalink partnership opening up discounts on bus fares. This is being funded from the Bus Service Improvement Plan and the Department for Transport.

The new Senior SaverCard will enable those over 60 years old to obtain significant discounts on multi operator tickets.

	Intalink Explorer (multi operator ticket) day price
Current price	£9.00
Reduced price (from September 29th 2023)	£7.60
SaverCard Senior (60 – 66)	£3.80
SaverCard (11-25)	£3.80
SaverCard Adult (26-59)	£6.50

The 19-25 year old SaverCard will also be continuing as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan after being successfully launched in 2021 to support young people.

With no time restriction on the use of the SaverCard, bus users of all ages across the county now have access to a card that delivers them savings from day one.

Each SaverCard costs £20 for online applications (£25 for a paper application) and is valid for 12 months, with fare discounts available on any local bus service operating in Hertfordshire, except for services run by Transport for London or Grant Palmer Ltd.



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Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) annual event

Over 120 people from local authorities, charities, community groups and other sustainable organisations came together for the second annual HCCSP event. The attendees enjoyed a day full of meaningful discussion around the work that HCCSP is planning to deliver and that is already underway. [Cllr Eric Buckmaster gave his reflections on the day in our video.](#)

Tree collection date moved to 9 December

Due to the warmer weather we have been experiencing for this time of year, we have made the decision to move the collection date for this year's tree giveaway to Saturday 9 December. [We are currently finalising the locations for the new date and will be contacting residents who have claimed trees directly once these are confirmed.](#)

Consultations on new 20mph zones

The council is currently consulting on the introduction of new 20mph areas across the county, to improve road safety, create calmer streets and encourage more walking and cycling.

Give food waste the chop

The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's campaign to tackle avoidable food waste, #WorthSaving', has been live for just over a month, with over 200 people signing up to the campaign's weekly newsletter. [Share the campaign with residents in your communities who might be looking to save money on their food bills as winter approaches.](#)

Cleaner air banners and handheld sensors for schools

Schools in Hertfordshire can borrow 'no idling' banners and handheld air quality sensors to use with their school pupils to help them understand the science behind air pollution. If you believe a school in your area would be interested, contact cleaner.air@hertfordshire.gov.uk or share this email address directly with the school.

Young people from Broxbourne, East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield recognised for succeeding in the face of adversity

Young people from Broxbourne, East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield recognised for succeeding in the face of adversity: SfYP Mark MB and Roshan

44 young people from Broxbourne, East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield were recognised on Wednesday night (8 November) at the annual Young People's Awards ceremony organised by Hertfordshire County Council.

Those who scooped awards in a variety of categories, were nominated by Services for Young People youth workers and advisers after showing resilience, determination and compassion this National Youth Work Week.

The ceremony took place at County Hall in Hertford and the awards were given out by Deputy Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Life Long learning Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop.

Electric Gritter set to hit Hertfordshire's roads tonight as weather turns colder

A brand new Electric Vehicle Gritter is set make its debut this evening in Hertfordshire as the first gritting run of the season is expected at around 7pm tonight [Friday 10 November].

In a pilot, the first of its kind in the south-east, the Electric Vehicle Gritter will head out from its depot in South Mimms for the first time, providing a cleaner, greener and more sustainable way to keep Hertfordshire's roads safe as temperatures plunge.



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A smaller cycleway gritting tractor, which was trialled last winter and helps cyclists keep travelling actively over the winter period, will also be out and about on the run alongside a 57 strong fleet of our usual gritters.

The fleet will be on standby ready to keep the county moving across the winter.

Hertfordshire pledges urgent improvements to SEND services and apologises to families: Ofsted Report Published -

The partnership responsible for overseeing and delivering services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Hertfordshire has apologised to families and urgently stepped up its improvement plans following an inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The inspection report, published on Friday 10 November identified 'widespread and / or systemic failings' across the local area partnership led by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB), leading to 'significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND'.

In response to the report the local area partnership is strengthening its existing improvement plan and a detailed priority action plan will be submitted to Ofsted and the CQC by 19 December (within 35 days of receiving the final report). To ensure independent and expert oversight of the partnership's delivery of this plan, Dame Christine Lenehan has been appointed as the new chair of the partnership's multi-agency improvement board. Dame Christine Lenehan has said: "I am delighted to be working in partnership with Hertfordshire on their improvement journey. I look forward to supporting and challenging all partners to ensure we move towards better outcomes for children and families."

Cllr Richard Roberts, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council and Chair of the Integrated Care Partnership, said: "We accept the findings of the report and recognise too many children and young people with SEND and their families have not received the support they need and deserve. We are all, across the whole partnership, sorry for this and are taking urgent action to address the priority actions and areas for improvement. "There are more than 36,500 children and young people identified in Hertfordshire schools as having SEND. Most children and young people with additional needs do not require an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) to access the support they need, as these are for those with the most complex needs, but we have seen a 185% increase in children and young people with EHCPs since 2015. We know that we've struggled to keep up with that increase and that's why SEND improvement is a key priority for both the county council and local NHS.

"I am pleased inspectors recognised that we understand the issues faced by children, young people and their families in Hertfordshire and have already put in place a strong strategy to address this, including an additional ongoing £5million investment into statutory SEND services and creating 1,000 new SEND school places between 2018 and 2026.

"We're determined to build on this to go further and faster to deliver the actions and improvements needed. We recognise improving services and rebuilding trust will take time but the whole partnership will do all we can to make sure children with additional needs and their families have the right support at the right time more often."

Dr Jane Halpin, Chief Executive of the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board, said: "Patients are at the heart of everything we do in the NHS, and we always want to ensure the best quality care and support to give every child the best start in life. This inspection has given our partnership the chance to see the full picture of everything we need to do to improve our services and ensure families have all the support they need at the right time. I would like to thank all the families in Hertfordshire that contributed



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to the inspection and shared their views, and offer an apology to those who have had to wait longer for NHS services.

“We know our hard-working staff will be disappointed to see the issues raised in this report but know that there were some highlighted positives recognised. This includes the fact that we are meeting the needs of children and young people who have clearly identified and complex needs.

“All organisations in the partnership recognise the challenges and have a joint plan for addressing them. Work is underway to develop a programme to support a further significant shift in the way children and young people who have additional needs are supported. We have already improved the information available to support education, health and social care practitioners to help children and families.

“We are committed to making sure we are doing everything we can do to support living an ordinary life for children and young people with SEND.”

Leise Cooper, Chair of Herts Parent Carer Involvement, said: “Families in Hertfordshire have long reported that services in the county are not meeting their children’s needs, and we are pleased this report recognises this and identifies areas for improvement.

“We welcome the urgency with which the local partnership is looking to address the issues raised – it is now vital to ensure that plans for improvement are delivered quickly and effectively. HPCI will continue to challenge and support the partnership to drive change and ensure that work remains focused on how these changes will improve the lives of children and young people.”

The inspection report identifies two high priority actions for the partnership, focussed on improving information sharing, collaboration, governance and quality assurance across the partnership.

Five further areas of improvement were also identified relating to the availability, consistency, quality and speed of the support provided to children and young people by the partnership, as well as its communication and engagement with their parents and carers.

The inspection report does find that the leadership of the partnership has correctly identified the challenges facing SEND services in Hertfordshire and has a plan for addressing them. It also acknowledges that the new governance structures in place will provide strengthened systems of oversight of services across the partnership, as well as noting several areas where the partnership is performing strongly.



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 3 – Clerks Report

Hunsdon Parish Council					
Revenue Expenditure					
Credit					
	Budget	To date	Remaining period	Year	Variance
B/F General	£6,232.08	£6,815.47		£6,815.47	£583.39
Precept	£26,600.00	£26,690.00	-£90.00	£26,600.00	£0.00
Litter Picker	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Allotment rents	£489.00	£45.00	£444.00	£489.00	£0.00
VAT refund rev	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Grant Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Santander Interest	£0.00	£20,000.00	£0.00	£20,000.00	£20,000.00
Grant UK Prosperity Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Admin		£64.64			
Totals	£33,321.08	£53,615.11	£354.00	£53,904.47	£20,583.39
Debit					
Administration	£2,217.12	£1,574.65	£642.47	£2,217.12	£0.00
Litter pickers	£1,600.00	£217.70	£1,382.30	£1,600.00	£0.00
Salary	£6,050.00	£3,946.44	£2,103.56	£6,050.00	£0.00
General Power of Competence	£320.00	£113.56	£206.44	£320.00	£0.00
Allotments	£490.00	£0.00	£490.00	£490.00	£0.00
Playing Field	£700.00	£285.39	£414.61	£700.00	£0.00
Rest of village	£0.00	£1,038.86	-£1,038.86	£0.00	£0.00
Grounds Maintenance	£6,252.00	£5,439.98	£812.02	£6,252.00	£0.00
Planning Consultants and Advice	£6,000.00	£527.61	£5,472.39	£6,000.00	£0.00
Churchyard donation	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Insurance	£568.44	£568.44	£0.00	£568.44	£0.00
Defibrillator funding	£365.00	£0.00	£365.00	£365.00	£0.00
Village Event Funding	£800.00	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00	£0.00
Projects	£5,000.00	£4,960.00	£40.00	£5,000.00	£0.00
Contingencies	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Totals	£31,862.56	£19,472.63	£12,389.93	£31,862.56	£0.00
Surplus	£1,458.52	£34,142.48	-£12,035.93	£22,041.91	£20,583.39
Totals					
Revenue Surplus	£1,458.52	£34,142.48	-£12,035.93	£22,041.91	£20,583.39
Capital Surplus	£11,256.32	£30,395.51	-£18,352.03	£12,043.48	£787.16
Total Surplus	£12,714.84	£64,537.99	-£30,387.96	£34,085.39	£21,370.55



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Capital Expenditure					
Credit					
	Budget	To date	Remaining period	Year	Variance
B/F Special Projects	£29,608.35	£30,395.51		£30,395.51	£787.16
VAT refund Cap	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£29,608.35	£30,395.51	£0.00	£30,395.51	£787.16
Playground Equipment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Inspection for Equipment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MUGA allocation	£18,352.03	£0.00	£18,352.03	£18,352.03	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£18,352.03	£0.00	£18,352.03	£18,352.03	£0.00
Surplus	£11,256.32	£30,395.51	-£18,352.03	£12,043.48	£787.16



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Bank Reconciliation			
Total surplus	£64,537.99		
15-Nov-23	Current account		£19,908.24
Santander bank	Business account		£50,183.93
		Total	£ 70,092.17
Payments agreed but not cleared bank			
Payments to be agreed			
C Page	Salary for November	Salary	£384.18
HMRC Cumberbaud	PAYE for Clerk	Salary	£96.00
L Lundy	Litter picking for November	Litter Pickers	£20.00
A Wilkinson	Litter picking for November	Litter Pickers	£20.00
P Knott	November grass cutting	Grounds	£280.00
P Knott	October grass cutting	Grounds	£560.00
Hunsdon Village Hall	July Hall hire for PC meeting	Administration	£20.00
Hunsdon Village Hall	September Hall hire for PC meeting	Administration	£20.00
Hunsdon Village Hall	October Hall hire for PC meeting	Administration	£20.00
Sign of the Times	Refurbished Village Sign	Projects	£1,948.00
Principal Trees	Cut back trees over play area and tennis	Grounds	£444.00
Shane White	Remainder of works for village sign,	Projects	£1,462.00
			£ 5,274.18
		Balance at Bank	£ 64,537.99



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Planning Applications https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk	LHPC Response
3/23/1146/FUL PROPOSAL: Demolition of 2 outbuildings. Erection of Dog training facility with WC and kitchen, with associated external training area. AT: Little Samuels Farm Widford Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 16th November 2023	
3/23/2016/FUL PROPOSAL: Demolition of stable block and erection of replacement single storey, two bedroom dwelling at: Hunsdonbury House, Hunsdonbury Lane Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 24th November 2023	Cllr O'Shea recommends we object on listed building grounds and NPG grounds. Cllr Ottolangui seconded. Cllr O'Shea requested engaging J Veater to develop the objection. All councillors agreed. Action: Cllr O'Shea to work on that
3/23/2017/LBC As above	
Application	EHC response
3/23/1298/FUL PROPOSAL: Replacement of car park fence (comprising a series of 0.95 metre posts linked originally by chain) with a 1.2 metre post and twin rail timber fence at: Land Opposite St Dunstons Church Church Lane	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
3/23/1705/HH PROPOSAL: Erection of games room within rear garden and extension to existing decking at: 20 Widford Road	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions



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Appendix 5 –

GILSTON Area Development - November Report to Councillors from Hunsdon Eastwick & Gilston NPG on behalf of the Joint Parishes

Councillors have seen the NPG newsletter last month to all on our mailing list and posted on local social media, WhatsApp and websites. We have had some local publicity in Your Harlow and The Stortford Independent and are lobbying the Mercury to follow up. We have asked residents to lobby the leadership too.

As reported last meeting the Housing Minister turned down the joint application with Eastwick & Gilston PC to call-in the whole development – Incidentally this Minister lost her job in the recent Cabinet reshuffle and we now have the 16th Housing Minister in 15 years, so no wonder there is major confusion in the Government messaging and policies on Housing in this country.

The planning permissions of the Villages 1-6 and 7 are passed subject to hammering out the S106 Agreement between the Councils and the developers on the infrastructure, like schools, roads, sustainable travel by buses and alternative transport and much more, to be provided and when and the financial contributions needed. We have pressed for it to be subject to scrutiny when ready and looked at in public but the Council has so far resisted agreeing to that. It probably will not include satisfactory plans for health and medical Care as the law says this is for the NHS and central Govt to provide and local authorities and developers do not have to plan or pay for it. There seems to be little dialogue between the two which is a national disgrace and should be reformed. Attempts by us to engage with NHS have been stonewalled while they try to do a deal with EHC to get some money out of the developers.

There has also been an independently commissioned report on the Financial Viability work which led to the cut back in the amount of affordable housing this development has to provide. This is a professional report which, if correct says there is a £400M difference in the figures being produced and that the Council has given away too much. We are not experts in this complex area but do feel that the new Councillors at East Herts need to scrutinise these claims in an open, transparent and public manner and have pressed for this.

Meetings are being arranged with the Council leaders.

In the meantime the developers have been getting on with the important Master planning of the overall site and specifically on the first 2 “villages” intended to be built, one of which is V7 in Hunsdon. Master planning is the general layout of the site and its main services and building phases.

There were three well attended meetings by way of workshops, hosted by Taylor Wimpey and their advisers though we had to press hard for one in Hunsdon which the developers had “forgotten” to do. People made a number of constructive suggestions about what was needed and other comments. A list we have compiled of the “Top 20” is attached and will go to Taylor Wimpey and EH officers for the record and follow-up. There will be another workshop on this soon (date TBA). Similar workshops have been held for Village 1 and the Strategic Masterplan in Gilston which I or Bob have attended. We have pressed the case there for better connectivity by cycle and foot between V 7 and Hunsdon Village and the proposed Airfield and Eastwick Woods Parks; and the advantages of flood attenuation on the Airfield to protect Hunsdon Village.



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In the wider scheme of things, it seems likely now that the development will go ahead and the Planning permissions will be finalised though the Viability concerns need to be addressed.

The master planning process will take until the Spring 2024 but there will be an official Public consultation on the finished products before they go to EH Council for approval.

There then follows a long process in which the detailed work for the construction is worked through and put to EHC for approval as "Reserved Matters" though there is some doubt whether they will agree to hear these in public which will be another issue for us to take up.

There has already been a little preliminary survey work which caused some major traffic disruption on the A414 over 3 weekends. We have to say that the communications efforts of the developers and East Herts and/or Herts County Council left a lot to be desired and we will be seeking to have them improve this as and when construction actually starts in 2024/25. But there is no doubt that this community is facing a long period of disruption when it does start and there will be multiple occasions for complaint and improvement if the developers and EHC/HCC do not up their game.

**FOS 16.11.23 Twenty points on the Village 7
Workshop 1 -Nov 23**

Hunsdon PC via HEGNPG

**We welcome the chance to follow the points below in Workshop 2 and to see the ongoing progress in the VMP after the input form
Workshop 1**

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | Residents cannot see the sense in diverting Church Lane into the centre of the Village | HGV traffic from Waste Site and farms will pollute and congest the centre. It will also cause bottlenecks for through traffic from Hunsdon to A414 and inevitable delays. New residents will use Hunsdon roads as a rat run to go north. Will A414/Church Lane junction be signalised (at least as an interim measure) before any work starts on the site? |
| 2. | No pedestrian or cycle connections with Hunsdon Village and/or the countryside | Church Lane has no footpath and is too dangerous for young cyclists Should be a dedicated ped and cycle path to the centre of the old village and clear connections to Country Parks and countryside outside the Site Boundary |
| 3 | Grave doubts that the Roydon Commuter Link will see delivery. | New footbridge will be v expensive and RCL relies on third party land access which is unlikely to be offered without CPO/HA) Remember that the Hunsdon Lock access is recreational only and is not a viable alternative to commute to Roydon station – protected SSS1 and by Hunsdon Area NP policies |



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4. Sustainable Travel Target of 60%

Appendix 6 - Community Events - Report to Hunsdon Parish Council November 2023

FREE to attend Annual Events

The Christmas Fayre is taking place on Saturday 2nd December and includes a **FREE** Santa's Grotto and a range on craft and seasonal stalls

There are also stalls for Hunsdon School and Hunsdon Ducklings and activities organised by Hunsdon Scout group. The stalls for local organisations are offered free of charge to allow these organisations to promote and fundraise for their own benefit.

The target is for the Christmas Fayre to be self financing and cost neutral but this is reliant on a successful day with good sales from tea, coffee, cakes, mulled wine and the BBQ

The summer "Festival on the Field" date for 2024 has been set for June 29th

FREE Community Lunches and Brunches

These events have continued on a bi monthly basis with the final event of the year being a **FREE** Community brunch on Sunday 10th December. Next years dates will be set in due course with the intention of continuing on a bi monthly basis

These events continue to run at a loss, despite generous on the day voluntary donations. The average per event loss is equivalent to the hire cost for the VH, which is the largest single overhead for these events.

Volunteers

For both regular and annual events there are great core teams of volunteers but we are always open to new people joining either of these sub committees. Please contact Dave Ottolangui (dave.otto1204@gmail.com) if interested

Appendix 7 - NOTES AND ACTIONS FROM VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT MEETING (8th November 2023, 7:30pm Village Hall meeting room)

Present: David Ottolangui, Carole Page, Jackie Carthy, Malcolm Slater, Frank O'Shea, John Felstead

Apologies: Karen Osterley, Chrissy Parker, Clare Rickets

Grant award overview

The parish council have received £20,000 for use as outlined below. The money must be spent by March 2025 or returned which gives us a hard deadline for completion of all works, so **"use it or lose it"**.

We must report progress on projects along with spending summaries on a quarterly basis to HCC. **DAVE & CAROLE** will manage this reporting but may need brief summaries from all the project leads.

Sub project leads and next steps

For all sub projects it is expected that each sub group will have some quotes and options to be discussed and agreed in time for the next meeting on JANUARY 24th at 7:30pm in the VH meeting Room **CAROLE** to book the meeting room

Tennis Court Lead – JACKIE

Next step – confirm lining and tennis post and net costs and incorporate spend into the larger MUGA project

Village pump and gaslight refurbishments leads – FRANK & JOHN

Next step: confirm legal precedence to carry out repairs and obtain costs for decorative repair and assess whether the available funds would also allow ironwork repairs (e.g. for fence arrowheads)

Gateway Boxes and picket fences leads MALCOLM & CAROLE

Next steps: come up with design options and costings for each of the three village entrance signs



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Footpath widening and clearing lead CAROLE to approach **GRAHAM & CLARE RICKETS** to see if they would be happy to lead this project

Next steps: identify priority pavements/footpaths to be cleared and obtain indicative costs

Communal seating lead: CAROLE to confirm with **KAREN** that she is happy to lead this sub project

It was agreed a log circle for The dell could be included within this project

Next step: come up with proposals for locations of communal seating and indicative costs

NEXT MEETING:

7:30pm on 24th January 2024 in the Village Hall meeting room

Appendix 8 – Flooding – Cllr McDonald

Carole and I were involved with a meeting with members of the Flood Resilience Team from the Environmental Agency for Hertfordshire. This was a very informative event and is helping us to finish the final draft for the Community Flood Plan for Hunsdon Residents. Hopefully this will be ready in the next few weeks.

We also had a residents meeting in the village hall which was very well attended. This involved a presentation from the Council on the modelling work for flood prevention in the village. Again this was very informative. As part of the Hunsdon Natural Flood Management Feasibility Study we are now in the optioneering stage which looks at a detailed design for flood Prevention in the village. This all takes time and naturally cost. We are looking at a minimum of 3 and half years to complete the study (we are nearly halfway through this) at a conservative cost of £110000 plus any construction costs which will be between £20000 and £150000 depending on the full analysis.

I must thank Eric on behalf of the Parish Council for all his help and time in securing Funding from the Herts County Council as they are the Lead Flood Authority. We hope to put the flood Presentation online so everyone can see the progress being made.