

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

MARK ORSON
89 PYE CORNER
GILSTON
NR HARLOW
HERTS CM20 2RD
TELEPHONE 01279 453257

Email: cllr.m.orson@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES

PARISH CLERK

CHRISTINE LAW
9 CHURCH COTTAGES
GILSTON
NR HARLOW
HERTS CM20 2RH
TELEPHONE 01279 411646

Email: clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk

The Parish Council Business Meeting of Monday 12th January 2026. Village Hall, Pye Corner, Gilston 8.00pm
PRESENT: Cllr's Beazley, Bryant, Marx, Orson, 0 member of the public. Christine Law (Clerk) in attendance.
Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Dunlop's reports are attached to these minutes and can also be found on the web site.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) No questions were raised.

61) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Cllr Eric Buckmaster (CC), Cllr John Dunlop (DC),

62) RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) None.

63) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- a) The minutes of 10th November 2025 meeting were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Marx..

Signed by Cllr Orson as a true record.

64) ACCOUNTS

- a) Clerks report to the Council of accounts summary (appendix 1).
- b) Clerks Salary Award. This was explained and agreed. The SLCC & NALC made the decision in April 2025 to a pay raise for all Clerks. This will come into effect this this council on the 1st February 2026.
- c) Precept for 2026-2027 form was completed for this coming year. Clerk to send to District.

a-b proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Beazley.

65) PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS

- a) Grassland, Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/23/1110/FUL – Retrospective change of use of buildings A (Class e). B (class B8), c (Class B8), D (Class B8), E (Class B8) and F (Class E). Awaiting decision.
- b) X/25/0215/CND – Discharge condition 6 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) attached to 3/19/1045/OUT – Land North of the Stort Valley and the A414 Gilston, Herts. Awaiting decision.
- c) The Old Rectory, Gilston Lane, Gilston – 3/25/1522/FUL – Conversion of and alterations to existing detached garage to form 1 x 2-bed maisonette to first floor with associated works including creation of residential curtilage and bin/cycle store (retrospective) Application has been refused.

- d) 4 Vine Grove, Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/25/1508/HH – Part two storey and part single storey rear extension, insertion of a new first floor side window. Application has been refused.
- e) 7 Johnson Street, Terlings Park, - 3/25/1757/HH – Remove glazed roof to the rear, new first floor extension. Application has been granted.
- f) Display of 1 x non-illuminated metal roadside sign on timber post with a base mounted timber planter for Gilston. On road verge south and east of entrance to garages, of Church Cottages, Gilston – 3/25/1658/ADV – Has been granted.
- g) 5no. Interpretation Boards, 2no. Flag Poles and 1no. QR post in Public Open Spaces at Terlings Park – Land east of Terlings Avenue, Southeast and south of Bowlby Hill and south and south-west of Turvin Crescent – 3/25/1620/ADV. Awaiting decision.
- h) Proposed Garage at Channoeks Farm. 3/25/18915/HH. Awaiting decision.

66) PARISH PATHS

- a) Cllr Orson reported
 - i) Maintenance of non-tenanted and uncultivated land. There has been a general problem with uncultivated PFP land growing a good crop of thistles and generally being left to deteriorate. Clouds of thistledown blown across Pye Corner / Gilston Lane (and no doubt other areas) from around early July to mid-August. This issue was raised with PFP at the most recent Gilston Stakeholders Liaison Meeting and PFP responded post meeting that “all of the areas that would affect the villages thistles are being topped but if you want to make any specific problem areas from your perspective, I will make sure we focus our efforts there. The land for villages 5 and 6 will be having ground investigations and noise surveys early next year post the archaeology but once that has happened, we will be looking to get the land back into farming where not required for the sustainable transport corridor between Village 1 and Village 7.”
- b) Knight Frank has provided an update for the maintenance of footpaths E16 and 20:
 - i) Footpath E16 – overhanging branches cleared and grass trimmed. Bench at the top has been cleared around too.
 - ii) Footpath E20 – Bench surroundings trimmed.
 - iii) Footpath E16 & E9 Cross Field Paths – These are due to be cut and sprayed ASAP. We will be installing pairs of post either side of the path cross field to better de-mark the route (as we discussed with you last year).
 - iv) In addition, they have identified the following maintenance works that would be beneficial to undertake. This includes replacement of the broken kissing gate ([///green.secret.abode](#)) and replacement of a rotten wooden step on the footbridge at ([///purple.strike.crate](#)) which we understand to be HCC responsibility. However, Places for People are keen to continue with their collaborative approach with HCC and so would be willing to organise these works themselves to aid your busy schedule and as a gesture of goodwill to the community.

67) COMMUNITY FORUM/ NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

a) Cllr Bryant reported:

i) EHC Gilston Area Community Forum held 14th October 2025

- (1) EHC, Places for People and Affinity Water presentations are available at the East Herts Gilston Area Community Forum webpage <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>.

Previous forum presentations are also available here.

The next Community Forum is expected to be held during February 2026.

We urge residents to attend these forums and, if possible, submit questions, via email, at least 10 days before to community.forum@eastherts.gov.uk

You can also ask for specific topics you want to learn more about to be included in future meetings.

ii) Neighbourhood Development

- (1) Judicial Review for the two Gilston outline applications (Villages 1-6 and Village 7) again found in favour of East Herts Council. The following is from the HGGT website, 3rd Dec 2025 “A Court of Appeal ruling has formally ended the legal challenge to the Gilston Area’s outline planning permission, unlocking the next stage of delivery for this major part of Harlow & Gilston Garden Town.”

..... “After two separate High Court judgments upheld the council’s position, the Court of Appeal has now confirmed that no further right of appeal will be granted.”

iii) Strategic Landscape Masterplan - amended

- (1) Village 1 – 6 X/25/0215/CND Discharge condition 6 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) attached to 3/19/1045/OUT, 15th December 2025
- (2) Village 7 - X/25/0225/CND Full Discharge of Condition 10 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) and Full Discharge of Condition 11 (Strategic Landscape Design Code) Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 3/19/2124/OUT (Gilston - Village 7), 15th December 2025
- (3) The following is from SLMP Part A, Contexts and Strategies, Executive Summary - “Strategic Landscape Masterplan (SLMP) [which] sets out [PfP’s & TW’s] the vision for how the existing landscape will be protected, enhanced and transformed to establish a landscape framework ready to accommodate the new level of use and activities, manage and enhance the natural environment, and provide opportunities for leisure and recreation, access and enjoyment of the countryside for existing and future residents.”

The updated documents are available on the EHC Planning by searching X/25/0215/CND and X/25/0225/CND

- (4) Villages 5 & 6 Masterplanning Places for People had said they anticipate community engagement will start end 2025 / early 2026. Nothing publicised yet. Watch out for invitations to become involved.

iv) Whilst PFP have not yet commenced community engagement with local residents there appears to be a considerable amount of excavations / ground works related to the archaeological surveys necessary in preparation for Village 5 & 6 masterplanning.

v) The Neighbourhood Planning Group held no meeting during December 2025, 1st meeting 2026 is scheduled for 17th January.

Anyone who wishes to get involved, please contact us or go to the hegnp.org.uk contact page

vi) Gilston Stakeholder Liaison Group

(1) These meetings are between the parish councils of Eastwick & Gilston and Hunsdon, Places for People, PFP, and East Herts Council.

(2) A meeting was held Thursday November 27th 2025. Agenda and discussion points to be published on the Eastwick & Gilston Community website.

vii) Estate Management – Reminder

(1) Places for People's gilston.info website demonstrated at the February Community Forum

(a) The website has 3 headings:

(i) Current Works – a map of current and planned works in the Gilston Area.

(ii) Report an Issue – a map where any issues, eg tree fallen across a RoW, fly tipping, etc., can be reported

(iii) News – construction works and developments for the Gilston Area.

viii) Roadworks updates.

(1) For information on current and upcoming roadworks go to [Causeway one.network](https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire)<https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire>

(2) Places for People [gilstonparkestate](http://gilstonparkestate.com) website NEWS page <https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/news/enabling-works-for-gilston-underway/>. Nothing new on roads since 20th December 2024

ix) Useful websites:

(1) New Eastwick & Gilston Community website <https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk>

(2) Village 1 and Strategic Landscape Master Plan <https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/>

(3) Section 106 docs Villages 1 – 6 <https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PRSRKCGLO0V00>

(4) Village 7 <https://www.village7.co.uk>

(5) Section 106 docs Village 7 <https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PZKRYCGL05I00>

- (6) East Herts Community Forums <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>
- (7) East Herts Community Forums <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>

68) HIGHWAYS

- a) Cllr Harvey reported:
 - i) Fly tipping continues to be an issue locally . Reported tipping is dealt with swiftly but it quickly returns. The entrance to Cat Lane from the A414 is a case in point.
 - ii) Gilston Lane for the most part seems passable.
 - iii) Current works in Harlow and numerous diversions to A414 have contributed to regular congestion at the A414 roundabout by Eastwick Lodge Farm. This affects everyone in Eastwick and Gilston and Terlings Park and are set to continue this time on the roads that will be offering direct access to village 1 .
 - iv) Residents of Eastwick who live along the unadopted road managed by Clarion housing continue to complain, reasonably., about the state of the trees and particularly this years increased harvest of crab apples . This was discussed and a request for clearance made . Very little tree pruning was done and the few grids that are provided remain blocked.
 - v) Half of Eastwick Hall lane has been repaired to good effect but beyond the old shoot remains very pitted and will need repair,

69) NEW HOMES BONUS/ INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

- a) Web site – Cllr Orson reported that the new web site has now gone live. This was discussed and an article in the Parish Magazine will be published again in February with a QR code for residents to access the website.

70) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a) Cllr Harvey reported
 - i) There was a balance of approx. £20,000 by year end. I think this can be attributed to an increased and diverse use of the hall as we have not used grants this year.
 - ii) The new booking system c/o the parish website continues to make life easier.
 - iii) Now that the hall deeds have been identified there will be a hopefully speedy conclusion to our bid to register them with the Charities Commission – which will allow safe keeping for them.
 - iv) The hall has been engaged to host an event to promote village halls in the coming year through ACRE Action in Communities with Rural England.
 - v) We continue to attract new bookings, recently ordinary Pilates for Wednesdays and soon Chair Pilates will return on Friday morning. It is hoped all these events will be promoted on Facebook, the parish magazine and WhatsApp groups.

vi) Our broadband system is being upgraded to include part fibre. New log in details are provided in hall use book.

vii) Our next committee meeting/AGM will be at 19.00 in the village hall on February 16th. From 19.00 it is hoped that we can engage a bigger and supportive committee.

71) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Cllr Eric Buckmaster report is attached to these minutes.
- b) Cllr John Dunlop report is attached to these minutes

These reports are not published in the Parish Magazine but can be found with the minutes on the Parish web site.

72) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

- a) None.

73) ITEMS COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA.

- a) None.

74) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) 9th March – Annual Parish Meeting – Followed by the Parish Council Business Meeting
- b) 11th May – Annual Meeting of the Council – Followed by the Parish Council Business Meeting
- c) 13th July – Parish Council Business Meeting
- d) 14th September – Parish Council Business Meeting
- e) 9th November – Parish Council Business Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

E Buckmaster County Councillor Report January 2026

Update on Gilston Schools Planning

20 forms of entry needed

Aim is for development to provide all of its education needs

Education review Panel meets and plans are shared with the Design Review Panel

Expected first primary to be ready for first occupation in village one using HIG money and design work was undertaken. This was assuming Village 1 would be ahead of village 7.

However, Village 1 first occupation currently projected early 2030, while Taylor Wimpey believe they can have first occupations by early 2028, which may be optimistic. However Education Planners need to be flexible and provide whichever comes first so from February requests for capital funding will be going through the relevant panels and cabinet to draw down the S106 funding when required

All of the villages when built will have 3 forms of entry except V5 which will have 2

First Secondary to be as reception reach year 7 so 8 years after opening of first primary

In the interim they have had discussions with John Warner secondary school about taking students as they arrive through the development until the Gilston secondaries start to come through.

Eastwick Hall Lane

The programmed works have all been completed. If any resident has issues with the condition of the Highway, it now has to be fault reported through the Fault Reporting system, and then it will be triaged by Ringway as per the normal procedures.

Speed Management Strategy consultation.

Please see a link to a survey regarding views on Hertfordshire County Council updating our Speed Management Strategy (SMS) (2020), which provides a consistent approach to setting speed limits in the county.

[Speed Management Strategy | Let's Talk Transport for Hertfordshire](#)

The SMS provides the benchmark against which Hertfordshire County Council decide on how new speed limits are set as well as whether physical road calming measures are required and which would be appropriate.

We receive several hundred requests each year from residents and stakeholders to reduce speed limits. Each request is assessed against the SMS to determine whether a reduction is appropriate. It is therefore important to hear from our partners and stakeholders about their views on current speed limits in the county as well as understanding and developing the processes the County Council should follow for setting new speed limits.

This survey is intended for key stakeholders, and we would be grateful if you could help share it with relevant contacts, such as residents' groups or local businesses.

By completing this survey, you will help shape how Hertfordshire County Council sets future speed limits across the county.

Hertfordshire launches first Local Nature Recovery Strategy following record-breaking public engagement



Hertfordshire's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been published marking a landmark step in our commitment to restoring and enhancing nature across Hertfordshire and playing our part in the restoration of nature across England. A 'nature summit' will be held in January to formally launch the strategy and share plans for the delivery for the strategy.

Priorities include improving habitats for species like swift and water vole to increase biodiversity and create a more resilient natural environment for future generations. It will guide projects that benefit both people and wildlife, while supporting efforts to tackle climate change.

Developed over two years by the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership (HNRP), chaired by Hertfordshire County Council, the strategy sets out a shared vision and identifies priority areas for investment and action, including protecting our ancient chalk streams. The partnership brings together organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors, working closely with land managers, citizen scientists and local communities.

Everyone can play a part in supporting nature's recovery whether they manage acres of land or a small garden, so public engagement has been at the heart of this process. Hertfordshire had over 70 sites put forward by local landowners for inclusion in the LNRS and achieved the highest number of LNRS consultation survey responses nationally with 751 survey responses from residents, organisations and community groups.

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2026/27-2028/29

Issue

- On 17 December 2025, the Government published the provisional [Local Government Finance Settlement](#) for 2026/27 – 2028/29.
- This sets out allocations for local authorities across England for the next three years and incorporates an updated distribution of resources following the conclusion of the Fair Funding Review 2.0.

Summary

- The 2026/27 provisional Local Government Finance Settlement is the first multi-year settlement in a decade. It states that £78 billion will be made available for council services in 2026/27 with council's 'core spending power' due to rise to more than £84 billion by 2028-29.
- Council tax rises will continue to be capped at 3% per year with an extra 2% allowed for adult social care.
- Further plans on how the Government intends to manage SEND deficits will be set out in the final settlement, expected in early 2026.
- Implications for Hertfordshire are currently being analysed and we will update Members as soon as possible. Previous modelling had indicated that the Government's new methodology could result in a headline cumulative reduction in our grant of around £50m a year.
- In their [response to the provisional Settlement](#), the County Councils Network recognises that some of its Member councils will receive an increase in government grant funding but others will see a reduction. It also notes that at least 90% of county and unitary councils' increase in 'core spending power' will be derived from the presumption of annual maximum (5%) council tax increases.

Hertfordshire County Council has published its draft budget for the next financial year which outlines how the council will spend £1.2 billion on services Hertfordshire's residents, businesses and visitors rely on every day.

Highlights from the proposed 2026/27 budget includes additional funding for key services including:

- £21 million to provide high quality residential and home care to our older and more vulnerable residents, helping to meet the rising demand and costs of care workers' pay (increasing to £42 million and then £62 million by the third year).
- £23 million to meet the needs of the growing number of older people and adults with disabilities who need our support (increasing to £45 million and then £67 million by the third year). This will help to recruit and retain people into the adult care workforce and pay for hundreds of thousands of hours of care and support that residents rely on day in and day out.
- £16 million to support the children in our care and children with disabilities through adversity by creating stable homes for them to live in and enabling them to build relationships which equip them to thrive into adulthood and achieve their aspirations.
- £1.4 million increase in fostering allowances so children in our care can live in safe, caring homes close to people they know.

- £6.3 million to improve opportunities and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by recruiting more Educational Psychologists and staff in teams reviewing children's needs, enabling stronger collaboration with families.
- £1.5 million over two years to make roads safer by rolling out new 20 mph zones in our communities where residents tell us they want them. Together with a new more efficient use of existing resources, this will enable the delivery of nearly 200 new 20 mph zones.

We are among the worst affected by the Government's new funding formula for councils which cuts our funding and takes away over £40 million in grant funding a year by 2028/29.

A further £55m in savings on top of the £42 million delivered this financial year and grow our income by £12 million

Current proposals put forward by the council present a headline budget that requires the use of £5m of reserves in addition to having to raise Council Tax by 2.99 per cent plus 2 per cent to support Adult Social Care in April.

Your Tree Our Future scheme

Thousands of Hertfordshire residents collected free trees as part of the 'Your Tree Our Future' scheme, helping to make the county greener and more sustainable. [This year's scheme saw 94,000 trees claimed across Hertfordshire 25,000 more than last year.](#) The overwhelming response shows just how committed our county is to create a healthier environment for future generations.

County council rolls out award-winning assistive technology

Hertfordshire County Council is rolling out its award-winning assistive technology for Hertfordshire residents to use at home.

The technology, called Data Inspired Living, has been used by the county council's social care teams since 2024, and won an Innovative Social Care Solution Award last year at the LGC Awards. Now the system is being made available for residents with a presenting need but not known to social care, and their carers to use at home, thanks to a collaboration with Herts Careline.

The cutting-edge assistive technology pulls together data from a range of smart sensors like smart plugs and motion sensors around the home into a dashboard that family or carers can access. If something unusual happens, like missed medication or reduced movement, the smart system promptly alerts family or carers of any changes so action can be taken.

Data Inspired Living is a discreet system that does not record sound or video and is designed to help residents aged 18+ maintain their independence at home whilst providing peace of mind for those who care for them.

The technology costs just £10.50 a week thanks to a subsidy from the county council and includes access to the Herts Careline Telecare Service. The council will assess the presenting needs of the person to decide which aspects of the offer is suitable for installation and agree with them and their carers what will be monitored. The agreed sensors are then installed in the home, and a dashboard is set up to help monitor their routine.

Hertfordshire unitary proposals consultation set for February

The Government is set to consult on plans to replace Hertfordshire's existing councils with a smaller number of unitary authorities, with the seven-week consultation starting in February.

As a reminder the preferences expressed for the number of unitaries across Hertfordshire was: two voted for 2 unitaris, three for 3 unitaries, six for 4 unitaries.

Traffic Management problems caused by untility works

I wrote to the Cabinet member Hertfordshire Highways as follows....

I understand you are in discussion with utility companies regarding the way traffic management is undertaken and issues arising. The problem is particularly prevalent in Sawbridgeworth which sits in between Harlow and Bishops Stortford on the A1184. The traffic management companies employed by the Utilities are frequently thoughtless over the timing and positioning of signage and barriers, and often causing confusion to drivers and congestion in the wider network. An example is where Road Ahead Closed signs are placed in locations giving a misleading perspective of which road is actually closed. This can cause town centre businesses to have appointments cancelled and therefore a loss of trade. I know you are familiar with the wider problem of traffic management remaining in place far longer than is required to cure the reinstatement of the surface.

These matters are increasingly visible on social media which serves to multiply the feeling of frustration.

I have a really good working relationship with the Network Management East team. They are always so helpful and responsive, but their job is made so much harder by the inefficiencies of the Utility companies and their contractors. Our local press are picking up on this.....

Flooding and Drainage updates

Stanstead Abbots Slowing the Flow at Cappell Lane Nine new leaky dams have been constructed by our contractors Ground Control at Cappell Lane, Stanstead Abbots. The dams are located in an ordinary watercourse upstream of Cappell Lane, and have been built mostly using material from the surrounding woodlands to reduce the environmental impact of the project.

Leaky dams are structures that can be installed across watercourses to help store more water upstream and 'slow the flow' of water during a heavy rainfall event. Unlike traditional dams, leaky dams are designed to still allow some water through. However, the flow of water is slowed down to help reduce the likelihood of flooding downstream. As well as helping to hold back floodwater, leaky dams also provide new habitats for wildlife.



This project has been led by the FRM team over the past 1.5 years, so we are delighted to see it come to completion. Whilst this particular ordinary watercourse is dry for a lot of the year, it has contributed to property flooding in the past. We are hopeful that this natural flood management scheme will help to reduce the impacts of flooding during future rainfall events.

As part of this project, we will also be monitoring data from the leaky dams to learn more about rainfall in this area, see how rainfall might be impacted by climate change, and assess the performance of the leaky dams. We hope that this information can further our understanding of flooding and be used to support similar projects.

Hunsdon Alleviation Scheme

The team have found a product we believe could be provided as part of the flood kit to act as a barrier in front of driveways. This product is not currently on the market, but we are working with the providers to ensure we can secure it as soon as possible. We hope that this will be within the next couple of months. waiting on an update from our Highways team on these works.

- Following this, works are planned to bring the culvert to a maintainable condition. This will include any identified civil work that is needed on the ordinary watercourse.
- Finally, it is hoped that work to re-line sections of the watercourse where it is a brick culvert will be carried out next financial year. However, this is dependent on all other works being carried out.
- Clearance works were carried out on the watercourse in December.

Flood Kits in Communities Hertfordshire County Council is expanding its Flood Kit pilot scheme Hertfordshire County Council . The second phase of the scheme is still open for communities to sign up. You can register for the scheme here: Hertfordshire Flood Kit Application form [Hertfordshire Flood Kit Application form](#)

Bullfields Sawbridgeworth

Near the Funeral Director there were planned Gully and Vactor Works for 15th and 16th January. There will be traffic management signals 09:30 to 15:00, ie outside of school drop off and pick up. This will involve CCTV. I have also seen that Ringway are publishing a further closure which may be for any follow up work. In addition Outside 52 Bullfield Thames Water have:

- Replaced collapsed sewer

- Repaired defects
- Rebuilt a manhole chamber

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service trials body-worn cameras amid rising reports of abuse.

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service have launched a trial of body-worn cameras to enhance safety and operational effectiveness, following a concerning rise in reports of abuse towards staff.

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, the Service recorded 22 reports of violent incidents, including verbal and physical abuse directed at firefighters and support staff. This represents a sharp increase from the previous year, when 12 incidents were reported, a rise of 83%.

As part of the trial, body-worn cameras have been issued to crews at Hemel Hempstead and Stevenage Fire Stations, along with Prevention Officers across the county and the Business Fire Safety Team. The Service plans to introduce body-worn cameras across all Hertfordshire fire stations by early 2026.

As well as acting as a deterrent to abusive behaviour, the devices will capture valuable footage which can be used for:

- post-incident reviews
- providing evidence for investigations
- capturing decision-making during critical incidents
- learning and development across the organisation.

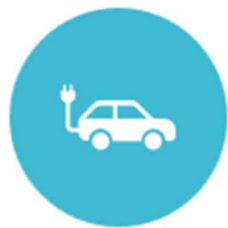
Hertfordshire County Council powers ahead with new EV Chargepoint rollout

Thousands of new electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints will soon be installed across Hertfordshire after the county council appointed three leading chargepoint operators to deliver a major infrastructure programme backed by over £6 million in secured grant funding.

The rollout marks a major step in delivering on Hertfordshire County Council's Corporate Plan commitment to growing a greener Hertfordshire, making EV charging easier, fairer and more reliable for residents and businesses.

Working in close partnership with district and borough councils, the council has already identified priority areas across the county where residents lack off-street parking.

This year's report, along with new dynamic features built on web powered by ESRI's ArcGIS StoryMaps, makes it easier than ever to provide a deep dive into the latest travel trends and patterns.



8.5% of households owned a fully electric vehicle in 2025.

This is one of many insights in the newly published 2025 Traffic and Transport Data Report (TTDR). In addition to the conventional PDF version, you can now also discover the interactive web version of the full report at:

👉 <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/TTDR>

East Herts District Matters

Next steps for setting the council budget for 2026/7 East Herts Council has begun the process of scrutinising and agreeing proposals to set a balanced budget for the year ahead.

At a meeting of the Executive on 13 January, councillors considered an initial draft of the budget proposals, which sets out plans for a gross spend of £45 million to deliver vital local services in 2026/27.

To balance the books, the council has had to find savings or generate additional income to close a £890,000 budget gap.

Old River Lane Planning Application Available To View Online, Public Comments Encouraged

Plans submitted by developer Cityheart for the regeneration of Old River Lane in Bishop's Stortford are now available to view online, with comments from the public being encouraged.

The planning application outlines an ambitious redevelopment project that will see the Old River Lane area transformed into a multi-use, town-centre destination. The Old River Lane scheme proposes to provide hundreds of new homes as well as enhanced public spaces and new community facilities in the historic town centre.

The planning application has been submitted following a public consultation that took place in June 2025, which saw local residents and businesses contribute to the outlined masterplan.

Please click the button below to view and comment on the planning application for Old River Lane.

[View and Comment On Old River Lane Plans](#)

How to borrow a thermal imaging camera for free Borrow a Thermal Imaging Camera for Free This Winter

East Herts District Council, in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, has launched a new Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme in Winter 2025. The initiative will enable residents to borrow a thermal imaging camera free of charge from their local library. The scheme is designed to help households identify where heat may be escaping from their homes, highlighting insulation gaps, draughts and other areas where energy efficiency improvements could be made.

A reminder to never bin your batteries Never Bin Batteries

After Christmas, many of us are clearing away decorations with flat batteries or opening new toys and gadgets. It's important to remember that batteries should never go in household bins.

Loose batteries or batteries hidden inside small electrical items such as vapes, can be crushed in bin lorries, causing sparks and serious fires. Lithium batteries are especially dangerous because they release their own oxygen, making fires harder to extinguish.

Please remember:

Never bin batteries, vapes or small electricals

Always recycle batteries separately from household waste and recycling

Find your nearest battery recycling point by visiting Recycle Your Electricals and using their online locator.

Eric Buckmaster January 2026

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Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council - District Councillor report January 26

Cllr. John Dunlop

1. Gilston Park Estate

The JR High Court case on the 18th September was won by EHDC and costs awarded. The appellant has now appealed and we await the Appeal Courts timescales.

Meanwhile TW continue to submit various applications out of sequence and at their own risk as EHDC insist on the agreed sequencing of application approvals.

A Community Forum meeting was held at Manor of Groves on the 14th October with presentations from Affinity Water, PfP and EHDC. The presentations will be available at this link in due course -

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>

The next Community Forum will be in February.

I am working with a SEND organisation to try and bring wood management to the estate as a meantime use.

Saplings Begin (saplingsbegin.com) provide services for special needs children and young adults in woods and are keen to take on a wood within PfP's estate. PfP are keen for this to happen too and they are in discussions to get this started soon. The preferred wood is in Hunsdon Black Hut Wood near the airfield. Other ideas are welcome for the meantime use of the PfP estate.

Borrow a Thermal Imaging Camera for Free This Winter

East Herts District Council, in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, has launched a new Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme in Winter 2025. The initiative will enable residents to borrow a thermal imaging camera free of charge from their local library. The scheme is designed to help households identify where heat may be escaping from their homes, highlighting insulation gaps, draughts and other areas where energy efficiency improvements could be made.

Cameras are now available to borrow at five libraries across the district: Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware. Once borrowed, residents can use the camera to survey their homes and pinpoint specific problem areas. By understanding where warmth is being lost, households can make targeted and cost-effective improvements that may reduce energy bills, enhance overall comfort and contribute to lower carbon emissions.

Residents may also be eligible for grant funding to help address issues identified through the thermal imaging process. Information about available grants can be accessed through:

East Herts Home Energy Support Service
Provided by Better Housing Better Health
0800 107 0044 (weekdays 9am-5pm)

bhbh@nef.org.uk
www.bhbh.org.uk

The council encourages anyone interested in the scheme to visit their local library to find out more or to borrow a camera once the service is live.

To borrow a camera, residents must be library members. Those who are not already members can sign up online at: <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives>

This scheme is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), supporting local communities to improve energy efficiency, reduce household costs and enhance quality of life.

Local Government Reform (LGR) update

Public Consultations at the stage completed. Consultants are now working on modelling 2/3/4 unitary models. Just as a reminder of the devolution timetable:

- September 25 Consultations
- 13th November - Extraordinary Council meeting

This was held and the outcome was:

2 unitaries - 3 votes
3 unitaries - 10 votes
4 unitaries - 15 votes
Abstentions - 14 votes

- 18th November - EHDC Executive decision on preferred unitary numbers
- 28 Nov 2025 Submit full Local Government Reorganisation Proposal
- Proposed May 2027 Elections (Shadow authorities)
- Proposed Apr 2028 Vesting day for new unitary councils

4. East Herts Lottery

Tickets are just £1 in the weekly draw, and you can choose exactly which good cause you would like your money to go to!

More of your money goes to your chosen cause than with any other major lottery - you can see the exact breakdown, where every penny goes, on our website

Sign up and support a good cause today - not only will you be in with the chance of winning weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000, but if you enter before Saturday, 29th November you will be in with the chance of winning a Nintendo Switch 2 Bundle (or a cash prize), all for just £1 a week!

Learn more and play the East Herts Lottery: <https://www.easthertslottery.co.uk/>

6. Railway 200 Inspiration Train Exhibition Coming to Hertford East Station 7 & 8 February 2026



A free, family-friendly exhibition train celebrating 200 years of the modern railway is set to visit Hertford East Station on 7 & 8 February 2026.

The travelling train exhibition, called Inspiration, has already welcomed more than 40,000 visitors on its 60-stop, year-long tour of Britain as part of a unique celebration of railway heritage. Co-curated with the National Railway Museum, Inspiration explores how railways transformed the UK and the wider world. Visitors can discover historic railway firsts, take part in hands-on engineering challenges, as well as learning about a range of fascinating careers in the rail industry.

Tickets are free, but spaces are limited so people are encouraged to book their place early. For more details and to book a free visit, please visit the Railway 200 website [Hertford East station – Railway 200](#)

5. LCWIP at Exec on the 24th March 2026

The East Herts Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will be presented at Exec on 24th March. Papers will be available in advance as usual at -

Decision type: Key

Reason Key: Affects two or more Wards;

Decision status: For Determination

Wards affected: (All Wards);

Notice of proposed decision first published: 20/05/2025

Decision due: 24 Mar 2026 by Executive

Lead member: Executive Member for Planning and Growth

Lead director: Head of Planning and Building Control

Contact: Richard Crutchley, Team Leader (Planning Policy) Email: richard.crutchley@eastherts.gov.uk, Kay Mead, Principal Planning Officer Email: kay.mead@eastherts.gov.uk, Claire Sime, Service Manager (Planning Policy, Design and Conservation) Email: claire.sime@eastherts.gov.uk.

Documents

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

6. Open Possibilities: New Skills Campaign for East Herts

The screenshot displays the 'Residents' Hub' website for East Herts Council. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', 'Courses', 'Books', 'Support', and a search icon. A sidebar on the left lists 'Events' (today's and tomorrow's), 'View By' (Pathways, Programmes, Courses, Certified, On Demand, New), and 'Categories' (Business Essentials, Mental Wellness, Communication Skills, Microlearning, Workplace Readiness, Customer Service Excellence). The main content area features three 'MICROLEARNING' course cards:

- MENTAL WELLNESS - MICRO**: 'Workload Stress and having the Confidence to Discuss with Your Manager'. Description: 'Managing workload stress is essential for maintaining productivity and well-being, yet many employees struggle to speak up when they...'. Next Event: Nov 10, 2025, 2:00 PM.
- MENTAL WELLNESS - MICRO**: 'Overcoming Social Anxiety'. Description: 'In this concise and impactful webinar, participants will gain valuable insights and practical strategies to navigate social situations...'. Next Event: Nov 10, 2025, 2:30 PM.
- BUSINESS ESSENTIALS - MICRO**: 'Procurement - The Fundamentals'. Description: 'Want to unlock cost savings, improve efficiency, and build strong supplier relationships? Or maybe you sell to businesses and now need...'. Next Event: Nov 11, 2025, 9:30 AM.

This is a small example of the types of courses which are free.

For more information, visit:

 [SEEDL Residents Hub](#)

 [SEEDL Business Hub](#)

We've recently launched a new training and skills campaign, Open Possibilities, to support residents, pupils, and local businesses in accessing training and boosting employment opportunities.

The initiative gives residents and businesses free access to a wide range of online training via the SEEDL platform. Courses cover areas such as IT, customer service, professional development, and sector-specific training, and are available both live and on-demand.

Local businesses will also be supported through the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP), which provides tailored advice and action plans to help organisations address skills needs and connect with training opportunities.

The campaign also includes the return of HOP's Generation Hertford and Stortford Careers Fairs, giving young people and the wider community the chance to meet employers and explore career pathways.