



# **SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN ACTION PLAN**

## **2020-2024**



## TOWN ACTION PLAN 2020-2024

### VISION

*To ensure that the town is a welcoming, friendly and safe place to live, for residents of all ages, with a positive community spirit and a flourishing retail/business centre.*

### GENERAL

*This Plan includes ongoing Council priorities and suggestions made by residents in a survey conducted in December 2019 and on a Consultation day on 11 January 2020. It was presented to the Economic Development and Sawbridgeworth Town Action Plan Committee on 9 March 2020 and approved for presentation to the Annual Town Meeting. A summary of the consultation responses is included here as an appendix. Sawbridgeworth Town Council will continue to liaise with East Herts District Council and Hertfordshire County Council on issues which affect residents, but which are outside our direct control: roads, drains/gulleys, schools, planning/housing, footpaths and open spaces, etc. Similarly, we will continue to work with our PCSOs and constable to ensure that the town is a safe place to live through, inter alia, the Priority Setting Forum. We will continue to respond to consultations which affect the town and post our responses on the Council website. The Plan has been regularly updated during the Covid-19 outbreak **and presented at Sawbridgeworth Town Action Plan and Economic Development Committee meetings.***

### ANNUAL REVIEW

*This plan will be **regularly reviewed and updated** for the Council's Town Action Plan and Economic Development Committee **meetings** and an **updated Plan will be** presented at the Town Annual Meeting each April and **placed** on the Council website, **and shared** through other communication channels.*

ACTION AREA	PROGRESS TO DATE
<b>1 NEW HOUSING</b>	
Where are we now?	<p><i>Both developments in West Road (SAWB3 Barratt; 200 houses and SAWB2 Taylor Wimpey, 140 houses) have started; SAWB4 partially approved 090920 (Countryside, 85 houses in Phase 1 plus outline approval for 99 houses in Phase 2 at Kecksys); S106 funding agreed for SAWB2 (March 2020) and 3 (January 2020), pending for SAWB4. <u>Street names for SAWB2 agreed with EHDC/developer; SAWB 3 names taken from War memorial (no STC involvement). SAWB4 Phase 1 names sent to EHDC/developer; SAWB4 106 allocations still to be confirmed.</u></i></p>
Where do we want to be by 2024?	<p>Sustainable developments approved and built; S106 money allocated satisfactorily; street names agreed; welcome pack developed and distributed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Monitor developments: County Cllr Eric Buckmaster has set up meetings with both West Road developers to address planning breaches, construction-related issues and residents' concerns; regular meetings involving STC representatives and residents' representatives planned and communications channel set up to report issues.</u></li> <li>• Liaise with East Herts District Council (EHDC) and developers to ensure new housing meets local needs and is energy-efficient and sustainable.</li> <li>• Ensure that the Council is fully consulted on Section106 funding from developers to improve town amenities and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Coordinate suggestions for <b>SAWB4 street names</b>, for forwarding to EDC, in liaison with local community groups.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate funding for and facilitate the development of a 'welcome pack' of information for new residents in consultation with developers, estate agents, community groups and churches, and the library.</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
<b>2 TRAFFIC</b>	
<b>Where are we now?</b>	<p><i>Regular traffic jams at peak times; M11 diversions; M11 Junction 7a will be operational by 2022. Presentation by Arup in September 2019 to improve central part of town. Social distancing requirements and possible changes to Bell Street layout discussed with HCC and EHDC. Consultation carried out on 20mph limit in SE quadrant. <u>STC response sent on HCC Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan.</u></i></p>
<b>Where do we want to be by 2024?</b>	<p><i>Reconfiguration of West/Station Road junction; improvements to town centre planned and funded including 20mph zones; one-way system in Sheering Mill Lane; safer/rescheduled delivery vehicle parking on Bell Street; cycling/walking improvements initiated.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and EHDC and County Councillor to ensure that the proposed reconfiguration of the West Road/Station Road junction adequately mitigates the impact of increased traffic.</li> <li>• Liaise with HCC and County Councillor to improve traffic flow in the centre of town; to investigate 20mph speed limit areas and improvements to the Bell Street/London Road, Bell Street/Town Square/Knight Street and Knight Street/Station Road junctions (Section 106?). Implement some of suggestions made by Arup in September 2019 as part of Station Road/West Road junction improvement planning.</li> <li>• Work with EHDC/HCC and other parties to improve cycling infrastructure both within the town and to/from the town including new developments and tow path.</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
<b>3 CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	
<b>Where are we now?</b>	<p><i>EHDC Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document approved at Council 2 March 2021; HCC Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy published: <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/sustainable-hertfordshire/media/sustainable-hertfordshire-strategy-2020-2.7mb.pdf">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/sustainable-hertfordshire/media/sustainable-hertfordshire-strategy-2020-2.7mb.pdf</a>; EHDC Environmental Sustainability action plan published and updated monthly: <a href="https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/environmental-sustainability/environmental-sustainability-action-plan">https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/environmental-sustainability/environmental-sustainability-action-plan</a> East Herts Environment and Climate Forum held 21 September and 25 November. Energy efficiency and sustainability of new housing uncertain; District Plan (DP) requires no sustainability measures and SPD has no new targets or standards; DP</i></p>

	<i>Review pending. STC sub-committee working on eco-audit implementation and environmental audit. <u>Charging points still not installed in Bell Street Car Park.</u></i>
<b>Where do we want to be by 2024?</b>	<i>Energy efficient and sustainable new housing built; retrofitting plan in place. Key eco and environmental audit recommendations implemented; local recycling opportunities increased and publicised; electric community bus in operation; charging points well used.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the recommendations from the December 2019 eco audit <b><u>and 2021 environmental audit.</u></b></li> <li>• Liaise with EHDC and HCC on actions arising from their July 2019 climate change motions</li> <li>• Explore options for additional tree planting</li> <li>• Help residents, schools and community groups to maximise recycling opportunities, using the Budgens Community Noticeboard, social media</li> <li>• Support the Sustainable Sawbridgeworth and other groups</li> <li>• Promote the use of the electric charging points in the Bell Street car park</li> <li>• Plan to replace existing buses with electric models</li> <li>• Monitor air quality, <b><u>in liaison</u></b> with EHDC <b><u>including impact of new developments; address vehicle idling outside schools, shops and at level crossing</u></b></li> <li>• Explore community energy opportunities, working with EHDC, schools and community groups</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
<b>4 YOUNG PEOPLE/OLDER RESIDENTS</b>	
<b>Where are we now?</b>	<i>\$106 money allocated to Library, Bullfields and Hailey Centres (SAWB2, 3 and 4)</i>
<b>Where do we want to be by 2024?</b>	<i>Bullfields and Hailey Centres have adequate extended facilities to serve young people to age 24 and those over 50, responding to increased population from new</i>

	<i>developments; joint projects in place; Library building developed or alternative central site found. Sawbridgeworth Sports Association supported in providing facilities for increasing population.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support youth groups and other community groups, Hailey Centre, Sports Association, in responding to increased demand from the new housing developments</li> <li>• Support inter-generational projects, in liaison, for example, with Clarion</li> <li>• Assist youth groups in publicising the need for/recruiting new leaders</li> <li>• Provide additional opportunities for young people through SYPRC</li> <li>• Continue to work with schools/school councils, briefing them on what the town council does and involve them in local decision making as much as possible</li> <li>• Explore the setting up of a youth council/community ambassador scheme (with Clarion)</li> <li>• Library developed or relocated centrally.</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
<b>5 SHOPS AND BUSINESSES</b>	
<b>Where are we now?</b>	<i>Impact of Coronavirus uncertain. Rebranding and shop local campaign planned. New businesses opening; weekly market planned in Bell car park; businesses involved in community events. Plan for developing Town Green drafted, surveys completed, favourable Conservation Officer report. Business Plan pending.</i>
<b>Where do we want to be by 2024?</b>	<i>No empty shops; flourishing market and community space on Town Green; improved traffic flow and access (see 2 above).</i>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue and initiate new events in conjunction with local shops/businesses to maximise footfall</li> <li>• Encourage new shops and businesses based on residents' expressed preferences, in liaison with EHDC</li> <li>• Set up a weekly market in the Bell car park</li> <li>• Develop Town Green as an area for a weekly market and community space</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
<b>6 FOOTPATHS AND OPEN SPACES</b>	
<b>Where are we now?</b>	<i>Reporting issues; overlaps between EHDC and HCC; delays. Group of volunteers reporting. <u>Pishiobury Park Local Nature Reserve status delayed; communications issues over work in Pishiobury Park.</u> <u>Relocation/combining of waste bins planned by EHDC in 2021.</u></i>
<b>Where do we want to be by 2024?</b>	<i>Footpath priorities identified and repairs actioned; towpath improvement planned, funded and initiated; Pishiobury declared Local Nature Reserve [April 2021?]; Elmwood to river path modification application approved. Opportunities for cycling and walking routes explored and implemented. <u>Communications with HCC and EHDC on footpaths and open spaces, waste bins locations improved.</u></i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out an annual audit of footpaths and inform HCC and EHDC, County Councillor about priorities for repair; submit Elmwood to river path Right of Way modification application</li> <li>• Work with the Canal and River Trust to improve the towpath</li> <li>• Monitor and (encourage residents to) report dog fouling to East Herts Council</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Friends of Pishiobury in achieving Nature Reserve status for the Park; <b>propose review of Park byelaws</b></li> <li>• Maintain West Road play area and liaise with EHDC as necessary on Vantorts and Church Park areas they are responsible for</li> <li>• Support Sustainable Sawbridgeworth community litter picks; link up with Friends of Pishiobury and TUBS for joint activities and with national campaigns.</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	<b>PROGRESS TO DATE</b>
<b>7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>Where are we now?</b>	<i><b>Agree communications strategy: review Council website and Facebook page; noticeboards; coverage of council meetings in BS Independent; <u>role of</u> Flyer articles by mayor/councillors/projects manager</b></i>
<b>Where do we want to be by 2024?</b>	<i><b>Rebranding linked with budgeted new website; flourishing Town Green community area and market; new town map and heritage trail; additional 'blue' plaques; regular items/articles in local media; town assets fully signposted; create a welcoming town.</b></i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consider developing</b> a new town information website linked to rebranding.</li> <li>• Investigate additional communication methods: newsletter, increased use of the Flyer, Church and Town, Independent, library etc. for sharing town news and events; set up councillor 'surgeries' (Town Green?)</li> <li>• Produce an updated town map in Bell Street car park and possible heritage trail (with the history society); 'consider 'blue plaques' to commemorate key people/events in the town's history</li> <li>• Continue to support Fun on the Field, Selfie Walk and Christmas Lights events</li> <li>• Continue with Remembrance Day and Civic Service events</li> </ul>	

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the publication of a list of community groups and events</li><li>• Review/consider improving the 'signposting' of town assets</li><li>• Establish Town Green as a community hub for events</li></ul> |  |
|--|--|