

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OUTLOOK



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

ANNUAL REVIEW

TAXI SAFETY

WHAT'S ON



FESTIVE FUN IN NORTH HERTS

WINTER 2019

www.north-herts.gov.uk

FROM THE LEADER



“ It was a great privilege in September to speak to the climate emergency activists, who sang and made themselves known outside the Council Offices, as part of the worldwide Climate Strikes inspired by Greta Thunberg. Caring for the environment and responding to the Climate Emergency has been one of our top priorities since we formed the new Cabinet in May and in this issue of Outlook you can find out about our work that we have started in this area (see page 16).

We are also working on what being a Co-operative Council means in practice (see page 7). With no party in overall control, our Cabinet comes from two parties and we are making changes so that all councillors can make their

contribution. And working together also means working with you, our residents, in ensuring we provide the best services we can within the constraints of our ever shrinking resources.

I am pleased that we have maintained weekly waste and recycling collections for flats and made progress in tackling issues which some residents have experienced with our waste and recycling service over the last 18 months. How we engage with residents is high on our agenda and so we have been working on ensuring our regular Town Talk meetings and Councillor surgeries appeal to a wider audience. But not everyone is able, or feels confident to engage in that way, so we are working to engage with harder to reach groups, in particular younger people.

We want you to know how we are keeping our promises, so we are currently finalising our new Council Plan (see page 16), which will be available on our website and regular progress updates will be reported through Outlook and our other communications channels.

Finally, we are working to change the culture of the Council and make it even more open and welcoming, less bureaucratic and more enterprising, at the same time valuing the contribution of our hard-working staff. ”

CLLR MARTIN STEARS-HANDSCOMB,
LEADER OF NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT 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



OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 01462 474000



www.facebook.com/northhertsDC



@NorthHertsDC

In Person: Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF

- 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
Textphone (for textphone users) on: 01462 474800



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



Five North Herts parks and nature reserves win Green Flag Awards

NHDC celebrated five of its parks and nature reserves winning Green Flag Awards earlier this year, including two of them for the tenth year in a row.

Priory Memorial Gardens in Royston and **Norton Common** Local Nature Reserve in Letchworth were both granted these awards for the tenth consecutive year, recognising their continuous high level of management and maintenance over the last decade.



Green Flag Awards are prestigious environmental awards run by Keep Britain Tidy and are awarded to the best parks and open spaces in the UK. Judges visit sites to look closely at maintenance standards and facilities they provide for the local community.

Other NHDC managed parks and nature reserves to win this year include **Oughtonhead Common** Local Nature Reserve in Hitchin,

Ivel Springs Local Nature Reserve in Baldock and **Howard Park and Gardens** in Letchworth.

The Council works alongside Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside Management Service and John O'Conner, NHDC's grounds contractor, to keep maintenance standards to a high level at all of our green spaces.

“

Green Flag Awards are prestigious environmental awards run by Keep Britain Tidy

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Keep up to date with @NorthHerts

Are you keeping up to date with news in North Herts? Sign up to NHDC's email bulletin service called @NorthHerts, which delivers news from the Council straight to your inbox. There are a range of topics so you only need to sign up for what interests you, and you can change your preferences at any time.

Topics include latest news, events, waste and recycling,

North Hertfordshire Museum, parks and countryside and Active North Herts. You can also use it to find out about any disruption to services, or to find out what job opportunities there are at the Council.

It is quick and easy to sign up, simply visit the @NorthHerts sign up page www.north-herts.gov.uk/subscribe to find out more.



"I was morbidly obese, had absolutely no strength in any of my muscles and was exhausted walking around the supermarket.

Joining the Exercise Referral Scheme is one of the best things I've done in some years. I feel truly rejuvenated both mentally as well as physically, made a number of friends and always feel most welcome by all the trainers and other staff at the gym".

- Anna

Exercise Referral Member



Exercise
Referral
Scheme

Scan here to read Anna's Exercise Referral Story

Find out how we can provide safe exercise & extra care for your medical condition at sll.co.uk/exercise-referral



lifestyles
at knights 

Weston Way, Baldock
Hertfordshire, SG7 6EY
sll.co.uk/knights-templar



Woodcock Rd, Royston,
Hertfordshire, SG8 7XT
sll.co.uk/royston



Fishponds Road, Hitchin,
Hertfordshire, SG5 1HA
sll.co.uk/hitchin

**NORTH HERTS
LEISURE CENTRE**

Baldock Rd, Letchworth,
Hertfordshire, SG6 2ER
sll.co.uk/north-herts

KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Hertfordshire Police are looking to recruit more volunteers to Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the district. Currently more than 150,000 households across Hertfordshire participate in a scheme but they would like there to be many more.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes help to keep local communities secure; keeping an eye on homes when people are out, watching out for those who are vulnerable and receiving and sharing crime prevention advice to help people feel safe in their homes.

Signing up to your local Neighbourhood Watch, you will receive regular policing updates and alerts from the local

policing team via email, or telephone if preferred. The team will advise you about what is happening locally and how you can help e.g. looking out for stolen property, suspicious activity or missing people.

As part of a Watch scheme, your details will be securely stored on the Online Watch Link (OWL) system and you will be giving access to OWL by logging on to the OWL website and clicking on the 'local' tab to find local information including crime mapping, Police contacts, Trusted Trader information and much more. Online live chats are available so you can talk directly to the Safer Neighbourhood Police team without having to leave your home.



To find out more about OWL and to sign-up to your local Neighbourhood Watch visit www.owl.co.uk selecting 'Join a watch' to register your details.

Help for people sleeping rough over the winter months

Emergency hostel accommodation is available year round for single homeless people at North Herts Sanctuary in Hitchin, via a service provided by The Haven. During the coldest winter months, extra provision is made for people sleeping rough in freezing conditions, with additional overnight beds and on-site support.

For more information, please visit the Housing Advice and Homelessness Support pages on the NHDC website. Here you will also be able to find useful advice and information about housing issues and access our online portal to contact us if you are worried about your housing situation.

“ If you have any concerns about someone sleeping rough in the district, please report this to StreetLink

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If you have any concerns about someone sleeping rough in the district, please report this to StreetLink www.streetlink.org.uk They will notify the Council and our outreach support service, so that the individual can be located and given appropriate assistance.



ANNUAL REVIEW

On these pages we take a look back at our financial year April 2018 to March 2019 to give you a picture of what services and projects we have been delivering and how we have been managing our finances.



What we spent in 2018/2019

In 2018/19 the Council managed to achieve savings of around £2.9 million. This follows the achievement of budgeted savings of £1.2 million in 2017/18 and £400,000 in each of the two financial years before that. For the equivalent of just over 61p per day for the majority of households, the services provided by the Council

include refuse and recycling collections, leisure centres, parks, grounds maintenance, housing benefits, licensing, planning, car parking, and environmental health.

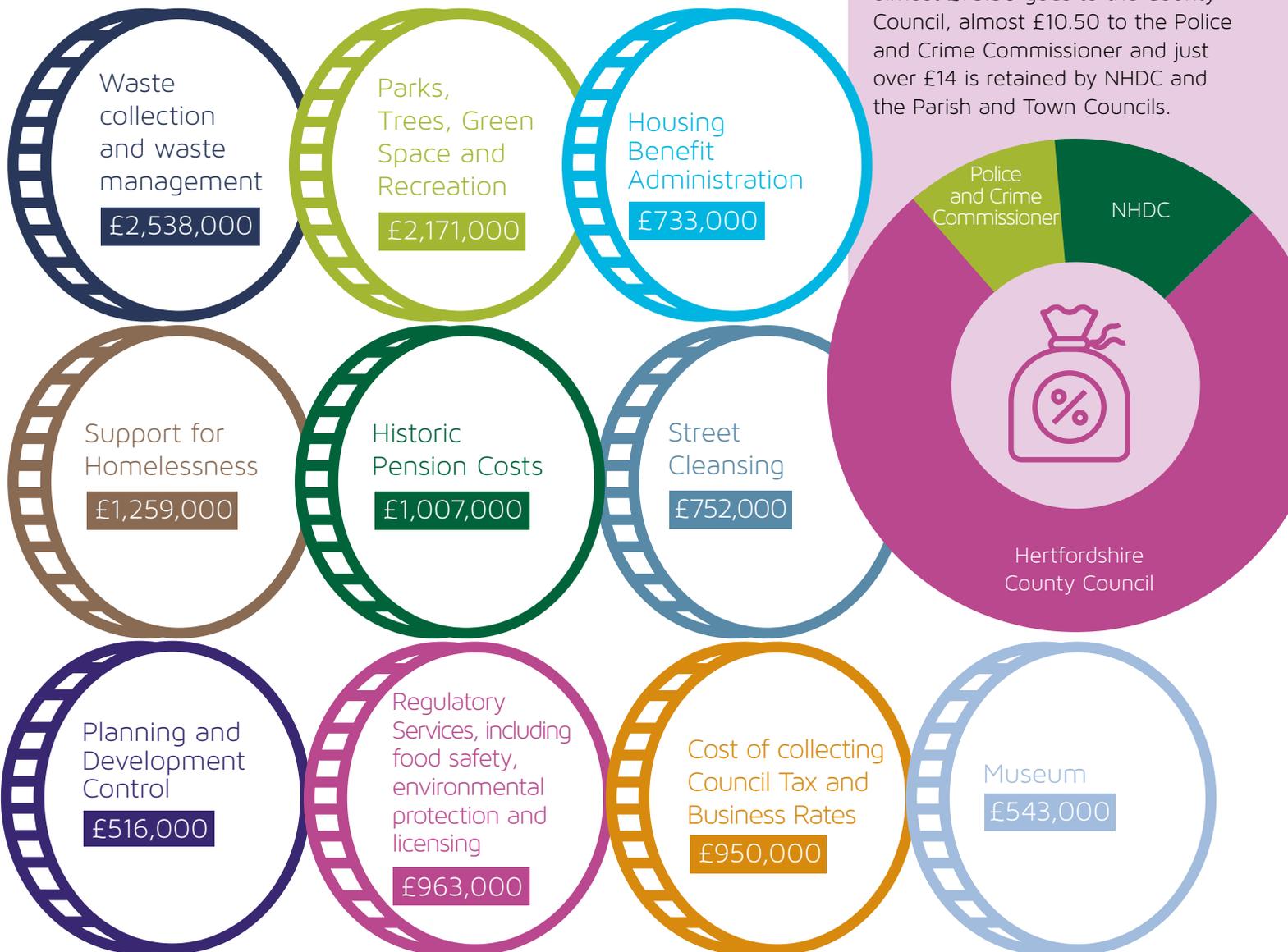
The infographic below gives an outline of the top 10 areas of expenditure. The Council's net spend in 2018/19 was just under £14.6 million, compared with just under £16.1 million in 2017/18.

The Current Situation 2019/2020

How your Council Tax is worked out

We collect your Council Tax on behalf of ourselves, Hertfordshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Parish and Town Councils.

For each £100 that NHDC collects, almost £75.50 goes to the County Council, almost £10.50 to the Police and Crime Commissioner and just over £14 is retained by NHDC and the Parish and Town Councils.





In February this year the Council approved a net budget for 2019/2020 of £15.25 million, with 77% of that funded directly by local council taxpayers, 6% from Central Government and 17% from the rates paid by local businesses.

The Council is currently finalising a new Council Plan with new objectives. Once this is complete, further information about upcoming projects to meet those objectives will be published. However some key projects for 2019/20 include:

- The completion of the North Hertfordshire Museum and Hitchin Town Hall project in July 2019.
- Renovation of King George V Play Area in Hitchin



- Completion of the Bancroft Gardens Multi Use Games Area in September 2019.
- Completion of the renovation of the play area at Great Ashby District Park in August 2019.
- Continuing to progress the possibility of a Crematorium at Wilbury Hills Cemetery
- Commencement of Walsworth Common Pitch improvements



“The Council is currently finalising a new Council Plan with new objectives”

NHDC joins the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network

Earlier this year, Councillors agreed that NHDC should become a Co-operative Council and join the Co-operative Council's Innovation Network (CCIN). The Network is a non-party political hub for co-operative policy development, innovation and advocacy.

By becoming a Co-operative Council we seek to exemplify and encourage the Co-operative values of:

Self-help

In co-operatives, people help each other whilst helping themselves, by working together for mutual benefit.

Self-responsibility

Individuals within co-operatives act responsibly and play a full part in the organisation.

Democracy

A co-operative will be structured so that members have control over the organisation – one member, one vote.

Equality

Each member will have equal rights and benefits (according to their contribution).

Equity

Members will be treated justly and fairly.

Solidarity

Members will support each other and other co-operatives.

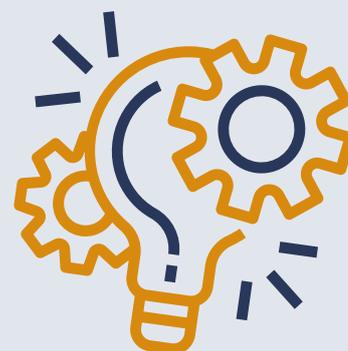
Co-operative Councils are committed to engaging with communities to determine what services are needed in an area and how they should be delivered. Cooperative Councils want to embrace the traditions of community action, community empowerment and civic engagement in order to strengthen local communities.

As Local Government funding continues to decline, Councils are having to look for innovative ways of providing services with reduced



budgets. The CCIN was set up in response to this challenge, as a vehicle for helping Councils translate co-operative policy and principles into practice.

One of the key areas of focus for NHDC will be a specific focus on encouraging the development of co-operative businesses and enterprises in the district. We will be keeping you in touch with what being a Cooperative Council means for NHDC through this magazine and our other communications channels. In the meantime you can find out more about the work of the CCIN by visiting www.councils.coop



WASTE & RECYCLING



Dreaming of a waste-free Christmas?

If you find yourself overwhelmed by cardboard, plastic, bottles, food waste and unwanted textiles over the festive season, try following these tips to help you to enjoy a merrier, greener Christmas!

Recycle used cardboard

Whether it is toy packaging or selection boxes, remember to recycle all waste cardboard and paper. Flatten it down as much as possible and remove any plastic inserts, which may not be recyclable. Please note Christmas cards and wrapping paper should not be placed in your recycling bins / boxes, as we do not accept them for recycling.

Get creative and reuse

Save your Christmas cards each year so you can cut the fronts into gift tags. This is a clever way of saving money, reducing waste, and giving your gifts an individual look. Used wrapping paper, gift tags and cards can all also be upcycled into Christmas decorations.

Take unwanted gifts to a charity shop

Give those unwanted gifts to a charity shop – one person's trash is another's treasure

Food waste

Christmas can be a time of excess, when we eat and drink the most. Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for recipe ideas to use up any leftovers. For any leftovers that can't be used again, just pop them in your kitchen caddy or home composter.

Recycle old electrical items

You can recycle old or broken electrical items at your local Household Waste Recycling Centre. For opening hours visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres

Reusable bags

Remember to take your reusable bags with you wherever you go!

Batteries

All that playing over Christmas with battery powered toys may mean you are left with a mound of old batteries. Place these on top of your recycling bin in a clear bag on your usual collection day. Alternatively, try using rechargeable batteries.



Disruption to Services

To be notified of any disruption to services due to severe weather, sign up to our free text alert service at www.north-herts.gov.uk/textalerts. You can also receive up-to-date information via Twitter @NorthHertsDC, www.facebook.com/northhertsDC or on our website.



Waste and recycling collections over the festive period

Look out for our Christmas bin hanger arriving on your bins in mid-December, which will detail changes to your collections over the festive period. You can also check this information on our website by searching for: 'Waste and Recycling Collection Calendar'.

How to dispose of your real Christmas tree

If you subscribe to the Council's garden waste collection service, you can leave your real Christmas tree next to your brown bin for collection on your usual collection day. Alternatively, volunteers from Garden House Hospice Care will collect Christmas trees and recycle them between 11-14 January in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. All trees will be shredded and chippings will be donated to local schools to be used in their playgrounds. Visit www.ghhospicecare.org.uk/support-us/events/detail/christmas-tree-cycling-2020 to register for your collection.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RECYCLING?

Once your recycling is collected from the kerbside, this is just the start of its journey. Read on to find out what happens to the different materials:

PAPER

Paper collected from your blue box is transported to our bulking facility at Buntingford, before being taken to a paper mill in King's Lynn. It is then transformed into new paper for use by the newsprint industry.

MIXED RECYCLING: GLASS, CANS, PLASTIC BOTTLES, PLASTIC POTS, TUBS AND TRAYS, CARTONS AND CARDBOARD

These materials are collected from your grey mixed recycling bin (or from green communal recycling bins at flats) and taken to our bulking facility at Buntingford. They are then collected and taken to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in St Albans where your materials are sorted and separated for recycling.

The sorting process includes hand picking incorrect items from the load. Large cardboard is also removed by hand and heavier glass falls into

separate bays during the sorting journey, leaving smaller card to be sorted using an air jet. Magnets separate the steel and eddy currents are used to separate aluminium. Optical sorters using near-infra red technology separate the different plastics by type and colour.

Once materials are sorted by type, they are then sold on to different processing factories to be made into new products.

TEXTILES

Bagged textiles placed next to the grey bin are collected and placed in a separate compartment on the bin lorry then taken to our Buntingford bulking facility.

They are then sent to Northern Ireland, where they are sorted by quality and sold on to either be reused abroad or recycled into things like cushion stuffing.

FOOD WASTE

Food waste is collected from your brown outdoor food caddy and emptied into a dedicated food waste collection vehicle. Then it is taken to the Cumberlow Green composting facility off the A507 near Rushden, North Herts where it is processed by In Vessel Composting.

This material falls under the Animal By Product Regulations and must be tipped indoors in the barn. It is processed in In Vessel clamps where oxygen is blown through and it must reach 65-80C for a minimum of four days to be sanitised.

GARDEN WASTE

If you are signed up to the garden waste service, your brown bin is emptied into a collection vehicle and taken to the composting facility at Cumberlow Green. The pure green garden waste is tipped in an outside bay and is open windrow composted.

Although food and garden waste go to the same place, they are processed using different methods, which is why it is important to recycle them separately.

For information about where your recycling is sent, visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/whathappenstorecycling



Businesses taking the pledge to go plastic free

Earlier this year Letchworth Garden City became the first 'Plastic Free Town' in Hertfordshire. A key part of this 'Plastic Free Status' was thanks to local businesses pledging to reduce their use of single use plastic.

“ We recycle everything we can and we are always on the look out for eco-friendly solutions.

”

Diane Ketcher, the local community lead for the Plastic Free Communities project, run by Surfers Against Sewage, visited all the local independent businesses in Letchworth. She helped them to audit their business to find out how they could reduce their reliance on single use plastic and make switches where possible.

The response has been fantastic. One of the businesses that stepped up to the plate was

Cooks Boutique, a relatively new independent business on Leys Avenue which sells kitchenware. Margherita Contu, Assistant Manager, told us about some of the initiatives they've introduced since attaining their plastic free status.

“We encourage customers to use their own bags and have swapped our plastic bags for paper. We are working with our suppliers and have asked them to remove plastic packaging where possible. We don't use any plastic packaging ourselves; we predominantly use a bubble wrap type product which is made out of card and is 100% recyclable.

“We recycle everything we can and we are always on the lookout for eco-friendly solutions. We don't sell disposable items; the vast majority of our products are reusable. Our till rolls are made out of cardboard rather than plastic; we don't use blue kitchen roll or plastic sponges.

Margherita introduced a 'plastic free table' earlier this year to help customers reduce their





Top plastic reduction ideas for businesses

Containers: Allow people to use their own containers or use card, paper, or foil containers that are 100% recyclable.

Packaging: If your stock comes packaged in plastic, ask suppliers if the packaging can be removed. If you feel the packaging is necessary, ask if it can be non-plastic and 100% recyclable. Ask lunch suppliers to use plastic free alternatives and encourage them to provide buffets on reusable platters that you can return.

Plastic straws: The best option is to remove straws altogether but if you feel you would prefer to have straws on offer, good options include:

Reusable steel straws: This is the best option in terms of reducing waste but would require washing out and could prove expensive if they go missing regularly.

Uncoated paper straws: Ensure they are not lined with plastic as this would mean they are not compostable. To minimise waste, purchase straws that are not individually wrapped and have bins to collect used straws so that they can be recycled or composted rather than landfilled.

Cups and drinks bottles: Could you offer a discount if people bring in their own cups? Or have refillable cups for sale or on a deposit scheme? To help reduce the number of plastic water bottles being produced sign up to the **Refill app** and allow people to refill their water bottles www.refill.org.uk

Plates, cups, cutlery and stirrers: Single use plastics such as plastic cutlery, plates and cups can be replaced by non plastic items. Beware when buying takeaway cups for use with water dispensers, that they are 100% compostable.

Kitchen consumables: Try refillable washing up liquid and buy your tea and coffee in glass or paper containers. Look into getting your milk provided in glass rather than plastic bottles.

For more information and suggestions, look at www.transitionlethworth.org and follow the links to the plastic free project page.

plastic footprint. The table is packed with products from reusable straws, to beeswax wraps, microwaveable cling film replacement, natural compostable sponges, lunch bags, bamboo toothbrushes, reusable water bottles, water filters and coffee cups which are made in Hertfordshire – sourcing products locally is also their preferred option. Although Margherita works hard to keep the table stocked up, the products on display sell out quickly.

Margherita said: “Our customers are really impressed with what we’re doing. A lot of people come here especially because we have all these reusable products. We’ve had a really good response. We are proud to be educating adults and kids alike about how to make more environmentally friendly choices and it certainly makes me feel better about what we do!”

Another Letchworth business which has signed up to the pledge is the **Cakey Lady**; Jemma McLean. The business had already made the decision that they wanted to be plastic free as much as possible, and Diane helped them to look at the materials they were using and what they could replace those with. “It’s made us

completely change the way we look at things. We have pledged not to use any plastic when we make our teas and coffees – all our cups are compostable, our stirrers are wooden and if customers bring in their own cups, we give them their coffee half price!”

We use butter in our cakes which has less packaging and the production of it is less intense and more environmentally friendly than margarine. We buy all our fruit and veg loose, and we get a bit annoyed when things turn up in unnecessary packaging, or are twice the price for the environmentally friendly alternative!

“It’s just research, research, research; it can be a bit laborious, and takes time searching for different products and suppliers.

“We are about 90% plastic free now, apart from the things that come from other people that we can’t do anything about! The only thing we’ve failed to swap is clingfilm – there’s nothing out there for us at the moment that makes a good enough replacement when you’re working with food. But we’ll keep looking. One day...”



Safe transport this Christmas

If you use a taxi then make sure it is licensed by NHDC. You can have peace of mind that the cab is roadworthy and that the driver has been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service. These checks will ensure that all drivers are medically fit, have a thorough knowledge of the district, are fit and proper to hold a licence and that their vehicles are mechanically sound and safe.

The two types of NHDC licensed taxis are Hackney Carriage vehicles and Private Hire Vehicles. All licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles have an illuminated 'taxi' sign on the roof and a yellow hackney carriage licence plate fixed to the back of the vehicle. Details of the driver are displayed inside the cabin and a meter will calculate the fare according to the time taken for the ride and they cannot charge any more. These taxis can be booked by phone, at a taxi rank or waved down in the street.

Private Hire Vehicles, also licensed by the Council, can only be booked in advance and an agreed fee for a journey will be charged. If you get into a private hire vehicle without pre-booking, at for instance a taxi rank, this is illegal and you will not be insured if there is an accident. A Private Hire Vehicle has a blue licence plate fixed to the back of the vehicle and details of the driver inside.

What's worrying you...?

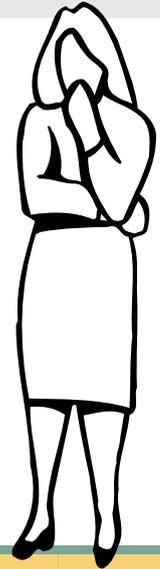
Low Esteem

Stress

Anger

Anxiety

Low Mood



Come to a free introductory consultation with a qualified therapist in Knebworth

In total confidence call / text
07986 488690 or email
info@emotionalskills.uk

www.emotionalskills.uk

NHDC licensed hackney carriages and private hire drivers now attend safeguarding awareness sessions as part of their licensing renewal process every three years. The sessions cover both adult and child safeguarding, helping drivers to identify signs of abuse or neglect amongst their passengers and advising how to report any concerns they have to the relevant authority.

Try, when you can, to travel with other people but if alone there are precautions you can take to make you feel safer:

- Never get into a cab if you are in any doubt
- Make a note of the number plate, texting the number and a picture of the vehicle to family or friends
- Always sit in the back of the taxi and keep your mobile phone accessible
- Check that vehicle plates displayed have not expired and that the photo on the driver's badge matches the driver of the vehicle

For further advice search for 'using a taxi' on the NHDC website.



NHDC pilots project to bridge the generation gap



Last year NHDC joined forces with Howard Cottage Housing Association and Hillshott Infant School in Letchworth to pilot the Council's first intergenerational project: "Generations Together".

For five weeks, children aged 4-5 years old came together with older adults and enjoyed a range of activities including a farm visit, party games, baking, sports day, craft activities and more.

In the UK, 3.6 million older people live alone, of whom over 2 million are aged 75+. Being socially isolated

and feeling alone can have a huge detrimental effect on a person's health (Age UK, 2019).

Whilst loneliness can affect anybody of any age, the Council recognise that there is a significantly large population of older people living in North Herts who could be more at risk.

This project has provided a valuable opportunity for the oldest and youngest communities across the district to form friendships and have positive interactions with each other, recognising that both groups have something they can learn from each other.

A film is available to view which gives a flavour of the project and can be viewed on NHDC's website. Search "Generations Together".

The initiative was so successful that it will be running again from November 2019 to March 2020.

If you work in a school, day centre, supported housing scheme or care home and would like to be involved in future intergenerational projects, please contact rebecca.galloway@north-herts.gov.uk

Council Meetings

COMMITTEES – 14 November 2019 to 27 February 2020 (7.30pm unless otherwise stated)

An audio recording is taken at all Council meetings (excluding confidential parts). The press and public also have a right to film and record at Council meetings and a protocol on this can be found here: www.north-herts.gov.uk/recordingmeetings

DATE	COMMITTEE	VENUE
14 November 2019	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
21 November 2019	Council	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
3 December 2019	Hitchin Committee	Hitchin Boys School, Grammar School Walk, Hitchin SG5 1JB
4 December 2019	Royston and District Committee	Room 11, Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston
5 December 2019	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
9 December 2019	Baldock and District Committee	Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive, Baldock
10 December 2019	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
11 December 2019	Letchworth Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
12 December 2019	Southern Rural Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
17 December 2019	Cabinet	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
18 December 2019 10am	Joint Staff Consultative Committee	Floor 1, Rooms 2/3, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
19 December 2019	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
13 January 2020	Highways Liaison	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
15 January 2020	CCTV Joint Executive	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
16 January 2020 7pm	Council Tax Setting Committee	Floor 1, Room 2, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
20 January 2020	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
21 January 2020	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
23 January 2020	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
28 January 2020	Cabinet	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
6 February 2020	Council	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
11 February 2020	Standards Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
13 February 2020	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
27 February 2020 7pm	Council Tax Setting Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City

WHAT'S ON

this Winter

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

MUSEUMS & THEATRE

BRITISH SCHOOLS MUSEUM

41/42 Queen Street, Hitchin, SG4 9TS
01462 420144
www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk

14 December, 10am to 2pm Christmas Fair

A huge range of stalls, food, fun and Christmas cheer. Perfect timing for all your Christmas gifts and stocking fillers. Free admission.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX
01462 474554
www.north-herts.gov.uk/museum
Event details can be found at
www.facebook.com/northhertsmuseum
Opening times: Tues – Sat 10.30am to 4.30pm, Sundays 11am to 3pm
Admission free.

Until 24 November Krysia: Recent Paintings

An exhibition highlighting work by Bygrave artist Krysia Michna-Nowak. Soulful paintings are often inspired by mythology and romantic mystical tales. Paintings are a combination of mono prints and Japanese matt acrylic paint, creating mixed-media works of art.

Until 5 January Art Treasures from North Herts Museum

More than 30 oil paintings from the archives of the former Hitchin and Letchworth Museums, shown together for the first time. Paintings on show include works by William Ratcliffe and

Spencer Gore as well as works by Hitchin's famous Lucas family and many others, featuring a wide range of subject matters including North Herts villages, landscapes and portraits.

ROYSTON MUSEUM

5 Lower King Street, Royston, SG8 5AL
01763242587
www.roystonmuseum.org.uk

23 November, 11am - 1pm & 2pm - 3.30pm Make an Advent Calendar

Crafts for children - design and make your own advent calendar. £3 for children aged 3+. No need to book, just drop in.

7 & 21st December, 11am - 1pm & 2pm - 3.30pm Christmas and Wintery Crafts

Come along for some shiny seasonal creativity! £3 for children aged 3+. No booking required.

BROADWAY CINEMA AND THEATRE

Broadway Cinema & Theatre,
Eastcheap, Letchworth Garden City
01462 681088
www.broadway-lethworth.com

10 - 15 December, times vary Wind in the Willows

Join Mole, Ratty, Badger and Mr. Toad for this new live theatre staging of Kenneth Grahame's family favourite. Songs, humour and exciting adventures are promised as they try to stop the Wicked Weasel from taking over Toad Hall. For children aged 5+.

17 December, 7pm The Nutcracker

Recorded live at the Royal Opera House in 2016, this enchanting ballet brings all the magic of Christmas to the big screen accompanied by Tchaikovsky's glittering score. Book early to avoid disappointment.



ASHWELL

30 November, 9.30am - 2.30pm
St Mary's Church
Ashwell

Christmas Fair

Buy your Christmas presents early at this arts and crafts fair with live Christmas music, food and drink to enjoy. £1 entry.

BALDOCK

6 December, 7.30pm, Baldock
Arts and Heritage Centre
It's a Wonderful Life

Revel in this cinematic classic starring James Stewart, who finds out the true meaning of life and Christmas, with a little help from his own guardian angel.

Tickets available online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bahc
or on the door

7 December, Baldock Town Centre Baldock Christmas Fair

Festive fun for all the family – Christmas craft stalls, food and entertainment.



16 December, Market Square and Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre Carols Round the Tree

Sing carols round the Market Square Christmas Tree, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Arts & Heritage Centre. Contact the Heritage Centre for start time: www.bahc.co.uk

GREAT ASHBY

1 December, 2pm - 4.30pm,
Great Ashby Community Centre
Great Ashby Christmas Fayre

Great Ashby Community Council's annual Christmas Fayre will see lots of stalls, festive gifts and a visit from Father Christmas. Admission free.

TOWN & VILLAGE EVENTS





HITCHIN

30 November, 12pm – 6pm

Hitchin Town Centre

Christmas Tree Light Switch On

Choirs, entertainment and Santa's parade plus a special guest to turn on the Christmas lights!

7 December 11am – 4pm, 8 & 15

December 10am – 4pm, Market Place

Ark Farm and Living Nativity

A reindeer parade, marching band, Santa's Grotto, land train and mix 'n mingle street entertainers, bring the spirit of Christmas to Hitchin.

15 December & 16 December,

10am – 4pm, Market Place

Giant Snow Globe

Step inside the picture perfect giant snow globe and experience a winter wonderland.

18 December – 24 December,

Market Place

Traditional Vintage Carousel

Gallop into Christmas on this magical carousel ride.

ICKLEFORD

30 November, 11am – 2.30pm,

Ickleford School

Christmas Fayre

Fun for all the family with Christmas craft stalls, a visit from Santa, a grand raffle draw and refreshments including mulled wine, mince pies and other goodies.

18 December, 5.30pm,

Ickleford Green

Carols on Ickleford Green

With choir, Christmas tableau and refreshments.

KIMPTON

7 December, 2pm – 6pm,

The Green, Kimpton

Christmas Market

Discover locally sourced handmade gifts for the whole family, enjoy top quality festive food and drink accompanied by Christmas music and visit the magical Christmas Grotto. Visit www.kimptonvillage.com/kimpton-christmas-market/ for further information.

KNEBWORTH

8 – 10 November, 10am – 4pm,

Knebworth House

Knebworth Christmas Fair

Shop in style in the Knebworth House barns and buy unique festive gifts for family and friends. Visit www.knebworthhouse.com for tickets and more information.

LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

23 November – 5 January

Ice Skating at Letchworth Outdoor Pool!

Off Peak 4pm – 9pm, Weekends 11am – 9pm, Peak (school holidays) 10am – 10pm

Glide, jump and spin into the Christmas season on this exciting temporary pop-up ice rink in Letchworth. Ice skates available for hire on the day. For more information go to: www.sll.co.uk/skateletchworth

23 November, 12pm – 8pm,

Garden Square

Christmas Lights Switch On

A day of festive fun in the lead up to the Christmas lights switch on. Live music, a Christmas market and street food!

PIRTON

9 November, 9.30am – 4pm,

Pirton Village Hall

Annual Craft Fair

Lots of handmade crafts to buy, just in time for Christmas! £1 entry, children under 16 free.

ROYSTON

7 December, Royston Town

Centre

Rudolph's Christmas Trail

Rudolph has been hiding Christmas characters in selected shop windows in town. Follow the Christmas trail to find the numbered toys and complete a trail to receive a gift from Santa.

14 December, Royston Town Centre

Royston Christmas Market

Visit Santa's Grotto and enjoy entertainment, Christmas stalls and more.

ST IPPOLYTS

23 November, 2pm, St Ippolyts

Parish Hall

Christmas Fair

Christmas stalls including toys and games, tombola and cakes. Expect a visit from Father Christmas! Light refreshments will be available and a raffle will be drawn at 4.15pm. Free admission. www.stippolyts-hall.co.uk

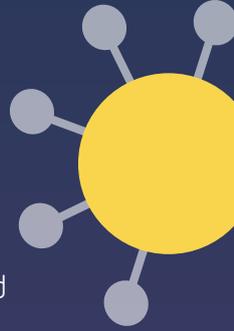
30 November & 1 December, 11am – 5pm, St Ippolyts Church

St Ippolyts Church Nativity Crib Festival

Welcoming cribs of all shapes and sizes from all over the world, this special celebration of the Christmas story will also include a 'living crib' where visitors can use dressing up clothes to create their own nativity scene. Entry is £3, children free. For more information: Barbara.thomas@live.co.uk



New Priorities ahead for NHDC



In May 2019, a new joint Labour and Cooperative Party and Liberal Democrat Administration was formed. As a result, the new administration have developed new emerging priorities and a new draft vision, 'to make North Hertfordshire a district in which everyone who lives, works or visits is able to flourish.'

A Council Plan is being prepared which will set out the strategic direction for the Council over the period 2020 – 2025. The draft objectives for the Plan are:

Be a more welcoming and inclusive council



Building thriving and resilient communities



Responding to challenges to the environment



Enabling an enterprising and co-operative Council



Supporting the delivery of good quality and affordable housing



An all Councillor workshop was held in September to help establish the priorities which will fall under the new objectives for the next five years. Following this, the final draft Council Plan was considered at a Special Cabinet Meeting on 31 October and thereafter recommended to Full Council on 21 November.

Although the Plan has not yet been approved, the Council has already been pushing ahead with delivering on its new emerging priorities. In this edition of Outlook we take a look at how the Council has been progressing its environmental agenda.

Focus on Environment

In recognition of the global threat of climate change, in May 2019, the Council joined with a number of other Councils across the country and declared a **Climate Emergency**. As part of this declaration, the **Council's Climate Change Strategy**

is under review, which will include an action plan setting out how the Council aims to achieve a target of zero emissions by 2030.

Meanwhile, a **Cabinet Environment Panel** has been set up to consider a range of climate and environmental issues. The Panel held its first meeting in September where it received a number of presentations from community and environmental groups and these representations are positively encouraged by the Panel. Further information on the work of the Panel can be found here: <https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=278>

Projects already being delivered under the new Objective include:

Plastic Free North Herts

This campaign is underway to encourage residents, councillors, Council staff and businesses to ditch single use plastics and

encourage re-use and recycling of other plastics. As part of this, drinking fountains have been installed in town centre parks in Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Baldock and will shortly be introduced in the Council's leisure centres.

In September, the Council introduced **subsidised licensing fees** for taxi drivers who drive electric or hybrid vehicles.



In July, Full Council passed a motion undertaking to only lease or purchase Ultra Low Emission Vehicles when the replacement of any Council owned or leased vehicle is due (subject to approval by Cabinet).

Further details on the new Council Plan will be featured in the next edition of Outlook.

