

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Parish Council meeting of Monday 14TH September 2026 at 8.00pm, Village Hall, Pye Corner

PRESENT: Cllrs Beazley, Bryant, Harvey, Marx, Orson

In attendance: Christine Law (Parish Clerk), Eric Buckmaster (CC) John Dunlop (DC). 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Residents expressed great strength of feeling, frustration and anger in the way that the impending C161 road closure and matters generally were handled at the 9 September Community Forum. A long discussion was held and comments noted:

- No confidence, do they really care about the impact on residents?
- We don't like having photos of residents attending events that are held to tick boxes.
- Lack of trust in what we are told
- Poor preparation for questions
- Lack of "on the ground" knowledge - the right people need to be present
- We don't want to keep wasting everyone's time hearing how wonderful it will all be.
- We are not listened to - we never get a meaningful response, and it all just happens anyway
- We do not believe all mitigations have been considered, and the final solutions are lowest cost to any alternatives that would be better for residents.
- What happens to all the questions taken away - there never seem to be answers or actions
- Why is everything last minute when there has been so much time to plan and anticipate potential problems?
- We still have no response to the survey, and the road closes next week.
- No more empty promises - we need follow through
- Who is accountable if emergency services are delayed/disrupted and someone dies?

It was agreed that Cllr Orson should write to the Officers from HCC & Pfp setting out the concerns raised.

BUSINESS MEETING

31) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) None.

32) RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) None.

33) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- a) Minutes of our Parish Council Business Meeting of 13th July were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey. Then signed by Cllr Orson as a true record.

34) ACCOUNTS

- a) The Clerk presented the written report of the Council's Accounts summary. No queries raised.
- b) Grant of £600.00 for the maintenance of both our churchyards. Cllr Marx as Treasurer of the PCC explained PCC expenditure and the volunteer work carried out. It was agreed to grant £600.00 which to cover planned churchyard maintenance costs and to review PC contribution for any exceptional costs during the year should they occur.

Proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey.

35) PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS

- a) Grassland, Pye Corner – 3/23/1110/FUL – Retrospective change of use of buildings. Amended plans – Awaiting Decision. This is a 2023 planning request with no outcome. Planning permission has now been granted.
- b) 70 Eastwick Road, Eastwick – 3/26/0260/HH & 3/26/0261/LBC – Single storey rear extension, fenestration alteration, internal layout alterations, addition of partition walls, replacement door and removal of non-original doors, repair work to render, roof and timber work. Has been granted.
- c) 14 Turvin Crescent, Terlings, Park, Gilston – 3/26/0539/HH – Erection of rear balcony at first floor level; removal of a window and replacement with a new door to provide access to the balcony. Awaiting decision.
- d) 2 Gilston Park House – 3/26/0646/LBC – Internal works at basement level: removal of internal walls, creation of two new doorways, relocation of utility room, alterations to pipework and drainage and installation of extraction ventilation unit. Has been granted.
- e) Terlings Lodge, 46 Burnt Mill Lane, Gilston – 3/26/0782/LBC. Replacement window frames and replacement double doors and threshold. Awaiting decision.

36) PARISH PATHS

- a) Cllr Orson reported that:
 - i) Countryside and Rights of Way Projects Officer - Nicholas Maddex has now been replaced by Oliver Dawes who is Projects Officer - Access | Countryside and Rights of Way |

Environmental Sustainability with Hertfordshire County Council. We are arranging an introductory meeting with Oliver.

- ii) Annual Vegetation Cutting – Unfortunately, a combination of factors has contributed to the delays in delivering this year's mowing programme.
 - (1) Crews were required to take regular breaks during periods of extreme heat to ensure the health and safety of the workforce.
 - (2) The contract commenced later than originally planned, which contributed to delays in completing the scheduled works.
 - (3) The specification has been expanded to include increased clearance of widths and heights. This should make the mowing programme quicker and easier to deliver next summer.
- iii) Maintenance of non-tenanted and uncultivated land. There is a problem with uncultivated PFP land growing a good crop of thistles, ragwort and other vegetation together with being generally left to deteriorate. Clouds of thistle down being blown across Pye Corner / Gilston Lane (and no doubt other areas) from around early July to mid-August has become an annual event. This matter has been raised with PFP and Knight Frank their agents last year and again this year. Knight Frank assured us that mitigation measures were in hand however we were informed in mid-August that measures had been delayed due to the potential of further survey work needing to be carried out. We have since raised this issue again at the September Gilston Stakeholder Liaison meeting and written to PFP stating that the failure to maintain their land is becoming a blight on the community and asking for confirmation that the necessary maintenance measures are in place for 2027.
- iv) Footpath Map - additional copies of the “Walking Round Eastwick & Gilston and Hunsdon Parishes” footpath map are being printed and partially funded from a grant organised by Hunsdon Parish Council. The new maps will be available in the next few weeks and will provide sufficient stock for the next four years or so.

37) COMMUNITY FORUM/NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- a) Cllr Bryant reported:

Community Forum 9th September 2026

Summary (a more detailed report distributed to NPG & Parish Councillors)

No agenda published, website simply stated

"The next meeting of the Gilston Area Community Forum is being held on **Wednesday 9 September**, commencing at 6.30pm.

An update will be provided at the meeting of the latest programme and timescales for development by Places for People, the landowner for Gilston Villages 1 – 6".

Residents therefore, reasonably, assumed the meeting would start at 6:30. More residents attended than previous, EHC had to open up the adjoining room and find more chairs. EHC had different ideas about the format of the event and Ben Crystall did not start the meeting until 7:00, surprising residents by saying they had had the opportunity to meet officers and developers between 6:30 & 7:00

EHC attendees: Ben Crystall, Maura Connolly, Jenny Pearce, Kevin Steptoe (HGGT)
HCC attendees: Paul Zukowskyj, Councillor, Phil Bradbury, Highways Officer
PfP attendees: Helen Puddle, Tim Jones, Charlie Ward

JP, EHC, presented the usual planning applications progress updates (PPT on the EHC Gilston Area CF webpages)

HP, PfP, (PPT also on the EHC Gilston Area CF webpages) presented:

- how wonderful PfP is,
- construction of timeline (see summary below),
- mentioned the survey and the influx of responses in the final few days so they are still reviewing. Said there had been several comments regarding extra costs due to the road closure, anyone struggling can contact PfP whose Financial Hardship team may be able to give financial advice.

This was the ONLY potential mitigation mentioned. They have to ensure, if they do anything, it is fair and equitable. Suspect they have only just realised it will affect lots of families trying to get to different schools (travelling both east and west).

- PfP will produce a residents Newsletter w/c 14th Sept

Finally (not until 7:43) the map of the C161 Closure diversion was shown, triggering a rush of questions and angry voices. BC stepped in - 'respect each other'. Following which lots of concerns and questions until approx 8:30

HP agreed to take away but not necessarily do anything:

- need for traffic lights at High Wych junction onto A1184 (EHC comment "It was looked at, but it was felt that it would cause further congestion by disrupting the heavily used north-south traffic flow. This carries more traffic than the number of vehicles expected to turn right from High Wych or Terlings Park.) This shows a shocking lack of consideration for the residents of Gilston.
- problems being caused for Eastwick residents (entry & exit and drivers using it as a rat run with excessive speed). Anyone moving cones is committing an illegal act. Actually easier to cross A414 whilst single lane.
- road closure between Allens /Green and Green Tye until January 2027. This removes another route residents could use to avoid the C161 closure. Why is this happening at same time? HP and TJ appeared unaware until EB informed them!

Phil Bradbury is "talking" to HCC Network Management.

- significant concern Emergency Services would be delayed. Why can't the bridge down Burnt Mill Lane be opened, at least for Emergency vehicles? PZ claims £20M and several years
- hopefully the A414 / Church Lane interchange (for Village 7) will not start until C161 reopens

Interesting question raised - if the Eastern Stort Crossing does not need to be opened until 3,250 homes, which could 2033 or later, how do the new residents of villages 1, 2 and 7 get to Bishop's Stortford, etc?

Answer - numbers will be manageable due to 60% modal shift. Not sure Pye Corner residents realise traffic could get significantly worse before it becomes a cul de sac.

The residents of Pye Corner will no doubt see an increase in traffic heading to the north as the houses get occupied.

Construction Timeline

Following construction dates, etc are estimates

Central Stort Crossing (CSC) North works commenced Summer 2026 - 2029 approx

Central Stort Crossing (CSC) South work commences 2029 - ???

Eastern Stort Crossing (ESC) – starts Spring 2031 - 2033 ??? ambitious

Link from Village 7 to school(s) in Village 1

- temporary cycle and footpath by 1st occupation in V7
- approved link road has to be completed before 450 units in V7

Village 1 enabling work begins 2026, house building starts 2029 Q4, 1st occupation 2033??

Village 2 construction begins 2029 Q4, 1st occupation 2033

Village 3 construction works due Autumn 2035, 1st occupation 2036

Village 4 construction begins 2039 Q4, 1st occupation 2040

Village 5 construction begins 2043 Q4, 1st occupation 20??

Village 6 construction begins 2046, 1st occupation 2047

[Gilstonparkestate.com /get involved / construction](http://gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/construction) for occasional updates on the roadworks
Or our community website [News Articles – Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council](#)

All past Community Forum presentations can be found at
[Gilston Area Community Forum | East Herts District Council](#)

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

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.

Neighbourhood Development –

Villages 5 & 6 Master Planning - Places for People have held 3 workshops with “Stakeholders”. The design of Villages 5 & 6 is needed to position the Strategic Transport Corridor (STC) between Villages 1 & 7. The STC must be constructed, as part of the early development, to enable children from V7 to travel to the proposed new V1 Primary school

The 1st new Primary school will be in V1.

Submission of the Village 5 and 6 Masterplans to East Herts District Council is anticipated later in 2026.

Useful websites:

All planning documents are on the East Herts Planning website
<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Villages 1 - 6 OPA 3/19/1045/OUT

Strategic Landscape Masterplan – amended – approved

Village 1 – 6 X/25/0215/CND Discharge condition 6 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) attached to 3/19/1045/OUT, 15th December 2025

Village 1 Infrastructure Delivery Plan, X/26/0216/CND, in 3 phases has been submitted to EHC for approval.

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

Central Stort Crossing (3/19/1046/FUL)

The Eastern Crossing (3/19/1051/FUL)

Eastwick & Gilston Community website

<https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk>

Estate Management – Reminder

Places for People's **gilston.info** website demonstrated at the February Community Forum

The website has 3 headings:

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

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

News – construction works and developments for the Gilston Area.

Roadworks updates.

- For information on current and upcoming roadworks go to [Causeway one.network](https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire)
<https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire>
- Places for People gilstonparkestate website NEWS page
<https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/news/enabling-works-for-gilston-underway/>

Village 1 and Strategic Landscape Master Plan

<https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/>

Section 106 docs Villages 1 - 6

<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PRSRKCGL00V00>

Village 7

<https://www.village7.co.uk>

Section 106 docs Villages 7

<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PZKRYCGL05I00>

East Herts Community Forums

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

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38) HIGHWAYS

- a) Cllr Harvey had nothing to add to Cllr Bryants report.

39) NEW HOMES BONUS / INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

- a) Nothing to report.

40) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a) Cllr Harvey reported:
 - i) I am pleased to say that currently there has only been one cancellation due to the road closure plans. I suspect it should only impact bookings around the rush hour . We will have to wait and see. Meanwhile I have made a claim to a highway's initiative for grants to properties/businesses affected by the highways works. I sent this on Sept 1st and await the result.
 - ii) The hall accounts continue to hover around £20, 000. A grant has also been given of £15,000 towards air condition and toilet improvements. We remain in pursuit of quotes. It is

astonishing how slow these quotes are to come through. If anyone can make recommendations, please let me/or Janine know.

41) STANSTED AIRPORT PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

- a) Cllr Beazley reported that he Cllr Brant and Cllr Harvey attend the online meeting in April. It's a forum for Stansted Airport and its local parish councils to discuss issues re the expansion of the airport and its operations. The Role of the Forum is:
 - i) Oversee the development and delivery of the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP)
 - ii) Responsibility for the delivery of SDP transport related targets
 - iii) Working with transport providers to develop new and enhanced transport services including approving the investment from Stansted Airport into bus and coach services and local access
 - iv) Oversee plans for the continued development of transport related infrastructure both at the airport and at outside of the airport boundary
 - v) Develop the end -to- end journey for both air passengers and airport staff.
- b) The Much Hadham PC Rep wrote to all the other PC Reps with a view to working collaboratively on a few mutually agreed areas.
- c) It was agreed at this meeting to suggest flight paths / noise / volume, and public transport links to the airport. This information will be passed on and Cllr Beazley would keep us informed.

42) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Eric Buckmaster – County Councillor report is with these minutes.
- b) District Councillor John Dunlop report is with these minutes.

43) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWAR AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- a) C161 road closure impact on bus routes.
 - i) HCC advise that the 33A from High Wych to Harlow will be diverted via Redricks Lane and will not serve bus stops in Gilston. It will serve bus stops on either side of Gilston either Harlow Edinburgh Way or High Wych Rising Sun PH being the closest.
 - ii) The 33 will terminate in Gilston and run from Gilston to Bishops Stortford.
 - iii) An additional free 33H service will run from Gilston to Harlow via Redricks (running non-stop to Harlow Centre), connections to/from the 25 for those in Hoddesdon will be advertised.
 - iv) Central Connect have put together a handy timetable showing the 33H along with the connecting services: Please see a link to this timetable here: [Route 25 and 33 - TT \(V3\).pdf](#)

44) ITEMS COUNCILLOR WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

- a) None.

45) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) The date of our next meeting will be on Monday 9th November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

- b) Meetings for 2027

11th January – Parish Council meeting

8th March – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council business meeting

10th May – Parish Council AGM followed by business meeting

12th July – Parish Council meeting

13th September – Parish Council meeting

8th November – Parish Council meeting

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM

E Buckmaster County and District Councillor Report Sept 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

Message from CEO Angie Ridgewell

Dear Members,

The Government has today [announced a review of their Local Government Reorganisation decisions](#) in all cases except Surrey, including the decision to create four unitary authorities in Hertfordshire.

As part of this announcement, the Government has confirmed that local elections will continue in line with the current cycle of elections for May 2027. Elections for the new Shadow Authorities will now no longer take place in May 2027.

At this juncture we have little information beyond the Secretary of State's statement and published coverage in the media.

We will continue to work collaboratively across all Hertfordshire Councils and engage constructively with ministers and officials throughout the review. We will also carefully consider any implications arising from its conclusions.

I recognise that this announcement may raise questions which we cannot answer at the moment. Our focus remains firmly on continuing to deliver our high quality services and supporting our communities now and in the future.

Whatever the outcome of the review, we will continue to work together in the best interests of Hertfordshire. We will keep you informed as further information becomes available

Sawbridgeworth

Traveller's destruction of Flood Plain and Green Belt near River Stort/Chalk Stream during Bank Holiday weekend.

Some of you may have heard about the situation in Sawbridgeworth which has been picked up widely by media. This was not just owing to the location but also in the manner in which we dealt with it.

On Friday Residents informed us of activity on the land. Police were called. As Councillors we used the East Herts Emergency Whatsapp to alert senior management on standby.

East Herts Enforcement officers started working on an injunction.

On site Plant and equipment hired by the travellers started arriving and they went about flattening trees and greenery including where Himalayan Balsom was situated, an invasive species spreading seeds.

Trucks from Harlow Fencing arrived. Huge number of Lorries containing hardcore were all waiting in residential streets to take turn in getting on to site (the Livery on the Lorries was Heidelberg a well know international company. Tarmac had been ordered).

Hundreds of residents turned out trying to stop it, some tried putting cars in the way. Police on site were very patient and managed it well. They advised residents against blocking the Highway.

Residents with contacts in Tarmac alerted them to their potential part in illegal development. The supplier of the fencing was also contacted.

Over the 3 days we had 4 Silver Command meetings with Police, Council and Environment Agency. The weakness is that Police have no powers until there is a breach of an injunction.

Counsel was appointed and judge located to issue first injunction warning that continuing warning that continuation would be contempt and further action to follow. The activity continued so a second stronger injunction was sought and was delivered just after midnight on Saturday.

Residents worked in shifts throughout the night outside the site, including Town Councillors

On Sunday Police videoed the activity for evidence and employed drones. Once they had enough ,they entered the site and advised the workers that they now risked arrest and that they had until Wednesday to remove all plant from the site. It has now been removed. Our own HCC officer Victoria Wilders assisted East Herts as she was a former employee with contacts and experience.

The media interest has been incredible, from TV , Radio, and press owing to the achievement of doing this in 3 days. A fantastic performance by our Enforcement officers

Next steps to talk through best practice and how prevention will be key to deterring this kind of unauthorised development and destruction of nature and wildlife.

Th latest update on the NPPF adds slightly greater weight when unauthorised development is deliberate. under the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), greater weight is specifically given against granting permission for deliberate unauthorised development when a retrospective planning application is being determined. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[mhclgmedia...log.gov.uk\]](https://media.mhcl.gov.uk)

The key point is that:

If it is concluded, based on evidence, that the unauthorised development was intentional, that fact should be given substantial weight in deciding whether planning permission should be granted.

In practical terms:

- Accidental or mistaken breaches do not attract the same policy objection.
- Deliberate building first and seeking permission later can now carry substantial negative weight.
- The authority must still consider the development plan, Green Belt policy, amenity impacts, highways, heritage issues, and all other material considerations before reaching a decision.

Latest On Gilston Development and Highways Closures

Eastwick Road Closure: 21 September to 8 November 2026 PfP and Barratt Redrow are issuing comms to advise residents and road users that **Eastwick Road (A414) will be closed in both directions for seven weeks from 21 September until 8 November 2026** as part of the Central Stort Crossing project.

During the closure, essential utility diversion and drainage works will be carried out to prepare for the next phase of highway improvements. These works require a full road closure to ensure they can be completed safely.

A signed diversion route will be in place via **High Wych**. Drivers are encouraged to follow the official diversion route, particularly as other roadworks are taking place across the local network.

In addition to the road closure: 24-hour lane closures will remain on the A414 until early November. From 22 September, road users should be prepared for the lane closures to switch from inside lanes to outside lanes to facilitate ongoing works.

More than 15,371 fly-tipping incidents in Hertfordshire result in just 200 fixed penalty notices

New data presented to the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership shows that 15,371 fly-tipping incidents were recorded across Hertfordshire during 2024/25, while fewer than 200 fixed penalty notices were issued. The report found that Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield recorded the highest number of incidents, with household waste remaining the most commonly fly-tipped material. Hertfordshire Waste Partnership representatives said incident levels have remained relatively stable compared with national trends and continue to support stronger penalties for offenders.

For the latest updates: gilstonparkestate.com Causeway one.network

Gilston: First village masterplan approved garden village network

East Herts District Council has approved the masterplan and design code for the first village within the Gilston development, marking a significant milestone in the wider Harlow & Gilston Garden Town project. The plans include up to 1,600 homes, new schools, community facilities, green spaces and sustainable transport links. Hertfordshire County Council welcomed the approval, highlighting the benefits of partnership working and the delivery of infrastructure, active travel routes and greener communities alongside new housing.

20 MPH schemes

Dear Cllr Buckmaster

I am contacting you regarding an opportunity for 20mph limits in Sawbridgeworth, Hunsdon and Wareside.

As part of the continuation of the HCC's [20mph programme](#), we are looking at some additional areas to bring into the consultation programme for this year. We are following an agreed priority list and this location is in the next block of potential areas.

Please could you confirm if you are supportive of consultation on 20mph in Sawbridgeworth, Hunsdon and Wareside?

I responded: I would strongly support 20mph areas in Sawbridgeworth, Hunsdon, and Wareside, two thirds of Sawbridgeworth is already 20mph. I'd like the Eastern side of town to be also 20mph to complete the picture. Wareside and Hunsdon Parish councils have previously expressed a wish for 20mph. I would recommend Widford also be included which is in between the two.

Officer response I'll look into Widford and whether there is any additional funding eg. S106 that can be brought in, recognising there are advantages to grouping nearby villages together in terms of local consistency.

County council provides nearly 60,000 bags of free salt to communities since 2018



Hertfordshire County Council's Winter Self-Help Scheme will open for applications on 1 September, giving schools, town and parish councils, district and borough councils, residents' associations and community groups the opportunity to receive free salt to help keep local roads and pavements clear during icy conditions.

Since the scheme was introduced in 2018, Hertfordshire County Council has processed almost 2,500 orders and delivered just under 60,000 bags of salt to schools, residents' groups, and parish, town and district councils across the county. That's more than 1.2 million kilograms of salt supplied to support communities during winter weather.

Schools have been among the biggest beneficiaries of the scheme, receiving almost 35,000 bags, around 60 per cent of all salt distributed through the programme. The busiest years for applications were 2019 and 2023, following significant snowfall the previous winter, highlighting the importance of preparing ahead of severe weather.

This year, eligible groups can apply for up to 20 bags of salt to use on public roads and footpaths in their local area.

Alongside the Self-Help Scheme, Hertfordshire County Council maintains almost 1,400 salt bins across the county and will continue its cycleway gritting programme this winter, helping residents travel safely whether walking, cycling or driving.

Applications for the Winter Self-Help Scheme open on 1 September and can be made via the Hertfordshire County Council website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterselfhelp

Hertfordshire secondary school applications for September 2027 now open



The new school year is just about to start so it is already time for parents and carers in Hertfordshire to start planning for next year as the application process for transfer to secondary schools opens today (Tuesday 1 September).

If your child starts secondary or upper school next year, or wishes to apply for a place at a university technical college, do make sure you apply for a place in good time.

The closing date for secondary applications is Saturday 31 October 2026 and it is vital that parents make their applications on time.

The easiest way to apply for a school place for September 2027 is to visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and complete the online application form.

When you apply online, you will be able to access your school offer and accept your school allocation before allocation letters are received.

Last year over 99% of parents applied this way and found the system quick, easy, and secure.

Information explaining the secondary transfer process will be circulated to families through their child's primary, junior or middle school at the beginning of September.

Before making an application, parents and carers are strongly advised to read the information on our website thoroughly and where possible, attend school open events to help them make their preferences. Information outlining all the secondary and upper open events was distributed in July and is also available on the online school directory at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory

All the information you need to know about the secondary transfer process is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

On Street Electric Vehicle charging scheme

Subject: LEVI - new and replacement sites in your Ward

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for your feedback to the recent LEVI Members Consultation.

Your inclusion in this email means that :

1. a **new site** has been located in your Ward for your consideration, and/or
2. a previously proposed site in your Ward has been excluded based on technical feasibility and/or your consultation feedback and an **alternative site** is now proposed for your consideration

The new and alternative sites are listed below.

Please submit your feedback, referencing the site address, to the HCC EV Strategy Team via evstrategy@hertfordshire.gov.uk and feel free to copy me in.

Site Address / Location	Post Code	Ward	Details	Google M
68 Cecil Road	SG13 8HS	Hertford Castle	Replacement for 1-15 Oldhall Street	Hertford
Goodey Meade	SG2 7BY	Aston, Datchworth & Walkern	New Site	Hertford

46-52 Wheatsheaf Drive	SG12 0XS	Ware St Mary's	New Site	Hertfordshire
32-20 Lawrence Avenue	CM21 9DN	Sawbridgeworth	New Site	Hertfordshire
72-82 High Street	SG11 1RX	Braughing & Standon	New Site	Hertfordshire
6 Knight Street	CM21 9AT	Sawbridgeworth	Replacement for 9-29 Wellington Street	Hertfordshire
70 Halleys Ridge	SG14 2TH	Hertford Sele	Replacement for Abbots Court	Hertfordshire
21-27 Burleigh Road	SG13 7HA	Hertford Kingsmead	New Site	Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire adds 51km to public rights of way network as updated map goes online. Whether it's following an ancient Roman road, exploring woodland trails or discovering a new route close to home, residents can now access the most up-to-date picture of Hertfordshire's public rights of way network online.

The county has added a net 51km of public rights of way over the last decade, with the newly published Definitive Map and Statement recording almost 500 legal changes since 2015.

The updated online map brings together these additions and improvements, helping walkers, cyclists, horse riders and outdoor enthusiasts explore around 3,200km of routes across Hertfordshire.

Home to approximately 5,600 public rights of way, Hertfordshire's network connects towns, villages and green spaces throughout the county. Some routes follow historic Roman roads and ancient highways, including sections of the Icknield Way, one of Britain's oldest roads.

Public rights of way provide valuable opportunities for recreation, active travel and access to nature, supporting Hertfordshire County Council's commitment to helping residents lead active, healthy lives while improving access to the county's natural environment.

Interest in Hertfordshire's countryside network continues to grow, with the county's online rights of way Google map receiving 5.3 million views. The mapping layer can also be downloaded to Google Maps on mobile devices, making it easier for residents and visitors to navigate routes while out and about.

Among the new routes to discover are:

- More than 9km of new and improved rights of way on the Tyttenhanger Estate between Ridge and London Colney, including routes around Willows Activity Farm and Willows Lakes.
- A 3.5km bridleway through Hoddesdon Park Wood and Broxbourne Woods, added following evidence of longstanding public use.
- A network of well-used routes within Park Wood in St Michael Rural.
- The Old Bourne in Ardeley, described by rights of way officers as one of Hertfordshire's most challenging footpaths and a rewarding countryside walk.

The updated publication includes 96 map sheets and more than 5,000 individual path statements covering public rights of way throughout Hertfordshire. Every new or upgraded route included in the Definitive Statement has a recorded width, helping to protect and preserve public access for future generations.

Residents can view the working copy of the Definitive Map and Statement online at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/row

Interactive mapping is also available through Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way mapping service:

<https://webmaps.hertfordshire.gov.uk/row/row.htm>

Ofsted praises Hertfordshire's "relentless ambition" for children and families

Children and young people in Hertfordshire are benefiting from high-quality support and care from Hertfordshire's Children's Social Care services, with Ofsted praising the county council's "relentless ambition" to help children thrive and achieve their potential. Inspectors found that children in the council's care make very good progress, with most receiving the right support at the right time.

Following its latest inspection of Hertfordshire County Council's Children's Services, Ofsted highlighted the council's strong leadership, dedicated workforce and continued focus on improving outcomes for children and families. The report recognises sustained progress since Hertfordshire's previous Outstanding inspection and praises leaders for their unwavering ambition for children and young people.

Inspectors praised the council's work to help families stay together safely wherever possible and the high-quality care and support provided to children in care. The report highlights services such as Building Bridges, which helps more children return home safely, and recognises the council's success in ensuring more children can live in stable homes close to their families, communities and support networks.

Ofsted also highlighted how children's voices are helping to shape services across the county and commended the positive culture created by leaders, where staff feel valued, supported and able to build lasting relationships with the children and families they work alongside.

The report identified a small number of areas where services can be strengthened further, including improving some multi-agency processes and expanding housing options for vulnerable care leavers. Inspectors noted that council leaders had already recognised these issues and were taking action to address them.

Eric Buckmaster September 2026

Cllr. John Dunlop Report

1. Gilston Park Estate

The Community Forum on the 9th September confirmed the road closures. Several mitigations were suggested which PfP and Highways have the task of reviewing. It will cause considerable inconvenience to many residents.

I met with residents at Brickhouse Farm cottages and the Site Manager for Village 7 works regarding fields at the rear. He showed in detail plans for works and was able to indicate timings of works.

We should consider what early wins we could ask for, such as sponsorship of events and assistance with projects.

2. District/Local Plan review

East Herts is about to move from preparatory work into the formal 30-month Local Plan process, with the biggest immediate milestones in October 2026 and early 2027.

Timing		What happens	Why it matters
Now – Sept/Oct 2026		Continue assessing the 280+ sites submitted in the 2024 Call for Sites	These sites remain in consideration; promoters may be asked for more information.
October 2026		Gateway 1 Assessment	East Herts must demonstrate that it is ready to enter the formal 30-month Local Plan process.
October 2026		Call for Sites reopens	Landowners/developers can submit additional land for housing, employment or other uses. Sites can also be suggested for things such as green space or nature recovery . Existing 2024 submissions do not need resubmitting.
Autumn/Winter 2026		Update on assessment of the 2024 Call for Sites	This should start giving a clearer indication of which locations could potentially progress further.
Over the next six months — roughly to March 2027		Continue preparing the Local Plan evidence base	Includes work on Green Belt, employment, retail/town centres, sport, open space and other evidence.
Over the next six months		Publish a summary of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation responses	Shows the issues residents, organisations and developers have raised at this early stage.
Late 2026 / early 2027		Continued work on the East Herts District Design Code	Establishes district-wide expectations around design, sustainability, healthy places and local character.
Early 2027		First formal consultation on Local Plan content and evidence	This looks like the first really important public opportunity to influence

			what the emerging plan actually says.	3. Save The Date - East Herts
2027–2028		Formal plan preparation continues	Expect further evidence, site-selection work, policies, consultations and eventually examination preparations.	
April 2029		Target adoption of the new East Herts Local Plan	The new Plan would then become the principal development-plan framework for future planning decisions.	

Environmental & Climate Forum 30 September 2026

Please see below for details on the upcoming Environmental and Climate Forum. We are currently finalising speakers and the agenda and wanted to give you advance notice. Please keep an eye out for forthcoming emails with further details and any changes to the date, and we very much hope you will be able to attend.

East Herts Environmental and Climate Forum

Save the Date: 30th September, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Location: Online

Further details, including confirmed speakers and joining information, will be shared shortly.

4. Public Health Training

Public Health team at HCC in partnership with DBs Environmental Health and Housing teams have developed a free training session to support people working with individuals whose health may be affected by poor-quality housing.

There are 4 sessions available (book your place via [Public Health Training webpage](#)):

Thursday 3rd September, 11:00am to 12.30pm

Tuesday 6th October, 14:00pm to 15:30pm

Wednesday 4th November, 10.00am to 11.30am

Tuesday 8th December, 15:00pm to 16:30pm

The session on the 6 October will be presented by Jane O'Brien, Residential Team Manager,

Environmental Health, East Herts Council.

5. New National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Published

The Government has published a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which came into effect on 17 August 2026 and replaces the December 2024 version.

The new Framework represents the most significant change to national planning policy for many years and introduces major changes to both plan-making and decision-taking. Key changes include a stronger presumption in favour of development, greater emphasis on housing delivery, support for development around well-connected railway stations, higher density development in sustainable locations, greater weight being given to economic growth and climate change considerations, and the introduction of national decision-making policies which take effect immediately. The Framework also retains the Government's approach to identifying and assessing grey belt land.

The new NPPF will have important implications for the preparation of the new East Herts Local Plan and future planning decisions across the district. The Planning Policy Team is currently reviewing the new framework in detail and will provide a more comprehensive Member briefing in due course.

The new NPPF can be viewed here: [National Planning Policy Framework.pdf](#)

6. Local Government Reform and Elections

This the current plan for formation of the Unitary Authorities and District Council elections.

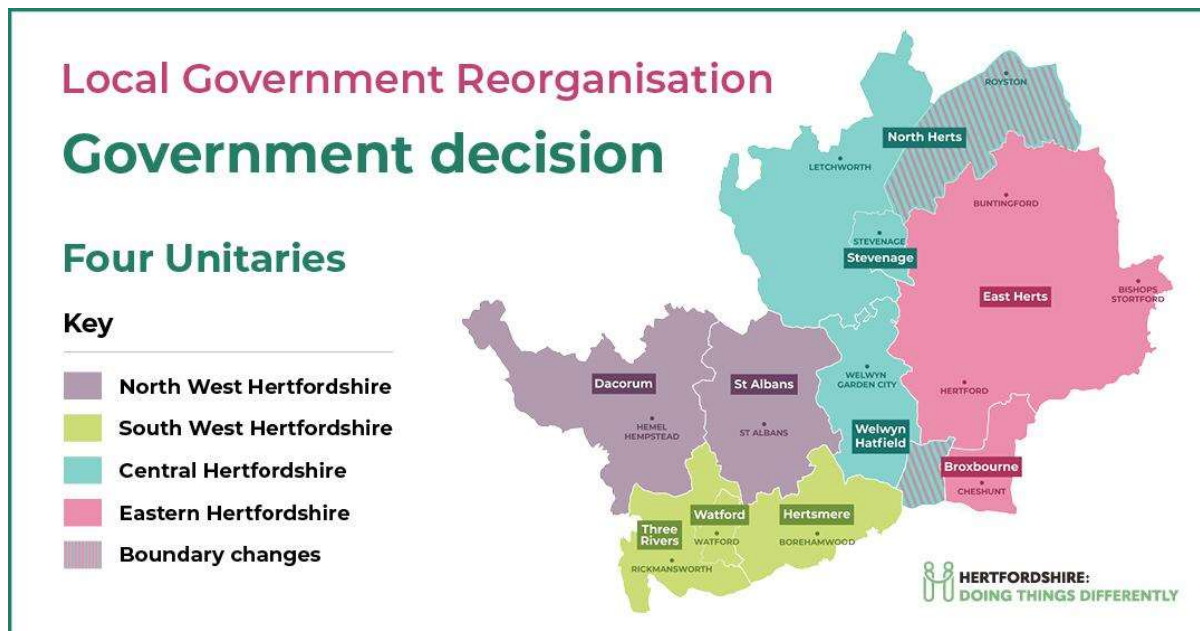
Legal review of process to form unitaries expected to be completed by the end of this year.

District Council Elections May 2027

Unitary shadow authority elections May 2028

Unitary authority established March/April 2029

General election - latest date July 2029



7. Veolia launches Sustainability Fund for 2026

Veolia, East and North Herts Councils' recycling and waste partner, have opened up their Sustainability Fund for applications for 2026.

The Sustainability Fund provides individual grants of up to £1,000 to not-for-profit organisations, community groups, or individuals, to support projects meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- Enhances biodiversity.
- Promotes sustainable waste behaviours.
- Protects the environment by using recycled, reused or reclaimed materials.
- Strengthens and connects local communities, including but not limited to employment support programmes, rehabilitation projects and youth development initiatives.

Up to £1,000 in funding is available per project, and applicants can also opt to request in-kind resources or volunteers to help bring their project to life.

Applications can be made via Veolia's website at veolia.co.uk/Sustainability-Fund, and the fund will be open for applications until Wednesday 30 September.

8. BetterPoints East Herts

We have launched a new rewards-based programme this summer to encourage healthier, greener travel choices while supporting local businesses and charities.

Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the BetterPoints East Herts scheme aims to inspire residents to swap short car journeys for walking, cycling, wheeling and public transport.

Local people can simply download the free BetterPoints app and use it to record journeys made on foot, by bike, in a wheelchair, by bus or train. Each eligible journey earns BetterPoints, which can be redeemed at participating local businesses, exchanged for major brand vouchers or donated to local charities.

The BetterPoints East Herts scheme is open to anyone who lives, works or studies in the district.

BetterPoints is also inviting local employers, businesses and charities to get involved. By partnering with

the scheme, organisations can support transport, health and climate goals while increasing visibility among thousands of active and engaged people in East Herts.

For more information and to download the app, visit <https://eastherts.betterpoints.uk/>

If you know of a charity or business that you think would benefit from getting involved, then please contact Patrick Lynott patrick.lynott@betterpoints.uk