

12 September 2008

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To: The Members of the Hitchin Committee of North Hertfordshire District Council:

Councillors: Judi Billing (Chairman), Deepak Sangha (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A.G. Ashley, David Billing, Clare Body, Paul Clark, Joan Kirby, Bernard Lovewell, Alan Millard, Lawrence Oliver, R. Shakespeare – Smith, Martin Stears, and R.A.C. Thake

You are invited to attend a meeting of the

HITCHIN COMMITTEE

to be held at

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL
NIGHTINGALE ROAD, HITCHIN**

on

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2008

at

7.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,



David Miley
Democratic Services Manager

AGENDA - PART I

ITEM	PAGE
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	-
2. MINUTES To take as read and approve as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 September 2008.	-
3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chairman of other business which they wish to be discussed by the Committee at the end of the business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman will decide whether the item(s) raised will be considered.	-
4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either prejudicial or personal interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the item on the agenda. Members declaring a prejudicial interest should leave the room and not seek to influence the decision during that particular item.	-
5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from members of the public. 1. Petition – Request for exercise equipment 2. Petition – Accidents in Park Street 3. Hitchin Historical Society 4. Wicksteed Exerscape Public participation requests received within the agreed time will be notified to Members as soon as practicable.	1
6. BANCROFT PARK ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES	To Follow
7. TRANSPORT AND PLANNING ISSUES IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE AND HITCHIN PRESENTATION BY THE TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR R.A.C. THAKE <i>The Portfolio Holder will clarify his role for North Hertfordshire with particular reference to Hitchin.</i>	5

ITEM	PAGE
8. RESTRICTION ON SUNDAY PARKING IN MARKET PLACE, HITCHIN REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL <i>To advise the Hitchin Committee of possible ways forward via Traffic Regulation Orders to prevent Sunday parking in Hitchin Market Place.</i>	To Follow
9. HITCHIN TOWN CENTRE MANAGER This presentation will be in an oral format.	9
10. CHAMPION NEWS REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES <i>To advise the Hitchin Committee of the schemes and activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer since the meeting held on 22 July 2008 and a referral from the Highways Joint Member Panel.</i>	11
11. ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING BUDGETS 2008– 2009 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES <i>To advise the Hitchin Committee of the current expenditure and balances within the delegated budgets and consider the following grant application.</i>	19
1. North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum	22

INFORMATION NOTE

The following items have been prepared as an Information Note to all Members of the Hitchin Committee and are presented as a supporting paper to the main agenda.

This paper will not be published with this agenda. Copies will be deposited at Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Royston Libraries for public inspection.

ITEM	PAGE
A.1, HITCHIN COMMUNITY SURGERY – 2 AUGUST 2008	1
A.2. HITCHIN COMMUNITY SURGERY – 6 SEPTEMBER 2008 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES This item is 'to follow'.	2

The dates for the next meetings of the Hitchin Committee in the Civic Year 2008-2009 will be as follows:

18 November 2008 – Benslow Music Trust, Benslow Lane, Hitchin.
13 January 2009 - Roman Catholic Church Hall, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.
10 March 2009 - tbc

<p style="text-align: center;">HITCHIN COMMITTEE 23 September 2008</p>

<p>*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Presentations are expected as follows:

1. Petition – request for exercise equipment
2. Petition - Accidents in Park Street
3. Hitchin Historical Society
4. Wicksteed Exerscape

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TITLE OF REPORT; BANCROFT PARK: ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR CUSTOMER SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Antisocial behaviour in Bancroft Park has been a considerable cause of concern over recent months. This report provides an overview of the current situation, details of ongoing enforcement activity and plans for the ongoing development of the park.
- 1.2 The report is presented to give Members of the Area Committee the opportunity to comment on this approach to add to those issues discussed at a recent site meeting.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a key decision and is not referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The problem of antisocial behaviour in Bancroft Park has been raised on a number of occasions and these are more fully detailed in the attached briefing note at Appendix A (Briefing Note)

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 As outlined in paragraph 2.11 in Appendix A, the area in the 'triangle' covering Bancroft Park, Windmill Hill and the Hitchin Market, have suffered from a significant number of incidents of antisocial behaviour, involving gatherings of large numbers of young people in the evenings and drink related problems.

Appendix A details work currently being undertaken by the Council and the Police in respect of:

- Addressing behaviour through a number of interventions, including the use of 'Section 27 powers' to 'stop and search' on 'move on' people acting in an antisocial manner;
- The Council's own enforcement activity together with increased levels of monitoring, and;
- The continual development of the infra structure of the park to improve it's fabric for use by local people including physical improvements that would enhance public safety and minimalise antisocial behaviour.

- 4.2 Although the Councils meeting of 22nd June 2008 resolved not to re-open Bancroft toilets the Portfolio Holder indicated that should a third party operator be willing to operate the toilets free of charge consideration could be given to establishing an arrangement similar to that in place in Royston. A tentative proposal by the Town Centre Manager was not pursued as it would require financial support from NHDC contrary to existing policy in respect of public toilets.
- 4.3 At the request of Members, a site meeting was arranged at the park on 12th August 2008 to discuss these matters and seek members views on possible remedies. These are discussed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Appendix A.
- 4.4 At the site meeting Members provided helpful information on the nature of the problems being experienced by park users and nearby residents and whilst it was acknowledged that the considerable amount of work was underway to address the problems being experienced the value of the park to local people was being diminished because of the lack of toilet facilities, especially in view of the high level of use by parents and young children.
- 4.5. Officers have carried out initial investigations to determine whether a toilet could be provided in an existing building in the park or as a standalone unit and provisional costings for these options are approximately £20,000 and £50,000 respectively plus associated costs yet to be determined.
- 4.6 The Councils current policy in respect of public conveniences was agreed at its meeting in June 2006. In summary this adopted an approach which saw the rationalisation of a public toilet provision throughout the District based on a number of considerations including the need to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The implementation of this policy involved capital expenditure of around £0.8 million.
- 4.7 As members will note from paragraph 3.14 in Appendix A, consideration of the needs of park users to access toilet facilities will need to be given as part of the application process for the 'Green Flag' award for Bancroft Park. The level of access required will depend on the characteristics of the park, its location and the availability of accessible toilet provision in the locality. There is no assumption that toilets must be provided within the park itself.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Non specific other than those referred to above.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct human resource implications at this stage.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

8.1 This is detailed in Appendix A, paragraph 7.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Hitchin Area Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Briefing Note on Antisocial Behaviour in Bancroft Park.

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

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BRIEFING NOTE ON ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN BANCROFT PARK

REPORT OF: THE HEADS OF POLICY PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE,
LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & HOUSING
PORTFOLIO HOLDERS: Councillor Mrs T Gibbs (Community Engagement/Safety),
Councillor Lynda Needham (Waste and Environment), Cllr Ian Knighton (Leisure) Cllr
Bernard Lovewell (Housing and Environmental Health)

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This note provides Information regarding the incidence of antisocial behaviour within Bancroft Park, particularly use of the park as a 'toilet' as reported to the Bearton Locality Policing panel of 8th May.
- 1.2 The report also details both short term actions already underway to address current levels of antisocial behaviour in the park, and longer term strategic actions to improve the park itself.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The original proposal to close Bancroft toilets was put before Cabinet as part of a district wide review of public toilet provision in June 2006. The policy adopted by Cabinet at that time was to ensure the provision of quality public toilets which met the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act in a manner which was affordable. The rationalisation of assets agreed then has allowed investment to be targeted to improve the facilities available - in Hitchin at the Market and the Arcade. That Council policy currently remains unchanged.
- 2.2 The issue of 'antisocial behaviour' within the park was raised at a locality panel meeting for the Bearton Ward which took place on 8th May. Two residents from the new Starlings Bridge development adjoining the park cited having observed people acting in an unsociable manner, increased noise and screaming in the park at night; this was recorded and as for any locality panel, the issue was added to the agenda for the next Joint Action Group meeting for action. A formal report of the Bearton Ward Panel priorities clearly relates to issues of antisocial behaviour, but contains no reference to urination in the park itself, an issue which came to prominence in later discussions.
- 2.3 In parallel with this, police officers attending the Hitchin Area Committee reporting locality panel progress stated that the issue of urinating in the park 'appeared to have increased' following closure of the adjoining NHDC public toilets and that they would be seeking the Council's views on re-opening those facilities to remove the incidents. At this point still no formal incidents had been recorded of urination in the park
- 2.4 Following the discussion regarding antisocial behaviour raised at the Bearton Locality Policing panel on 8th May 2008, the matter was raised at the Hitchin Committee meeting on 3rd June 2008. The Chairman explained the background; that following the closure of the public conveniences in Bancroft following the 2007 review, no alternative facility had been provided in the park. It was reported that as

a result the park and surrounding gardens were being used by people relieving themselves causing not only mess, but a health hazard and public nuisance.

2.5 Hitchin Committee referral to Cabinet was agreed as follows:

- That the Bancroft public conveniences be reopened on a temporary basis only, pending the development of a new Bancroft Hall;
- That the costs of reopening and operating the Bancroft public conveniences be investigated and advised to the Hitchin Committee at its next meeting;
- That the costs of the proposed remedial action and equipment proposed to deter unacceptable behaviour be also reported to the Hitchin Committee at its next meeting.

2.6 The Chairman of Hitchin Committee presented a referral from that meeting to Cabinet on 24th June 2008, citing the agreement of Hitchin Area Committee to seek a temporary re-opening of the Bancroft Toilets pending the future development of the Bancroft Hall.

2.7 The Portfolio Holder for Waste & Recycling replied that the Police had advised that there had been only one recent reported incident of anti-social behaviour in the Park, but that there had been no official complaints from the public. Many of the complaints made in previous years had been in respect of incidences at times when the public conveniences would have been closed in any event.

2.8 The Portfolio Holder for Waste & Recycling stated that the annual revenue costs of re-opening the Bancroft public toilets would be £65,000 (£32,500 for a six month "trial"). There were no funds in the Revenue Budget for this purpose. It would perhaps be possible for local businesses to allow their toilets to be made available for public use, similar to a scheme in Royston, but this would need further investigation. Accordingly, the Portfolio Holder could not recommend that the public toilets in Bancroft Park be re-opened. The resolution from Cabinet therefore found that the Bancroft public conveniences be not re-opened at the present time.

2.9 A Motion was made to Council on 26th June by Cllr Judi Billing, seconded by Cllr Martin Stears that the 'council agrees that the public toilets in Bancroft be re-opened as an emergency but on a temporary basis until the development of a new Bancroft Hall, or the establishment of a partnership arrangement with nearby commercial premises. The motion was debated and passed to a counted vote – the motion was lost.

2.10 The purpose of this briefing note is therefore to detail the steps officers have taken to resolve a number of antisocial behaviour issues in the park, and to ascertain the level of the problem immediately by increasing routine surveillance.

2.11 During the last 2½ years there have been a significant number of antisocial behaviour incidents recorded and reported in the 'triangle' covering Hitchin Market, Bancroft Park and around Windmill Hill. This problem has been further exacerbated this year as internet sites, such as My Space and Face Book are encouraging young people from outside the district to travel into the town and meet at Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

2.12 A multi agency working group has been established and has taken steps to address under age drinking and possession of alcohol on the Hill, as well as providing additional diversionary activities; one of these is the establishment of the country's first 'dry pub' for youngsters planned to open in the Autumn OF 2008. However, one of the additional impacts of these interventions is the displacement of some

youngsters, first based in the town's market, to their current location of Bancroft Park.

- 2.13 However, Hitchin Area Committee members expressed concern that there may still be an issue regarding the lack of provision of toilets in the park, especially for those using the play area during the day, and requested assistance from officers to investigate a number of options to possibly provide alternative toilet provision
- 2.14 Figures gathered from the police regarding recorded incidents from the period April to June 2008 make reference to incidents of noise and drunkenness within the park (19 incidents of general antisocial behaviour or disorder were recorded either in or on the approaches to the park during that time), but to this date none have been formally recorded to evidence people using the park as a toilet. Officers refer later in this note to steps which have been taken immediately in order to provide an evidence base for any longer term actions.
- 2.15 In response to the concerns expressed to the Hitchin Committee and the referral by the panel to the Joint Action Group joint partnership events have taken place in the approaches to and within Bancroft Park at regular intervals from 8th May to 30th June 2008. These involved officers from the Police, NHDC Enforcement/Licensing teams. The Police have used their Section 27 powers, to 'move on' people witnessed acting in an antisocial manner, seized 35 bottles of alcohol from under age youngsters and used their 'Stop and Search' powers to apprehend and question 24 people.
- 2.16 To date, no Fixed Penalty notices have been issued by either the Police or NHDC Enforcement regarding urinating in public.

3. ISSUES

Community Safety

- 3.1 A number of short term measures have been undertaken by both North Herts and Herts Constabulary officers, which include;
- 3.2 Increased daily patrols through the park by Environmental Health, Enforcement, Car Parking attendants and grounds maintenance personnel, intended not only as a visible presence, but also to record any incidents and provide us with a tangible benchmark on which to base future activities/investments. These patrols commenced on 4th July 2008, are recorded and reported to the Head of Housing and Environmental Health. A summary of these officer visits is listed at Paragraph 14.
- 3.3 Police officers have been asked to formally record and report their attendance at the park, any incidents of general crime within the park and its approach roads/paths, incidents of violent crime, antisocial behaviour or of urinating within the park itself. No incidents of urination have been recorded, although the presence of a small number of male drinkers in the park during the day and small groups of youths at night still exist. Increased patrols and interventions will therefore continue for the foreseeable future in order to deal with any remaining disorder issues; the Sanctuary have also confirmed that they will allow their residents who remain in the park during the day to re-enter the premises to use their toilets as required.
- 3.4 Routine recording of the collection of drugs paraphernalia (e.g. needles and wraps) takes place across our parks and open spaces in North Herts, as it does for all our public toilets. Bancroft toilets had a relatively low level of such collections taking

place, and certainly there still is no evidence to date of that drug use having moved to the adjoining park following closure of the facilities. This may also be in part due to the recent opening of the drugs treatment centre in Letchworth, and the provision of disposal units within the refurbished town centre toilets in Hitchin. It must be noted too that even the provision of public toilets themselves can provide a secluded venue in which other antisocial behaviour, such as graffiti or damage to property can occur, and it is for this reason that the new design of toilet used throughout the district provide no internal shared areas in which to gather.

- 3.5 A site visit to consider safety in Bancroft Park, including NHDC and Herts Constabulary Officers, originally took place in 2007, following which recommendations regarding increasing lighting, provision of CCTV, sensitive planting schemes and additional patrols were made. However, in order to be at its most effective, independent CCTV systems still need to have adequate complimentary lighting in place and it is considered this would be to the detriment of the park at night, causing considerable light pollution.
- 3.6 The Grounds Team has already installed a security fence between the bowls green and Sainsbury's Car Park which was a major cause for concern. Damage to the pavilion at that time was repaired, and the doors, windows etc strengthened; the height of the hedge adjacent the bowls green was also reduced so that the adjacent CCTV camera would have better sight of the buildings.
- 3.7 Consideration of the use of additional partnership CCTV linked to the control room has also been made. Provision of a pan tilt and zoom camera within the park is currently restricted to the Bowls/Pavillion/Car Park area. Trees surrounding that area were pruned recently to give greater vision across the park. Preliminary costings for an additional PTZ camera (around £25,000) for the Whinbush Road/Nightingale Road/Bancroft junction have been made; officers have investigated whether this camera could be better located at the Grove Road/Nightingale Road/Bancroft junction. Since the number of recorded ASB incidents reported regarding people leaving clubs and eateries around the Whinbush Road/Nightingale road junction are higher than in the park and approaches, the CCTV will be located in the original position shortly.
- 3.8 Offering reassurance to residents adjoining the park is paramount and NHDC community safety and police officers are tasked with developing a communication plan, outlining how they will keep local residents and users informed through the safer neighbourhoods panel, the local beat newsletter and personal contact on patrol. A series of 'Street Meets' are scheduled to take place, giving residents and park users the opportunity to discuss concerns direct with police officers on a regular basis, are planned shortly.

Enforcement matters and public health

- 3.9 Officers of the Council's Licensing and Enforcement Team have limited statutory powers relating to crime committed in publicly accessible open spaces. The powers that are available mainly relate to environmental crime or waste management offences such as littering, fly-posting, graffiti, bonfires, etc. Notwithstanding this, these officers regularly gather evidence relating to illegal activity that is then passed on to the appropriate enforcement agency, typically the police. However, the following byelaw is of some relevance to this case:
- 3.10 In March 1980 this Council adopted its Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces byelaw. This provision primarily seeks to protect the physical attributes of the park, such as shrubs and trees, from unwarranted damage by members of the public. It also prohibits other undesirable activities such as:

- Personal bathing or contamination of water courses or ponds;
- The erection of tents;
- The disturbance, interruption or annoyance of other park users.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the byelaw may result in the removal of the offending person(s) from the open space (in the case, Bancroft Park) and/or a fine of up to £50 upon conviction at a Magistrates' Court. Enforcement of the byelaw can be either a) any officer of this Council or, b) a police constable. However, there is no mechanism for the issuing of fixed penalty notices in respect of offences committed.

Also, there is no explicit prohibition relating to the consumption of alcohol in the park.

- 3.11 A number of recent press articles have made reference to alleged persistent public urination in Bancroft Park, citing that this amounts to "...a serious health hazard.." Notwithstanding the public offensiveness of such activity, it is appropriate to point out that human urine is quite harmless as it is generally free from pathogens (disease causing agents); any odour arising from it is normally associated with its composition of salts and excess sugar, sterile compounds in their own right. Public defecation, on the other hand, is a much more significant public health issue given its possible link with infectious disease.
- 3.12 During a number of visits to the park during this increased surveillance period, officers have also noted the use of the path and adjoining lawns beside the pavilion, and on the approaches to the tennis courts/childrens' play area as an additional car parking area. There are some concerns that the proximity of moving cars to these areas could pose a risk to pedestrians and officers therefore request that the original decision to grant keys for the gate to all users of the tennis courts and pavilion should now be reviewed.

Future Development Of The Park

- 3.13 This park is considered as being one of the key parks within the district and work is being carried out to secure Green flag status - a nationally recognised quality standard for public open spaces. This will be in conjunction with the Priory - Royston, Avenue Park – Baldock and Broadway Gardens & Norton Common - Letchworth. Part of this work will require consideration of the needs of park users to access toilet facilities.
- 3.14 The Green flag criteria is:

A Welcoming Place

The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting.

Healthy, Safe, and Secure

The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use.

Clean and Well Maintained

For aesthetic as well as Health and Safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed.

Sustainability

Methods used in maintaining the park or green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge.

Conservation and Heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of: Natural features, wildlife and fauna, landscape features, buildings and structural features.

Community Involvement

Management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park or green space user groups as possible.

Marketing

Promotion of the park or green space as a community resource.

Management

A Green Flag Award application must have a management plan or strategy in place which reflects the aspirations of Local Agenda 21.

- 3.15 The Council has a capital budget of £30,000 for 2008/2009 and will be considering improvements in line with the criteria mentioned above although it is probable that this will not be fully utilised until beyond this date for improvements to the park

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are a number of legal implications arising regarding actions proposed to tackle the problems currently being experienced in Bancroft Park which are outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising at this stage.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The human resource implications at present extend to the increase patrols required of visiting officers to the park, in order to ensure that a realistic view of the scale of problems is obtained.

7. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 7.1 Relevant portfolio holders have been consulted regarding the issues within the park and its approaches.
- 7.2 A site visit to the park, including officers and members took place on 12th August 2008 in order to discuss the current issues and options for improvement, which is detailed at Paragraph 14.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To note the actions already being taken at 3. in respect of community safety activities
- 8.2 To note that the Council's Enforcement Officers periodically patrol the park to monitor the conduct of members of the public. Where the provisions of the Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces byelaw are breached the offending individual(s) be asked to leave the park. Furthermore, consideration is given to prosecuting persistent offenders (guidance on this option can be found in the *Housing and Environmental Health Statement on Enforcement Policy and Practice*). Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to littering offences should also be issued (also in accordance with the aforementioned enforcement policy). Evidence relating to more serious offences are passed to the Police without delay.
- 8.3 To note that officers of the Housing and Environmental Health Service will liaise with the manager of the Hitchin Night Shelter as regards the conduct of the guests of this establishment.
- 8.4 To note that the use of the gate controlling vehicular access to the pavilion and adjacent car park be reviewed so as to maintain an appropriate separation between vehicles and pedestrians.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces byelaw provides a legal tool to control anti-social behaviour in Bancroft Park. Fixed Penalty Notices are an expedient way of dealing with minor environmental offences such as littering. However, these powers are not an appropriate means to deal with more serious offences for which the police have more robust powers.
- 9.2 It has been alleged that some of the persons found to be intoxicated within Bancroft Park are temporary residents of the Hitchin Night Shelter. Whilst there is no evidence to support this allegation, liaison between the Council officers and the manager of the Sanctuary may help to allay community concerns on this issue.
- 9.3 Appendix A illustrates that on a number of occasions officers have witnessed this gate being left open thereby allowing cars to access the road linking the park entrance and the bandstand area. This potentially brings young children in to contact with moving vehicles and represents an unnecessary risk of injury; this access also degrades the pedestrian sovereignty of the park.
- 9.4 As can be noted at Paragraph 13, there is very little evidence to support the wider allegation that Bancroft Park is the centre of persistent and serious anti-social behaviour during the day. In particular, there were no observed incidents of public urination or defecation.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 None appropriate

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

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12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Report of the Police Locality Panel, Bearton Ward May 2008 – available from the Head of PPP, NHDC.
- 12.2 The Housing and Environmental Health Statement on Enforcement Policy and Practice

13. SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS MADE BY NHDC OFFICERS VISITING BANCROFT PARK BETWEEN 4TH JULY AND 18TH AUGUST 2008

Date of visit	Day and time of visit		Time on site (minutes)	Observations
04/07/2008	Friday	15:00	60	11 cars parked in park.
04/07/2008	Friday	11:30	10	No ASB witnessed.
04/07/2008	Friday	08:30	20	No ASB witnessed.
07/07/2008	Monday	11:30	30	Small group drinking alcohol - no problems noted.
08/07/2008	Tuesday	16:49	11	No ASB witnessed. Evidence of litter (mainly alcohol) and abandoned Sainsbury shopping trolley.
08/07/2008	Tuesday	04:30	15	No ASB witnessed.
09/07/2008	Wednesday	14:00	20	No ASB witnessed.
10/07/2008	Thursday	12:52	11	No ASB witnessed. Evidence of litter (alcohol cans).
10/07/2008	Thursday	15:00	15	No ASB witnessed.
11/07/2008	Friday	11:00	30	Two adults drink alcohol near bandstand - no problems noted
14/07/2008	Monday	09:33	7	No ASB witnessed.
14/07/2008	Monday	13:27	6	No ASB witnessed.
14/07/2008	Monday	16:12	4	No ASB witnessed.
14/07/2008	Monday	15:00	30	One person laying drunk on grass with associated litter.
15/07/2008	Tuesday	10:45	30	Two drinkers but causing no problems.
15/07/2008	Tuesday	11:06	20	No ASB witnessed. Lots of broken grass/bottles & cans.
15/07/2008	Tuesday	13:45	6	Four young men drink lager - no ASB witnessed.
15/07/2008	Tuesday	15:42	5	No ASB witnessed.
15/07/2008	Tuesday	15:26	5	No ASB witnessed.
15/07/2008	Tuesday	12:30	15	No ASB witnessed.
16/07/2008	Wednesday	13:24	5	No ASB witnessed.
16/07/2008	Wednesday	16:12	5	No ASB witnessed.
16/07/2008	Wednesday	10:40	15	No ASB witnessed.
17/07/2008	Thursday	12:45	15	Small tent on putting green, Park barrier open.
17/07/2008	Thursday	11:00	35	Nothing to report.
17/07/2008	Thursday	12:12	8	No ASB witnessed.
17/07/2008	Thursday	16:40	4	Couple of adult drink alcohol - no ASB witnessed.
17/07/2008	Thursday	14:30	20	Two people on bench drinking alcohol.
18/07/2008	Friday	12:05	10	Witnessed youths with alcohol (bottle of wine). Dog not on lead. Broken glass/bottles and cans.
18/07/2008	Friday	10:45	4	No ASB witnessed.
18/07/2008	Friday	15:35	5	No ASB witnessed.
18/07/2008	Friday	15:00	30	No ASB witnessed.
19/07/2008	Saturday	12:07	7	No ASB witnessed. Lots of broken grass/bottles & cans. Play scheme type event in progress.
19/07/2008	Saturday	10:22	10	No ASB witnessed.
19/07/2008	Saturday	12:58	8	Two young men drink alcohol - no ASB witnessed.
19/07/2008	Saturday	16:40	5	No ASB witnessed.
21/07/2008	Monday	11:30	20	No ASB witnessed.
22/07/2008	Tuesday	13:00	15	1 person drinking alcohol.

23/07/2008	Wednesday	12:55	10	No ASB witnessed. Some broken glass and litter.
23/07/2008	Wednesday	14:30	15	No ASB witnessed.
24/07/2008	Thursday	16:00	15	No ASB witnessed.
25/07/2008	Friday	11:30	10	No ASB witnessed. Some broken glass, litter and cans.
25/07/2008	Friday	17:00	15	About 15 people drinking at front of the park. No ASB witnessed.
28/07/2008	Monday	16:00	15	No ASB witnessed.
29/07/2008	Tuesday	12:00	15	No ASB witnessed.
30/07/2008	Wednesday	10:40	25	Male adult asleep under blanket. Lager cans littered.
30/07/2008	Wednesday	14:00	15	No ASB witnessed.
31/07/2008	Thursday	15:00	45	Rough sleepers drinking and fighting: police on scene.
31/07/2008	Thursday	13:00	15	No ASB witnessed.
05/08/2008	Tuesday	14:15	30	No ASB.
08/08/2008	Tuesday	18:30	45	Three adult drinkers but causing no problems.
08/08/2008	Friday	11:45	15	Park gate left open - 30 cars in Park.
09/08/2008	Saturday	12:00	25	Adult male sleeping under sheet. Park gate open.
12/08/2008	Tuesday	10:00	75	No ASB witnessed.
13/08/2008	Wednesday	10:00	30	Lager cans and other litter. Paint thrown over Hall and Park gate left open.

14. NOTES OF THE SITE MEETING BANCROFT PARK 12TH AUGUST 2008.

The meeting was convened for Hitchin Area Committee Members to outline the range of initiatives and management considerations connected with Bancroft Park and toilets directly by NHDC and in partnership with Police and other members of the Community Safety Partnership. These include:

The management and development of Bancroft Park;
The potential provision of toilets for park users;
Anti social behaviour and;
Enforcement and other high visibility patrolling initiatives.

Officers are compiling a report for Cabinet in September which seeks to identify short term actions already underway and attempt to quantify the nature and scale of any anti social behaviour in the park. The report will also consider longer term plans to improve the physical infrastructure of the park and the buildings located within it.

Officers will attempt to incorporate comments made by members at the site meeting in this paper and these are listed below in no particular order:

Although Cabinet had declined the opportunity to reverse the previous decision to close Bancroft toilets it is possible that the toilets may be brought back into use through a commercial arrangement at no cost to the Council. Officers will speak with Keith Hoskins to establish direct contact with the individual who has expressed an interest in doing so. We noted that this would be subject to usual procedural rules in respect of asset disposal.

The perceived problem concerning anti social behaviour is twofold: Daytime use by alcohol users and gatherings of teenagers in the evenings. It was noted that recent patrolling operations had appeared to have some success and it was acknowledged that some of the problems may be caused by displacement of youths from Windmill Hill.

Drug use in the park did not seem to be a particularly common problem

The Sanctuary had indicated it would allow residents to make use of the toilet facilities when the centre was otherwise closed.

Communications with residents would need to be considered, perhaps by way of a "friends of the park" group or some other existing network such as the Police Locality Panel.

Redevelopment of Bancroft Hall or some alterations to the Bowls Club may also provide an opportunity to install toilets although it was noted that Members wished the toilets to be made available for daytime and early evening park users using the park for recreational rather than social activities.

No provision currently exists in the Capital Programme for the provision of toilets although Members indicated that Hitchin Area Committee may be willing to contribute.

Monitoring of the anti social behaviour indicates no particular problems at the moment although it was acknowledged that this may be because of the increased patrols by both the Police and Enforcement/Grounds etc Officers.

Patrols in the early evening should be considered.

Some additional investment in CCTV in the immediate locality is being considered and adjustments to this to provide greater cover and reassurance for park users to be possible.

Longer term the physical redevelopment of the park and Bancroft Hall (and possibly Bancroft toilets) may provide opportunities for the re-provision of toilets. In the meantime, the report will consider shorter term and affordable arrangements which might provide some intermediate service.

John Robinson
Strategic Director Customer Service
12th September 2008

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

7

TRANSPORT AND PLANNING ISSUES IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE AND HITCHIN

PRESENTATION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR R.A.C. THAKE

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***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

8

**TITLE OF REPORT: RESTRICTION ON SUNDAY PARKING IN MARKET PLACE,
HITCHIN**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

This report is 'To Follow'.

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THE HITCHIN TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

This presentation will be in an oral format.

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TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS**3.1 Buzzworks**

Buzzworks Bee Garden and Visitor Centre has been awarded third place in the Best Community Project category of the Kitchen Garden/NAG Trust Allotment Competition 2008. The Magazine, in their letter, stated that this was a real achievement as the standard in this category was very high.

3.2 Oughtonhead Common Launch

An official launch of the works completed through the Biffaward will take place at Oughtonhead Common as follows:-

- Friday 26th September, 2008
11.00 am Official Launch
11.10 am Tour of the site and improvements led by
Countryside Management Service
- Saturday 27th September, 2008
10.30 am Natural History of Oughtonhead with local historian and a talk
about the future management and plans for wetland restoration.

Later that evening there will be a Moth Evening organised by Herts Moths.

- Sunday 28th September, 2008 - Evening Bat Walk

3.3 Bus Shelters

Hertfordshire County Council have agreed that the redundant bus shelters from Hitchin Railway Station can be removed and re-erected at Halsey Drive and Redhill Road and all costs will be met by the County Council. It is planned that this will happen in the Autumn of this year.

3.4 Hitchin Residents Alliance

A meeting was held with residents and members on Wednesday 13th August, 2008. A number of actions were agreed with a specific request that Hitchin Area Committee make a recommendation that a costing be prepared for pedestrian phased traffic lights at Cadwell Lane/Wilbury Way crossroads.

Another meeting with residents, members and officers has been arranged for Wednesday 15th October, 2008, at the Lucas Room, Hitchin Town Hall at 4pm.

3.5 TASTE

The first Taste Event took place on Saturday 6th September, 2008. A number of youth providers were there and there was a number of young people getting information. The consensus was that an annual event would be good and perhaps held in the Market Square so that there could be some demonstrations from the groups such as the Sea Cadets and St John Ambulance. The proposed booklet of information for young people will be put together in the next few months.

3.6 Town Talk

Notes and any actions arising from the last Town Talk, held on Tuesday 22nd July, 2008, are attached as Appendix A.

3.7 Westmill Youth Project

The Community Event organised by the young people of Westmill, as a result of their successful grant funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund, held on 16th August, 2008, was very successful as was their appearance on the stage at the ROTW Festival.

3.8 Hitchin Link

A party of residents from Hitchin travelled to Bingen to celebrate 50 years of the Link in June, 2008. Part of the celebrations was the opening of the new gardens with a Hitchin garden featuring roses and lavender and two benches partly funded from Priory Ward budget.

3.9 Hitchin Shopmobility

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 24th July, 2008. There has been an increase in use of the shopmobility vehicles, with a total of 170 bookings for a 6 month period from January to June 2008. This compares to the same period last year when there was a total of 154 bookings. There is also a healthy bank balance thanks to donations from a variety of organisations.

3.10 The Voice

The Voice meets again on Monday 15th September at Soundbase in Bancroft. The meetings will then take place every two weeks. It is planned to hold the AGM in October of this year.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.

- 4.2 That the Committee request a costing, from Herts Highways, for pedestrian phased traffic lights at Cadwell Lane/Wilbury Way crossroads.

5. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix A – Town Talk Notes 3rd June.2008.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

- 7.1 Margaret Bracey, Community Development Officer. Ext: 4830.
Email. margaret.bracey@north-herts.gov.uk.

APPENDIX A



Town Talk Notes– Tuesday 22nd July, 2008 – 6.15 pm – 7.15pm @ Gurdwara, Wilbury Way, Hitchin.

The Chair, Councillor Judi Billing, welcomed everybody to the Gurdwara and thanked the Gurdwara for their hospitality. The next Town Talk will on Tuesday 23rd September, 2008 ,at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.

Issues raised by members of the public present

Disabled Parking
Parking in Meadowbank
Starbucks bins
Ickleford Road Post Office
Litter in Hitchin Town Centre and surrounding streets
Loos in Bancroft
Town Centre
Waste Disposal
Audit Commission Act
Police Report

Disabled Parking

A resident raised the signage relating to disabled parking. This was an ongoing issue and had been discussed recently at the Joint Member Panel (a panel of North Herts District Council Officers and Members and Herts Highways Officers and Members). It has been referred to North Herts District Council's Fundamental Service Review Group on Transport..

Meadowbank

A resident raised concern that the proposed Triangle Parking scheme would displace parking to Meadowbank. He had been in touch with the Community Development Officer about a possible Residents Association and the Ward Councillors present said that this would be a good idea. The resident had also raised concerns about the junction and had written to the Council and raised it with the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Richard Thake. It was also suggested that Walsworth Ward Councillors make a site visit.

Action Community Development Officer to work with residents on forming a Residents Association

APPENDIX A

Starbucks Bins

A resident raised concerns that the bins at Starbucks are still on the pavement although attempts had been made with the local management to resolve the issue. It was understood that a letter had now been sent to Starbucks Head Office. This was confirmed but it was added that there has to be a certain time lapse between the letter being sent and before enforcement can take place.

It was emphasised that blocking the footpath was a danger to blind or impaired sight people.

Litter in Town Centre

A resident declared that she found Hitchin scruffy with litter bins overflowing. She suggested that litter should be cleared up earlier in the morning.

John Robinson, Strategic Director of Customer Services, replied that the Council employ a cleansing contractor at a cost of £1 million. Under the Environmental Protection Act places with a high footfall, such as Town Centres, have to be cleared to a higher standard than other areas. North Herts District Council have better than average results when measured by an independently conducted Government-led survey. The Council was however committed to improving performance in any problem areas.

Another resident raised a similar issue and had recently carried out two litter surveys. The response was good in certain areas particularly fly tipping. She did report though that concerns reported in April had still not been done. She considered the Town Centre was 'pretty good'.

Loos in Bancroft

A resident asked what sort of risk assessment took place before the toilets were closed. Judi had taken a request from Hitchin Area Committee to Cabinet for the toilets to be reopened and was told that the estimated cost would be £64,000. The request was subsequently rejected at full Council.

The Area Committee would continue to try to make some provision in that area. It was said that there were toilets in Bancroft Hall and by the Tennis Club.

John Robinson stated that he had spoken to the Divisional Commander of the Police to establish the extent of the problem and had been, as yet, given no evidence that there was an issue although more intensive monitoring was taking place..

A resident had done some research and established that Councils kept toilets in parks in most areas. It was also stated that the Arcade toilets are complex and difficult.

Ickleford Road Post Office

It was stated that this would be a very great loss for that area and that sub post offices are very important to the local community. It was said that this matter would be raised later at the Area Committee meeting. It was also said that other Area Committees may

APPENDIX A

be campaigning on behalf of their sub post offices and that the Council itself should campaign.

Waste Disposal

A resident again raised concerns about the fortnightly bin collection and again mentioned a scientific report. He urged that an amenity site in Hitchin be set up for household recycling and that Hitchin was the only major town that is not within 5 miles of a site.

It was stated that this would be raised at the Committee meeting with the Portfolio Holder.

Town Centre

A resident raised the Churchgate Development project and he considered that the short listing to three interested parties seemed a small selection and what would happen if found that these were not acceptable. Considers that the topic should be dealt with by the public.

Also felt that Hitchin Visioning was a voice that has been lost. The Hitchin group had not met for some time.

The resident volunteered to take things forward with regard to Visioning. Dr Patrick Candler, Head of Community Development and Culture Services, stated things move on and issues can be highlighted at Town Talk but that he was looking into the future of Visioning.

Councillor Lawrence Oliver went on to clarify what he could from the recent Hitchin Town Centre Working Party meeting. He stressed that negotiating with different people meant it was confidential and that Hitchin Town Centre Working Party meet to ensure the process currently being pursued is legal as per the European Union. He added that he was quite impressed by the professionals employed by the Council and that people will be consulted.

Planning Notices

A resident stated that the Council no longer have to put planning applications (yellow notices) outside the premises to which the application refers. He added that if the Council deem it necessary they can put up the notice and he asked if the arrangements for this could be explained.

He was thanked for raising it and this will be investigated.

Action – Information re this to be obtained for next Town Talk

Audit Commission Act

The resident considered that this Act is stronger than the Freedom of Information Act and the Council appeared not to be publicising notice that the annual accounts are available for inspection.

APPENDIX A

John Robinson to check out when they are advertised.

Action – information on the above to be available at the next Town Talk

Police Report

Windmill Hill - numbers on the Hill are decreasing although there is some displacement to Bancroft.

Bancroft Park – urged members of the public to report any incidents as there have not been a large number of reports about this issue.

ROTW – a fantastic success and wonderful festival which the police found easier to contain out of the town centre. Professionally run and safer.

TITLE OF REPORT: ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/2009

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee's delegated funds.
- 1.2 For the Committee to confirm the level of assistance to be awarded to Minority Ethnic Forum for the Mother and Toddler Group – Appendix B.
- 1.3 For the Committee to consider the levels of grant aid to organisations with reference to the current review of the authority's Service Level Agreements process.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This Report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING BUDGETS UPDATE

- 3.1 The present summary is attached as Appendix A.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.
- 4.2 There are no legal implications pertinent to this report.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications that have not been specified in the main body of the report.

6. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 6.1 Ward Members will be consulted about relevant grant applications.
- 6.2 Ward Members have been consulted in connection with projects that have been carried forward from previous years.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to note the current expenditure and balance of the Development budget.
- 7.2 That the Committee allocate £250 to the Mother and Toddler Group at Minority Ethnic Forum - Appendix B.
- 7.3 That the Committee notifies the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services of any changes or additions it wishes to make to the present Service Level Agreements process.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This report is intended simply to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation, assists in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget and ensures actions are performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance contained in the Grants procedure.
- 8.2 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and Strategic Objectives of the Council.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix A - Annual Grant and Development Discretionary Budget Update
- 9.2 Appendix B – Mother and Toddler Group, Minority Ethnic Forum

10. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 10.1 Margaret Bracey, Community Development Officer
margaret.bracey@north-herts.gov.uk
Tel. No. x 4830
- 10.2 Lois Stewart, Group Accountant
lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk
Tel. No. x 4566

HITCHIN AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2008/2009

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget
Revenue Visioning	£2,500	£2,500	£2,298	£202	£0
Capital Visioning	£112,600	£110,350	£0	£110,350	£2,250
Central Area Grants	£31,290	£26,308	£24,217	£2,091	£4,982
Discretionary - Bearton Ward	£12,000	£10,554	£54	£10,500	£1,446
Discretionary - Highbury Ward	£13,550	£12,050	£845	£11,205	£1,500
Discretionary - Oughton Ward	£6,920	£5,920	£0	£5,920	£1,000
Discretionary - Priory Ward	£1,120	£120	£0	£120	£1,000
Discretionary - Walsworth Ward	£2,140	£640	£510	£130	£1,500
Total	£182,120	£168,442	£27,924	£140,518	£13,678

**TITLE OF REPORT: HITCHIN COMMUNITY SURGERY – 2 AUGUST 2008
INFORMATION NOTE****REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

District Councillors: Allison Ashley, Lawrence Oliver and David Billing, PCSO 6078 were in attendance assisted by Hilary Dineen as Support Officer.

Eight Hitchin residents and one Letchworth Garden City resident attended the Surgery with **13** enquiries. These enquiries were passed to the Customer Services Centre for processing. The Customer Services Manager is requested to copy to Ward Councillors the responses sent to the surgery visitor.

ENQUIRY

- Observation of alleged drug dealing in Market Place, under window of resident and resident feels threatened (PCSO 6078 took additional details and will investigate);
- Complaint that the 'removal' of double yellow lines in Wratten Road West due to construction work at former petrol station site on corner of Upper Tilehouse Street is causing parking problems for local residents, especially pedestrians;
- Request for more information to residents on recycling with regard to compressing plastic bottles and tin cans, brochures are too colourful, suggestion for recycling vans spreading the recycling message;
- Request for Oughton Head Green to become registered as a village green;
- Great concern at speeding traffic in Park Street, Hitchin, damage to property from car accidents, at least 5 damaged properties in Park Street in last 12 months, reported to police, including vehicle crashing into respondents living room;
- Complaint about increased vandalism in Park Street and nearby roads;
- Recent double yellow lining in Icknield Way, LGC at Spirella including Marment Avenue in wrong location, contrary to local residents expectations, visitors cannot park, problem area not lined;
- New development at 172 Icknield Way, burning of rubbish, please take action to stop this;
- Further request for pedestrian crossing in Bedford Road at Elmside junction;
- Request for attention to flower beds, hedges and grassed areas in Tristram Road, Hitchin;
- Drains are blocked in Tristram Road
- How do local residents object to building work in Tristram Road?
- Request for large hedge to be cut back on corner of Old Park Road next to Hitchin Court – obstruction makes observation of pedestrian crossing light phases difficult.

**TITLE OF REPORT: HITCHIN COMMUNITY SURGERY – 6 SEPTEMBER 2008
INFORMATION NOTE****REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

District Councillors: A. Ashley, L.Oliver, D. Billing and R. Shakespeare-Smith and County Councillor D. Ashley were in attendance assisted by Janette Smyth as Support Officer.

Eight Hitchin residents and one Sandon resident attended the Surgery with **17** enquiries. These enquiries were passed to the Customer Services Centre for processing. The Customer Services Manager is requested to copy to Ward Councillors the responses sent to the surgery visitor.

ENQUIRY

- Litter should be cleared more regularly in Park Street please on other side to the housing and in parking bays;
- Following vehicle crash into Park Street property, a request for road resurfacing, bollards on pavements and repairs to footways;
- Request for speed monitoring in Park Street, especially National Express and Arriva;
- Request for speed monitoring in Lancaster Road;
- Drains in Lancaster Road are blocked and should be cleared when resurfacing takes place on 16 to 18 September;
- Parking restrictions requested at junction of Lancaster Road and York Road to improve visibility;
- Request for speed monitoring in Lancaster Road;
- Stop articulated lorries using Lancaster Road by placing a warning sign indicating route to Bearton Road and Old Hale Way;
- Following visit to Community Surgery in August this is a repeat request for re-instatement of yellow (double?) lines in Wratten Road East from junction with Upper Tile House Street after road works at entrance to former petrol station;
- Request for litter bins in St Marys area to be emptied each Sunday, request for glass in Market Place to be cleared on Saturday mornings;
- Request to all Hitchin Cllrs to support Hammersmatch refurbishment planning application;
- Request for more regular emptying of rubbish bin at junction of Kershaw Hill and Lykes Row;
- Complaint against Service Team road sweeper who was not polite when spoken to about the above complaint;
- Request for concerted action to remove industrial containers from footway outside Starbucks following visit to surgery in August (Minute 28 (3) refers from meeting of Hitchin Committee held on 22 July 2008);
- Request for action concerning delays to operation at Lister Hospital (Note: Cllr Judi Billing is dealing with this);
- Request for remedial works to settings for footway paving in Sandon;
- Request for paving in Market Place to be evened out and maintained on a regular basis;