

NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

WEEK ENDING 18 MARCH 2022

MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Topic	Page
News and information	1 – 20
CCTV Reports	-
Pre-Agenda, Agenda and Decision sheets	21 - 32
Planning consultations	33 – 34
Planning applications received & decisions	35 – 50
Press releases	51 - 63

Produced by the Communications Team. Any comments, suggestions or contributions should be sent to the Communications Team at pressoffice@north-herts.gov.uk

NEWS AND INFORMATION

AGENDA & REPORTS

PUBLISHED WEEK COMMENCING 14 MARCH 2022

Planning Control Committee – 31 March 2022

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING 21 MARCH 2022

Cabinet – 22 March 2022

Council – 23 March 2022

CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS WEEK COMMENCING 21 MARCH 2022

Date	Event	Location
Friday 25 March 2022, 7pm start	Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield Annual Charity Dinner	The Oak Room, Brocket Hall, Welwyn Garden City

VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS WEEK COMMENCING 21 MARCH 2022

Date	Event	Location
	None	

OTHER EVENTS WEEK COMMENCING 21 MARCH 2022

Date	Event	Location
	None	

RESOURCES

MEMBERS

INFORMATION NOTE

Nominations to the Asset of Community Value register

Under the Assets of Community Value (Community Right to Bid) we may receive nominations to list assets within our District, whether they are NHDC owned or not. When a valid nomination is received, we will inform all Councillors.

Subsequently we will also notify Councillors of whether the listing nomination was successful or not.

This note is to confirm that we have received a nomination, under the Localism Act, from Wymondley parish Council for The Green Man PH, Wymondley.

If a nomination for an asset is accepted, no further actions are taken until such time as the asset is to be put up for sale (or for disposal by a long lease).

If you have any queries regarding the interpretation of the "Right to Bid", please contact Douglas Traill-Stevenson in Legal Services

I would be very grateful for any comments you may have on this nomination by 5th April 2022.

Background:

The Dept of Communities & Local Government states that the initial requirements for a valid nomination are:

- A) a description of the nominated land including its proposed boundaries for the purposes of the nomination.
- B) any information the nominator has about the freeholders, leaseholders and current occupants of the site.
- C) the reasons for nominating the asset, explaining why the nominator believes the asset meets the definition.
- D) the nominator's eligibility to make the nomination.

For more information please contact:

Rachel Cooper
Controls, Risk and Performance Manager
Tel: 01462 474606
Email: Rachel.cooper@north-herts.gov.uk

**Proposals affecting Traffic Regulation Orders
(PLANNING POLICY)**

MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

Proposals affecting Traffic Regulation Orders and On-Street Parking.

Various parking issues have been raised by members of the public and businesses across the district. The issues include, creation of dual parking for members of the public alongside existing Controlled Parking Zone Permit Holders (Standhill Road, Hitchin and Sun Street, Baldock), an additional Bus Parking Place to serve St Francis College, Broadway, Letchworth Garden City and the removal of an existing element of a current restriction on Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City. (removal of the Saturday morning waiting restriction)

Following informal consultation with those residents and local businesses, along with Hertfordshire County Council, Ward Members and other statutory bodies, the schemes linked below will progress to formal consultation. The schemes that can be viewed below are to be consulted on formally with notices on the ground and in the local newspaper. Businesses and residents affected will be notified by letter and statutory bodies notified by email. The consultation period runs from 17 March to 14 April 2022. After the consultation period has expired, any comments, representations or objections will be considered before progressing to either making the order, reconsidering the order wording or suspending or withdrawing the order.

Any representations, comments, objections should be sent via email to Mark Hindmarch at mark.hindmarch@north-herts.gov.uk. Informal explanation of the proposals can be sought on 01462 474431.

Standhill Road, Hitchin.

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/hitchin-parking-review>

Broadway and Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City.

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/letchworth-parking-review>

Sun Street, Baldock.

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/baldock-parking-review>

For more information please contact:

Mark Hindmarch

Technical Project Officer

Tel: 01462 474431

Email: mark.hindmarch@north-herts.gov.uk



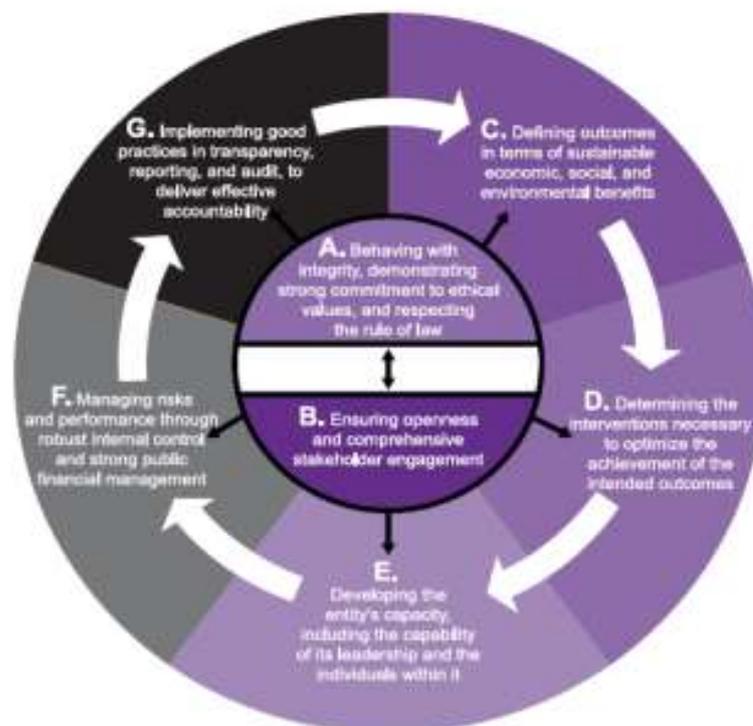
LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) is committed to achieving good corporate governance and this Local Code of Corporate Governance confirms its ongoing commitment to do so.
- 1.2 This Code outlines NHDC's approach towards corporate governance and the principles against which its arrangements will be measured.

2. WHAT IS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE?

- 2.1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Government Chief Executives (SOLACE) set the standard for local authority governance in the UK through their Framework principles and published a new set in April 2016. These principles *are themselves* derived from the International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (CIPFA/IFAC, 2014) (the 'International Framework'). NHDC's Code is therefore based on these principles:



- 2.2. The 2016 Framework defines governance as comprising of: ***“...the arrangements (including political, economic, social, environmental administrative, legal, and other arrangements) put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.”***

2.3. The CIPFA/Solace Framework states¹ that ***"To achieve good governance, each local authority should be able to demonstrate that its governance structures comply with the core and sub-principles contained in this Framework. It should therefore develop and maintain a local code of governance/governance arrangements reflecting the principles set out."***

2.4. These principles and sub-principles are:

Principles in bold, <i>Sub-principles in italics.</i>
Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
Local government organisations are accountable not only for how much they spend, but also for how they use the resources under their stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes they have achieved. In addition, they have an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that, as a whole, they can demonstrate the appropriateness of all their actions and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law.
1) <i>Behaving with integrity</i>
<i>i) Ensuring Members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the organisation.</i>
<i>ii) Ensuring Members take the lead in establishing specific standard operating principles or values for the organisation and its staff and that they are communicated and understood. These should build on the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles).</i>
<i>iii) Leading by example and using these standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions.</i>
<i>iv) Demonstrating, communicating and embedding the standard operating principles or values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively.</i>
2) <i>Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values</i>
<i>i) Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the organisation's ethical standards and performance.</i>
<i>ii) Underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values and ensuring they permeate all aspects of the organisation's culture and operation.</i>
<i>iii) Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values.</i>
<i>iv) Ensuring that external providers of services on behalf of the organisation are required to act with integrity and in compliance with high ethical standards expected by the organisation.</i>
3) <i>Respecting the rule of law</i>
<i>i) Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations.</i>

¹ Delivering good governance in Local Government Framework (2016 Edition)

<i>ii) Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders and members are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements.</i>
<i>iii) Striving to optimise the use of the full powers available for the benefit of citizens, communities and other stakeholders.</i>
<i>iv) Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively.</i>
<i>v) Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively.</i>
Principle B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
Local government is run for the public good; organisations therefore should ensure openness in their activities. Clear, trusted channels of communication and consultation should be used to engage effectively with all groups of stakeholders, such as individual citizens and service users, as well as institutional stakeholders.
1) Openness
<i>i) Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness.</i>
<i>ii) Making decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes. The presumption is for openness. If that is not the case, a justification for the reasoning for keeping a decision confidential should be provided.</i>
<i>iii) Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. In due course, ensuring that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear.</i>
<i>iv) Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/courses of action.</i>
2) Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders
<i>i) Effectively engaging with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably.</i>
<i>ii) Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively.</i>
<i>iii) Ensuring that partnerships are based on:</i> — <i>trust</i> — <i>a shared commitment to change</i> — <i>a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners and that the added value of partnership working is explicit.</i>
3) Engaging stakeholders effectively, including individual citizens and service users
<i>i) Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes.</i>
<i>ii) Ensuring that communication methods are effective and that members and officers are clear about their roles with regard to community engagement.</i>

<i>iii) Encouraging, collecting and evaluating the views and experiences of communities, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs.</i>
<i>iv) Implementing effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how their views have been taken into account.</i>
<i>v) Balancing feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity.</i>
<i>vi) Taking account of the interests of future generations of tax payers and service users.</i>
Principle C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
The long-term nature and impact of many of local government's responsibilities mean that it should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the authority's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders, including citizens, service users, and institutional stakeholders, is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.
1) Defining outcomes
<i>i) Having a clear vision which is an agreed formal statement of the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provides the basis for the organisation's overall strategy, planning and other decisions.</i>
<i>ii) Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users. It could be immediately or over the course of a year or longer.</i>
<i>iii) Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available.</i>
<i>iv) Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes.</i>
<i>v) Managing service user's expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available.</i>
2) Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
<i>i) Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions when taking decisions about service provision.</i>
<i>ii) Taking a longer-term view with regard to decision making, taking account of risk and acting transparently where there are potential conflicts between the organisation's intended outcomes and short-term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints.</i>
<i>iii) Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs.</i>
<i>iv) Ensuring fair access to services.</i>
Principle D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
Local government achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory, and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these courses of action

is a critically important strategic choice that local government has to make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved They need robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure that their defined outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best trade-off between the various types of resource inputs while still enabling effective and efficient operations. Decisions made need to be reviewed continually to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised.

1) Determining interventions

i) Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and including the risks associated with those options. Therefore ensuring best value is achieved however services are provided.

ii) Considering feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts.

2) Planning interventions

i) Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.

ii) Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered.

iii) Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively including shared risks.

iv) Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering outputs can be adapted to changing circumstances.

v) Establishing appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of the planning process in order to identify how the performance of services and projects is to be measured.

vi) Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularly.

vii) Preparing budgets in accordance with organisational objectives, strategies and the medium term financial plan.

viii) Informing medium and long term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy.

3) Optimising achievement of intended outcomes

i) Ensuring the medium term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints.

ii) Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term.

iii) Ensuring the medium term financial strategy sets the context for ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment that may arise during the budgetary period in order for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usage.

iv) Ensuring the achievement of 'social value' through service planning and commissioning. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 states that this is "the additional benefit to the community...over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and outcomes".

Principle E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Local government needs appropriate structures and leadership, as well as people with the right skills, appropriate qualifications and mindset, to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve their intended outcomes within the specified periods. A local government organisation must ensure that it has both the capacity to fulfil its own mandate and to make certain that there are policies in place to guarantee that its management has the operational capacity for the organisation as a whole. Because both individuals and the environment in which an authority operates will change over time, there will be a continuous need to develop its capacity as well as the skills and experience of the leadership of individual staff members. Leadership in local government entities is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of backgrounds, reflecting the structure and diversity of communities.

1) Developing the entity's capacity

i) Reviewing operations, performance use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness.

ii) Improving resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how the authority's resources are allocated so that outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently.

iii) Recognising the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achieved.

iv) Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources.

2) Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals

i) Developing protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained.

ii) Publishing a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the governing body.

iii) Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure whereby the chief executive leads the authority in implementing strategy and managing the delivery of services and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and a balance for each other's authority.

iv) Developing the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective shared leadership and to enable the organisation to respond successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental changes and risks by:

- ensuring members and staff have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that ongoing training and development matching individual and organisational requirements is available and encouraged.*
- ensuring members and officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that they are able to update their knowledge on a continuing basis ensuring members and officers have the appropriate skills,*

<p><i>knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that they are able to update their knowledge on a continuing basis.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>ensuring personal, organisational and system-wide development through shared learning, including lessons learnt from governance weaknesses both internal and external.</i>
<p><i>v) Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation.</i></p>
<p><i>vi) Taking steps to consider the leadership's own effectiveness and ensuring leaders are open to constructive feedback from peer review and inspections.</i></p>
<p><i>vii) Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs.</i></p>
<p><i>viii) Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing.</i></p>
<p>Principle F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</p>
<p>Local government needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees have implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and crucial to the achievement of outcomes. Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision making activities.</p> <p>A strong system of financial management is essential for the implementation of policies and the achievement of intended outcomes, as it will enforce financial discipline, strategic allocation of resources, efficient service delivery, and accountability.</p> <p>It is also essential that a culture and structure for scrutiny is in place as a key part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. A positive working culture that accepts, promotes and encourages constructive challenge is critical to successful scrutiny and successful delivery.</p> <p>Importantly, this culture does not happen automatically, it requires repeated public commitment from those in authority.</p>
<p>1) Managing risk</p>
<p><i>i) Recognising that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making.</i></p>
<p><i>ii) Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring that they are working effectively.</i></p>
<p><i>iii) Ensuring that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated.</i></p>
<p>2) Managing performance</p>
<p><i>i) Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation review.</i></p>
<p><i>ii) Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the organisation's financial, social and environmental position and outlook.</i></p>
<p><i>iii) Ensuring an effective scrutiny or oversight function is in place which encourages constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives before, during and after decisions are made</i></p>

<i>thereby enhancing the organisation's performance and that of any organisation for which it is responsible.</i>
<i>iv) Providing members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement.</i>
<i>v) Ensuring there is consistency between specification stages (such as budgets) and post implementation reporting (eg financial statements).</i>
3) Robust internal control
<i>i) Aligning the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving the objectives).</i>
<i>ii) Evaluating and monitoring the authority's risk management and internal control on a regular basis).</i>
<i>iii) Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place).</i>
<i>iv) Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor).</i>
<i>v) Ensuring an audit committee or equivalent group or function which is independent of the executive and accountable to the governing body: — provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment — that its recommendations are listened to and acted upon.</i>
4) Managing data
<i>i) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data.</i>
<i>ii) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodies.</i>
<i>iii) Reviewing and auditing regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring.</i>
5) Strong public financial management
<i>i) Ensuring financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance.</i>
<i>ii) Ensuring well-developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls.</i>
Principle G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability
Accountability is about ensuring that those making decisions and delivering services are answerable for them. Effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring that stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the organisation plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner. Both external and internal audit contribute to effective accountability.

1) Implementing good practice in transparency
<i>i) Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in an understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate.</i>
<i>ii) Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and for users to understand.</i>
6) Implementing good practices in reporting
<i>i) Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and the stewardship of its resources.</i>
<i>ii) Ensuring members and senior management own the results.</i>
<i>iii) Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in the Framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance (annual governance statement).</i>
<i>iv) Ensuring that the Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate.</i>
<i>v) Ensuring the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other similar organisations.</i>
7) Assurance and effective accountability
<i>i) Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon.</i>
<i>ii) Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place which provides assurance with regard to governance arrangements and recommendations are acted upon.</i>
<i>iii) Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations.</i>
<i>iv) Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement.</i>
<i>v) Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and that the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met.</i>

2.5 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) also launched a Financial Management (FM) Code. The intention is that the Code helps to create a culture of strong financial management to help address the financial pressures that Councils are facing. The intention is that a self-regulation approach will prevent any other Local Authorities 'failing'. This will then avoid any need for any external control or reductions in current powers. The Code does not currently have any specific statutory backing. However, CIPFA reference that compliance with the code should be linked to s151 of the Local Government Act 1972 ("every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of

their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs"). They also place an obligation on their Members to adhere to the Code. The 17 standards contained within the Code have been provided to Members of the Committee by the Chief Finance Officer.

3. NHDC'S GOVERNANCE AIM

- 3.1. NHDC aims to meet the above Framework principles in a cost efficient and effective governance manner. The Council is required to review its arrangements annually and will assess these against the principles and prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) in accordance with Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016) and the statutory requirements².
- 3.2. Many of the requirements contained within the principles and this Code are included in the Council's Constitution and the Council's key strategies and policies, which are available through the Council's website:

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/>

As part of the annual assessment, the AGS will, however, set out how the requirements have been met through specific examples/ outcomes as against the above principles; or if these have not been met in part/ fully, detail the actions NHDC will take to address the matter. The assessment document will be published on the Council's website.

4. NHDC'S VISION

- 4.1. Leadership and collaborative working are developed themes within NHDC. It has a vision and the Council Plan that sets out NHDC's strategic priorities and thematic work for the district for 2022-2027.

- 4.2. NHDC's Vision is:

'We will put people first and deliver sustainable services, to enable a brighter future together'.

It is clear that the Council must work with its residents, businesses, contractors, and urban and rural communities to achieve this vision.

- 4.3. NHDC's internal corporate business planning process supports the delivery of the vision in terms of what we do and the collaborative work we carry out in conjunction with our partners.

- 4.4. The vision is supported by the Council's Priorities, which for 2022 onwards are:

- **People First**

People make North Herts work. We value all our residents, businesses, staff, contractors, councillors, and other partners, and place them at the heart of everything we do.

- **Sustainability**

We recognise the challenges our towns and district as a whole face and are committed to delivering services which are relevant and sustainable. In doing so we will place our environmental responsibilities, as well as sound financial planning, at the centre of our policy making.

² Under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('LAAA 2014') and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015/234

- **A Brighter Future Together**

We are far-sighted and plan for the long term to secure the best outcomes for our people, towns and villages, and the local economy, ensuring North Herts continues to thrive.

- a. The Council aspires to achieve its priorities in an open and transparent manner having due regard to equal opportunities and the opportunities and benefits proffered by innovative and flexible partnership working.

5. CONCLUSION

To ensure that it keeps its aims, NHDC will:

- Review its Local Code of Corporate Governance annually to ensure that it reflects current recommended practice and remains a "live" document;
- Monitor all arrangements in place for practical effectiveness;
- Review practices, procedures and guidelines on a regular basis;
- Review its arrangements and report these through the AGS on how NHDC is complying with the principles/ the Code. This will include oversight of the assessment by the Leadership Team and Member consideration and approval (through appropriate bodies). This assessment will include review of: the annual internal auditor's opinion from the Head of the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS); external auditors opinion/ letter; managers' assurance statements; the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee annual report/ review of its effectiveness; inspection reports (SIAS and the Shared Anti-Fraud Service – SAFS); Ombudsman's recommendations; annual Scrutiny report; Standards Committee report; project governance and risk arrangements;
- Identify any necessary governance actions in the AGS including appropriate timescales and designate Lead Officers for the forthcoming year;
- Ensure that actions identified in the AGS are monitored and reported back through the Leadership Team process (as appropriate) and to Members of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Review date – 16 March 2022

*This Code will be reviewed by 31st March 2023 unless any **significant changes** are required in the interim.*

Included in this newsletter:

Strategy, Policy and Consultations

Active Travel Fund Update

Projects & Schemes

Rail and Passenger Transport

Relevant Web Links

North Herts

Welcome to the Spring edition of North Hertfordshire On The Move.



The purpose of this newsletter is to inform County and District Members of the following themes within the area. Feedback on both the content and format are welcomed, if you have any comments please contact :

Anushia.Vettivelu@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Keep up to date

Want to stay up to date on the latest highways news?

Sign up to the Highways UpdateMe bulletin and get email updates straight to your inbox:

If you want to keep track of roadworks, please visit:

[Get email updates with Update me | Hertfordshire County Council](#)



If you want to keep track of roadworks, please visit:
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/roadworks

North Central Growth and Transport Plan

Officer Contact: Anushia Vettivelu - Hertfordshire County Council - Anushia.Vettivelu@hertfordshire.gov.uk
AI GTP - Hertfordshire County Council - AIGTP@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Before progressing the adoption of the South Central Growth and Transport Plan a final review of the North Central and South Central Growth and Transport Plans is being undertaken to ensure it aligns with the emerging local plans and allow for officers to consider and recent comments from district and borough colleagues.

This process is expected to be complete in the coming weeks, at which point we will resume the adoption process.

Active Travel Fund

Officer Contact: Active Travel Fund - Hertfordshire County Council - EATF@hertfordshire.gov.uk www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/activetravelfund

The County Council were successful in being awarded funding from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund in November 2020. A public engagement exercise took place in February and March this year to understand the support level in principle for a number of cycling improvement projects. The results of this engagement exercise allowed us to refine our designs with a public consultation taking place in July 2021.

An update report went to the Highways and Transport Panel in September 2021 updating members on the results of the consultation and how each of the schemes within that consultation will progress. Whilst the consultation is now closed CGI photo images on how proposals will look, and drawings for each of the projects are still available to view at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/activetravelfund. The responses we received will further assist us in refining designs where appropriate.

In addition the County Council has made an application for further funding to develop more schemes to support cycling with a response on that application due by November this year.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Officer Contact: Nicola Ffrench - Hertfordshire County Council - Nicola.Ffrench@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We are in the process of developing, in partnership with district and borough councils, a series of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). LCWIPs were identified in the Government's first Walking and Cycling Investment Strategy (2017) as a new strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements at a local level. Having a LCWIP in place better enables county councils to bid for government funding and/or to secure funding contributions from developers. It is important to note that LCWIPs are designed to facilitate a long term approach to developing networks, but also designed so that the document can be updated and revisited throughout a 10 year period.

In North Herts the draft LCWIP document is currently being considered by HCC and NHDC. The agreed document will be out for consultation in May following elections.

20mph Update

Officer Contacts: Daniel Pearman - Hertfordshire County Council -
Daniel.pearman@hertfordshire.gov.uk

The process of ranking potential 20mph areas has now been concluded. All 554 areas were scored against a number of categories – including density, footway provision, school facilities, and air quality – to provide officers with a ranked list of areas to begin investigations.

Data collection and analysis for the first batch of sites is now underway, with the intention being to maintain a rolling data collection programme to ensure the programme has a continual stream of areas to take forward through design, consultation, and delivery.

The scale of the project is still being reviewed and assessed, though it is hoped that the majority of schemes will be suitable for signage and lining only, allowing for quicker delivery and rollout than schemes that may require more extensive and expensive traffic management or calming features.

Further details on the 20mph project are expected to be available towards the end of April, as the data collection run completes and the first schemes begin entering the delivery pipeline.



High Streets Update

Officer Contacts: High Street Recovery Team - Hertfordshire County Council -
highstreetrecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Following a public engagement last summer and ongoing discussions, Hertfordshire County Council along with District and Borough Council partners have agreed that a trial of road closures will go ahead in 2022 for up to 18 months.

The towns/cities where high streets will be closed with an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) are:

- ◇ St Albans
- ◇ Hertford
- ◇ Hitchin
- ◇ Rickmansworth
- ◇ Royston

Project Boards, including elected members from both HCC and District/Borough, have considered feedback and have taken the decision on how each scheme should progress. The Project Board's are also engaging further with key stakeholders, including emergency services.

'High Street Recovery' continues to act as our headline to signal that the projects are supporting longer term aspirations of benefitting the local economy, the environment, improving sustainability and promoting LTP4 policy.

During the 18-month period, the Authority will evaluate the experimental measures and will be considering whether or not to subsequently make the restrictions permanent. For the first 6 months of the experiment, there will be an opportunity to object to the Orders becoming permanent and details will be set out in the Public Notice of Making.

For more information on each scheme, please visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/news-and-campaigns/coronavirus-temporary-town-changes.aspx>

Mass Rapid Transit

Officer Contact: Darren Grainger - Hertfordshire County Council - Darren.Grainger@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Paul Rogers - Hertfordshire County Council - Paul.Rogers@hertfordshire.gov.uk

The Hertfordshire to Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) will be a new, sustainable passenger transport network. The first public engagement period for the HERT has recently concluded.

Running from 18 November 2021 to 28 January 2022, the primary aim of the 10-week public engagement period was to share information about the vision and potential benefits of the HERT; providing stakeholders and local people with the information that they needed to give an informed response to the survey.

Interested parties were able to find out about the HERT in a number of different ways, including through a brochure, a virtual exhibition space, an animated film and online events. The public engagement period was promoted through social media posts and adverts, press coverage, emails to stakeholders and councillors, posters in libraries and at bus stops, a radio advertisement and through HCC's website.

The data collected during the public engagement period is now being analysed and will inform the HERT project's Strategic Outline Case, which will be submitted to central government in the Spring.



Rail Service Update

Officer Contact: Val Male - Hertfordshire County Council - Val.Male@hertfordshire.gov.uk

The Department for Transport have announced the next round of Access for All funding bids for the period 2024-2029. HCC is working with Train Operators to identify stations that meet the criteria for submission to this fund.

Train operators are continuing to monitor passenger numbers as COVID restriction have been lifted and where possible re-introducing services to meet the need whilst at the same time being mindful of the need to reduce operating costs.

Rail Strategy

Officer Contact: Val Male - Hertfordshire County Council - Val.Male@hertfordshire.gov.uk

A Rail Strategy Update paper went to Highways and Transport Panel in January. The paper included an update on Appendix 1 of the strategy which sets out Hertfordshire's aspirations for individual stations in the county which is informed by station audit visits and feedback from passengers and stakeholders.

Passenger Transport

Officer Contact: Leanne Melville - Hertfordshire County Council - Leanne.Melville@hertfordshire.gov.uk

HertsLynx, Hertfordshire's new on-demand bus service, launched on 19th September 2021. This service is designed to serve residents in the designated operating zone covering villages in North and East Herts, as well as providing transport links to fixed destinations in Key Hub Towns: Stevenage, Letchworth, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston and Bishop's Stortford.

The service will improve connections between rural areas and town centres, as well as expand access to employment, education, healthcare and shopping.

For more information see [HertsLynx - Intalink](#)

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member
[NO]

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned [NO] *If yes indicate who and what below*

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

The approval of Health Protect Board Funding awards to the following bodies:

- 1.1. **£14,300** to Age UK Hertfordshire to cover the cost of staff and overhead costs in order to reduce the amount funded from reserves to run services that support older, vulnerable people in North Herts as outlined in 6.1
- 1.2. **£11,594** to Resolve towards online and in-person drug and alcohol support, advice, and treatment services as outlined in 6.2
- 1.3. **£19,975** to North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum towards running costs of the Community Resource Centre as outlined 6.3

2. DECISION TAKER

The Executive Member for Community Engagement in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

15 March 2022

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The Policy and Community Engagement Team applied to the Health Protection Board for funding available to assist the voluntary and community sector organisations in the North Herts District to continue services within the current COVID pandemic. A business case was submitted initially requesting £100,000 for the purpose of

1. Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
2. Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g., voluntary, academic, commercial)

The business case was accepted and NHC received £100,000 to provide grants to organisations supporting North Herts residents through the Pandemic in a variety of ways.

The requests for funding outstripped the amount of HPB funding we had applied for and therefore Members asked that officers request a further £100,000 from the HPB.

A further business case was presented to the Board and accepted.

The £200,000 needs to be utilised by North Herts Council by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

The delay in approval has resulted from checking with the HPB to ensure that the grants detailed would meet with the original NHC application and the HPB criteria. Officers have closely liaised with the organisations to ensure that funding relating to staffing costs has not already been provided from other sources / central government funding.

5. CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation on all of grant applications for consideration took place with the Members of the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel at three separate virtual meetings on, 9 November, and 15 December 2021.

All the grant applicants provided their presentations to the Panel in support of their applications and answered any questions the Panel raised in relation to the grant funding request. The decisions outlined in this report are based on the Panel's recommendations.

- 5.2 The Panel voted on their recommendations to the Executive Member for Community Engagement at the meeting on 15 December taking the grants from each of the two meetings en-bloc.
- 5.3 The grants considered at the meeting held on 9 November:
Vote to recommend that Age UK and Resolve both receive the full amount as requested in their applications:

Result: Unanimous vote in favour.

- 5.4 The grants considered at the meeting held on 15 December:
Vote to recommend that The North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum receive the full amount as requested in their application:

Result: Unanimous vote in favour.

6. APPLICATION DETAILS

6.1 Age UK Hertfordshire

Applicant Project	Age UK Hertfordshire Covering staff and overhead costs to reduce the amount funded from reserves to run services that support older, vulnerable people in North Herts, including assisting individuals with benefits and getting online safely.
Sum requested	£14,300
Total project cost	£14,300
Match funding	£0
Previous support	2020: £4,000 from COVID Community Support Fund for provision of IT equipment to socially isolated older people. 2019: £20,000 from funding agreement for one year.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities

Age UK Hertfordshire provides support services for vulnerable and isolated older people. Services provided include befriending, social clubs, information, and advice, as well as dementia, carer, domestic and emotional support.

The impact of the pandemic has meant that the charity has suffered financially. However, the need for the support services remains and so the charity continues to self-fund much of the support. This service helps people access their rights and entitlements, supports them to connect to activities which reduce loneliness and isolation, and enables them to live more independently for longer.

During the pandemic, this service has helped older people claim £4.7million in their benefits entitlements, with £1.1million being raised for residents of North Herts alone.

This service has been supporting with the provision of Android tablets to older members of the community living in North Herts and providing ongoing support to help individuals get online safely to reduce isolation and improve independence.

The service supports older people over the age of 65, but mainly those over 75 years of age. During the last 12 months (2020-21), this service supported 509 older, vulnerable people living in North Hertfordshire, with an array of issues. With this grant funding contribution, the service would aim to continue this level of support during the grant-funded period. Older people who are referred to the services for support can live anywhere in North Hertfordshire. No specific area will be targeted to remove any potential barriers to access.

The team support older people by phone, email, virtual and home visits to assist in different ways. Their staff and volunteers specialise in issues relating to health and social care, Lasting Powers of Attorney, getting your affairs in order, the rights of older people, accessing social and leisure activities, getting online and much more. Sometimes this support is more appropriate face to face in people's homes, particularly where sensory or cognitive impairment is involved.

Age UK Hertfordshire currently self-fund this support service through reserves, however, the impact of the pandemic has meant that this cannot be sustained long term and due to the high need for support, the organisation feel that it is a great risk to the health and wellbeing of older, vulnerable people living in North Herts to not have access to this service. Therefore, Age UK Hertfordshire are seeking funding from this grant to help reduce the amount funded from reserves to help keep the service going.

Further confirmation has been received by officers in February 2022 that the salaries for the Information and Advice Service, for which the funding was applied for, has not been funded by any government source or covered by the furlough scheme. During the pandemic, Age UK did use the furlough scheme for some of the staff but **not** for this service.

Amount recommended by the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel: £14,300

6.2 Resolve

Applicant Project	Resolve Online and in-person drug and alcohol support, advice, and treatment services
Sum requested	£11,594
Total project cost	£120,084
Match funding	£108,490 National Lottery grant
Previous support	£5,000 Letchworth Area Grant 16/10/2019 £1,274 Hitchin Area Grant 06/12/2016
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities

Resolve delivers drug and alcohol support, advice and treatment services across Hertfordshire, with this grant application specifically to support the services provided in Letchworth. They offer abstinence-based treatment for people suffering addiction/misuse of alcohol, substances and illicit, over the counter or prescribed drugs. Having started their provision of services in North Herts as drop-in advice sessions in 2015, they were asked to provide a more substantial service in Hitchin which evolved from a one-year part-time pilot to a full-time service. Since moving to Letchworth in 2018 client numbers have more than doubled, while there has been an increase in the number of positive outcomes for clients.

Services include:

- One-to-one CPCAB counselling, structured group therapy, one-to-one key work support and whole-body acupuncture.
- Support with debt management, benefits, housing advice/homelessness, onward referral to NHS health services, signposting to other services/agencies as appropriate.
- Family support group, counselling, and other services.
- Homeless support in partnership with other agencies including Helping Herts Homeless [Sanctuary], Haven First and social housing providers.

Over the first lockdown the team delivered Zoom sessions, counselling, and assessments, as well as telephone support. They now provide these online services as well as face-to-face services onsite and need more staff and facilities to do so. This in turn has increased running costs across the board.

Resolve has secured a multi-year grant to fund the next phase of their work over the coming three years, specifically for the district of North Hertfordshire from their site at Resolve House, Openshaw Way, Letchworth Garden City. This sees funding secured for Resolve's services for North Herts entering a fifth year, with ongoing sustainability of and for their services secure for the coming three years. The lease for the site has eight years remaining of a 10-year lease, with the option to extend.

Having secured the majority of funding required to deliver services, additional funds are needed to make up the shortfall in running costs, overheads, for the building and staffing to deliver services. Funding requested through this application equates to 8.8% of the total budget for one year.

The grant will benefit more than 50 North Herts residents who are currently accessing Resolve's provision in North Herts, as well as future clients, with Resolve receiving 16 referrals each month from agencies including the statutory drug and alcohol treatment services for Hertfordshire, Criminal Justice, NHS Mental Health Services and GPs.

Due to the way Resolve's Services are funded, the organisation was precluded from furloughing staff who were delivering Services either publicly or foundation funded. Their North Herts Service is one such project and therefore, over the of the period of the COVID restrictions no staff have been furloughed.

The funding requested is to fill a shortfall in funding arising from a combination of the increase in costs across all areas of their work

This funding requested will go directly into the budget for the North Herts Service to meet the shortfall in funding arising from the difference in funding compared to the original budget which was set using data available to them at that time and as outlined above the increase in costs they now see due to – COVID, inflation, increase in utility/energy costs, etc.

Amount recommended by the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel: £11,594

6.3 North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

**Applicant
Project**

North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

The money will be used to cover the running expenses of their Community Resource Centre which is a hub for the local BAME communities living in the district. This will include rent, rates, utility bills, insurance expenses, stationery and resources, PPE cost and contribution to the salary expenses of core staff.

**Sum requested
Total project cost
Match funding**

**£19,975
£75,650
£4,050 from Herts Sports Partnership.**

Previous support	<p>£9,875 from Awards for All. £10,000 from Comic Relief. £5,000 from Hertfordshire Community Foundation. £19,500 from The Clothworkers Foundation. £7,239 from Rowlandson Foundation (pending). £23,000 in 2019/20 from MoU payments (broken down into four instalments). £12,500 in 2019 from other capital funds agreed by Cabinet. £15,750 in 2020 as part of the three-year funding agreement 2020-2023 (broken down into three instalments).</p>
NHDC Policy met Council objectives	<p>Various other support dating back to 2003. Yes Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities</p>

The North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum (the Forum) is an umbrella organisation of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities living in the district of North Hertfordshire. The communities they support include Asian, African-Caribbean, Black, Chinese, Italian, Polish, EU nationals and refugee and asylum seekers.

They provide a range of services and activities including advocacy services, skills development training, education services for young people, and various health and recreational services for the elderly. The Forum is also used by various organisations as an access and meeting point to reach black and minority ethnic communities in North Hertfordshire.

The funding will be used to cover the running expenses of their Community Resource Centre (a hub for the local BAME communities living in the district) including rent, utility bills, insurance expenses, stationery and resources, PPE, and contribution to the salary expenses of core staff. As such the funding will contribute to improving quality of life for over 1,250 black and minority ethnic people and their families.

The staffing costs element in this application relate to a new post required to support BAME communities in the recovery both economically and emotionally following the COVID pandemic.

Amount recommended by the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel: £19,986 however they updated their application and have requested £19,975

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 7.2 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.
- 7.3 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section 14.6.8(b)(iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 From the allocation of £200,000 provided by the Health Protection Board £105,425 has been utilised. The current balance available in the budget to allocate is **£94,575**.

- 8.2 The total amount of funding requested in this report adds up to **£45,869**
- 8.3 The decision to agree this level of funding as outlined will leave an amount of **£48,706** to utilise by the end of the financial year in March 2023.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 10.2 Grant funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

11. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

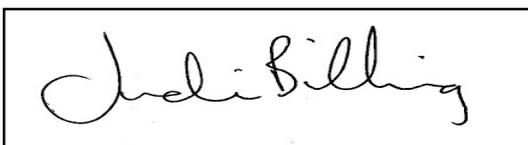
- 12.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

NOTIFICATION DATE

18 March 2022



Signature of Executive Member Decision taker

Date ...15 March 2022

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community



Please Note: that unless urgency provisions apply EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in. Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Baldock and District Committee held in the Greyslates Court, Weston Way, Baldock on Monday, 14th March, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received from Members for this meeting.

2 MINUTES - 6 DECEMBER 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 December 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair reminded Members to make Declarations of Interest before an item, the full reminder about this was set out under Chair's Announcements on the agenda.
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, that this meeting would be audio recorded and available to listen to on Mod.Gov.
- (3) The Chair gave advice to public participants regarding the meeting procedure and giving presentations.

5 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Sergeant Lisa Perks, from Herts Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, gave a verbal update to Members on the work being done in the Baldock and district area.

6 AFFINITY WATER UPDATE

Melissa Ahmet, Allesandro Marsili and Lina Nieto, from Affinity Water, gave a verbal update to Members.

7 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UPDATE

Rob Bakewell and Iain Page, from the Environment Agency, gave a verbal update to Members.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was given by Merry Smith from Ashwell Playgroup regarding their grant application.

9 GRANT APPLICATION - ASHWELL PLAYGROUP

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £850 be awarded to Ashwell Playgroup to assist with venue hire costs for 1 academic term. (Summer) as outlined in 8.1.1.

10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was given by Annie Taplin-Paine from Nightingale Residents Association regarding their grant application.

11 GRANT APPLICATION - NIGHTINGALE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1000 be awarded to Nightingale Residents Association to assist with costs for repair and maintenance works at Nightingale Park as outlined in 8.1.4.

12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was given by Melinda Fleming from Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club regarding their grant application.

13 GRANT APPLICATION - ASHWELL TENNIS & SPORTS CLUB

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £980 be awarded to Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club to assist with costs for the purchase of a new clubhouse at the venue as outlined in 8.1.2.

14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was given by Sarah Hammond-Ward from Knights Templar School regarding their grant application.

15 GRANT APPLICATION - KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SCHOOL

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £862 be awarded to Knights Templar School for the purchase of gardening equipment and litter picking equipment that will be used by two extra-curricular groups at the school as outlined in 8.1.3.

16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was given by Agata Kisicka and Ethel Morrell from Nova Wellness CIC regarding their grant application.

17 GRANT APPLICATION - NOVA WELLNESS CIC

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1000 be awarded to Nova Wellness CIC to assist with costs for running two, one-hour sessions for 20 carers based in Baldock as outlined in 8.1.5

18 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That any unspent funds from the 2021/22 financial year be allocated to Community & Environmental Initiatives for the 2022/23 period.
- (2) That the Committee endorsed the actions taken by the Community Engagement Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Baldock

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Officer.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the

Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.

- (3) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

19 BALDOCK COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Chair advised that the Baldock Big Lunch would be taking place on the 5 June 2022.

20 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

The Chair requested that Members from outside Baldock report back to the Committee at the next meeting, if they experience any increase in graffiti in their wards.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices,
Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 15th March, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daniel Allen and Carol Stanier.

2 MINUTES - 18 JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

There were no Urgent or General Exception Items.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There were no Called-In Items.

8 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Committee considered and commented on the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021/2022 as attached at Appendix A prior to consideration by Council.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and comment on the report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of the Committee in the 2021/2022 Civic Year prior to consideration by Council

9 RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report entitled 'Resolutions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee' was noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on actions and feedback received regarding resolutions previously made

10 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritises proposed topics for inclusion in the work programmes attached as Appendix A and, where appropriate, determines the high-level form and timing of scrutiny input.
- (2) That the Committee, having considered the most recent iteration of the Forward Plan, suggested the Conservation Areas and Corporate Equality Policy items and a regular Commercial Update to be considered at future meetings and any further suggestions could be made to the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager.
- (3) That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan Extract as attached was considered.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To allow the Committee to set a work programme which provides focussed Member oversight, encourages open debate and seeks to achieve service improvement through effective policy development and meaningful policy and service change.

11 3RD QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR 2021-22

RESOLVED: That delivery against the key projects for 21/22 was noted and commented on by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable achievements against the key projects for 2021/22 to be considered.

12 3RD QUARTER UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RESOLVED: That the content of the report entitled '3rd Quarter Updates on Performance Indicators' was noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To update the Committee on the performance indicators as well as other indicators that officers have updated and activated on Pentana Risk.

13 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEASURES 2022-23

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: To consider and formally approve the Council Delivery Plan and any associated targets, to be monitored throughout 2022/2023 by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: An approved Council Delivery Plan provides the Cabinet with assurance that progress against achievement of the Council Plan objectives, will be monitored throughout 2022/23

14 SHARED WASTE SERVICE GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) To agree to the new overarching aim of the shared services and principles outlined in 8.10 and 8.12.
- (2) To endorse the formation of a joint cross party working group. The terms of reference for which are outlined in Appendix A and the outline work programme described in 8.19.
- (3) To agree to explore the future options for governance of the Shared Waste Service, including consideration of a joint committee consisting of representation by both East Herts Council and North Herts District Council.
- (4) To establish the Joint Cross Party Working Group prior to the start of the new contract negotiations.
- (5) To ensure that relevant Governance and scrutiny processes are in place prior to the start of the new contract negotiations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Waste services are one of the largest services provided to residents in both Councils, a “one service” approach promotes resilience and flexibility ensuring residents and customers receive a high-quality service. The recommendations are being made to enable the further alignment of services, through joint decision making, and consequently the long term efficient and optimal management of the services.
- (2) A new aligned governance structure would promote a unified, stable and long-term strategic vision for the shared service and ensures:
 - a service that is agile and responsive to changes
 - reduction in customer confusion
 - better engagement/ use of skills/talent and retention of staff and therefore service delivered to customers
 - continuous improvement within the services
 - improved resource visibility and flexibility
 - aligned timeframes and increased speed for decision making
 - greater consistency and stability leading to greater interest and competitiveness from the market.
- (3) To identify areas where there may be difficulties or issues faced with the merging of the services in East and North Herts.

15 GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-27

RECOMMEND TO CABINET:

- (1) Adopt the Vision, Objectives and Aims for managing Greenspace as detailed at 7.4 below.
- (2) Review and adopt the Greenspace Management Strategy 2022-27 at Appendix A.
- (3) Agree the delegation for creating an Action Plan arising from the GSMS and an annual review of the Action Plan to the Greenspace Manager in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure and the Service Director - Place.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) These recommendations are put forward to ensure there is an ongoing proactive and pragmatic approach for the future management and maintenance of Greenspace within North Herts for the period April 2022 – March 2027.
- (2) Additionally, the GSMS 2022 – 2027 provides the strategic link between the previous Greenspace strategies and the future demands placed upon North Herts District Council, specifically; managing the environment and biodiversity, finance and planning while delivering high quality greenspace services to our existing and newly developed infrastructure.

16 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted by Members.

Planning Consultation Log

District	Consultation/ Consultation Events	Information	Start date	End Date	Website link	NHDC contact Officer
North Hertfordshire District Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stevenage Borough Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Albans Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Hertfordshire Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Bedfordshire Council	Design Guide for New Buildings	Our Design Guide was adopted in 2014 and has been an important tool to help shape the design of new developments. It covers all types of built development from new homes and extensions to new commercial buildings. However, as the Design Guide is now a number of years old, we need to bring the document up to date. We want to hear your views on what is important in the design of new development and what requires improvement.	-	31.3.22	Consultations Central Bedfordshire Council	-
Bedford Borough Council	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	We are consulting residents, stakeholders and other interested groups on the draft strategy. We are particularly interested to hear whether your views on the document and whether you have any alternative ideas and suggestions.	-	4.4.22	Bedford Borough consultation database - Bedford Borough Council	-

	Wilshamstead Neighbourhood Development Plan	In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Bedford Borough Council is inviting representations on the Wilshamstead Neighbourhood Development Plan for a period of 6 weeks. The submission plans and supporting documents are available on the Council's website at: www.bedford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning				
Luton Borough Council	Stockwood Park Masterplan	Last year, engagement took place concerning Stockwood Park Golf Club. Following a review of the extensive feedback, councillors made the decision to approve the development of a Masterplan. This will explore how the whole of the park can be best used for the benefit of the wider community. We are now seeking views on the whole park to help develop plans on how to make the best use of the area for local residents and visitors, whilst recognising its historical and ecological benefits.	-	11.03.22	https://engage.luton.gov.uk/	-
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dacorum Borough Council	New leisure centre for Berkhamsted	Over the past 12 months, we've been working with a design team to develop proposals to replace the current leisure centre in Berkhamsted with a new, modern facility that would better meet the needs of the community. To help inform the next stage of the proposal, we're asking residents and other stakeholders for their views on the types of facilities and improvements they would like to see.	-	30.3.22	Current consultation (dacorum.gov.uk)	-
Hertsmere Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridge City Council	Conservation Area Appraisals	Conservation Area Appraisals describe the character and significance of Conservation Areas and give recommendations for their conservation and enhancement.	-	25.03.22	https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations/conservation-area-appraisal-consultations	-

EAST TEAM

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
Ashwell Parish Council		
22/00735/FPH	Mr David Undery 4 The Rickyard, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5PR	4 The Rickyard Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5PR Mr David Undery Installation of external metal flue to existing side elevation chimney stack
Baldock		
22/00482/FP	Mr Brian McAleer 2 Barns Courtyard, Mansfield Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6FE	2 Barns Courtyard Mansfield Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6FE Mr Brian McAleer Change of use of ground floor from residential to use as an art gallery
22/00703/FPH	Lawtey Design Ltd Mrs Rachael Lawtey 83A High Street, Stevenage, SG1 3HR, United Kingdom	57 Letchworth Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6AB Mrs & Mrs Joe & Lissa McGown Replace garage door and windows, and raise parapet walls to facilitate conversion of existing detached double garage into an annexe
22/00708/FPH	Extending Solutions Mr Darryl Parry 11 High Street, Baldock, SG7 6AZ, undefined	1 Mons Avenue Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6JP Mr Chris Ekers Single storey rear/side extension.
Letchworth Garden City		
22/00345/FPH	Home Extension Team Mrs Michelle Dunbar 4 Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX, United Kingdom	27 Birds Hill Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 1PL Mr & Miss Dalton McDonald Proposed single storey rear extension, insertion of rooflights to existing rear roofslope and replacement of existing windows and doors

22/00591/FPH	Mr Charles Birtwisle 177 Common View, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 1DG	177 Common View Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1DG Mr Charles Birtwisle Repositioning of front door, infill of existing ground floor loggia to rear, first floor rear extension over infilled loggia, and alteration to existing rear bay window
22/00675/TCA	Dr Robert Wadley 127 Jackmans Place, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 1RG	127 Jackmans Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1RG Dr Robert Wadley Various tree works including removal
22/00685/FPH	D.Chandler Architectural Design Ltd. Mr Daniel Chandler 61 Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3HS, United Kingdom	1 Dents Close Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2TP Mr & Mrs Les & Janet Slough Single storey front and rear extensions following demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory
22/00689/LBC	Home Extension Team Mrs Michelle Dunbar 4 Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX, United Kingdom	27 Birds Hill Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PL Mr & Miss Dalton McDonald Proposed single storey rear extension, insertion of rooflights to existing rear roofslope and replacement of existing windows and doors and internal works.
22/00698/FPH	CROE Architects Mr Joe Reader Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	5 The Dale Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3SG Mr Norman Awan Erection of front elevation porch, single storey rear extension, single storey detached garage extension to form a double garage, insertion of windows to each existing side elevation and insertion of rooflights to existing front roofslope and dormer to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation. Erection of low level wall to front garden.
22/00719/TCA	Mr Steve Dear Steve Dear Tree Services Ltd Top Farm, Beadlow, Shefford, SG17 5PL, United Kingdom	85 Spring Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3SL Mrs Lacey T2 Plum - Thin crown by 30%. T3 Apple - Remove 2 lowest limbs over border & prune remaining crown to balance

22/00720/TCA	Mr Steve Dear Services Ltd Top Farm, Beadlow, Shefford, SG17 5PL, United Kingdom	87 Spring Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 3SL Mr Armitage T1 Beech - Prune to remove 2 low limbs overhanging neighbours garden (No. 85 Spring Road)
22/00722/TCA	Mrs Susan Waters 114 West View, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3QJ	114 West View Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3QJ Mrs Susan Waters Eucalyptus - Fell
22/00728/LDCP	356 Architects Ltd Mr David Wannerton 172A High Street, Stevenage, SG1 3LL	10 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 1PX Ms Nicki Wilson Insertion of rooflights to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation
22/00730/FPH	Ben Smith 31 Gaunts Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 4PJ	31 Gaunts Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 4PJ Ben Smith Reposition and replace front elevation door and window and two storey rear extension
22/00752/FPH	Ms Heather Moye Corner House, 1 Balmoral Road, Hitchin, SG5 1XG, United Kingdom	17 Earlsmead Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 3UE Ms Kathryn McConnell Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear lean-to glazed structure.
Royston Town Council		
22/00589/SU	Network Rail Floor 3A/59 George Stephenson House, Toft Green, York, YO1 6JT	Royston Railway Station Kneesworth Street Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5AH Network Rail Erection of a replacement footbridge and installation of lifts on land at Royston Station

22/00690/TCA	Jody Salmon JWSALMON ARBORICULTURAL LTD Fairhaven, Lower Farm, Cottered Lane, Thorocking, SG9 9RW	1 Barkway Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9EA jody Salmon T1 Walnut - Reduce by a maximum of 2m
22/00717/AD	Mr H Rasid 1 Market Hill, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9JL	1 Market Hill Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9JL Mr H Rasid Installation of front fascia sign and hanging sign
22/00724/FP	Mr Christopher Robson Public Conveniences, Lower King Street, Hertfordshire, Royston, SG8 5AA, England	Public Conveniences Lower King Street Royston Hertfordshire Mr Christopher Robson Change of use of closed public conveniences building (understood currently Sui Generis) to Class E - Commercial, Business and Service.
22/00731/FP	PM Group Mr Roger Hammond Trinity Park, Bickenhill Lane, Birmingham, B37 7ES, United Kingdom	Johnson Matthey Plc Orchard Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5HE Hammond Installation of No.4 two storey temporary portakabin structures (for a duration of 4 years) following relocation of existing stores.
22/00757/FPH	JKA Development Consultants Ltd Mr Jason Avril 8 Brickyard Lane, Reed, SG8 8BE, United Kingdom	16 Ermine Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5EE Miss Jason Avril Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear store
Therfield Parish Council		
22/00726/FP	Barry Sharman Architect Mr Barrington Sharman 9 Greenford Close, Orwell, Royston, SG8 5QA, United Kingdom	Therfield And Kelshall Sports Club Police Row Therfield Hertfordshire Mr Barrington Sharman Single storey side extension, replace existing roof and windows, install access ramp to the side elevation and internal alterations to existing pavillion.
Weston Parish Council		

22/00594/FP	Michael Easton Mike Easton 21 Shrubbery Grove, Royston, SG8 9LJ, United Kingdom	Unit 1 Ash Tree Barn Fairclough Hall Farm Halls Green Weston Hertfordshire SG4 7DP Mr Matt Hale Continued use as commercial business and service use - offices
22/00597/FP	Michael Easton Mike Easton 21 Shrubbery Grove, Royston, SG8 9LJ, United Kingdom	Forest Barn Fairclough Hall Farm Halls Green Weston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7DP Mr Matt Hale Change of use from storage and distribution to office use only
22/00688/FPH	ArchiTech Ltd. Mr Richard Chambers 72 Lytton Avenue, Letchworth, SG6 3HY, United Kingdom	Reservoir Cottage Hatch Lane Weston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7EB Mr Webb Raise roof ridge height of existing detached garage to form a two storey building with storeroom over garage and erection of external staircase (as a resubmission of Planning Application 21/01883/FPH refused on 08.09.2021).

WEST TEAM

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
22/00697/TPO	Mr Ben Waterman Waterman Tree Co.2 26 Passingham Avenue, Hitchin, SG4 9LD, United Kingdom	2 Cherry Tree Gardens Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9FL Mrs Parin Joyce T1, T2 Sweet Chestnut - Reduce height of crown by 6m to suitable pruning points. Reduce crown width by 4m to suitable pruning points.

Great Ashby Community Council

22/00680/FPH	Stylus Architects Ltd Mr Spencer Rose 76 White Hart Lane, Barnes, London, SW13 0PZ, United Kingdom	12 Mount Keen Great Ashby Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 8BP Mr Anson Moniz Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory
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Hitchin

21/03192/LDCP	Extend Mr Dave Pucknell 68 Queen St, Hitchin, SG4 9TS	19 Russells Slip Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BJ Mr K Shergill Erection of front/side elevation garden wall
22/00631/FPH	Home Extension Team Michelle Dunbar 4 Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX, United Kingdom	52 Pirton Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BQ Mr & Mrs Couter Ground floor side infill and first floor side extensions. Installation of 2m high fence and 1.8m high iron railing with electric operated gate.
22/00636/FP	CROE Architects Mr Joe Reader Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	1 Croft Chambers 11 Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1JQ Mr Carter Replacement of first floor windows on front elevation to match existing.
22/00701/FPH	Cadmonkies Mr Davif Berlouis Studio ONE, 19 Westminster Croft, Brackley, NN13 7ED, undefined	32 Bradleys Corner Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0PR Mr and Mrs D Holmes Two storey side extension
Ickleford Parish Council		
22/00655/HCC	Hertfordshire County Council Spatial Planning Unit, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN	Ickleford Primary School Arlesey Road Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3TG Hertfordshire County Council Application for proposed works to include re-roofing single-storey, flat-roof extensions by introducing tapered boards, insulation and high performance felt. Replacement roof lights with insulated polycarbonate roof lights, replacement windows with powdercoated aluminium double-glazed windows, raise sill heights and install vertical cladding all on single-storey extensions and additional buildings to the rear. Demolish existing water tank housing. Strip tiled roofs to earlier building and install insulation before replacing with matching tiles. Internally, install secondary glazing to windows on earlier building. NORTH HERTS COUNCIL : CONSULTEE ONLY

22/00682/S73	Mr Joe Reader CROE Architects Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	1 Church Path Ickleford Hertfordshire SG5 3YJ
		Mr & Mrs Morgan
		Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 20/02209/FP granted 21/01/2021 - Change of material to sections of proposed rear extensions from render to brick, raised oil height of side window and resolved roof form to proposed side extension as shown on plans nos. 22018 - 002, 22018 - 003 and 22018 - 004.

Kimpton Parish Council

22/00684/FPH	RD Designs Mr Samuel Hardy Office 2, Floor 2., 1 Bedford St, Amphill, MK45 2LU	11 Coopers Close Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8QU
		Mr Grahame Durrant
		Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory

Offley Parish Council

22/00650/FPH	Sanctury Design Limited Mr Philip Woolston 10 Stratford Road, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2AB	103 Mangrove Lodge Putteridge Park Luton Hertfordshire LU2 8LB
		Fowler Homes Limited
		Two story side extension. Erection of detached garage/home office following demolition of existing outbuildings.

Pirton Parish Council

22/00219/LBC	Mr Steven Vass Unit 6, Brickhill Pastures, Limbersey Lane, Maulden, MK45 2EB, United Kingdom	31 High Street Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3PS
		Mr Steven Vass
		The replacement of 1no. fixed pane window (kitchen window no.2) with similar sized window with glazing bars and replacement of 18 no. single-glazed stormproof windows (some with top-hung lights) with double-glazed windows incorporating flush casements and fixed lights.
22/00609/TCA	Mr James Matthews Village Trees 307 Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG5 2UU	Land Off Burge End Lane Pirton Hertfordshire SG5 3QN
		Mr James Matthews
		T1 Conifer - Remove

22/00651/FPH	Peter J Farmer RIBA Mr Peter Farmer 32 Church Street, Shillington, Beds, SG5 3LT	18 Cromwell Way Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3RD	Mr And Mrs K Foster	Single story rear extension. Insertion of ground floor door and window on front elevation following removal of existing garage door.
22/00693/TCA	David Tree 4 High Street, Pirton, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3PS	4 High Street Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3PS	David Tree	Pine - Remove
Preston Parish Council				
22/00707/FP	Barker Parry Town Planning Ltd Mrs Kenya Sharland 33 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1LA, United Kingdom	Sootfield Green Charlton Road Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7TB	Mr & Mrs Alison Jeffers & Jeremy Ward	Erection of agricultural building
St Ippolytts Parish Council				
22/00674/S73	Planning Insight Garry Hutchinson 31-35 Kirby Street, London, EC1N 8TE, Undefined	Thistley Lodge Half Hankerchief Lane Gosmore Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7BW	Mr Ashleigh Wells	Variation of condition 2 (submission of amended plans 21/157/03B and 21/157/04A) of planning permission 21/03238/FP granted 24.02.2022 for change of use of existing storage building to create one 2-bed dwelling including the laying of hardstanding, boundary treatments, minor external alterations and associated works.
22/00677/FPH	Mr Mark Tyler MT Architecture LTD 7, Ream Close, Eynesbury, PE19 2HE, undefined	2 Kingsoak Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7BF	Ms Laura Shipley	Two storey rear extension and single storey rear extension.

22/00709/FP	Axis PED Ltd Tom Roseblade Well House Barns, Units 5 & 11, Chester Road, Broughton, CH4 0DH, undefined	Land To The South Of Wymondley Substation And South Of Sperberry Hill St Ippolyts Hertfordshire
		Mr Gary Bird
		Proposed solar farm measuring 35.5 hectares with associated battery storage and ancillary infrastructure.
22/00732/TCA	Miss Lottie Miles Maydencroft Limited Maydencroft Limited, Maydencroft Manor, Gosmore, Hitchin, SG4 7QA	Brookend Farm House Stevenage Road St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7NU
		Mr David Chapman
		T1 Ash - Reduce crown by 30% and balance

(Including Withdrawn decisions)

EAST TEAM

Application No: 21/02020/FPH	Location: 30 Ridge Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PN Applicant Name: Mr Chahal Description: Single storey rear extension (as amended by plan no. 2186-002C received on 9th March 2022).	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 21/02021/LBC	Location: 30 Ridge Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PN Applicant Name: Mr Chahal Description: Single storey rear extension, alterations to first floor layout and replacement windows (as amended by plan no. 2186-002C received on 9th March 2022).	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 21/03155/FP	Location: Ambulance Station Letchworth Gate Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2AZ Applicant Name: Sean O'Sullivan East of England Ambulance Service Description: Alterations to parking arrangements including installation of additional parking bays and electric charging points (as amended by acoustic fencing plan no. LETCAS-IWD-XX-00-DR-A-3000 S3 P01 received 18th February 2022).	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 21/03169/FP	Location: Standalone Farm Wilbury Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4JN Applicant Name: Mrs Clare Buddle Letchworth Garden City Heritage Fo Description: Erection of temporary events enclosure for a period of 3 years.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03458/FP	Location: Land Adjacent To High Beeches Mill Lane Therfield Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9PR Applicant Name: Company Secretary Green Rabbit Developments Ltd Description: Erection of one detached 4-bed dwelling including creation of vehicle crossover off Mill Lane.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03516/FP	Location: Land Between 24 And 26 Cedar Crescent And 92 Green Drift Royston Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr Ian Turvey Description: Erection one detached 2-bed chalet style dwelling and associated works (revision of previously approved planning permission 20/00908/FP granted 17.07.2020).	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03532/FPH	Location: 2 Crossways London Road Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JB Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs L & M Barratt Description: Erection of front elevation porch, part single storey part two storey side/rear extension and alterations to existing fenestration following demolition of existing front porch and rear outbuilding	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03540/FPH	Location: 39 Station Road Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5LR Applicant Name: Mrs Alexandra Fletcher Description: Formation of vehicular crossover as amended by email of 11 February 2022.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00018/FPH	Location: Thrift Farm Baldock Road Therfield Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9NN Applicant Name: Mrs Frances Law Description: Two storey front extension and single storey rear infill extension. Replace existing first floor east elevation window with a Juliet Balcony	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022

EAST TEAM

Application No: 22/00027/FP	Location: Land Adjacent To Ashridge Farmhouse Ashwell Street Ashwell Hertfordshire SG7 5QF Applicant Name: Mr Jeremy Bates On behalf of Ashwell Tennis and Spo Description: Erection of wooden structure with a veranda for use as a clubhouse and storage for the tennis club and erection of additional fencing	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00124/FP	Location: 1 High Street Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6AZ Applicant Name: Mr Ajit Singh Khurana Description: Development A - Replacement shop front to include laminated glass panel, manual swing door, delivery door, and fixed glass panels to existing elevation to the side of the shop front; Development B - Re-siting of newspaper box.	Decision: Split Decision Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00193/FPH	Location: 15 Crabtree Dell Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 2TJ Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs Patch Description: Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00200/LBC	Location: 1 High Street Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6AZ Applicant Name: Mr Ajit Singh Khurana Description: Development A - Replacement shop front to include laminated glass panel, manual swing door, delivery door, and fixed glass panels to existing elevation to the side of the shop front; Development B - Re-siting of newspaper box.	Decision: Split Decision Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00209/FP	Location: 7 Gernon Walk Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HW Applicant Name: Mr Paul Singh Sikh Temple Description: Retention of six windows to existing ground floor side elevation and existing first floor (gable end) side elevation	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00224/FPH	Location: The Paddock High Street Hinxworth Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5HJ Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Parker Description: Single storey front extension following the conversion of the existing attached garage into habitable accommodation. Insertion of rear dormer window to north-western wing and replacement of existing first floor window to north-west elevation with French doors and 'Juliet' balcony. Replacement double glazed windows. Existing horizontal weatherboarding. re-painted black. New black-painted timber fascia and soffits.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/03/2022
Application No: 22/00227/LDCP	Location: 42 Tannery Drift Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5DE Applicant Name: Mr Jim Archibald Description: Infill door of existing detached garage with brick and insertion of rooflight to existing garage roofslope	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00239/DOC	Location: Land West Of Royston Bypass Royston Hertfordshire Applicant Name: C/O Gillings Planning Linden Wates (Royston) LLP an Description: Condition 3 - Details and/or samples of materials to be used on all external elevations and the roof of the development hereby permitted shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (as discharge of condition relating to planning application 19/00248/FP granted 11.08.2021).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00246/TPO	Location: 23 St Marys Park Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7XB Applicant Name: Dupuy Description: T1 Silver maple - Fell and remove the stump	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 10/03/2022

EAST TEAM

Application No: 22/00247/FPH	Location: 17 The Brambles Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9NQ Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs D Williams Description: Raise existing roof ridge height	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00286/TCA	Location: 25 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PU Applicant Name: Mr Carl Albon Description: T1 Black Pine - Reduce in height by 2.5 m and bring the sides into shape. All pruning to viable growth points. Remove major deadwood and thin canopy by 20%	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00330/FPH	Location: 110 Bedford Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4DZ Applicant Name: Mr A Singh Nagra Description: Single storey front extension	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00331/TPO	Location: Rowan House The Green Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7AL Applicant Name: Robinson Description: T1 Yew - Crown lift to 5m from ground level. T2 Yew - Reduce by 1m and remove dead stubs to re shape canopy. T3 Horse Chestnut - Crown reduce to previous (approx. 1.5m). Reduce lower branch over wall by 3m. T4 & T5 Lime - Re pollard back to original points. T6 Maple - Crown reduce to previous (approx. 1.5m). T7 Rowan - Reduce lateral branches to clear house by 2m. T8 Pear - Re pollard back to original points.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00337/FPH	Location: 72 Lytton Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HY Applicant Name: ArchiTech Ltd Mr Richard Chambers Description: Single storey front extension and replacement of existing rear french doors and windows	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00343/TCA	Location: Town Farm Hitchin Road Weston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7DB Applicant Name: Mr Wheaton Description: G1 Lime- Crown reduce to form pleached limes. T1 Fig - Crown reduce height and spread by upto 1m. T2 Silver birch - Reduce to 3m clearance from ground level over footpath	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00418/DOC	Location: Flint Hall Farm London Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9LX Applicant Name: Mr Charles Worthington Lowden Construction Ltd Description: Condition 3 - Details and/or samples of materials to be used on all external elevations and the roof of the development hereby permitted shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (as discharge of condition relating to planning permission 20/00637/FP granted 22.01.2021).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00427/TCA	Location: Norton St Nicholas C Of E (va) Primary School Norton Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1AG Applicant Name: Mrs Karen Bliss Norton St Nicholas CofE (VA) Primary Description: Silver Birch - Fell to ground level	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00440/LDCP	Location: 168 Glebe Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1DY Applicant Name: Gibson Description: Erection of outbuilding to rear garden following demolition of existing rear outbuilding	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 16/03/2022

EAST TEAM

Application No: 22/00456/TCA	Location: Punchardon Hall William Road Willian Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG8 2AE Applicant Name: Mr Michael Stoddard Description: 6x Leylandii Cypress - Fell to ground level	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00484/DOC	Location: Flint Hall Farm London Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9LX Applicant Name: Mr Charles Worthington Lowden Construction Ltd Description: Condition 11 - Construction Management Plan (as discharge of condition relating to planning permission 20/00837/FP granted 22.01.2021).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00638/TPO	Location: 6 Limekiln Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9XP Applicant Name: Micklewright Description: T1, T3, T4 Ash - Crown reduce by 2m. T2, T5 Sycamore - Crown reduce by 2m.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 14/03/2022

WEST TEAM

Application No: 21/03142/FP	Location: Land On The South Western Side Of Back Lane Preston Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mrs Jane Clark Description: Change of use of land from agricultural to a dog exercise field, with associated vehicle parking and hardstanding, vehicular access, and fencing	Decision: Refused Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03183/FPH	Location: 6 St Marys Rise Breachwood Green Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8PN Applicant Name: Mr Dean Hoey Description: Conversion of bungalow into a two storey dwelling involving: raising existing roof ridge height, single storey side and rear extensions, and first floor front and rear extensions following demolition of existing rear conservatory (as amended by plans received 24/02/22)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03188/FP	Location: Manor Farm Church Lane Graveley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7BN Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs Seebohm Description: Change of use of riding school rest room/kitchen to retail shop.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03216/FPH	Location: 30 Gibson Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0RS Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs Funnell Description: Retention of lean-to on the south-west elevation and the replacement of existing garage doors with doorsets with obscure glazing to facilitate conversion of garage into habitable accommodation. Construction of a timber canopy to the rear elevation and insertion of uPVC door and high level window.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03415/FPH	Location: 98 Wymondley Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PX Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Clark Description: Two storey side extension and alterations to roof to facilitate loft conversion (as amended by drawings received 8th March 2022)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 21/03452/FPH	Location: 14 Pondcroft Road Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6DB Applicant Name: Mrs Jashodaben Mistry Mistry Construction Ltd Description: Single storey front extension and part two storey and part single storey rear extension, and alterations to openings (as amended by plans received 08/02/22)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022

WEST TEAM

Application No: 21/03480/FPH	Location: The Conifers Gipsy Lane Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6DJ Applicant Name: Mr Oliver Barnett Description: Single storey side extension following demolition of existing detached garage	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00030/LDCP	Location: Land And Garage At The Rear Of 41 Bedford Street Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2JG Applicant Name: Mr Matthew Kent Description: Erection of 1m high fencing either side of driveway at the front of garage doors and installation of folding parking security bollards, and new access onto Oughton Head Green	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00038/FP	Location: Thistley End Thistley Lane Gosmore Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7QT Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs B Mason Description: Erection of one detached 6-bed dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00081/LBC	Location: 8 Ransom Yard Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1NB Applicant Name: Mr M Ali Description: Internal alterations.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00088/AD	Location: Great Ashby Veterinary Centre St Francis House Whitehorse Lane Great Ashby Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 6DU Applicant Name: Mr Midgley CVS Group Description: Installation of one replacement totem sign, one internally illuminated fascia sign and two entrance signs (as amended by plans received 9 March 2022).	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00119/FPH	Location: Hilltop Rabley Heath Road Codicote Welwyn Hertfordshire AL8 9UB Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs Tom And Charlotte Michie Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear element	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00120/FPH	Location: Top Park Westmill Lane Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3RN Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs Richardson Description: Erection of detached garage/carport timber building in front garden and detached timber garden room in rear garden.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00126/PNM	Location: 133 - 139 Grove Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0AA Applicant Name: Mr Gerry Andrews Description: Conversion of shop (Class A1) to a two bedroom ground floor flat (Class C3) (as amended by plan received 09.02.22)	Decision: Prior Approval Given Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00185/FPH	Location: 45 Cranborne Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BS Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Tim Taylor Description: Insertion of dormer window to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00175/DOC	Location: Gosmore End Nursing Home Hitchin Road Gosmore Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7QH Applicant Name: Mr Andrew Williams Barchester Healthcare Limited Description: Condition 6 - Construction Traffic Management Plan (as discharge of condition relating to planning permission 21/01734FP granted 04.01.2022).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 10/03/2022

WEST TEAM		
Application No: 22/00178/FPH	Location: 128 Bedford Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2UP Applicant Name: Mr Daniel Wilde Description: Two storey side and two and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing side elevation attached garage	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00179/FPH	Location: 1 Winston Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2HB Applicant Name: Richard and Jessica Tyler Description: Single storey rear extension and replace existing front elevation uPVC cladding with render between brick piers following demolition of existing rear element	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00198/DOC	Location: 18 Old Hale Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1XJ Applicant Name: Mr Lewis Cameron Description: Condition - 3 Details and/or samples of materials to be used on all external elevations and the roof of the development hereby permitted shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (as discharge of condition relating to planning permission 21/02351/FP granted 15.11.2021).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00237/DOC	Location: 18 Old Hale Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1XJ Applicant Name: Mr Lewis Cameron Description: Condition 5 - Prior to commencement of the approved development landscape details shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval (as discharge of condition relating to planning permission 21/02351/FP granted 15.11.2021).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00238/DOC	Location: 18 Old Hale Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1XJ Applicant Name: Mr Lewis Cameron Description: Condition 9 - Construction Traffic Management Plan (as discharge of condition relating to planning permission 21/02351/FP granted 15.11.2021).	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00292/FPH	Location: 8 Linten Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PA Applicant Name: Mr Peter Martin Description: Single storey side extension	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00308/LDCP	Location: 3 Meadow Way Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8YL Applicant Name: Mr Quinn Description: Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Front entrance porch. Replace door with window.	Decision: Split Decision Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00338/FPH	Location: 4 Manor Close Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3UR Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Sargent Description: First floor side and single storey front extensions, partial garage conversion including new doors and roof light.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00353/FPH	Location: 15 Foster Drive Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9EH Applicant Name: Mr Tony Langford Description: Erection of detached garden office/storage following demolition of existing detached garage/storage	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00389/NMA	Location: 21 Verulam Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1QE Applicant Name: Hibbs Description: Removal of existing rear chimney (as Non-Material Amendment to Planning permission (21/02454/FP granted 30.11.2021).	Decision: Agreed Decision Date: 10/03/2022

WEST TEAM

Application No: 22/00486/EC	Location: Land At 2 High View Hitchin Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Openreach Rajiv Khan Description: Installation of 10M pole	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 15/03/2022
Application No: 22/00489/LDCP	Location: 1 Stormont Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1SJ Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs Hayes Description: Roof extension to form gable end. Insertion of rear dormer windows and front velux windows to facilitate loft conversion	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00649/TCA	Location: Fig Tree Cottage The Green Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7UB Applicant Name: Lowle Description: T1 Fig - Reduce by 2m and shape. T3 Holly - Reduce by 15%	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 10/03/2022
Application No: 22/00655/HCC	Location: Ickleford Primary School Arlesey Road Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3TG Applicant Name: Hertfordshire County Council Mrs Sharon Threlfal Description: Application for proposed works to include re-roofing single-storey, flat-roof extensions by introducing tapered boards, insulation and high performance felt. Replacement roof lights with insulated polycarbonate roof lights, replacement windows with powdercoated aluminium double-glazed windows, raise sill heights and install vertical cladding all on single-storey extensions and additional buildings to the rear. Demolish existing water tank housing. Strip tiled roofs to earlier building and install insulation before replacing with matching tiles. Internally, install secondary glazing to windows on earlier building. NORTH HERTS COUNCIL : CONSULTEE ONLY	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00681/TPO	Location: 10 The Aspens Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9NB Applicant Name: Mr Jason Hough CTC Description: Tilia - Reduce by 30%, thin canopy	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 14/03/2022
Application No: 22/00682/TPO	Location: 8 The Aspens Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9NB Applicant Name: Mr Jason Hough CTC Description: Tilia - Reduce by 25 - 30%	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 14/03/2022

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3655

14 March 2022

North Herts Council's Hitchin committee award over £7,000 to community groups

North Herts Council's Hitchin Committee awarded grants to five community groups in Hitchin at its meeting on 01 March.* These particular grants are designed to help organisations by supporting specific projects, rather than everyday expenditure.

Goslings Playgroup, located at Whitehill School in Hitchin, were awarded £2,000 to improve their outside play area. The group will use the funds to purchase a wooden playhouse, benefitting around 50 children per year. Children naturally enjoy being outside and a playhouse will encourage them to express themselves creatively and give them a focus for their outdoor play.

Bethan Desai, Secretary and Trustee of Goslings Playgroup, said: "We are hugely grateful for the grant received. It will give the Children a richer outdoor play experience. We can't wait to start the project. Thank you so much from all at Goslings."

Imagination Dance was awarded £1,115 to enable them to run classes for children and young people with additional needs. The funding will be used to hire the Westmill Community Centre and cover the costs of teaching staff. Up to 20 children will be able to benefit from the classes.

Hannah Reynolds, Company Director, Imagination Dance CIC said: "Imagination Dance are so grateful for the grant from North Herts Council Hitchin Committee. The funds will allow us to keep running our branch of SEND dance classes at the Westmill Community Centre, even after the tricky period of returning from various lockdowns. Our classes are so important for our participants and their families, with every single participant showing an improvement in confidence and social skills since joining our classes!"

Red Media Love CIC were awarded £2,480 towards the cost of an exhibition set to run at the North Herts Museum in August. The exhibition will focus on the second generation of south Asians who grew up in Hitchin and Letchworth, bringing people together to celebrate community spirit and diversity

Strathmore Fun Club was awarded £1,100 to purchase toys, equipment, and materials to cover the cost of a programme of events and activities. As a not-for-profit club they are run purely for the benefit of the children and fees are kept low to make the club accessible for all working parents.

Amanda Wright, Club Manager, said: "I'm really pleased that Strathmore Fun Club has been awarded this substantial amount of money. It will go to good use and enable the club to buy some much-needed new equipment for the children."

Third Hitchin Scouts received £580 for the purchase of six kitchen tents which will be used to prepare meals by young people at camps and day activities. The purchase of these tents will enable young Hitchin residents to experience simple living in a camp situation, but showing that life can be comfortable, healthy, fun, and in tune with nature and the environment.

The Team at Third Hitchin Scouts said: "We would like to thank North Herts Council Hitchin Committee for the award of these funds towards the purchase of much needed new kitchen tents".

Cllr Ian Albert, Chair of Hitchin Committee said: " The Committee was delighted to award these grants. They reflect the huge diversity of community groups in Hitchin. All of them do a tremendous amount of good work within the town and across the District from which we all benefit.

"These grants will particularly help young and sometimes vulnerable people and their parents.

The funding towards the exhibition at North Herts Museum will allow residents to learn about South Asian culture in our community."

To find out more about NHDC Community Grants please click here: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/community/grants/community-grants>

*subject to completion of necessary formalities

ENDS

For more information contact Sarah.Jenkinson@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474210.

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3657

14 March 2022

North Herts heroes honoured

The winners of this year's Chair's Community Recognition Awards were announced tonight (11 March) at a ceremony live streamed and available now on our [YouTube channel](#) - you can also watch a [video of the winners](#) talking about their community work.

The awards celebrate people in the district who have gone above and beyond and made a real difference in their local community. Organised by North Herts Council, the awards are sponsored by Willmott Dixon, with The Comet as media partner. This year the Awards were open to anyone in the community, not just volunteers. Each winner was presented with a beautiful, engraved glass trophy and gift voucher to acknowledge their achievements.

The winners were nominated by members of the public and chosen by a judging panel which comprised of Chair of the Council Cllr Val Bryant, Lea Ellis from North Herts Centre for Voluntary Service (NHCVS), representatives from Willmott Dixon and the editor of The Comet, Georgia Barrow.

Cllr Val Bryant, Chair of the Council, said: "These Awards are a fantastic way for the council to celebrate some of the special people in the district who are going out of their way to make a difference. We know people don't do it for the glory, but it's important to give thanks and we hope it will inspire others to think about how they may help the wider community. We are delighted to recognise the hard work, dedication and sheer community spirit of Karen, Bekah, Anni, Nick, and Mia as well as all other nominees."

The winners of this year's Chair's Community Recognition Awards are:

Caring Award – Karen Stephens

Karen has set up a menopause support group in Baldock which currently has around 25 members who meet monthly and also go on walks and do other activities. It's an invaluable resource for all the women who attend, providing an opportunity to share advice and support in a sociable setting which helps improve mental help. In addition, for eight years Karen organises festive hampers for less fortunate people using the reverse advent idea, encouraging people to collect items through

December to then donate them to families and older people at Christmas. She collected over 100 hampers this year and works with settle to distribute them. Karen is also a specially trained [Butterfly volunteer](#) at Lister hospital, supporting terminally ill patients, their families and friends at the end of their life.

Karen said: "I love helping others but it's so lovely to be nominated by two people. The menopause group was started for selfish reasons really, as I couldn't find any support! I'd had a hysterectomy and decided to start a group as it affects so many people. It's been great meeting others in a similar position and fabulous to provide this type of support to them."

Dedication Award – Rebekah Nicolas

Bekah has worked at Hitchin Library for over 10 years, starting as a Saturday assistant in 2007 to becoming the manager in 2016, and during her time became a hugely important part of the community. She made the library a vibrant place to visit in the centre of Hitchin, organising popular events including Star Wars reads, Harry Potter book night and Christmas readings, and hosted Hertfordshire's very first Artist in Residence programme. Through the annual Summer Reading Challenge Bekah has introduced hundreds, maybe thousands, of children to reading through her passion and spirit.

During the pandemic, Bekah pioneered and delivered regular live baby rhyme sessions online, to allow families to enjoy this vital and popular service. She also ensured that the library continued to deliver a service throughout the lockdown periods, delivering the click-and-collect service, Ready Reads, which was a lifeline for so many local families and residents in Hitchin. Bekah had an active role in the refurbishment of the library in 2017/18, putting the community at the heart of her recommendations.

She has now taken up a new position in the library service, Service Development Manager for Libraries and Heritage Services at Hertfordshire County Council.

Bekah said: "Being the manager at Hitchin Library was an incredible honour and working with the fantastic team to provide the wonderful local community an exciting and thriving library service has been a privilege. I am so grateful for my time there and for this award. Libraries are amazing – they're free and all about sustainability."

Green Award – Anni Sander

Anni is a green community champion, described as an "ecological support powerhouse"! Her works includes encouraging reusable nappies through a library system, administrating a re-use group and running [Plastic Free Hitchin \(PFH\)](#). Anni set up the organisation in 2019 to help local businesses,

organisations and community groups reduce their reliance on single-use plastics, so one day Hitchin can be declared plastic free!

Anni also co-organised the first two Hitchin Repair Café events, similar to the popular TV programme The Repair Shop, encouraging people to book in their clothes, mechanics and toys to be repaired or fixed, instead of throwing them away. She runs a [re-use group on Facebook](#) which has around 5,000 active members who are really grateful for the platform to share items, food and their expertise.

Anni said: “I understand it’s hard to make the right choices when it comes to the environment, especially when plastic is so convenient. But I want to make it easier for others, like me, to do their bit – every small action does make a difference. I couldn’t have done it all without the help and support of others so thanks go to them as well.”

Health Award – Nicholas Jemetta

Nick has committed the last four years – alongside a full-time job and a busy family life – to campaign to improve mental health in workplaces and local communities. He's shared his own story, which includes considering taking his own life, building a substantial following.

His campaign really kicked off during the pandemic, when he started wearing fancy-dress to his work video calls to reduce fatigue and lift the spirits of his colleagues – and while dressed up he found a way to make conversations about mental health less scary and that little bit easier.

The first costume turned into 100 different costumes over 100 days, attending hundreds of work video calls and [raising money for charity](#) – the current total is around £10,000 – with local charities benefitting including Samaritans North Herts, Age UK Herts and Phase Hitchin. His costumes also featured on the school run in Letchworth, delighting children, parents and teachers.

Now an award-winning mental health campaigner – a regional finalist for ITV’s Pride of Britain’s ‘Fundraiser of the Year’ – Nick has featured in local and national media and goes by the nickname ‘Fancy Dress Dad’. He has recently founded a business, Stories Matter, offering digital marketing and wellbeing consultancy. To reach Nick please email nick@storiesmatter.io

Nick said: “I live and thrive with anxiety. I'm on a mission to show the world that our mental health does not define us. I will continue to help, inspire and give hope to anyone struggling with their mental health. It’s ok to talk about it, I don’t want the next generation to feel ashamed. It’s been great to meet the other award winners, hopefully we’ll keep in touch as I think we could do some amazing work together.”

Young Star – Mia Jaszewska

After Mia's dad died unexpectedly the day before her 14th birthday, she has gone on to raise awareness and promote the needs of young people who have been bereaved, becoming a lead Young Ambassador for local bereavement support charity [Stand-by-me](#) in 2020.

Having completed the charity's support programme and joining the Young Ambassador programme, Mia became aware that there was little support at school and in the community for young people in her situation. She is now very active in supporting and mentoring younger bereaved children, with her confidence growing, taking the lead in raising awareness, including making a podcast for BBC Children in Need in 2020 about the effects of lockdown on the mental health of young people.

Mia is now at university studying textile design but is still raising awareness of the needs of bereaved young people. Mia said: "My work has shown me that childhood bereavement does not define us but does affect us. At the moment I'm working on a project using camouflage patterns to explore how we can create spaces to help people express their emotions, especially after losing someone, as opposed to blending in and disguising them.

"It's really nice to be recognised and I want to thank all those who have supported me in my work. For me it's all about helping others and paying it forward."

Four other Young Stars were nominated and will receive a certificate:

- Rosie Fletcher from Hitchin helped walk her neighbour's dog during the pandemic as they were unable to do so.
- Kathryn Osmond from Hitchin took on a huge level of responsibility at home during the pandemic, preparing meals and caring for her younger brother, which allowed her mum to continue her work on the frontline with the NHS.
- Dionne Sealy from Hitchin raised over £600 from the £1 challenge – all students are given £1 and asked to make as much money from it as possible. All the money raised went to Hitchin Food Bank.
- Jack Gower from Letchworth is a full-time wheelchair user and has shown a great determination to overcome any challenge presented to him and is an asset to his school. Outside of school Jack has represented North Herts in both regional and national competitions for T34 wheelchair racing and has competed in the London marathon three times!

ENDS

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PRESS RELEASE

PR 3658

14 March 2022

Trees planted for Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Eight special trees have been planted in parks throughout the district to help celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year on the throne.

Two Blue Cedar trees, aka 'Cedrus Atlantica Glauca', have been planted in each main town – Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Royston – and will grow over time to around 30m (100 ft). This superb evergreen conifer is a standout specimen tree – one which is planted singularly as a focus of attention.

Trees are being planted across the UK as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a unique tree planting initiative to help mark the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. The Queen's official anniversary was on 6 February, but celebrations are taking place throughout the year, including a four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June.

The council joins schools, community groups and individual members of the public in 'planting a tree for the Jubilee' and received a grant from Hertfordshire County Council towards planting the trees.

Councillor Steve Jarvis, Executive Member for Environment and Leisure, said: "We picked the Blue Cedar especially because it is easily recognisable with its steel blue foliage. In addition, we wanted all the trees across the district to be the same, and this species is also suited to the chalkier soil in Baldock and Royston.

"These special trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will help improve local biodiversity and air quality, and help us fight against climate change, reinforcing our recent tree giveaway. This campaign was very successful and saw residents and community organisations join forces to reduce carbon emissions by planting 10,000 saplings across the district."

The Blue Cedars, which will produce barrel shaped cones up to 12cm (5in) long and appear in late summer, are located at:

- Butts Close, Hitchin

- Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin
- Howard Gardens, Letchworth
- Norton Common, Letchworth
- Avenue Park, Baldock
- Chiltern Recreation Ground, Baldock
- Priory Gardens, Royston
- Serby Avenue Recreation Ground, Royston

Tree facts – Did you know...

- A mature tree can absorb up to 150kg of CO2 a year
- UK greenspaces remove up to 1.3 billion kg of air pollutants each year
- Well-placed trees can help cool the air between 2 and 8 degrees in urban communities.

Source: [Map - The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](http://queensgreencanopy.org)

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PRESS RELEASE

PR 3659

15 March 2022

Nearly £50m paid to businesses during Covid – and more money available!

Nearly 10,000 grant awards have been made to businesses in North Herts since the start of the Covid pandemic, totalling around £49,000,000 to help them cope, recover and move forward.

North Herts Council has been busy throughout the pandemic administering various grant and support schemes, helping thousands of businesses across Letchworth, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston and surrounding villages, including shops, pubs, restaurants, travel agents, hair and beauty providers, and personal trainers.

In the latest round of Addition Restriction Grants, we have paid around £537,000 to businesses in the events, sports and leisure sectors as well as coach tour operators, taxi drivers and those running a business from home.

Businesses all over the UK have borne the brunt of national lockdowns and different local levels and tiers of restrictions over the past two years. As the majority of schemes come to a close, there are still funds available up until the end of March.

Cllr Ian Albert, Executive Member for Finance and IT, said: “The support given by the joint administration of North Herts Council to local businesses over the last two years has made a real difference to our high streets and protected jobs. By way of our range of locally designed schemes, alongside government statutory payments, we have helped thousands of businesses through the pandemic.”

Councillor Sam North, Deputy Executive Member for Finance, said: “We continue to urge local businesses to come forward, especially to seek a reduction in their business rates of up to 25% for qualifying businesses before the end of this financial year – this particular scheme is for businesses that haven’t received certain other grants, so it’s definitely worth checking.”

Support schemes available:

Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) – deadline 30 April

Maximum of 25% relief for qualifying rate paying businesses for the current financial year 2021-22, criteria applies.

For more information and to apply for any of the business support schemes, please visit www.north-herts.gov.uk/businessgrants

New premises grants – deadline 31 March

Up to £5,000 to reimburse costs of preparing and moving into a new commercial premise within North Herts (the move must have taken place after 1 April 2021, and the costs incurred/invoice date after 1 July 2021).

Business growth grants – deadline 30 June (or sooner if all the money is allocated)

Up to £10,000 for businesses based in North Herts, for specific and general business advice provided by Hertfordshire Growth Hub, the county's flagship business support provider powered by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

ENDS

For more information contact Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474403.

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3660

15 March 2022

Over £6k allocated to Letchworth groups

Four community groups have been awarded a total of £6,454* following a meeting of the Letchworth Committee on 9 March.

Made In Clay was awarded £2,169 towards the purchase of additional shelving to house the work created as it waits to be fired or dries out. As a community-orientated organisation the group creates access to creativity for those often excluded in society because of their additional needs or low income. The group currently have 50 people regularly attending each week and within the last year 120 people attended one-off events such as exhibitions and demonstrations. The grant will allow them to divert their reserves to the increase of running costs such as energy.

Debbie Bent from Made In Clay said: "Lots of people are really struggling at the moment. We want to keep prices as low as we can in order to make classes affordable to attend which means we don't have an excess to improve the facilities or to weather any large increases in bills. We are very grateful for this support."

Khalsa Youth Football Academy was awarded £2,000 towards an additional Futsal project focusing on developing young leaders from different cultures and backgrounds aged 14 to 18. Futsal is similar to five-a-side football and played on a hard court, usually indoors. Due to over subscription on a recent young leaders' project, the Academy want to provide another safe community hub which offers a platform for youngsters to play and become coaches and young leaders.

Bal Singh, from the Academy said: "We are delighted to be awarded this grant to help continue our work developing our participants in the community. Futsal and social education is an excellent way to develop young people and inspire communities."

Garden City Samba was awarded £1,285 to provide online training resources in Brazilian carnival percussion music for existing and new band members. The group will use the grant to produce addition skills videos to keep members engaged and provide free instrument training to encourage new people to join. The group currently has 32 members and they have seen numbers increase as people look to join

community groups after lockdown. Garden City Samba entertain the local community through performances.

Alison Fairchild, Secretary, said: "We are really so grateful for this support, it will help us to keep our members engaged and move the band forward musically. Anyone interested in joining the band can access resources on our website and get a flavour of the kind of music we play."

Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club was awarded £1,000 towards repairing the ditch around their bowls green at Norton Common. The ditch is an essential requirement of the playing area under the rules of the game, and without repair presented a health and safety issue that would have made the green unusable for formal matches. The club provides gentle sport and recreation opportunities to the local community.

Sue Sinclair, Club Secretary, said: "We are extremely grateful to the council for agreeing the grant. Maintaining the bowling green in a good and safe condition is important so that players and visitors can enjoy participating in or watching matches, which is a really pleasant way of enjoying an afternoon with friends and meeting new people. We are always pleased to welcome new members and will be holding an open day on Saturday 9 April between 10am and 3pm at the upper green at Norton Common."

In addition, the committee extended its allocation of £2,000 to Wilbury and Icknield School Parents Association (WISPA) for a portacabin to store environmental project work including TerraCycle recycling streams, as it hadn't been spent within a year.

Councillor Daniel Allen, North Herts Council's Letchworth Committee Chair, said: "It's fantastic that Letchworth has such a diverse range of active community groups, offering interesting activities for local people of all ages – from pottery to football, Brazilian percussion music to traditional bowls!"

More information on [community grants](#)

*subject to completion of the necessary formalities

ENDS

For more information contact Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474403.

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3661

16 March 2022

North Herts Council's Royston committee award grant to Barley Town House for essential works

North Herts Council's Royston and District Committee awarded £500 to Barley Town House at its meeting on 08 March. *

Barley Town House, a registered charity, will use the grant to assist with costs for essential repair and renovation to the building, including the south facing windows, frames, doors, and timber. These works are essential to ensure the building remains fit for purpose. The listed building is around 500 years old. For the first 400 years it was used as a school and to provide housing for the poor. It is currently used by many community groups and residents in the district for a variety of purposes.

Nicholas Shaw, Committee Chair for Barley Town House said: "The management committee is extremely grateful to the Royston and District Committee for their financial support which will enable The Barley Town House to continue to be used for a wide variety of activities by the local community, from Pilates classes to weddings and receptions.

Funding has been required to enable the committee to commission works to the south facing timbers which have suffered from the inevitable sun damage over the last 500 years."

Cllr Tony Hunter, Chair of Royston Committee said: "The Committee was delighted to award this grant to ensure Barley Town House, which is popular with local community groups and residents alike, is fit for purpose and can continue to be at the heart of the community."

To find out more about North Herts Council's Community Grants please click here: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/community/grants/community-grants>

*subject to completion of necessary formalities

ENDS

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