

# **EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Parish Council meeting of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 8.00pm, Village Hall, Pye Corner, Gilston.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Baxter, Beazley, Bryant, Jones, Wightwick  
In attendance: Christine Law (Parish Clerk), Eric Buckmaster (District & County Councillor) 3 members of the public.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

- a. **Playground – Terlings Park.** Residents of Terlings Park handed in an objection to the proposed changes to the Terlings Park play area (additional equipment suitable for younger children). Cllr Wightwick, also a member of the Terlings Park Management Committee, explained this is still in the planning stage and further consultation with residents of Terlings Park will take place before any final decision is made regarding the purchase & installation of additional play equipment. Cllr Wightwick is investigating whether Section 106 money could cover these proposals which would negate the need for an application to the Parish Council for any of the New Homes Bonus and whether Planning Permission will be required. He also clarified that the Play Area is for the entire community of Eastwick and Gilston (including Terlings Park).

**Meeting closed at 8.20pm**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) Residents of Gilston Lane raised concerns about the condition of some of the trees, located in private land bordering Gilston Lane, next to the public highway and the risk and consequences of any trees falling into the public highway, as happened in May 2019. The Parish Council wrote to landowners at that time asking them to check that their trees fronting the public highways are suitably managed and wrote to them again to ask whether these trees have now been surveyed and to be informed of the outcome of any such survey. As no reply has been received to either letter the Clerk will write again asking for confirmation that should a tree or fencing, which they are responsible for, cause injury or damage their insurance will cover any resultant claims.

## **BUSINESS MEETING STARED AT 8.30PM**

### **84) TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

- a. Cllr Orson, PCSO Leon DeBruyn – his report can be found at the end of these minutes.

## **85) TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- a. None.

## **86) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

- a. Minutes of the business meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were proposed by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Jones. These were signed as a true record by Vice Chairman Cllr Bryant.

## **87) ACCOUNTS**

- a. The Councils written accounts summary had been distributed before the meeting. (Appendix 2). These were explained to the meeting and were agreed and proposed by Cllr Beazley and seconded by Cllr Baxter.

## **88) PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS**

- a. Places for People –
  - i. Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved apart from external vehicular access for a mixed-use development of up to 8,500 homes for a part of the Gilston Area (Reference 3/19/1045/OUT);
  - ii. Detailed Planning Permission for alterations to the existing Fifth Avenue bridge (Reference 3/19/1046/FUL);
  - iii. Detailed Planning Permission for erection of a new road, pedestrian and cycle bridge (Reference 3/19/1051/FUL) and Listed Building Consent for works to Fiddlers Brook Bridge (Reference 3/19/1049/LBC).
- b. Grasslands, Pye Corner. Widening of access – 3/19/0849/FUL – has gone to appeal to the Secretary of State. Awaiting decision.

## **89) UPDATE ON ITEMS WITH EAST HERTS/HERTFORDSHIRECC FOR ACTION**

- a. Cllr Orson has updated the log of all outstanding items that are awaiting either East Herts or Herts CC response. This was presented to the council in his absence. The is updated on a regular basis.
- b. Item 7 – Burnt Mill Lane – Knotweed infestation. This was raised as a concern as the position of this is next to Terlings Park leading to significant risk of spreading. To be raised with EHC
- c. Cllr Orson, Cllr Bryant & Eric Buckmaster (District & County Councillor) are meeting with Ms S Saunders during March to discuss the items on the Action Log.

## **90) PARISH PATHS**

- a. Cllr Jones had nothing to report.

- b. As the footpath from Eastwick village to Eastwick Lodge roundabout (this is on the log on item 89) is in the hands of Highways, who have assured the Parish Council remedial action will be included in next year's budget (2020 / 21), the Parish Clerk was asked to write to HertsCC Highways Dept asking for confirmation that improvements will take place as soon as possible in the new financial year.

### **91) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- a. Neither Cllr Orson nor Cllr Bryant were able to attend the last Neighbourhood Planning Group (HEGNPG) meeting. A formal response to the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town Strategic Transport consultation has been submitted by the HEGNPG. East Herts Development Charter for the Gilston Area is being reviewed and response prepared by the Neighbourhood Planning Group, with professional support from Urban Silence.
- b. Version 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan should be out for further consultation in the Summer.

### **92) HIGHWAYS**

- a. Cllr Wightwick had nothing to report.

### **93) NEW HOMES BONUS**

- a. Defib – Eastwick – Cllr Bryant reported that she has been in communication with McMullen, owners of The Lion, who have confirmed they have received the requisite permission from East Herts to have a defibrillator installed on the outside of the public house. Cllr Bryant has obtained some grant funding from the British Heart Foundation towards the cost of one defib, subject to it being installed in a non-locking cabinet.
- b. Still looking for suitable locations for defibrillators along Gilston Lane, near Church Cottages, etc. and within Terlings Park.
- c. 8<sup>th</sup> May VE Day Community Event – subject to events not being cancelled due to the coronavirus. The Parish Council received a request for funding from the New Homes Bonus money to support a community event. It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Beazley and agreed unanimously by all the council to have a budget of £2,000.00. More details will follow.
- d. Play Equipment – Terlings Park – Cllr Wightwick is looking into funding from the Section 106 money.

### **94) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- a. Cllr Bryant informed the meeting that they had their AGM last week and are looking for a new Bookings Officer due to the resignation of the current Bookings Officer. Digitised hall plans have been passed to architects, as approved at the January Parish Council meeting, who have been briefed to prepare alternative improvement plans for

consideration. The Hall Management Committee has passed various historical documents to a law firm for the registration of the property with the Land Registry.

**95) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. None received.

**96) PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. From the last meeting Cllr Orson proposed a Saturday meeting to consider the issues and options for improvement of parish communications with residents. Two dates have been proposed the 18<sup>th</sup> April and or 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**97) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

None.

**98) ITEMS COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA**

None.

**99) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- a. Date of the next meeting is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 8.00pm, Village Hall, Pye Corner. **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - FOLLOWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – MARCH 2020**

**Investment to support the vulnerable, meet the challenge of a growing Hertfordshire and to protect the environment are the key priorities in the council’s spending and budget plans for the year ahead.**

Councillors today (Tuesday 25 February) agreed the budget for 2020/21, which includes an increase of 2% for the adult social care precept and an additional 1.99% for general council tax. This works out at an extra £1.04 a week for average Band D households.

The key areas highlighted within the budget are:

- Supporting the vulnerable: This includes the headline £12m investment to reward and help retain Hertfordshire’s 30,000 strong care workforce who make a real difference supporting older and disabled people – this will be broadly met by the extra 2% in social care precept. Eight million pounds is also being invested to ensure there is sufficient funding to support the most vulnerable children in care. This is on top of transformation funding to develop more specialist care capacity within the county. A further £3m is being invested for Special Education Needs transport;

- Meeting the challenges of a growing county: including an investment of £8m next year, as part of a £37m five-year investment in our local road network. These are the roads most of us live on;

- Protect the environment: In July 2019, the county council agreed the declaration of a climate emergency. Alongside some of the existing initiatives, including the air quality strategy and the

energy strategy, this budget includes £9m of capital to invest in public transport and bus priority measures. There will also be an initial £300k per year as a catalyst for the emerging Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy;

The County Council is also facing a number of financial challenges such as continued uncertainty of future government funding and increasing demands for vital support services for disabled and vulnerable children, adults and the elderly.

In response, the county has already identified £17m of savings for next year. The council has also put in place innovative arrangements, such as working with the charitable trust Libraries for life to start in Spring 2020, which will save several hundreds of thousands of pounds while protecting the libraries service.

Council tax bills for the new financial year will be issued by Hertfordshire's district councils from 9 March 2020. You can find out more about how we spend your council tax on our website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax).

## **Highways programme approved to help move Hertfordshire forward**

### **£46 million worth of highways schemes have been given the go ahead by Hertfordshire County Council.**

Between April 2020 and March 2021 over £46 million will be spent delivering nearly 1,500 maintenance and improvement schemes across Hertfordshire's 3,000 miles of road.

Planned works include repairs and maintenance to roads, pavements, bridges and traffic signals, as well as improvements such as tackling safety problems, reducing traffic congestion, and making walking and cycling more practical and attractive options.

This year's highways funding includes £8m which the county council is spending on improving the condition of local roads people live and work on, as the latest part of a five-year £37m programme targeted on those smaller, local roads.

The Integrated Works Programme covers a full range of highway maintenance and improvement schemes that the council undertakes each year. These schemes are in addition to the minor repairs and routine maintenance, such as fixing potholes and cutting grass verges, which are carried out throughout the year.

The works are prioritised in a number of ways. For maintenance works we include a combination of roads – both those that need repairs because they are in a poor state now and those that need preventative maintenance work to avoid problems in the near future – while improvement schemes take into account factors like reducing accidents, tackling congestion and making it easier for people to walk, cycle or use public transport instead of their car.

The works programme is 'integrated' because, once we have established priorities, we look to see how those schemes can best be delivered together to increase efficiency and reduce disruption on the roads.

[Details of which roads are included in the 2020/21 programme can be found on our website.](#)

**Our Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy –**

Following our Climate Emergency Declaration in July 2019, Hertfordshire County Council committed to develop a Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy that will set out initial policies and strategies needed to embed sustainability across all council operations and services and throughout the county.

This 2020 Strategy builds on our existing work – including our Energy Strategy, Pollinator Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and Local Transport Plan 4, in addition to recognising and responding to future challenges. The UK's 25 Year Environment Action Plan sets out high level national commitments on environmental improvements across England.

The county council will support delivery of these and make faster progress where it is right and able to do so. The pace and capacity of the county council in achieving objectives of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020 will reflect available funding. Every effort will be made to seek additional funding from government and other sources, as well as developing business cases that consider financial as well as sustainability benefits.

This Strategy focuses on the environmental aspirations of sustainability as the wider social and economic goals are already managed through other plans including our Corporate Plan

This strategy has been developed based upon three levels of influence:

- Lead** in our own operations – e.g. how we work, how we provide services and how we manage our buildings
- Enable** a sustainable County with our programmes, policies and decisions – e.g. through our planning policies and how we dispose of the county's waste
- Inspire** businesses and residents to take action – e.g. helping residents to lead a sustainable life and support businesses to grow partnering with other leading organisations to take action together

Our ambitions for **Leading** in our own operations are:

- Carbon neutral** for our own operations by 2030
- All operations and services are ready for future climates**
- Improve biodiversity** on our land by 20% by 2030
- Reduce what we throw away**. Send nothing to landfill by 2030

Our ambitions for **enabling** and **inspiring** a sustainable county are:

- Net zero greenhouse gas county** before 2050
- Our communities are ready for future climates**
- Improve wildlife** in our land and water **by 20%** by 2050
- Clean air for all by 2030**
- Increase **resource efficiency threefold** in the County by 2050

These ambitions will be delivered through:

- 1) Strong governance
- 2) Key county council strategies
- 3) Partnerships
- 4) Finance – both from the public and private sectors to fund delivery
- 5) Our buying which fully supports our sustainability ambitions

Crucially all of these aspirations will be underpinned by strong action and implementation plans aligned with each directorate's commitments. These will be developed by the services and taken to relevant Cabinet Panels during 2020. Monitoring and scrutiny will be part of the on-going process to ensure actions are followed through, progress made, and targets reviewed.

### **New trees planted as part of Ware waste 'supersite' construction**

**More than 1,500 new trees have been planted, and a new wildflower meadow created, as part of the works to construct Hertfordshire County Council's new Household Waste Recycling Centre Supersite in Ware.**

The new trees have been planted at High Trees Farm in Chapmore End, to create a new habitat for

wildlife. The first cut of the newly seeded wildflowers and grassland will take place in the spring creating a wildflower meadow to provide habitat for insects including declining native pollinators. Areas of grassland will be left to grow long to provide suitable habitat for small mammals and reptiles.

The new Ware site, which will be four times the size of the original recycling centre, has been designed to handle up to 300,000 visits a year and up to 10,000 tonnes of waste a year and will feature a purpose built reuse centre.

Keep up to date on the progress at the Ware supersite at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/waste)

### **Secondary school places announced for 2020**

Ninety-five per cent of children have been allocated a place at one of their preferred secondary or upper schools by Hertfordshire County Council.

Of the 14,423 Hertfordshire children who applied this year, 78 per cent gained a place at their first choice school. Most parents and carers in Hertfordshire will be emailed the place their child has been on Monday 2 March. All applicants who have not been offered their first preference school will automatically be placed on the continuing interest list for any Hertfordshire schools named higher on the application form than the school offered. Parents and carers have until 16 March 2020 to accept their school place.

Across Bishops Stortford, the number of families applying for secondary school places in September 2020 decreased slightly by 2% to 491, from 498 for September 2019 entry. In Sawbridgeworth, the number of families applying for secondary school places has increased by 8%, with 114 applicants from the parish for September 2020 entry, compared to 105 for September 2019 entry.

In Bishops Stortford, the percentage of families offered a ranked school has decreased very slightly, with 97.76% being offered a ranked school, compared to 98.1% in 2019. However, the percentage of children in Bishops Stortford offered their first preference school increased to 74.9%, compared to 73% in 2019.

For September 2020, all children living in Sawbridgeworth, were offered a ranked school. This is compared to 98% of applicants being offered a ranked school in 2019. The percentage of children offered their first preference school also increased to 91%, compared to 81% in 2019.

Children will be entitled to free transport if they are attending the nearest available school place and the distance between home and school is more than three miles. Families on low-income, the easiest measure of which is those children entitled to free school meals, have an extended entitlement; free transport is available to any one of their three nearest available schools between two and six miles from their home. Families who are entitled to free transport will be contacted in May with details of how to take up the offer of free travel.

**Hertfordshire's largest ever police force plans supported by £10-a-year Council Tax increase**  
**Residents in Hertfordshire are to pay an average of £10-a-year extra to support plans for the county's largest ever police force.** Hertfordshire is on course to have 2,100 officers by the end of the forthcoming financial year, the highest level in a decade. Numbers are then set to increase to 2,314 officers, the highest number ever, by the end of March 2023.

An extra £16m will be invested in Hertfordshire Police this year, with the precept increase generating £5.8m, and uplifted core government grants providing an extra £10.7m.

The precept pays for 42% of Hertfordshire Constabulary's 20/21 budget, generating £90.5m. The other 58%, £126.8m, comes from central government grants.

Band D property owners will now pay £198 a year, which equates to 83p per month more than the last year.

Also outlined in the budget is a new scheme to tackle the causes of crime and reduce people's chances of becoming victims. The £1m Crime Prevention and Innovation Fund will look at a broad scope of ways to prevent crime and intervene early.

Earlier this year a survey conducted by the Commissioner's office had over 1,000 replies with 65 per cent saying they were willing to pay more for policing.

### **Hertfordshire leads the way in managing growth**

A lot has happened in Hertfordshire since the idea of a working group with a common will to help shape the county's future for our residents, now and to come, was mooted 24 months ago.

The Hertfordshire Growth Board, made up of the County Council, the 10 district and borough councils and the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, was conceived in 2018. Each Growth Board member has an equal place at the table, with the same opportunity to contribute. This week, representatives of the Growth Board were together to mark an important development. All 12 bodies have now approved an official working agreement - a Memorandum of Understanding.

Its effects will be wide-reaching and profound as it signals a collaborative working agreement in a two-tier local government system which will significantly help to make the county an even better place for our residents to live, work and learn now but also for generations well into the future. Though talking to and developing partnerships with private as well as public-sector organisations is vital, those leading the way for Hertfordshire certainly want to make sure their actions speak louder than any words.

Indeed, when the County Council ran focus groups with residents in May last year, the overriding consensus was that people would like fewer pledges and more action. The emergence of the Growth Board demonstrates a fundamental step has been taken.

Preparing for growth is a prerequisite for Hertfordshire – it cannot be ignored. The Growth Board is committed to taking responsibility for ensuring the expected growth is managed, accommodated and utilised in a way to make Hertfordshire a thriving, even more prosperous location for those future generations. That means, effectively, our Growth Board members are taking the roles of visionary custodians.

“Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together” was once said by a notable American entrepreneur, and that sums up the working ethos in Hertfordshire, where collaboration is now the default as the members together look to make sure everything is being done to set the county up to thrive as part of a sustainable world, providing impetus and endurance, while also using its position in the so-called ‘Golden Triangle’ and proximity to London to its residents’ and businesses’ advantage. Ultimately, we all want to show that our residents are an important part of the “forces working together”.

### **Connected Counties**

**Quarterly progress update** The programme has made close to 100,000 additional connections available across Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and still working hard with Openreach to rollout superfast broadband to residents of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The partnership has made close to another 1,500 new superfast connections available since our last Newsletter. Bucks and Herts rank first nationally in terms of take-up of superfast services provided by Contract 1 of the Connected Counties programme for the second quarter in a row, with over 71% of available services being taken up. With regards to Contract 2, this is slightly lower, but it is still in the top third of contracts and following the same trajectory as Contract 1. Please note that this contract

commenced later than some of the other contracts across the United Kingdom which see a higher take-up.

To see if you can upgrade your home or business to superfast broadband, enter your landline or postcode in the checker at <http://www.connectedcounties.org/>

If you'd like an update on the position at your address, please drop us a line at [info@connectedcounties.org](mailto:info@connectedcounties.org).

**Ongoing plans in Hertfordshire** Hertfordshire County Council has recently contracted Openreach to deliver more than 500 additional superfast premises across East Hertfordshire as part of a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funded rollout, which will include providing access to an additional 215 business premises in the county.

### **East Herts**

#### **Items on Executive Agenda last month (February)**

#### **Outcomes of the Parking Task and Finish Group Review**

##### **Decision:**

That (A) the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Parking Task and Finish Group be received and considered, and (B) authority be delegated to the Head of Operations, in consultation with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chairman of the Parking Task and Finish Group, and with the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability, to assess the full viability of the recommendations by the Executive and bring a further report to the Executive setting out cost implications.

#### **Gilston Area Charter Supplementary Planning Document - draft for consultation**

##### **Decision:**

That (A) the draft Gilston Area Charter Supplementary Planning Document, as set out in Appendix A, be agreed and published for a minimum four-week period of public consultation;  
(B) delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning after consultation with the Leader of the Council to make minor modifications to the draft Charter prior to publication for consultation;  
(c) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 to determine that a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the emerging Gilston Area Charter Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

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#### **PCSO LEON DEBRYUAN REPORT**

I was hoping to make the first Eastwick & Gilston PC meeting of 2020 but sadly I will not be able to attend.

Below is a brief police report on crimes from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup> for Eastwick & Gilston parish.

##### **Crimes:**

January 2020 – Residential Burglary – Suspect(s) has gained entry to the premises by unknown means, have removed car keys from the premises and taken a vehicle parked at the premises.

Suspect(s) have then left in an unknown direction and by means unknown

February 2020 – Theft of oil from a Residential property – during repair works carried out at a residential property, it has been discovered that the heating oil had been removed from the premises at an unknown date and time.

March 2020 0- currently no reports

Herts police have also launched a new communication platform. I have sent an OWL message out to the local community and attached the blue Echo logo below which explains what ECHO is. Here is a copy of the OWL message I sent out about Echo for your information.

**East Herts Rural** Safer Neighbourhood Team wishes to understand the issues that you would like us to focus on.

Please share your view by completing your anonymous response to this short question by **20<sup>h</sup> March 2020** by visiting our community voice platform [www.bit.ly/ehrrural-police](http://www.bit.ly/ehrrural-police)

This a great opportunity to have your voice heard about the issues that you would like the **East Herts Rural** Safer Neighbourhood Police Team to prioritise.

This will help us to work towards improving your neighbourhood but please don't use this to report a crime. To do that go to [herts.police.uk/report](http://herts.police.uk/report) and remember in an emergency always dial 999.