

# EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES

## PARISH CLERK

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The Parish Council Business Meeting of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Village Hall, Pye Corner, Gilston 8.00pm

**The Annual Parish Meeting** – This meeting gives the registered electors of the parish an opportunity to come and discuss any matters of importance within the community.

At the start of the meeting no residents were present so we went onto the Parish Council Business Meeting.

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Beazley, Bryant, Marx, Orson, 1 member of the public (late arrival). Christine Law (Clerk) in attendance.

Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Dunlop's – There reports are attached to these minutes and can also be found on the web site.

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) NO residents were present for the section of the meeting.

## 75) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Cllr Harvey

## 76) RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) None.

## 77) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- a) The minutes of 12th January 2026 meeting were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Marx. Signed by Cllr Orson as a true record.

## 78) ACCOUNTS

- a) Clerks report to the Council of accounts summary (appendix 1).
- b) New Gilston Sign & Planter – Cllr Bryant informed the meeting that she had received a quote for this which would be £973.20 plus VAT.
- c) Terlings Park Little Free Library – The Parish council has received a request from Terlings Park for funding this project at a cost of £1,013.00. Proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Beazley.
- d) For information £20,000.00 has been transferred to the CCLA account making a total of 240,000.00 we invested.

Items a-b proposed by Cllr Marx and seconded by Cllr Beazley.

## **79) 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. Approved.
- 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) 5no. Interpretation Boards, 2no. Flag Poles and 1no. QR post in Public Open Spaces at Terlins Park – Land east of Terlins Avenue, Southeast and south of Bowlby Hill and south and south-west of Turvin Crescent – 3/25/1620/ADV. Has been granted.
- e) Channoeks Farm House – Amendment \_ Erection of Cartlodge building to accommodate a garage for 2 vehicles, domestic storage and workshop, with the associated construction o a new driveway – 3/25/1815/HH. Awaiting decision.
- f) The Old Rectory, Gilston – 3/25/1522/FUL has been refused but now has gone to appeal. 26/00001/REFUSE. Awaiting decision.
- g) Eastwick Road, Eastwick – 3/26/0260/HH & 3/26/0261/LBC – Single storey rear extension, internal alterations to kitchen, replacement door and removal of non-original doors, repair works to render, roof and timber work. Awaiting decision.

## **80) PARISH PATHS**

Cllr Orson reported

- a) Eastwick Hall Farm has been vacated. PfP advise that It's outside of the planning application area and there are no immediate or long terms plans other than re-letting, hopefully to the local farmer as we don't want it vacant and making the site secure.
- b) Permissive path at E7, where the Estate has opened and marked the permissive path through the wood around Eastwick Hall Farm a bridge is needed across the ditch as on one side there is at least a 1m drop that has created a potential H&S hazard. When walking from Eastwick toward Hunsdon the ground is higher and the ditch is not immediately visible. Pfp are awaiting a quote for a bridge which is expect early February
- c) Archaeological Survey work that in places crosses footpaths - activity will continue through February and likely into March as once the archaeologists have finished Pfp will be undertaking noise surveys on the south of where Village 6 is and ground investigations across the two villages, so residents will see people out recording the noise and also piling rigs taking borehole surveys. This will all be put on the gilston.info website and in the newsletter.
- d) Waymarks to be reinstated by HCC Rights of Way contractor on FP22 FP8

- e) Footpath Map Boards, Cllr Orson has inspected them and found the one at Eastwick Village War Memorial needs repair to one of the supports. Clerk has been asked to write to supplier to find out costs of new columns

## 81) COMMUNITY FORUM/ NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Bryant reported:

- a) EHC Gilston Area Community Forum held 18th February 2026. Significant presentation by Places for People providing an overview of proposed road infrastructure works, phasing and possible traffic management (contraflows, etc.) Places for People phasing:
- i) Hold a community drop in event in March to present proposals in detail
  - ii) Enabling works to commence after Easter
  - iii) Main programme starting Summer 2026
  - iv) Community drop-in events will be held once the exact timings and details of the upcoming works have been confirmed
- b) EHC and Places for People presentations are available via the parish website and at the East Herts Gilston Area Community Forum webpage. In addition, there is a brief PPT by Taylor Wimpey which was not presented at the CF due to lack of time.
- i) <https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk/> NEWS Section
  - ii) <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>.

Previous forum presentations are also available here.

- c) The next Community Forum is expected to be held during May 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](mailto:community.forum@eastherts.gov.uk). There is also an opportunity to “drop-in” between 6:30 and 7:00pm for informal discussion with EHC councillors, planning officers and developer representatives.

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

- d) Neighbourhood Development. There has been little apparent activity over the winter months other than archaeological and environmental surveys.
- i) Strategic Landscape Masterplan – amended – has now been approved
  - ii) Village 1 – 6 X/25/0215/CND Discharge condition 6 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) attached to 3/19/1045/OUT, 15th December 2025
  - iii) 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

So expect things to start after Easter

- iv) Places for People held a Villages 5 & 6 Masterplanning Community Working Group (CWG), Thursday 5th February. 23 members of the public attended, including NPG members and various representatives / residents of Harlow.
- v) Further CWG sessions will be held later in the year, alongside wider community engagement drop-in sessions. Submission of the Village 5 and 6 Masterplans to East Herts District Council is anticipated later in the year.
- e) The Neighbourhood Planning Group met 17th January and 2nd March. They also met the Director, Paula Hirst, of the HGGT 27th January. Anyone who wishes to get involved, please contact us or go to the [hegnp.org.uk](http://hegnp.org.uk) contact page
- f) Gilston Stakeholder Liaison Group – next meeting Tuesday 24th March. These meetings are between the parish councils of Eastwick & Gilston and Hunsdon, Places for People, PfP, and East Herts Council. The last meeting was held Thursday November 27th 2025. Agenda and discussion points published on the Eastwick & Gilston Community website, under Meetings.
- g) Useful websites:
  - i) New Eastwick & Gilston Community website <https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk>
  - h) Estate Management – Reminder. Places for People’s [gilston.info](http://gilston.info) website demonstrated at the February Community Forum. 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.
  - i) Roadworks updates.
    - i) For information on current and upcoming roadworks go to [Causeway one.network](http://Causeway.one.network) <https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire>
    - ii) 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
  - j) Village 1 and Strategic Landscape Master Plan. <https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/>
  - k) Section 106 docs Villages 1 – 6. <https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PRSRKCGL00V00>
  - l) Village 7 <https://www.village7.co.uk>
  - m) Section 106 docs Villages 7. <https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PZKRYCGL05I00>
  - n) East Herts Community Forums <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>

## 82))HIGHWAYS

Cllr Harvey was not present at this meeting but her written report states:

- a) Gilston Lane has had problems with potholes . These are now being repaired and some repairs have also been made at the top of Eastwick Hall Lane .
- b) The East Herts community forum link now provides details of the planned works beginning mid 2026 .This we are told will result in a closure of one of the carriageways along the A414. This will undoubtedly result in congestion and we await further information on plans for its mitigation.
- c) Pruning work has been undertaken along Roseley cottages Eastwick and the road appears in a better condition.
- d) There is now a locked gate preventing access to Eastwick Hall Farm and the Aerodrome.
- e) There is also a locked gate at the end of Gilston Lane and damage to the track which leads to Eastwick Hall Lane. only way out of Eastwick will be to the A414 which will be a concern in periods of high congestion and undoubted blockage. It will be a dilemma getting children to school and reaching work .
- f) Terlings Park also has only one exit onto the A414 and will probably have to detour around Redricks Lane to avoid congestion -probably only to meet it .
- g) It is important that the council addresses how children can be transported to what are necessarily a number of different schools in the area.
- h) It has been suggested that there will be traffic lights at Eastwick . Hopefully there will be traffic lights at Terlings also .

### **83) NEW HOMES BONUS/ INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

- a) New Gilston Village Sign
- b) Terlings Park Little Free Library

Both items were discussed under accounts.

### **84) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Harvey was not present at this meeting but her written report states:

- a) The village hall held its AGM in February.
- b) A new chair had been appointed-Carolyn Laing -from Terlings . Janine Bryant will remain as vice chair . James Beazley & James Jones are welcomed as new committee members.
- c) Meetings will now be held every two months.
- d) We are pursuing upgrades with S106 funding to the toilet block and considering new flooring for the committee room.
- e) Hall usage & bookings remain satisfactory.

## **85) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Litter Picking – An email has been received from a resident of Pye Corner about the amount of rubbish that has accumulated along this stretch of the road. Cllr Orson contacted East Herts Council Customer Service and a scheduled litter pick has now been completed.
- b) Cllr Eric Buckmaster report is attached to these minutes.
- c) 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.

- d) Cllr Beazley said that his contact at Mc Mullens who had been providing updates on the shut Dusty Miller had apparently moved on, and that recent requests for updates to their general enquiry address had not been responded to. As the Red Lion in Eastwick is in the same position it was agreed that the next request should refer to both pubs, and any correspondence cc to the Clerk.
- e) Cllr Bryant informed the meeting that one of the Defibrillator accessories will not be available as the design has been changed and possibly by the end of this year we shall have to replace the whole unit.

## **86) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**

- a) None.

## **87) ITEMS COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA.**

- a) None.

## **88) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

## E Buckmaster County Councillor Report March 2026

### Local Flood Risk Measures Update

**Cappell Lane, Stanstead Abbots** Construction of the leaky dams is completed.

We are assessing the success of the dams via the monitoring installed at the culvert and will be completing inspections throughout the year.

**Hunsdon Alleviation Scheme** Clearance works were carried out on the watercourse in December.. We are currently waiting on an update from our Highways team on these works.

**Flood Kits in Communities** The second phase of the scheme is still open for communities to sign up. You can register for the scheme via our Hertfordshire Flood Kit Application form. [Hertfordshire Flood Kit Application form](#) The application is open until 31st March 2026.

**Consultation still open. Central Government invites Hertfordshire residents to have their say on Local Government Reorganisation**

## Hertfordshire councils are changing. Government Consultation



Residents and organisations across Hertfordshire are being urged to have their say on proposals to change the structure of local government in the county

In February 2025, the Government invited councils to submit proposals for local government reorganisation to simplify local government and reduce costs. The Government has today (5 February 2026) launched a seven-week statutory consultation on the proposals.

In Hertfordshire, there are currently two types of council delivering services (although parish and town councils also operate in some areas):

- District/borough councils provide services such as social housing and homelessness support, leisure services, town planning, street cleansing, waste and recycling collections, community and cultural centres, and council tax and business rates collection.
- The county council is responsible for services including children's social care, education (including special educational needs), libraries, highways, recycling centres, public health and trading standards

Under the Government's plan, these councils will be replaced by new unitary councils that will deliver all services currently provided by the county council and the district/borough councils.

Following a series of engagement events for residents and stakeholders, plus an online survey, Hertfordshire's 11 councils, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner, submitted proposals for two, three and four unitary council models for the Government to consider.

Full details of the three proposals, including business cases, financial analysis, maps showing the proposed boundaries, and a link to the Government's consultation are available at: [www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk)

Paper copies of the Government's consultation will also be available in council receptions and in Hertfordshire libraries.

The Government's consultation will close on 26 March 2026.

### **National recognition for Hertfordshire County Council's pioneering tool to support adults with learning disabilities**

Hertfordshire County Council has been shortlisted for a Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement award in the Innovation in Reducing Health Inequalities category for its pioneering frailty risk assessment tool.

The innovative approach taken by the county council allows social care teams to collaborate with adults with learning disabilities and the people who know them best to assess the risk of frailty from the age of 18 rather than 65, when it is usually assessed.

The tool measures risk across a range of areas including physical health, hospital admission rates, support needs, and likelihood of a fall and determines a rating of mild, moderate, or severe. The council's social care teams can then make necessary onward referrals, adjust care plans, and implement interventions to proactively reduce risk, improve health outcomes, and protect independence.

### **Hertfordshire County Council has been shortlisted for two prestigious national awards for its innovative work to help more people live more independently for longer and improve support for carers.**

The Connect and Prevent development programme was shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award in the Health and Social Care category and a Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement award in the Digital Transformation category.

The shortlisted programme is designed to ensure older and disabled adults receive the support they need as early as possible, devising and implementing innovative new ways to prevent, delay and reduce the need for long term care, helping people to live full and independent lives.

As well as providing better outcomes for people the programme has helped tackle rising demand and cost pressures in adult social care which is projected to save the county council £24.8m.

When data showed that strains and stresses on unpaid carers were leading to carer breakdowns that put extra demand on social care services, Hertfordshire County Council teamed up with Newton to work on a solution using advanced analytics.

The result is an artificial intelligence (AI) model that uses what we know about carers to identify those that might be at risk of reaching crisis. This enables Hertfordshire County Council and its partners to proactively reach out to carers offering personalised support and guidance, improving their wellbeing, maintaining personalised care for those they support, and reducing social care pressure.

The county council's Adult Care Services worked closely with carers, frontline workers, and community partners to design a collaborative and connected system with unpaid carers at the centre. As a result, over 250 carers have already been positively impacted by the programme, reporting improvement in feelings of resilience and wellbeing following practical advice and wellbeing checks.

### **Free bus travel scheme announced for care experienced young people**

Hertfordshire County Council has announced it will fund free bus travel for young adults, 18-25, who have previously been in its care.

Around 1,000 young people are expected to benefit from the scheme, which will launch in early March and be trialled for 12 months. The scheme will utilise the existing Intalink App to provide a 100% discount on Intalink Connect Tickets, which allows unlimited travel on all buses in Hertfordshire (and some points beyond).

This news comes as councillors agreed to extend an existing council tax support scheme for care leavers, which will raise the age that care leavers will get council tax reimbursed to them from 21 to 25, at a meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 17 February. This and the launch of the council's new [corporate parenting strategy](#) highlights a commitment to those children and young people currently in our care and how the council plans to continue to help them as they enter adulthood.

### **Hertfordshire pledges support to Ukraine with new aid truck on anniversary of conflict**

On the four-year anniversary since the conflict in Ukraine began, Hertfordshire County Council have reaffirmed its commitment by coordinating humanitarian aid being sent to Ukraine.

The articulated lorry, containing medicines, warm clothing, food and much more, is destined for the Sumy region in the north-east of Ukraine.

The truck is the 14<sup>th</sup> such aid truck sent by volunteers at Herts Fullstop within the county council, alongside partners. This time it will be sent to Sumy Regional Government, in the north-east of the country, with whom the council have developed a relationship.

**Air Quality Consultation Hertfordshire County Council is inviting residents, community partners, businesses, and stakeholders to help shape a healthier air future for the county as launches a public consultation on its draft Air Quality Strategy.**

Despite improvements in emissions from vehicles and other sources in recent years, poor air quality remains the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, contributing to around 30,000 deaths each year in England. Short bursts of high pollution can cause immediate health issues, while long term exposure harms our lungs and heart. Air pollution affects everyone, especially children, older adults, and people with underlying conditions. In Hertfordshire we want every resident to thrive with support for those most in need.

In late 2024, the Council engaged with residents across the county to understand the air quality issues that matter most to them. Their feedback has shaped a newly drafted strategy that sets out the county's direction for tackling air pollution and protecting public health in the years ahead.

Find out more about the consultation and have your say at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/AirQuality26](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/AirQuality26)

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

Applications are slightly down compared to last year with 14,519 applications for Hertfordshire children. 78 per cent gained a place at their first preference school.

Allocations for secondary and upper schools for September 2026, were released, Monday 2nd March.

## Comparative Summary of Secondary/Upper Admissions 2026 & 2025

Applicants	2026	2025	Variance
Number of Hertfordshire applicants	14519	14703	-184
Number of out county applicants	3721	3742	-21
Hertfordshire applicants as a % of all applicants	79.60	79.71	-0.11
Out county applicants as a % of all applicants	20.40	20.29	0.11
Total Applicants	18240	18445	-205

Allocations		2026		2025		Variance	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Hertfordshire Children</b>	allocated a ranked school	13730	94.57	13883	94.42	-153	0.15
	allocated their first ranked school	11350	78.17	11265	76.62	85	1.55
	allocated their second ranked school	1433	9.87	1593	10.83	-160	-0.96
	allocated their third ranked school	603	4.15	679	4.62	-76	-0.47
	allocated their fourth ranked school	344	2.37	346	2.35	-2	0.02
<b>Out county children</b>	allocated a ranked school	1426	38.32	1428	38.16	-2	0.16
	allocated their first ranked school	1105	29.70	1106	29.56	-1	0.14
	allocated their second ranked school	194	5.21	189	5.05	5	0.16
	allocated their third or lower ranked school	127	3.41	133	3.55	-6	-0.14
<b>Total children</b>	allocated a ranked school	15156	83.09	15311	83.01	-155	0.08
	allocated their first ranked school	12455	68.28	12371	67.07	84	1.21
	allocated their second ranked school	1627	8.92	1782	9.66	-155	-0.74
	allocated their third or lower ranked school	1074	5.89	1158	6.28	-84	-0.39
<b>Hertfordshire children allocated a non-ranked school (on times and lates)</b>		779	5.37	810	5.51	-31	
<b>Hertfordshire children allocated a non-ranked school (on times)</b>		680	4.68	733	4.99	-53	

The number of applications has remained high with 14,519 applications received for Hertfordshire pupils, just 1.25% (184 applications) fewer than last year. In total, including out-county applicants, 18,240 applications for Hertfordshire schools were received, again slightly less than last year when 18,445 applications were processed. Satisfaction rates have remained high, with 94.57% of Hertfordshire children offered a ranked school for 2026, almost the same as last year, 94.42%. The percentage of children offered their first-ranked school is higher than last year, at 78.17%, compared to 76.62% previously.

In the tables below you can see the results for each parish in East Hertfordshire for the allocations against each preference ranked 1 to 4

District	Parish	Allocated preference										Total	% Ranked Allocations
		P1	P2	P3	P4	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	Overtime NRA	Late NRA		
	Bengeo Rural	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	100.00
	Benington	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	80.00
	Bishops Stortford	405	65	25	8	0	2	1	0	0	2	508	99.61
	Bramfield	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100.00
	Braughing	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	66.67
	Brent Pelham	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.00
	Brickendon Liberty	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	83.33
	Buntingford	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	12	75.00
	Cottered	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100.00
	Datchworth	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	100.00
	Eastwick	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100.00
	Furneux Pelham	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	66.67
	Gilston	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	100.00
	Great Amwell	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	100.00
	Great Munden	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100.00
	Hertford	293	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	303	99.67
	Hertford Heath	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	100.00
	Hertingfordbury	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	83.33
	High Wych	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	93.33
	Hormead	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	100.00
	Hunsdon	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12	83.33
	Little Berkhamsted	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	75.00
	Little Hadham	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	100.00
	Little Munden	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	100.00
	Much Hadham	11	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	19	84.21
	Sacombe	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100.00
	Sawbridgeworth	99	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	112	98.21
	Standon	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	19	63.16
	Stanstead Abbots	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	100.00
	Stanstead St Margarets	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	100.00
	Stapleford	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	100.00

District	Parish	Allocated preference										Total	% Ranked Allocations
		P1	P2	P3	P4	LP1	LP2	LP3	LP4	Overtime NRA	Late NRA		
	Tewin	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	90.91
	Thorley	26	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	30	93.33
	Thundridge	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	100.00
	Walkern	5	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	12	83.33
	Ware	241	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	245	100.00
	Wareside	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	91.67
	Watton-at-stone	26	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	31	96.77
	Widford	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>97.65</b>

# Hunsdon Parish Council - District Councillor report March 26

## Cllr. John Dunlop

### 1. Gilston Park Estate

The Community Forum took place on Wednesday the 18th February at Manor of Groves Hotel.

Information was given about traffic phasing for V1-6. The next CF will cover V7 although there is some information available already on the website at <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>

I am continuing to work with a SEND organisation to try and bring wood management to the estate as a meantime use. Saplings Begin ([saplingsbegin.com](http://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. Further, Knight Frank are meeting with Saplings Begin on the 16th March to finalise details.

### 2. Budget

The budget along with Council tax setting was approved at Council on 4th March.

An amount of £250k in 2026/27 and also in 2027/2028 has been put in an Earmarked Reserve. I would welcome thoughts and ideas as to how you think this could be spent. I will relay these to the Executive. This may be a little early but I would like to hear ideas as early a possible.

### 3. Chairs Charity

From May 26 I expect to become the Chair of East Herts District Council. As part of this I can nominate a particular charity to raise funds for and would welcome suggestions to consider, along with others I have received which include Space Hertfordshire and Redkite.

### 4. Local Government Reform (LGR) update

Public Consultations close on 26th March <https://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk> .

We expect a decision from Government in Summer 2026

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
- Summer 2026, unitary make up decision from Government
- Proposed May 2027 Elections (Shadow authorities)
- Proposed Apr 2028 Vesting day for new unitary councils

#### 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 -

[https://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IID=37117&PlanId=342&RPID=261613972&J=](https://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IID=37117&PlanId=342&RPID=261613972&J=3)

[3](#)

**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](mailto:richard.crutchley@eastherts.gov.uk), Kay Mead, Principal Planning Officer Email: [kay.mead@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kay.mead@eastherts.gov.uk), Claire Sime, Service Manager (Planning Policy, Design and Conservation) Email: [claire.sime@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.sime@eastherts.gov.uk).

Documents

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

## 6. East and North Herts sees a ‘bin-credible’ reduction in non-recyclable waste in five months

Just five months after East and North Herts introduced the biggest change to waste and recycling services in over a decade, residents across both districts have achieved one of the sharpest reductions in non-recyclable waste either council has ever seen. Waste collected from residents’ purple-lidded bins has fallen by **5,883 tonnes** compared with the same period last year.

In East Herts, the introduction of the new weekly food waste collection service has played a major role in driving this success. Since August 2025, East Herts communities have separated out an incredible **2,717 tonnes of food waste**, preventing it from going into general waste and instead sending it for processing into biogas and fertiliser to support greener farming and renewable energy production.

The new service, introduced in partnership with Veolia at the start of August 2025, brought in weekly food waste collections, three-weekly collections of non-recyclable waste, and more recycling options. Early data shows that residents are making full use of these services, helping to reduce environmental impact while managing waste more sustainably.

While some households initially had concerns about changes to bin numbers and collection frequency, take-up of weekly recycling and food waste collections has been strong, showing that residents are adapting quickly and positively to the new system.

The introduction of larger wheelie bins for paper and cardboard has also been welcomed, giving households more capacity to recycle increasing amounts of cardboard packaging as manufacturers continue to reduce single-use plastics.

Following a successful trial in North Herts as part of the national ‘FlexCollect’ pilot, kerbside recycling for plastic bags and wrappings has now been permanently extended across both districts, allowing residents to recycle materials that previously had to go into the general waste bin.

As well as recycling more and collecting more food waste, new collection rounds are helping to cut carbon emissions from waste lorries, supporting both councils’ wider environmental commitments.

These achievements place both districts in a strong position ahead of the national requirement for separate food waste collections coming into force on 31 March 2026, and well ahead of the March 2027 requirement for kerbside collection of plastic film. More importantly, they demonstrate the impact residents can have when working together to create cleaner, greener communities.

## 7. East Herts Climate and Environmental Forum 18th March 7-8:30pm Online

Thank you to everyone who attended the previous East Herts Environmental and Climate Forum. It was a fantastic discussion with representatives from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the county lead officer for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Please save the date for the next Forum, continuing the focus on nature and building on the recent Hertfordshire Nature Summit.

It was particularly encouraging to see the informed, delivery focused plans emerging from the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership, identifying priorities and actions for landscape-scale habitat creation and enhancement, species restoration, and nature-based solutions. With East Herts accounting for 27% of all consultation responses, we left the summit feeling proud of our residents' contributions and inspired and optimistic about what we can achieve together next. For those who could not attend the event, the recording is still in development and will be circulated once available.

Building on what we learnt at the Summit, we now have a clearer idea of where our actions, via the Forum, can have the greatest impact. We see these opportunities emerging at community and private garden level, district-wide. To support this, we are developing a series of Forums designed to enable meaningful engagement across all parts of the community.

On **18<sup>th</sup> March** we will focus on exploring ideas and opportunities together. We then propose that the Forum following that will bring experts into the room to help shape and support the initiatives that emerge, providing the guidance needed to move them forward. The remaining Forums in 2026 will create space for partnership working, shared success stories and progress, identify support needs and challenges, exchange skills and tips, and host guest speakers to inspire the next steps. We want these sessions to feel collaborative and empowering, where everyone can play a meaningful part in shaping nature recovery in East Herts.

We hope that you can join us. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

### **Joining link for 18<sup>th</sup> March:**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/38162759971087?p=kWi2KNvHx5fmEGoJEs>

**Vanessa Sartori**

Climate Change and Sustainability Project Officer

East Herts Council

dd: 01992 531603

## 8. Herts Green Impact Fund

[Herts Community Foundation](#) is currently offering grants of up to **£1,000** through the **Herts Green Impact Fund**. The application deadline is rolling.

This fund is designed to support local **Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)** organisations to improve their sustainability in the long and short term with:

- Funding for capital improvements to the workplace to reduce emissions and/or enhance environmental credentials
- Training for staff and volunteers to better understand sustainability. Also, teaching key staff how to carry out carbon reporting
- Support for senior leaders to create effective sustainability strategies and policies

## 8. Open Possibilities: New Skills Campaign for East Herts

The screenshot shows the 'Residents' Hub' website for East Herts Council. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', 'Courses', 'Books', 'Support', and a search icon. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with 'Events' and 'Categories' sections. The 'Events' section has links for 'See today's events' and 'See tomorrows events'. The 'Categories' section lists: Business Essentials, Mental Wellness, Communication Skills, Microlearning, Workplace Readiness, Customer Service, and Excellence. The main content area displays three microlearning course cards. Each card has a 'MICROLEARNING' tag, a title, a description, and 'Next Event' details including date and time. The first card is 'MENTAL WELLNESS - MICRO: Workload Stress and having the Confidence to Discuss with Your Manager' on Nov 10, 2025 at 2:00 PM. The second card is 'MENTAL WELLNESS - MICRO: Overcoming Social Anxiety' on Nov 10, 2025 at 2:30 PM. The third card is 'BUSINESS ESSENTIALS - MICRO: Procurement - The Fundamentals' on Nov 11, 2025 at 9:30 AM. Each card has a green arrow button at the bottom right.

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.