

# OUTLOOK



BUSINESS GRANTS

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

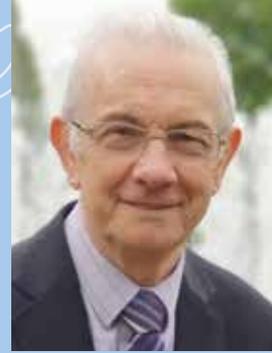
VIRTUAL MUSEUM

HEALTHY HUB



SPREADING A  
LITTLE HAPPINESS  
IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

# FROM THE LEADERS



In May this year, our fellow North Herts Labour and Co-Operative Party Councillors and Liberal Democrat Councillors, agreed to continue to work in partnership for another year in a joint administration. We appreciate that cross-party, co-operative working has become even more important in recent months during the coronavirus pandemic and we remain committed to pulling together, in the best interests of our residents and businesses.

This is of course not a business as usual edition of Outlook, however we felt it was an important opportunity to provide you with information on sources of

coronavirus help and support, as well as financial and wellbeing advice.

A few weeks ago, we also reintroduced food and garden waste collections, after having to temporarily suspend them due to staff shortages, as a result of the pandemic. We would like to express our personal thanks to the bin crews who continued to collect our refuse and recycling during the height of the pandemic, for which we are all extremely grateful. Don't forget to put your food caddy out for collection every week. On page 7 you will find some useful tips on recycling your food waste, ensuring it doesn't end up in landfill.

We do hope you are staying safe and well in these uncertain times. Please don't forget that your local councillors are all here to help and you can find their contact details on our website. You can also keep up to date on disruption to services, as well as support on offer by going to [www.north-herts.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/coronavirus)

CLLR MARTIN  
STEARNS-HANDSCOMB,  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CLLR PAUL CLARK,  
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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## CONTACTING NHDC

Most NHDC services can be accessed online. Find out the date of your next waste collection, apply for a licence, report an issue, register to vote or pay a bill, all through our website: [www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)



## OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 01462 474000

 [www.facebook.com/northhertsDC](http://www.facebook.com/northhertsDC)

 @NorthHertsDC

- NHDC is committed to equal opportunities and our aim is to make our services easy for all residents to use. If English is not your first language or you have difficulty reading this document please contact us to discuss how we may be able to assist you.

Please call: 01462 474000, or email [service@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:service@north-herts.gov.uk)  
Textphone (for textphone users) on: 01462 474800



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“ MAKING NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
A VIBRANT PLACE TO LIVE,  
WORK AND PROSPER ”



# CORONAVIRUS HELP AND SUPPORT FOR NORTH HERTS RESIDENTS

Know someone  
who needs help?



If you or someone you know is self-isolating, vulnerable and in need of support, contact HertsHelp for emotional support or practical help.

0300 123 4044  
info@hertshelp.net  
www.hertshelp.net

Medical and health advice  
and information  
www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Health and wellbeing  
advice and support



Contact Healthy Hub North Herts to access free information and support including: how to stay mentally well and physically active, stay socially connected and ensure access to essential items such as food/medication.

01462 474111  
healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk  
www.healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk

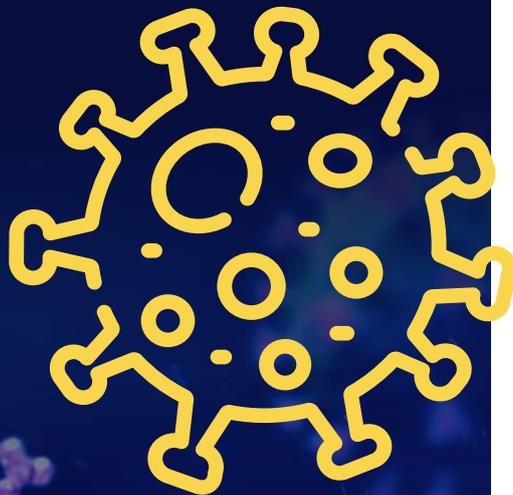
Financial assistance



If you're having problems paying your Council Tax, contact NHDC's Revenues Team on 01462 474595 as soon as possible.

You may be eligible for Council Tax Reduction. You can claim at:  
www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/benefits/apply-benefits

For independent financial advice contact Citizens Advice  
03444 111 444  
www.northhertscab.org.uk



## New Managing Director role for NHDC

From 18 July the Council will have a Managing Director. Anthony Roche, NHDC's current Deputy Chief Executive, will be moving into the newly created role following a resolution of Council on 27 February, to delete the posts of Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive and to establish a new Managing Director post. At that meeting, Council also agreed to accept the voluntary redundancy of the Chief Executive, David Scholes.

“

I am grateful for all the opportunities the Council has given me over the last twelve years and am looking forward to leading the organisation

”

The decision to make the changes to the Council's most senior structure has been made due to the Council's need to make £1.35 million of annual savings. The changes to the structure will result in forecast savings of around £124,000 a year from 2021/22 onwards.

Anthony Roche said, "I am grateful for all the opportunities the Council has given me over the last twelve years and am looking forward to leading the organisation. Our recent Corporate Peer Challenge has identified some really exciting and interesting opportunities for the Council and our community, and I look forward to working with colleagues and Councillors to implement our ideas."





# Helping victims of domestic abuse

Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) is an organisation we work closely with to help victims of domestic abuse in North Herts.

During the initial strict lockdown period of the coronavirus pandemic, contact with SADA from women and men asking for help, due to a domestic abuse situation at home, increased by 50%.

A resident who was assisted by SADA during the height of the pandemic said, "I was in a refuge having fled there with my daughter when the pandemic happened. My daughter and I both have additional health issues and being in shared accommodation was not suitable. I approached NHDC and as soon as I mentioned domestic abuse they asked if I would like support and referred me to SADA.

"I was given a support worker who has helped me every step of the way and my daughter and I moved into the Stevenage Safe Space, which was amazing. My support worker kept in constant touch and it is so nice to have someone to talk to. I really feel that I have come so far with their help and I am now in a really good place and looking forward to the future. I would advise anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse to get in touch with SADA, they have been a life saver."

SADA can help those who are suffering from domestic abuse in North Herts with:

- Accessing legal advice
- Emotional support for you or your family
- Debt and benefits advice
- Housing/tenancy issues
- Putting additional security features in the home

- Referrals to other agencies who can help
- Taking part in a virtual support group

Help is still available during the coronavirus pandemic, so if you or someone you know needs help, contact SADA (also known as Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse) on 01438 242666 or [SADA@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:SADA@stevenage.gov.uk) for support and information.

If you are in immediate danger but are afraid to speak, call 999 then press 5 and 5 to alert the police. There is no need to speak.

Other domestic abuse organisations that provide information and support in North Herts include:

## Herts Helpline:

Call 08 088 088 088, 9am-9pm Monday to Friday and 9am-4pm weekends

Confidential email:  
[Kim@mailpurple.org](mailto:Kim@mailpurple.org)

## Herts Sunflower:

[www.hertssunflower.org/herts-sunflower.aspx](http://www.hertssunflower.org/herts-sunflower.aspx)

## Refuge:

[www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)



## NHDC distributes emergency parcels to local charities

Since April, NHDC has been distributing food, hygiene and cleaning parcels to local groups, to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the help they need during the coronavirus pandemic.

Across Hertfordshire, food parcels have been delivered to those residents who have been told by their GPs that they can't leave their homes because severe health conditions put them at risk of coronavirus.

Whilst Hertfordshire County Council is leading on this initiative, we are co-ordinating our efforts with them so that we can reach even more of the district's vulnerable people.

As the take up of the parcels was slightly lower than the Government anticipated, NHDC was initially able to obtain 150 packs (a mixture of food, cleaning and hygiene parcels) and has since received them weekly. We then distribute them to local charities and organisations who are coming into contact with those in need.

Organisations who have received the packs include homeless charity, Feed Up Warm Up, the Need project who distribute food parcels to those in need, the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and the Salvation Army. NHDC also delivers packs to Hertfordshire Constabulary as they reported they are encountering vulnerable residents on home visits. NHDC's Healthy Hub, a service offering health and wellbeing advice, received the remaining parcels as they are also receiving requests for assistance from vulnerable residents.

If you require assistance, contact Herts Help who are providing grocery packs. To find out if you qualify call: 0300 123 4044 or visit: <https://hertsindependentliving.org/food-and-grocery-packs/>





**Herts Careline**  
Because independence  
is important



# Herts Careline: COVID-19 will not stop us providing our service to you.

**If you are healthy:**

We will visit your home to install your equipment.

**If you are self-isolating, shielding or suffering from COVID-19:**

We will provide pre-programmed equipment to your doorstep. We will telephone you to give step-by-step instructions on how to plug in your equipment and make a test call to our Control Room.

We will make an appointment when you have recovered, to install any complex equipment which needs our engineers' expertise

For every customer our engineers visit, they will be wearing PPE, will use sanitising wipes on surfaces and adhere to the two metre social distancing regulations.

Find out more at [www.care-line.co.uk](http://www.care-line.co.uk)  
or call 0300 999 2 999

## KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR ALERTS

There are three easy ways that you can get the latest information about any disruption to our services:

**1.**  Sign-up to text alerts to your phone

**2.**  Sign up to our email bulletins

**3.**  Check our Disruption to Services webpage

Sign-up at [www.north-herts.gov.uk/updates](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/updates) 

[www.north-herts.gov.uk/serviceupdates](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/serviceupdates)

Our e-bulletins are not just for coronavirus related information. You can sign up to receive news on topics such as parks and countryside, waste and recycling and news from the North Herts Museum and much more.



# WASTE & RECYCLING

## Food and garden waste collections resume

In April we had to take the difficult decision to suspend food and garden waste collections. This was necessary to enable us to be able to continue to collect refuse and recycling, while facing staffing shortages, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our bin crews through these difficult times and for all the pictures, waves, claps and messages of support. We also appreciated the efforts people went to in cleaning their bins and managing their waste as a result of the virus.

We loved seeing your posters thanking the bin crews – here are a couple of our favourites:



We've also included a blank colouring sheet on the back page of the magazine, in case you wanted to colour it in and stick it to your bin lid. It would make our crews' day!



Now that our crews are collecting garden and food waste again, please do make sure you are putting all of your food waste in your outdoor caddy for collection, to help ensure food waste is being composted and not sent unnecessarily to landfill.

Recycling food waste  
Why it matters...

Recycling your food waste is great for the environment and much better than sending it to landfill. Although food waste will eventually break down in landfill, it will release greenhouse gases as it decomposes, such as methane. By recycling your food waste, the amount of greenhouse gasses produced is reduced.

Food waste placed in your food caddy is collected and recycled into compost for farmland.

In 2019 North Herts residents sent 4,865 tonnes of food waste for composting! That is the equivalent of 384 double decker buses which is fantastic!



This year we would like to do even better. If you haven't recycled your food waste before, now is a good time to get started!

As well as being better for the environment, composting food waste is also more cost-effective as sending waste to landfill is very expensive. As we collect it weekly, it also saves space in your purple bin for non-recyclable items and can reduce the likelihood of smells and pests.



# GET STUCK IN...

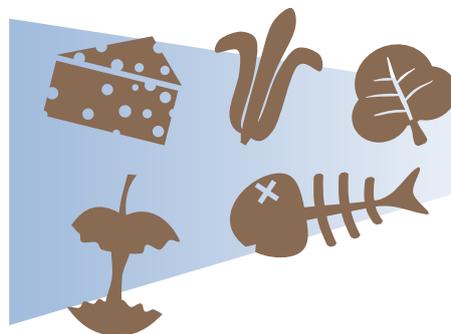
Recycling your food waste is easy! Just put all your food waste into your kitchen caddy. This includes fruit and vegetable peelings, out of date food (removed from packaging), plate scrapings, fish and meat bones. You can put it in loose or use compostable caddy liners, as long as they have a seedling logo.



Your kitchen caddy contents should be emptied regularly into your brown caddy (which you can keep outdoors) alongside your other bins and will be collected weekly.

## Do you need a kitchen caddy?

If you need a kitchen caddy to help get you started, please visit [www.north-herts.gov.uk/newcaddy](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/newcaddy). We can even include some caddy liners for the first 1,000 sign ups. We will deliver your kitchen caddy to you as soon as possible, but please allow up to six weeks for it to arrive.



Love  
food, hate  
waste!

Although recycling your food waste is better than sending it to landfill, reducing food waste is even better still and better for your pocket. On average, 7 million tonnes of food waste is thrown out of UK households each year, which equates to a family of four throwing away £70 each month.



Here are three steps you can take to limit the amount of food waste in your home:

### Buy what you need

- Start by looking in your fridge, freezer and cupboards before you go shopping and think about what you really need, then write a list and stick to it!
- Be sensible and try not to be drawn in by special offers and discounts – if you aren't going to eat it, it isn't a bargain!

### Store food properly

- Familiarise yourself with how to properly store your food, making sure your fridge is set at the right temperature – below 5°. This will prevent food from going off or spoiling early.
- Also, remember many foods can be kept in the freezer until you need to use them, such as bread and herbs.
- Freeze extra portions of meals to use later, smaller portions can be used for lunches.

### Eat what you buy

- Eat up whatever leftovers or odd fruit and veg you have in your fridge or freezer before going shopping for more.
- There are lots of delicious and interesting meals that can be made up from leftovers or cupboard staples – visit [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) for inspiration.

Remember that some food waste is unavoidable – toss old teabags, eggshells and bones into your food caddy.



# We're recruiting people who **care**

At Care UK, we're committed to delivering the highest quality care for residents in our care homes, and we're looking for caring and passionate people to make that happen.

You'll need to be used to caring for others or you may have looked after someone elderly. What is for certain is that you will have a real desire to help others and lots of energy and enthusiasm. In return, we'll offer you a range of benefits, flexible hours and an award-winning training and induction programme that will make you will feel confident and supported from day one. You'll also have the satisfaction of helping make people's lives more fulfilling in a role where the work can be hard, but also fun and rewarding.

Search our vacancies and find out more about Care UK at [careers.careuk.com](https://careers.careuk.com) or email [rcs.recruitment@careuk.com](mailto:rcs.recruitment@careuk.com)



*Fulfilling lives. Fulfilling careers*

We're recruiting

care assistants

chefs

receptionists

housekeepers

# North Herts Museum reaches out via video and social media

North Hertfordshire Museum now has its own YouTube channel where you can view educational videos and get exclusive, behind the scenes glimpses of life at the Museum. The videos, created by the Museum Education Department, include interviews about North Herts Suffragettes, a tour of the recent Rembrandt art exhibition and a family friendly look at how ancient Egyptians mummified their Pharaohs – using teddy bears to tell the story.

New content is uploaded regularly, so if you have a YouTube account make sure you subscribe to their channel so you don't miss out. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for North Herts Museum.

The Museum also recently welcomed many new followers to their social media channels, posting on

Facebook – @northhertsmuseum, Twitter – @nhertsmuseum (where they participate in Art UK's national online art sharing scheme) and Instagram – @northhertsmuseum, as well as blogging on its website – most recently about the history of Pirton, Hinxworth, Nuthampstead, Walkern and Kimpton villages in North Herts. Like, subscribe or follow to be kept up to date with the latest news and events.



“ North Hertfordshire Museum now has its own YouTube channel where you can view educational videos and get exclusive, behind the scenes glimpses of life at the Museum. ”



## LETCWORTH'S FOUNTAIN TURNS BLUE!

To show our support to NHS staff, carers and all key workers who have been serving the community during the coronavirus crisis. We have been dyeing the water blue in the fountains at Broadway Gardens, Letchworth. The water feature was dyed an 'ocean blue' shade by NHDC staff ahead of the weekly 'clap for carers'.

Residents have been sharing their pictures of the blue fountain on social media, thanking all key workers and describing the fountain as "beautiful". Blue lights also shone over Hitchin Town Hall and Royston Town Hall in support of the weekly event.



# Use your waste water to help save newly planted trees

We are supporting a national campaign focusing on watering newly planted trees during the summer months and we need your help.

The campaign, which is being promoted by the Arboricultural Association, focuses on how young trees might be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, if contractors who ordinarily water them are not available to do so.

We are encouraging residents to help water newly planted trees on road verges near their homes and in parks, which can be identified by being supported by wooden stakes with tree guards around them.

Where possible, water used should be sustainably sourced – bath water or water that has been used for washing up can be used, with harvested rainwater being ideal.

Top tips for watering include:

- Water regularly during dry periods with as much as you can – every little helps
- The best time to water is in the early morning or evening
- If the tree has a watering tube, then half of the water should be poured down the tube and the other half on the ground surface near the base of the tree

So please think twice before you pull the plug on that bath or washing up water and put it to good use helping a thirsty tree in your neighbourhood survive the summer.



## Provide a 'Hug by Post' to older, vulnerable people in North Herts



Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS) provide a range of services to help older and vulnerable people stay happy, healthy and independent.

During lockdown they have been busy delivering meals on wheels to thousands of elderly people every day, many of whom live alone and have been left feeling disconnected and isolated during this time.

As lockdown begins to ease, many of us will start to see our family members and friends outside again. Unfortunately, many of the people HILS work with are still required to self-isolate and so isolation and loneliness persists.

To help combat the effects of social isolation, HILS recently launched the 'Hugs by Post' campaign and are inviting children to draw and send in pictures to share with older people.

If you would like to get involved, all you need to do is send a colourful drawing, an uplifting message, or poem, which HILS will distribute to their clients, so that they know people are thinking about them and that they're not alone. Please include your name, age and where you're from.

You can send your creation by post to:

Hugs by Post,  
Unit 16 Green Lane One,  
Blackhorse Road,  
Letchworth,  
SG6 1HB



You can also take it to NHDC's offices by posting it through the letter box on Gernon Road.

For more information and some resources to get you started visit: <https://hertsindependentliving.org/news-media/providing-comfort-to-isolated-older-and-vulnerable-people-with-a-hug-by-post/>



# NORTH HERTS GROWS WILD



Following feedback from residents asking to have more biodiversity rich wildflower areas in North Herts, we are allowing several sites across the district to grow wild this summer, to see if the idea works.

Trial sites include:

- Large grassy area between Letchworth Gate and Waysbrook, Letchworth
- Grass areas between the new football pitches at Walsworth Common, Hitchin

- Grass patches around the edge of Baldock Road Recreation Ground, Baldock

The grass in these areas will not be cut during the summer months and will be allowed to grow wild, allowing any naturally occurring wildflowers to bloom at the sites. The wild areas will be mowed in late August/early September, which will allow any wildflowers to set seed for next year.

Prior to cutting, the sites will be monitored by the Countryside Management Service to identify any plants that appear which are of value to biodiversity. Results of the trials will be fed into the Council's Greenspace Strategy starting in 2021, which will identify how this idea, if successful, can progress in the future.

## Healthy Hub provides coronavirus support in North Herts



The North Herts Healthy Hub launched in January this year, to provide residents with wellbeing and support services. Funded by Hertfordshire County Council, the service has already helped many residents across the district.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Healthy Hub has tailored its service to provide residents with coronavirus information, advice and support.

The team have been liaising closely with local services and initiatives, in order to direct residents to the provision that best suits their needs. As you can imagine, the team has received lots of queries about accessing food, medication and financial advice, and are working hard to answer any queries that come their way.

The pandemic is posing significant challenges for many of us, so it is now more important than ever that we find the time to look after our health and wellbeing. The Healthy Hub team have put together a resource kit with plenty of ideas to help you keep active, eat well and look after your mental health.

You can find it at:

[www.healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk/health-and-wellbeing](http://www.healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk/health-and-wellbeing)

Here are some of the team's favourite tools and tips to keep you feeling healthy and well during this challenging time.

### Staying active

We have all been spending a lot more time at home than we might like, which is why staying as physically active as possible is really important for our body as well as our mind.

There are lots of ways we can keep moving, from morning runs to online home workouts, evening walks to weekend gardening.

Our top tip for getting active is to get active YOUR way! We're all different, so it's important to find an activity that works for you as this way you're more likely to stick to it. If all else fails, stick some music on and have a dance around your kitchen, there is nothing better than a bit of boogying to lighten your mood and get your heart pumping.

### Eating well

Eating a healthy, balanced diet is so important for your health and your waistline. Seeing as we are all spending a lot more time at home, it's a great opportunity to develop your cooking skills, try some new healthy recipes and have some fun in the kitchen with the family.

### Looking after your mental health

It's just as important to look after your mind as it is your body. During these unsettling times, it's common to feel worried, stressed, frustrated, anxious and lonely, but it's important to remember that it's ok to feel this way, this is an unusual situation.

### Useful websites:

Every Mind Matters: [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/)

Mind: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

The Hertfordshire Wellbeing Service: [www.northessexiapt.nhs.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.northessexiapt.nhs.uk/hertfordshire)



ADVERTISEMENT



2 & 3 bedroom homes

**Meridian Gate**

Royston SG8 7LU



**PHASE ONE  
NOW  
SOLD OUT!**

# Register your interest early for phase 2!

Available to reserve from late Autumn, with shared ownership, you can own a new 2 or 3 bedroom home at Meridian Gate in Royston.

**Register your interest today!**  
[settlegroup.org.uk/meridiangate](https://settlegroup.org.uk/meridiangate)

-  40% shares available with shared ownership
-  Not just for first time buyers

**settle.**



Register your interest early for the next phase of new homes available with shared ownership at Meridian Gate, Royston.

*Luxury, modern properties in a fantastic location.*

# PHASE TWO LAUNCHING SOON AT MERIDIAN GATE, ROYSTON

Do you have a connection to North Hertfordshire District Council, (including living within the area OR working in the area OR have immediate family who live in the wide Local authority area)? Are you looking to get on to the property ladder now or in the near future but struggling to get a large enough deposit together? Shared ownership at Meridian Gate could help you take your first step up and allow you to buy a new home that you would have otherwise been unable to afford.

settle, established in 2003 and previously known as North Hertfordshire Homes is known for building high quality, affordable homes including shared ownership. With all 17 units in Phase 1 now sold, they are launching Phase 2 in the Autumn with 20 brand new two and three bedroom houses at the Meridian Gate development in Royston.

At Meridian Gate, in Phase 2, settle have eight two-bedroom houses and twelve three-bedroom houses, each with two parking spaces allocated either on a driveway or close to the home. Khuram

Kaur, head of sales and marketing at settle, said: "With integrated appliances, and flooring fitted throughout, we're making the process of moving so much easier. These homes will also suit those who have previously owned a home, and have some equity available, but not quite enough to get back onto the housing ladder."

Royston has a lot to offer, including a good range of amenities such as high street brands and independent shops, banks, a post office and a pharmacy. With peaceful, green, open spaces nearby and convenient links to Bedford, Hertford and London for commuters, Royston offers the best of both worlds. Khuram believes this is what makes it ideal for the local commuter: "Meridian Gate is an excellent location. It's only a 40 minute train journey to London and just 15 minutes from Cambridge."

## Shared ownership

settle's shared ownership homes at Meridian Gate will be available to reserve from late Autumn, and

currently scheduled to complete by the end of the year, beginning of 2021. Khuram explained that settle are currently offering initial shares of between 40-75% on all new shared ownership homes at Meridian Gate. There is also the opportunity to eventually buy 100% of the home through staircasing, which allows you to buy additional shares.

An example of pricing for a shared ownership house at Meridian Gate:

(2 Bed House): £315,000\*  
40% Share: £126,000  
Deposit required (min): £6,300

Monthly costs:  
Rent: £433.13  
Mortgage: £643  
Service Charge: £34.90

For further information visit [settlegroup.org.uk/meridiangate](http://settlegroup.org.uk/meridiangate), call 01462 534369 or email [sales@settlegroup.org.uk](mailto:sales@settlegroup.org.uk)

\* Value provided is an indication only and does not demonstrate the real value of homes on phase two. Property values are yet to be confirmed. Rent is calculated at 2.75% of the remaining share and mortgage payments based on an interest rate of 5% and a 30 year mortgage term.

# Getting help for your North Herts business

Financial support from the Government for businesses affected by coronavirus is being made available through the Council in the form of grant funds, payments and a business rates relief scheme.

Businesses whose properties qualify for the business rates holiday do not need to do anything – we will apply the discount automatically. Revised bills reflecting the fact that no payments are due are being sent out.

## Business Grants

Do you run a small business from a property with a rateable value of under £15,000? Did you know you may be eligible to receive a £10,000 grant from the Government to assist with the impact of coronavirus on your business?

Grant funding of either £10,000 or £25,000 is also available for qualifying retail, hospitality and leisure businesses, where the rateable value is under £51,000.

We have already processed over 2,000 grants worth over £24 million and we are now processing payments on a daily basis. If you think you might be eligible, don't delay, complete our easy online application form. Please note - this is a grant, not a loan - you won't have to pay it back. Apply online at [www.north-herts.gov.uk/business-support](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/business-support)



## What's worrying you...?

**Low Esteem**

**Stress**

**Anger**

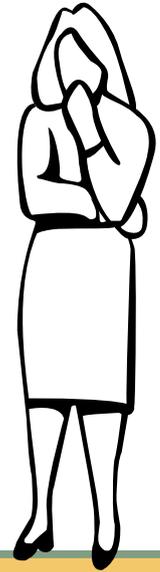
**Anxiety**

**Low Mood**

**Free introductory consultation with a qualified therapist**

**We are offering online therapy via Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, or WhatsApp, so that you can access the help you need wherever you are.**

In total confidence call / text 07986 488690 or email [info@emotionalskills.uk](mailto:info@emotionalskills.uk)



**[www.emotionalskills.uk](http://www.emotionalskills.uk)**

## Other sources of funding

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Visit Herts are offering small and micro businesses within the tourism, leisure, hospitality, retail, arts and cultural sectors, the chance to unlock between £2,000 and £5,000 in match funding to help overcome the challenges of COVID-19. For more information go to [www.visithertsbusiness.co.uk/get-involved/crowdfund-hertfordshire-small-business-innovation-fund/](http://www.visithertsbusiness.co.uk/get-involved/crowdfund-hertfordshire-small-business-innovation-fund/).

## Need more support?

Hertfordshire Growth Hub is on hand to help businesses access the advice and guidance they need to minimise the impact of COVID-19. Go to: [www.hertsgrowthhub.com/covid-19](http://www.hertsgrowthhub.com/covid-19) for the latest news, resources and support.

The Government has also launched a Business Support Finder tool to help businesses and self-employed people easily determine what financial support is available to them. Go to: [www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder](http://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder)



## Elections are currently on hold but work still goes on

Local elections were cancelled in May this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Since then our Elections team have been busy working on Canvass Reform – where we gather information on potential additions, changes to, and deletions from the Register of Electors – making sure the list of those who are registered to vote is up to date.

This year we are also changing the way we check that the details of the 100,100 electors we have registered to vote are up to date. Instead of sending a 'Household Enquiry Form' to every residential address in North Herts, asking those eligible to vote in that household if details we hold are correct, we will now check elector registered details with the Department of Work and Pensions first, then either email or send a letter of confirmation to registered voters. If we still can't verify voter information, we would need to contact individuals by post, email or phone call. This is in line with new government legislation and will streamline the process, making it more efficient and cost effective.

If you have not registered to vote go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



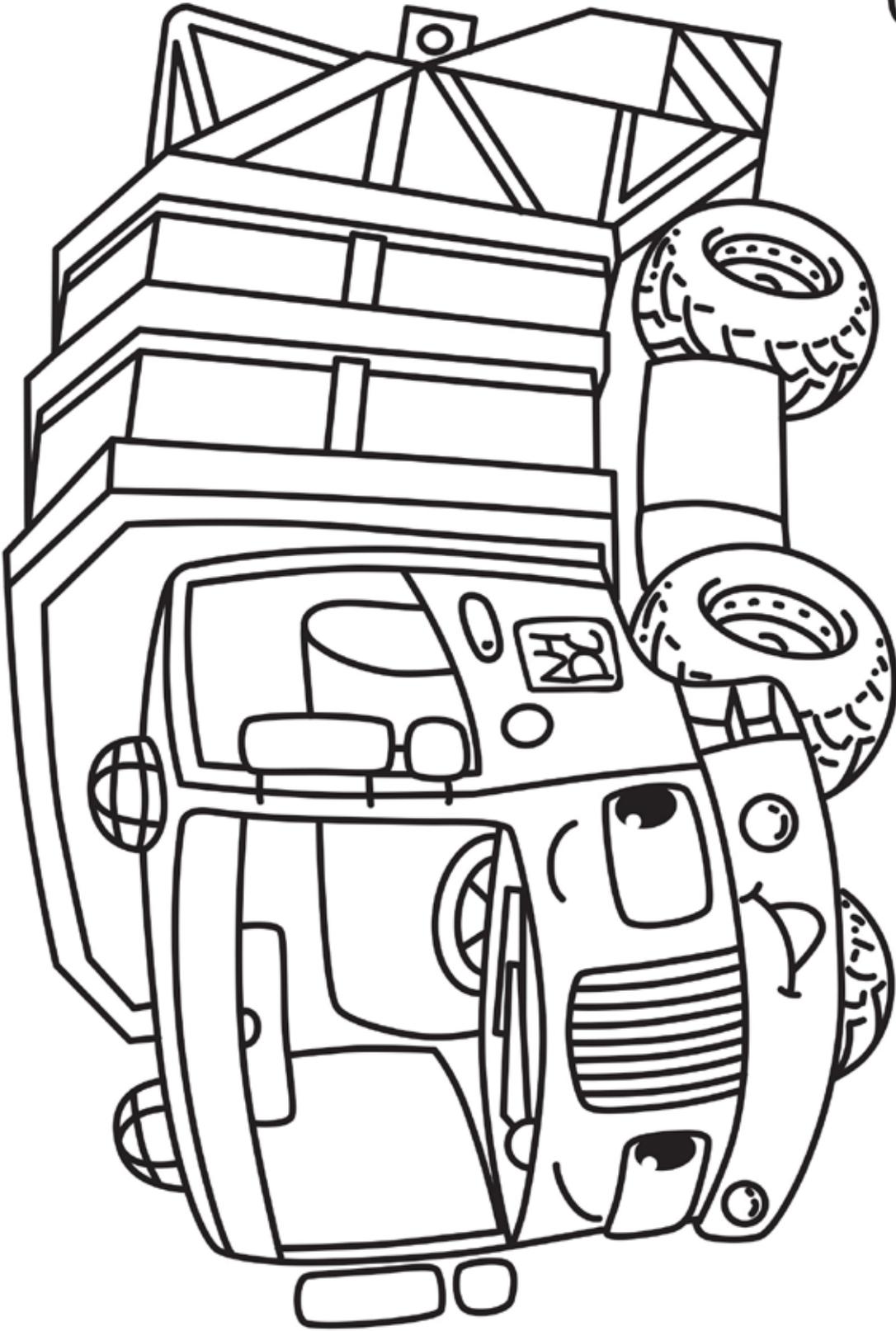
## Council Meetings 01 July to 20 October (7.30pm start time unless otherwise stated)

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, meetings are currently being held virtually and meetings dates/times may change. Please check our website to confirm the details: <https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

DATE	COMMITTEE	DATE	COMMITTEE
1 July 2020	Royston and District Committee	10 September 2020	Council
6 July 2020	Licensing and Appeals Committee	15 September 2020	Cabinet
7 July 2020	Cabinet Panel on the Environment	16 September 2020	Cabinet Panel on Housing, Strategic Planning and Transport*
9 July 2020	Council	17 September 2020	Planning Control Committee
14 July 2020	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 September 2020	(10.00am) - Joint Staff Consultative Committee
16 July 2020	Planning Control Committee	29 September 2020	Hitchin Committee
20 July 2020	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	5 October 2020	Baldock and District Committee
21 July 2020	Cabinet	7 October 2020	Royston and District Committee
20 August 2020	Planning Control Committee	8 October 2020	Southern Rural Committee
2 September 2020	Cabinet Panel on Community Engagement and Cooperative Development*	14 October 2020	Letchworth Committee
7 September 2020	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	15 October 2020	Planning Committee
8 September 2020	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 October 2020	Standards Committee
9 September 2020	Cabinet Panel on the Environment		

\*Date is provisional





THANK YOU!

