

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**FOR THE PARISH OF**

**SAWBRIDGEWORTH & SPELLBROOK**

The Annual Town Meeting for Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook will be held at The Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street.

**On Monday 04 April 2022 at 7.30pm.**

Local Government electors for the Town are entitled to vote at the meeting which is also open to the public.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
2. Matters Arising from those Minutes.
3. Report by the Town Mayor on Town Council activities in 2021/22
4. Report by the Town Clerk on the Council's accounts to 31st March 2022 together with a report on the Council's finances for the current year.
5. Receipt of Trustee reports from the Hailey Centre and the Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreation Centre.
6. Reports from other local bodies – Eco Audit, Guiding, RHSO, County and District Councillors, Herts Police, History Society, Sports Association, Sustainable Sawbridgeworth, Town Twinning.
7. Report on the Town Action Plan.
8. Open Forum for electors to raise any other matters.

Cllr Greg Rattey  
Town Mayor  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022**

FOR THE PARISH OF  
**SAWBRIDGEWORTH**  
(including SPELLBROOK)

**AGENDA**

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# **Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook**

## **Annual Town Meeting**

**MINUTES** of the Annual Town Meeting of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook held at The Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, Herts at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 08 April 2019.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Angela Alder (Town Mayor) Chairman; 21 Local Government Electors for the Parish of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook, (including 8 other Town Councillors). PCSO Amanda Higham, Herts Police, Emma Vandore, Bishops Stortford Independent; Town Clerk Richard Bowran, Town Projects Manager Joanne Sargent.

The Town Mayor welcomed those present to the Sawbridgeworth Annual Town meeting and explained that this was not a meeting of the Town Council but of the people of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook.

### **19/01 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting**

**Resolved** – that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 09 April 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **19/02 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from those minutes

### **19/03 Report by the Mayor on Town Council Activities in 2018/19 Appendix A**

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Angela Alder, reported on the Council's Activities in 2018/19. There were no questions for the Mayor.

### **19/04 Report by the Town Clerk Appendix B**

The Town Clerk, Richard Bowran, reported on the Council's Accounts to 31 March 2019.

*Q. How much are the council's reserves*

*A. Approximately £120,000*

### **19/05 The Mayor invited Trustee Reports from Town Charities:**

Cllr Angela Alder, Chair of the *Hailey Centre* report is at:  
Appendix C

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster, Chair of the *Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreational Centre* report is at:  
Appendix D

**19/06 The Mayor invited Reports from other parties:**

**Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall.**

**Mt Peter Lee, Chair of the Managing Trustees** reported:

- Very health situation with a lot more activities
- Providing 28 hours a week for the over 50s Forever Active group
- In 2008 the Hall made a surplus of between £40,000 and £50,000
- SMHT had been asked to manage the May Fayre in 2019, main changes were that the fairground will be moved to the long-term car park. 65 stalls have already made bookings.

**County Cllr Eric Buckmaster** reported on matters at HCC and his report is at: **Appendix E**

He highlighted:

- The Minerals Plan consultation
- A414 Consultation
- That Princess Alexandra Hospital's preferred development is at M11 junction 7a.
- The recommendation to HCC cabinet in May is that the library will not co-locate at the fire station and that other alternatives will be examined
- Working with Herts Highways on projects at Sheering Mill Lane, Barnard Road, speed indicators at Spellbrook, there Mile Pond, Vantorts Road, future town twinning signs, Bell Street junction with London Road, Burnside junction, Saffron Gardens access, and hot spots identified by the police.

*Q. What was being done to address driving on West Road pavements?*

*Q. What was being done about inconsiderate parking in Church Street?*

*Q. What was being done about the deterioration of white line markings in the town?*

**District Cllr Angela Alder** reported on matters at EDHC

**Appendix F**

including a list of things she was involved with. She highlighted:

- Being on the finance scrutiny committee which had been effective in tackling fraud.
- She was loneliness and isolation champion and had created a community forum. 70% of those asked said that the Hailey Centre was a solution.
- On HAPTC executive committee
- Representative on the STACC and been involved with plans for catering for additional passenger numbers.

**District Cllr Eric Buckmaster** reported on matters at EHDC and his report is at: **Appendix G**

He highlighted:

- The new 500 seat Hertford Theatre
- The Old Rivers lane Arts Centre

- Social prescribing
- The Forever ACTi be programme at SMHT

*Q. What is the update on the Leventhorpe swimming pool?*

*A. No change from last year although procurement exercises have begun to find potential new contractors.*

**Cllr Anneise Furness** reported on matters at Mandeville school and her report is at: **Appendix H**

She highlighted:

- The multi-schools travel initiative
- The third annual walk to school week
- Park & stride initiatives and the town selfie walk
- "Put a Spring in your Step" event

**PCSO Amanda Higham, Herts Police Furness** reported to the meeting:

She highlighted:

- The Safer Neighbourhood Team consists of PC Shelly Marshal and PCSO's Amanda Higham and Paul Weston.
- When not on shift intervention officers from Bishops Stortford or Hertford are on call
- Successful mini-police 8 week scheme for year 5's
- Crucial Crew for youth engagement for year 6's
- Attention to ASB at Gt St Mary's
- OWL membership is up
- Police support community events
- Police cadets will be at the May Fayre
- Successful arrest and conviction of offender who committed recent burglaries in Bakers Walk.

#### **19/07 Report on the Town Action Plan 2016-2020**

##### **Appendix I**

The Town Clerk introduced copies of the monitoring version of the plan, which had been annotated with actions so far and the addition of some new items.

*Q. Will a weekly market be introduced to aid the economic vibrancy of the town?*

*A. The possibility is still being investigated.*

*Q. What is being done to assure the quality of new build housing?*

*A. this will be task of a monitoring group over the next few years.*

#### **19/08 Resolutions for which written notice had been received**

None received.

#### **19/09 Open Forum**

*Q. The Sawbo Community Group Facebook pages are a useful conduit, can more Facebook pages be introduced?*

*A. Cllr Eric Buckmaster said that EHDC were working on a Digital Inclusion strategy.*

*Q. Can a Youth Café be introduced similar to the one that has been established in Bishops Stortford?*

*A. Cllr Ruth Buckmaster said that such a facility was being planned by the SYPRC in Bullfields.*

*A. Comment made that this had been proposed for the use of the current library building if the deal with HCC had gone through many years ago.*

Reports made at the Annual Town Meeting are attached to these minutes. They are also posted on the town council web-site.

There being no other questions the Annual Town Meeting closed at 21:05

## APPENDIX A

### MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE YEAR 2018/19

It is my pleasure to give the report on the activities of the Town Council covering the period May 2018 to date.

The most significant area of concern related to the District Plan and the proposed 3 sites scheduled to be built in Sawbridgeworth.

The Town Council while fully opposed to the 3 sites designated to be developed in our town was actually powerless to prevent them being approved in the final District Plan. This Council was the first in East Herts to establish the Master Planning process and many meetings were attended by representatives from the Town and District Council together with local residents. A member of the District Council Planning Department plus the Developer from each separate site was present during the discussions so they were left in no doubt about the feelings and wishes of the people in this town. We actively engaged in the Master Planning exercise for all three sites and have had some influence in how two of the sites are being developed. However, we remain concerned that our views should be properly respected and plans amended accordingly.

We will continue in our vigorous opposition to any proposal which is detrimental to the wellbeing of our residents.

Moving on through the year a local resident on behalf of several people had expressed his concern regarding the reinstatement of the Elmwood footpath.

Thanks to the intervention of our County Councillor who allocated some of his Locality budget to fund the resurfacing it has now been done and is once again a useable footpath for the benefit of all wishing to use it. The Town Clerk is still pursuing the legal ownership in relation to the future maintenance of the path.

Another area which has given rise to complaints over several years related to the uneven surface of the area outside the Parish Hall. Despite many years of research it has been impossible to identify the ownership of the land and thereby to get the area repaired. The town council has therefore taken the decision in light of the deterioration and in the interest of the safety of our residents has also resurfaced the area.

The Town council also considered extending the CCTV coverage in the town and is actively exploring ways of installing cameras on the West Road/Station Road/Cambridge Road junction to improve total visibility throughout the town. The current system has resulted in a number of convictions of criminal activity and the Council sees it as a duty to keep our residents as safe as possible.

At the present time there is no news on the future of the Library. However, the Council remains opposed to the transfer of the Library to the Fire Station.

The Council has 4 Committees plus the Appointments and Appraisals Committee which meets twice a year or as additionally as required.

The Planning Committee, Chaired by Cllr. Ruth Buckmaster, has met 20 times including the extra meetings dedicated to one of the three development site applications. This number does not include the Master Planning meetings scheduled in addition to the normal work load. The Master Planning meetings  
The Master Planning meetings were organised by District Cllr. Eric Buckmaster. On the whole most of the recommendations were endorsed at District level.

The Finance and Policy Committee, Chaired by Cllr. Eric Buckmaster, has met on 4 occasions and considered a revision of Standing Orders and this was adopted by full Council in November. This committee also recommends the budget proposals and other expenditure which is then formally ratified by full council. The other responsibility of this committee is to review the Policies of the council and to recommend amendments or additions in the light of changing Government legislation e.g. GDPR General Data protection Regulations for approval of full Council.

The Amenities Committee also met 4 times, chaired by Cllr. John Burmicz, this Committee is responsible for the administration of the Allotments where we have 4 sites in the town; the cemetery which is well respected and popular not only with our residents but with families outside Sawbridgeworth. Footpaths and open spaces are also within the remit of this committee together with play equipment inspection, the Town Green, owned by the District Council but where we have an interest in seeing it developed and opened up to a wider variety of uses. This committee also considers community transport, i.e. mini buses, Events such as Fun on the field and Christmas Lights switch on together with Civic Amenities such as the work of the Town Ranger, floral displays, the War Memorial repairs, the council office maintenance programme, community champions awards plus the public toilets in Sawbridgeworth. We are at last seeing agreement on the way forward for the refurbishment of the toilets and hopefully the work will be done before we have the next big event in Sawbridgeworth i.e. the Christmas Lights switch on.

During my year as Mayor I have attend many events within and outside the town. Most memorable for me was the very moving commemoration of the end of WWI and going to Portcullis House with the winners of the Travel challenge – Mandeville School, planting the 200<sup>th</sup> tree at Reedings School as part of their greening the school environment and meeting the children at the various School Council meetings here in the chamber.

Angela Alder

*ATM Minutes 190408*

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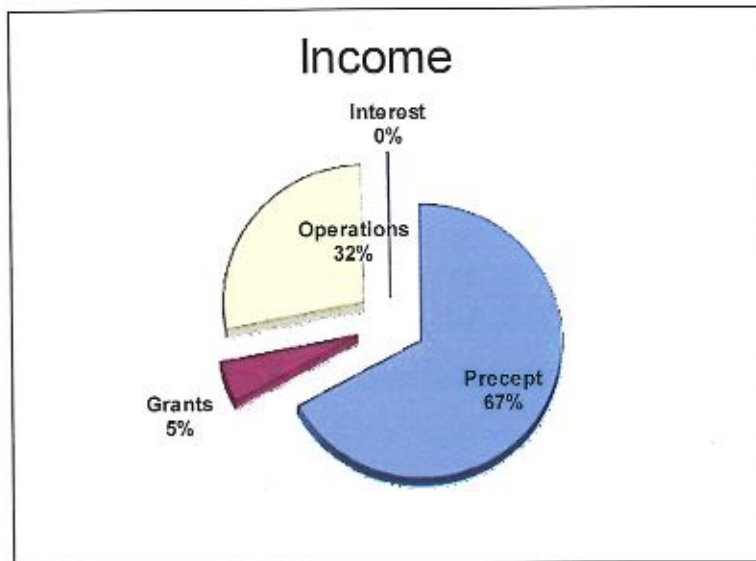


April 2019

## APPENDIX B

### TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 08 APRIL 2019

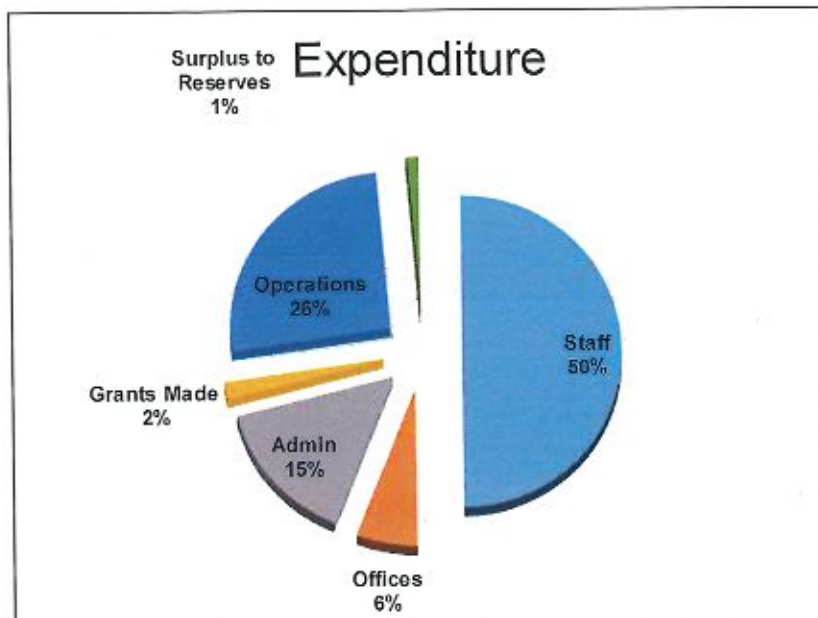
At the Annual Town Meeting the role of the Clerk is to report on the finances of the Council for the year just ended.



In the year 2018/19 the Town Council's Precept was £294,701 this was 67% of the Council's total income.

The Council derives other income from grants (New Homes Bonus of £20,907) and its operations in the town, such as the Town Cemetery, the four Allotment Gardens and the Community Bus services. Income relating to these other activities amounted to £122,520 (last year £153,901) The Council's total income for the year was £438,735 (last year £454,843).

The Council is aiming to continue to develop Operations Income to minimise any increase in the Precept.



We spent a total of £433,445 this year (last year £415,547).

Staff costs amounted to 50% of our expenditure; we have a town clerk, a town projects manager, three part time administration officers, the town ranger and two part time bus drivers, this is equivalent to 5.5 FTE staff. All other services are carried out by contractors.

Our operations costs were 26% of our spend, and included management of the Town Cemetery, the Allotment Gardens, Sawbobus, the two Community Minibuses, recreation areas, footpaths, the town ranger, provision and maintenance of Floral Displays, and community events including Fun on the Field and the Christmas Lights Festival.

Our administration costs at 15% of the total included our responsibilities as a Consultee on planning applications and matters relating to the town, removal of Fly Posting, Civic Events, Community Transport, Floral Decorations, Promoting the Town, consultations, subscriptions, insurances and our duty to provide Democratic Services including meetings, committees, elections and representation on outside bodies including liaison with the County and District Councils.

During the year, the Council continued the operation of Sawbobus, now in its tenth year. This has been financed by grants from EHDC and from commercial sponsorship. We have suffered from a decrease in grant funding and are having to think of other ways of sustaining the service to Lower Sheering and onto Sheering village itself. It also managed the two Community Minibuses, which are self-financing although take up significant administration time.

The Town Council continues to step in to preserve services to the community when other organisations are unable to continue.

The Council made grants totalling £6961 to nine different local organisations during the year; these were the Citizens Advice Service, the Crucial Crews Project, Sawbridgeworth PCC for tree work, Keech Hospice Care, the Town Twinning Association, the Hailey Centre and the Young Peoples Recreation Centre.

There was a small surplus of £5,290 for the year and this has been added to our general reserves.

For this coming year the precept has been increased to £318,277. This is because members of council were very aware on the decrease in support income from other sources and the requirement to maintain reserves. Since the town's housing stock has increased this amounts to an increase of 10.7p per week for a Band D household.

## APPENDIX C

### THE HAILEY CENTRE

#### REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018/19

##### Objects and Powers

**The Trust is established for the benefit of older people in the Parish of Sawbridgeworth with the object of improving their quality of life.**

The Board met on four occasions during the period covered by this report and has dealt with matters relating to the efficient running of the Centre including reviewing the health and safety policy, financial management arrangements, staffing and safeguarding issues and rates of pay. The Management Committee has also met four times and has made various recommendations to the Board to enhance the smooth running of Centre activities.

The serving Trustees are:

Councillors – Mrs. Angela Alder - Chairman)  
Mr. John Burmicz ) four year terms until May 2019  
Mrs. Pat Coysten )

Community – Mr. Eric Buckmaster )  
Mr. Colin Gill – Honorary Treasurer)  
Mr. T. Noakes ) three year terms until  
Mr. Ralph Reed – Deputy Chairman) May 2020  
Mr. Steve Robertson )

The Trustees are grateful to the Town Council for the grant towards the cost of utilities and to Hertfordshire County Council Social Services for its grant towards staffing costs.

The Board gratefully acknowledges the very generous donations during the year from relatives and friends who expressly remember the Centre often through collections made at Funerals and Thanksgiving for the lives of loved ones. Contributions from all sources of financial support are much appreciated and help to keep the running costs down and continue to keep the Centre a welcoming, attractive and vibrant place to visit for the older people of Sawbridgeworth. The Board is very aware of the pressure on local authorities and makes every effort to control expenses as well as raise funds for the benefit of the users of the Centre. The Board is fortunate in having an excellent Honorary Treasurer who keeps a tight control on expenditure.

I am pleased to report our continued good relationship with Sawbridgeworth Town Council officers which has enabled the Centre to utilise the Council Chamber for some fund raising events. The Town Council held several open Saturdays in the Council Chamber during the District Plan consultations which attracted many visitors. On those occasions the connecting door to the Centre was opened to give local

people a chance to buy some refreshments in the Centre main hall. An arrangement mutually beneficial.

As last year the Centre Manager conducted a Questionnaire among our users. 78 people completed the Questionnaire with the overwhelming majority specifically mentioning the hot meals and the avoidance of feelings of loneliness and isolation. The following examples are a few of the views expressed by the responders:

*"I think the centre caters very well for all types of people and has a variety of activities."*

*"It makes a social aspect of my life that would be missing in my life if it did not exist. I would miss the Hailey very much if it did not exist".*

*"We feel that the Hailey centre provides a purpose for the over 55, without it, a lot of people would find it very lonely. A Great place to meet other people who you would not normally see"*

*"Good to meet other older people and talk about life in general and help each other. It's great that there are people that help me get to the centre. The activities are good and motivate people in the afternoons with entertainment and the opportunity to dance are greatly attended and keep us active. Do keep up the good work and keep the older generation moving."*

*"The company here is very good, I look forward to having someone to talk to, days go by and I see no one".*

*"The Hailey Centre is essential to the community, it's a meeting place for all ages (55+). It provides excellent meals at sensible prices and as well as a meeting place for friends new and exciting. An opportunity to leave the home and improve the mind, this promotes general wellbeing".*

*"Most importantly I have made new friends. I have attended the centre on a regular weekly basis for at least the last 10 years after my husband died. I have participated in all sorts of events and have gone on most of the twice-yearly holidays organised by the centre. I do not at the moment take the dinners on a regular basis but attend most of the special lunches. At the moment I play whist and bingo and have a team for the monthly quiz. I no longer do keep fit."*

The Management Committee has met regularly throughout the year and offered sound and practical advice to the Board which has been warmly received and implemented where appropriate.

The annual "Thank you" lunch for our much valued volunteers plus their partners or friends was again well attended and appreciated by all.

Centre activities throughout the year have been well supported and the outings and events enjoyed to the full by Centre users and their friends. The Centre provided 4,695 lunches this year. The volunteers continue to provide a cheerful waitress service week in week out without whom the Centre would be hard pressed to maintain the current level of service. I am delighted to report that at our most recent inspection by the Environmental Health Officer we retained our five star rating for our

catering service. We provided 141 seats, for food shopping trips dropping users off at their own front door. The Centre users had 6 days of outings and no holidays this year. We cater for those with specific transport needs by use of taxis. However, the majority of our visitors use Sawbobus or walk. We have four people who use scooters which we accommodate at the rear of the building.

The Centre now runs seven exercise classes including keep-fit, Pilates and Yoga sessions each week with a full complement of participants totalling 2,101 users benefitting from this service. The Photography sessions on Wednesday mornings and the Silver Surfers on Thursday mornings are both "manned" by volunteer instructors and provide a one-to-one teaching session with all slots filled i.e. 157 people are now more IT literate in Sawbridgeworth as a result of these sessions.

Earlier in the year we were approached by Hertshealth concerning the setting up of a dementia support group on a Wednesday morning. It opened for the first clients last August and has been of invaluable assistance to so many families with relatives suffering from early/moderate forms of dementia to mild memory loss. The establishment of this much needed service highlights the inadequacies of the current building as in providing this facility and the exercise sessions has necessitated closing the hall for casual morning coffee visitors. The Board is looking at how the rear area might be better utilised so that more people can benefit from the Centre.

The Whist, Bingo and Art sessions are also fully supported. The Quiz, Film show and Musical afternoons continue to prove highly popular and profitable events. The Camera Club has just celebrated its sixth birthday and has continued to go from strength to strength. Apart from the fun and pleasure the members derive from the Club itself, where they have been out and about taking photographs, some of which have been used as front covers for our monthly Newsletter, they have assisted with the fund raising activities at the Centre. Many of the Centre users have taken advantage of the Camera club to have their pictures taken for bus passes or passport renewals.

The Board agreed that major fund raising events should be run on the back of town centre activities i.e. the May Fayre and big Christmas Lights switch on. However, it was agreed that the Race Night which had been much enjoyed by our visitors and made a very handy profit should be continued for this year.

On the first Saturday each month we have "bacon butties" on sale and these are doing a roaring trade and helping to boost our fund raising efforts. All these activities have increased not only the income but raised the profile of the Centre and what it can offer to older people in Sawbridgeworth.

The visiting Chiropodists delivered 548 treatments up on last year. Well cared for feet assist in keeping older people mobile and self-reliant. The Hearing Aid Specialist had 168 consultations and is also helping to meet the growing demand for a very local service. The Centre also carries a supply of batteries which is valued by local people. The attendance at the Centre on a regular basis of these professionals is very much appreciated by the people we serve.

In January the Centre held its annual New Year celebration lunch at the Bishop's Stortford Golf Club which was delicious. The function was a huge success and attended by sixty five regular users of the Centre. As well as our now annual New

Year lunch the Centre has special lunch events to celebrate occasions like Easter and our own Christmas lunch and party in the Centre.

The Centre has received good press coverage over the twelve months giving a positive picture of a Centre for older people being active, helping older people lead fulfilled lives and enjoying themselves with much of this attributable to our present and former Managers with their vision for engaging older people in a proactive role.

On the staff side there have been a number of changes. Debbie Nicholas has replaced Julie Bradley as Assistant to the Centre Manager and is responsible for the upkeep of our web site and organising of the outings. During the year we appointed a new Cook, Mrs. Jeannie Allen as replacement for Fiona Gibbins who needed more time to visit her ageing father in Cumbria. Fiona still helps with Liz's café on Thursdays and as occasional cook for special events. The Centre Manager, Susan Fitzwilliams, decided to retire to Tenerife and her replacement, Mrs. Kerry Reynolds, started in the role in February this year. Sue will be much missed by us all but Kerry has made a good start and already has introduced new activities. We are also losing Lyn O'Hanlon, catering assistant, who is leaving to look after a grandchild and we are actively looking to find a replacement. Lyn has served the Hailey Centre well during her three years with us and will be another person hard to replace. I am relieved to report that Charlotte Birks, our housekeeper will continue in our employment. Our employees have the option to join the pension scheme if they wish and the Board is grateful for the expertise of our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Colin Gill, who has ensured that we are legally compliant with a properly validated Pension Scheme for Centre employees.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks the valuable contribution of the volunteers who give over 1,000 volunteer "man" hours per month to the running of the Centre and without whose willing help the Centre would not be the vibrant and happy place it is today. The Board would also wish to place on record its thanks to the staff who provide a friendly and welcoming environment for all visitors and users of the Hailey Centre week by week throughout the year. On a personal note I would like to add my thanks for the dedication and commitment of all the Centre staff for their contribution to the smooth running of the Centre. It is also my very real pleasure to thank my Deputy Chairman, Ralph Reed, and all the volunteer Trustees for their help and support throughout the year.

Thank you

Angela Alder  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
April 2019



## APPENDIX D

### Sawbridgeworth Young People's Recreational Centre Management Committee (Charity Number 302466) Report for the year 2018/19

The management committee meets throughout the year to deal with issues relating to the centre. They are volunteers who are all committed to working for the best for the centre.

The management committee consists of:

Cllr R. Buckmaster - Chair

Cllr D. Royle - Secretary

Ms J Sargent/ Ms G Felstead - Treasurer

Cllr A Alder

Cllr A Furnace

Cllr S Adamopoulos

Mrs G Hawkins

Mr R Alder

Mr S Day

Mrs L Dale - Centre Manager

The Hall has been well used this year. It has hosted many events, such as Fun on the field, various quiz nights and other charity events, as well as being 'home' to all our regular users. We are nearly at full capacity in our bookings and have added an evening for young users with the wood turners and some offering drama and singing lessons. Last year's summer play scheme was again fully booked.

The management committee has been working on improving the maintenance of the site. To this end we have a new contract with Broadmead Leisure Ltd to inspect monthly and to repair the playground equipment when necessary. After an initial inspection the cost of the current repairs and upgrading comes to approximately £1800. This is needed to make all the equipment safe. After this we will continue to repair as necessary.

The Hall is over 20years old and has been used extensively during that time. But is now in need of some maintenance work.

The flooring in the hall was the original and therefore needed replacing as some areas were beginning to become unsafe. It was decided to apply for grants to cover the cost of this and we received £8000 from EHDC, £3000 from Stansted community fund and £800 from our County Councillor's locality budget, even though we had raised £11800 towards the cost of the flooring. SYPRC has to pay £2800 from its funds towards it.

We are hoping to decorate the hall during the Easter holidays. This will include the hall, stairway and kitchen. The estimate for this is £2900. New tables have been bought and we would also like to replace the blinds, as you can see the hall needs to be maintained and costs are going up.

We increased the hire charge in January 2019 to £13 weekdays; £17 and £21 Saturdays; £17 Sundays. This is the first increase for a number of years and is in line with other local halls hiring fees.

We would like to thank the Town Council for their continued contributions towards running costs.

With the future developments in Sawbridgeworth increasing the demand of Preschool, youth clubs and other groups we are looking into how the Bullfields centre can be improved.

Our ambition would be for SYPRC to be a beacon for youth services and facilities, in order to achieve this the management committee would like to reconfigure the changing room area and possibly extend the building. This would enable us to offer more rooms and facilities to existing and future users.

We have some ideas of what we would like to achieve but also want ideas from the users and residents.

All of this will cost a great deal, while we do not know if we will be able to receive any S106 money, we need to look into ways of funding these changes.

As I said Bullfields has been well used in the last 20 years and I want it to continue so for the next 20 years.

Finally, I would like to thank all the management committee for all their work and commitment over the past year. And especially Lisa our centre manager without her care and attention the Centre wouldn't be as good as it is.

Ruth Buckmaster  
Chair  
April 2019

## County councillor Annual report April 2019

### We have had a number of consultations

**Most recent and significant was Minerals Local Plan Review** Which closed on 22 March.

East Herts District Council objected to this and I voted against its inclusion in the draft plan

We haven't yet had any feedback on the responses but Tarmac have issued a note to say they are reviewing the scale of operation

The scheme submitted as part of their representations to the Council has changes to the proposed boundaries of the site:

1. To remove the field to the west of Olives Farm from the Preferred Site to safeguard potential archaeological remains and maintain the historic setting; and
2. To change the boundary to the north east of the site, south of Olives Farm, to increase the standoffs to nearby heritage assets.

In addition to this, we have amended the boundary around Coldharbour Farm to the south west of the site, removing the farm from the proposed site.

Feedback I have seen so far from residents show concern that it will move the operation closer to the village of Stansted Abbots.

### Minerals Local Plan Timetable

Season	Year	Key stages
Winter/spring	2017/18	Draft Plan Consultation
Winter/spring	2019	Proposed Submission
Summer	2019	Submission to Secretary of State
Autumn	2019	Examination
Summer	2020	Adoption of Minerals Local Plan

### Another earlier in the year was the A414 Consultation

This was broken into segments. The clear message is that it is not just about highways infrastructure but very much about modal shift, technology change and possible East to West rapid transit e.g. to make bus transportation quicker and easier. Any major Highways expenditure would have to be funded by further highways growth. In response to the consultation the Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group requested a meeting to query the process by which the second river crossing of the Stort was selected. I attended as did your chairman along with Hunsdon and Gilston Chairmen, along with a

Highways officer and Cabinet member for Growth and Infrastructure. Concerns remain that it will have the effect of cutting off Terlings Park from the rest of Gilston Village and will re-route the A414. East Herts officers have written to the site promoters to see if the scale of the junction at Terlings could be reconsidered through changing local priorities and for more detailed drawings to be provided for residents to aid understanding.

### **Housing Infrastructure Funding**

The county council has applied for up to £171m of funding to deliver the sustainable travel infrastructure needed for the Harlow Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) project.

The government's Garden Towns programme, which has a vision that 60% of all journeys within, and to and from the development will be by sustainable transport –

The funding bid for Gilston includes proposals for:

- A walking, cycling and public transport link from Eastwick junction to Harlow town centre via the railway station.
- An additional road crossing over the River Stort, linking the A414 at Eastwick with a new roundabout north of the river then onwards to Edinburgh Way via River Way.

### **Princess Alexandra Hospital**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March Princess Alexandra Hospital announced its preferred option to have a new build facility located to the East of Harlow near the proposed Junction 7A. They still have a lot of work to do in order to secure funding. They would hope for an announcement of support from the Government in the Autumn Statement this year. There would then need to be public consultations and if eventually approved there would be an anticipated construction period of around 3.5 years. This would compare favourably with a regeneration of the existing site which could take up to 7 years.

### **County Council and Social Care**

As everyone is aware all councils will face considerable pressures in the next few years owing to the ageing population. The council will continue to look for efficiency savings and savings through contract tenders and commercial activities.

### **Highways initiatives for Sawbridgeworth.**

**Sheering Mill Lane** Potential one way system for to improve safety. My preferred option is one way in from Vantorts. Designs have been done and

are now subject to a safety audit. Once this is done a public engagement will take place to describe the scheme and encourage responses.

**Barnard Road resurfacing.** Waiting to be programmed.

**Roseacres resurfacing** needs some remedial work. It has been reported and awaiting to be scheduled.

**Spellbrook Speed Indicator.** Recently installed

**Cambridge Road 3 mile pond junction protection/lines** Statutory Consultation expected to take place in April/May

**Vantorts Road footway protection** Consultant has been engaged and further design works are being commissioned. Finding a solution to parking on the pavement will be a real challenge owing to the narrowness of both road and pavement.

**Fairway junction protections for visibility and safety.** DY Lines on Elmwood and Linwood junctions with Fairway plus waiting restrictions on Fairway to limit commuter parking. Stage 1 public engagement to take place during April/May

**Sawbridgeworth South East Quadrant 20mph zone feasibility speed and volume survey.** Awaiting data.

**Footpath 27 resurfacing.** Awaiting programming

**New Town Signs** to reflect additional twinning

**Bell Street Junction/London Road.** It is technically possible widen the bellmouth at the junction to aid turning. This will progress to the next phase of preliminary design. The detailed design could take 12 months but I am pushing for it to be sooner. Also depends on what is underground in the way of utilities. It is possible the guard rails outside New Mexico will be removed and replaced by bollards.

**Bullfields sustainable Verge Works.** No time frame yet but possible grasscrete.

I also went on a tour of the town with the PCSO's and Highways assistant last week. We were looking at areas where safety could be improved through improved or renewed road markings, moving signs, additional railings e.g. outside Reedings. Also looked at whether or not the priorities at the top of Northfield Rd were appropriate i.e. roundabout. These and other suggestions can be looked at in future budget rounds.

Burnside junction protection with London Road, Statutory Consultation in 3 months. I also reminded them about Saffron Gardens.

### **East Herts Councillor report**

#### **Old River Lane Proposals**

The Planning application for a multi storey car park at Northgate End was approved in February. This is for around 540 spaces and is intended to free up the surface car park in the causeway for a regeneration of Bishop's Stortford Town Centre. This was also approved at Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March and now will pave the way for a multi-use Arts Centre, Residential premises of around 135, retail and restaurants, and new public realm. The Arts Centre will contain a 500 seat Theatre, 4 cinemas, food and beverage, studio, and Library.

**Other Infrastructure included in East Herts in 2018 included the expansion of Herford Theatre to a 500 seat auditorium plus 3 cinema screens and new café and studio, to be completed in 2022. There will also be a refurbishment of Hartham Leisure Centre in Hertford, and in Bishops Stortford the existing Grange Paddocks will be replaced by a new leisure centre. All are going through either procurement processes or early stages of design and planning. Planning applications for the leisure centres are expected later this year.**

**At East Herts Full Council, councillors supported the appointment of Richard Cassidy who will take the helm as the new Chief Executive later this year (exact date TBC), following the departure of Liz Watts.** Richard joins the team from Fenland District Council where he served for 15 years as their Corporate Director with responsibility for Community, Environment and Leisure. Richard brings with him a wealth of experience, having worked in local government for over 30 years at councils in London, Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

**Eric Buckmaster April 2019**

### Sawbo Travel Challenge and Town Selfie Walk 2018

The Sawbo Travel Challenge and Town Selfie Walk is a multi-school and Sawbridgeworth Town Council initiative supported by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and East Herts District Council (EHDC) designed to encourage sustainable journeys to school and walking in Sawbridgeworth generally. It has taken place three years running – initially in September 2016, then September 2017, and most recently September 2018 (24-29 September). This year's Challenge proved yet again to be highly successful with five primary schools totalling over 1,000 pupils now taking part – Fawbert and Barnard Infants' School, High Wych CE Primary School, Mandeville Primary School, Readings Junior School and Spellbrook Church of England Primary School.

The initiative is now established as an annual event with both pupils and parents/carers expecting it as part of the town and school activity calendar, and we believe that it continues to encourage parents/carers and pupils towards walking, cycling and scootering, as well as car sharing, walking bus and park & stride schemes.

#### **The initiative:**

- Travel Challenge Passport – every pupil was provided with their own "passport" covering five days in which they recorded their journeys to school. If they came to school via sustainable means – walk, scooter, cycle, bus, park & stride – they received a stamp for that day (Figure 1 & 2 below).
- Travel Challenge Competition – schools could choose to compete to be the most improved school since last year, and to have the highest percentage of pupils journeying sustainably. Four schools did this and recorded the number of journeys on a bespoke spreadsheet. All schools were presented with a certificates and trophies of participation by Sawbridgeworth Mayor Angela Alder with a celebration ceremony held at the Town Council chambers on 24 October.
- Town Selfie Walk – pupils were asked to bring their families to an event between 11am and 2pm on the Saturday at the end of the week organised by the Town Council where they were encouraged to explore Sawbridgeworth on foot (Figure 3 below). They were issued with a leaflet listing selfie stops (Figure 4 below) and a map showing the town's Twitchells, and received a further stamp in their "passport" for attending.

#### **Promotional activities:**

- Branding – continued use of the initiative's name, Sawbo Travel Challenge, developed in 2016 with support from EHDC marketing team.
- School assemblies – each school held an assembly at which Samantha Parfitt from HCC Active and Safer Travel Team explained the initiative to pupils, accompanied by Buster the Dinosaur, HCC's sustainable journeys to



school mascot. The Mayor and/or Town Councillors were present at some of these assemblies.

- Letter and flyer (Figure 5) to parents/carers – each school provided information to pupils' parents/carers outlining the initiative and asking for their support.

- Signage – banners were refreshed from previous years using this year's dates and sited outside each school in and around Sawbridgeworth promoting the initiative.

- Local press – the initiative was previewed in local media including the Herts & Essex Observer, The Flyer and the High Wych Big Link. A promotional press release and photographs from the Town Selfie Day was also featured in the Herts & Essex Observer and the Flyer (Figure 7).

- Passport day themes – the previous years' themes were used again to promote participation with pupils given the opportunity to wear an item to school each day of the Challenge e.g. Eco Monday wear something green, Wacky Wednesday wear something bizarre.

- Selfie stops – the Town Selfie Walk featured selfie stops to encourage walking to various key points around Sawbridgeworth. This year these stops were managed by community groups – the Rotary Club, the Women's Institute, Hertfordshire's Countryside & Rights of Way team, and the Evangelical Congregational Church.

- Fluffies – each pupil was given a Town 'Selfie' Walk collecting bag and at each stop they could collect a 'fluffy'. These fluffies were themed to match the days of the Challenge Week (above) with the last fluffy being a Baby Buster Bug collected from Bell Street car park.

- Parents/carers could upload their own photos and selfies to the Sawbridgeworth Town Council Facebook page. Pupils received a passport stamp and could have their photo taken with Buster.

- Stalls – there were stalls at the Town Selfie Walk including The Orchards, Sawbridgeworth Fire Service and Cyclepods, which ran a scooter competition. Refreshments were provided by a stall run jointly by the schools' PTAs. The Police Cadets were also present.

## **Funding**

Funding for this year's Sawbo Travel Challenge and Town Selfie Walk was provided by Sawbridgeworth Town Council and covered:

- Printing of 1,200 passports

- Custom-made stamps

- Participants' trophies

- Collecting bags and fluffies, including Baby Buster which was provided with financial support from Mayor Angela Alder.

## **Impact**

Once again evidence shows the initiative had a significant effect on increasing the number of sustainable journeys to school in the area.

Measurements taken by some schools before and during the Challenge Week showed that schools increased their percentage of sustainable journeys during the initiative.

## **Sawbridgeworth Town Action Plan**

### **REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 08 APRIL 2019**

Members of the town council decided last year to establish a Town Action Plan and Economic Development Committee to progress actions.

This reports on the progress this year against the Action Items in the Town Action Plan.

#### **Amenities and Facilities**

At long last we have reached agreement with East Herts District Council on the way forward. We will be placing a contract with Healthmatic for the restoration and enhancement of the Bell Street car park conveniences and relocating the K6 former telephone box to the site as a housing for a town centre defibrillator.

#### **Environment**

Pollution caused by traffic is being monitored as part of the new housing developments in the town, it is not clear yet what action will be taken to mitigate the increases we are anticipating.

Footpath at Elwood has been refurbished and a Right of Way is in the process of being established. Footpath at the Parish Hall has been refurbished.

#### **People in the Community**

The Bullfields Centre (SYPRC) is now being managed by a new committee who have started refurbishment works and have plans for enhancing its facilities.

#### **Planning and Housing**

The town council have been very active in registering its concerns and making positive suggestions during the creation of the new District Plan.

It has also made detailed representation at the meetings of the Development Management Committee on matters relating to the first major planning applications that have been made subsequent to the introduction of the Plan.

#### **Traffic and Transport**

Investigations under way by our County Councillor to establish speed restrictions and parking issues. Reviews with Herts police and Herts Highways on hot spots to be addressed.

Options for extending the Sawbobus services continue to be explored in conjunction with changing our licencing permit to broaden the categories of passengers we can carry.

**SAWBRIDGEWORTH YOUNG PEOPLE'S RECREATIONAL CENTRE MANAGEMENT**  
**COMMITTEE**

(CHARITY NUMBER 302466)

**REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22**

**Objects and Powers**

The purpose of the Centre is to help and educate the children and young people of Sawbridgeworth through their leisure time activities. So to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and as members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

The Management Committee meet throughout the year during the period covered by this report and has dealt with matters relating to the efficient running of the Centre as and when they occurred.

The management Committee consists of the following individuals

Cllr R Buckmaster – Chair

Cllr A Alder – Vice Chair

Cllr D Royle – Secretary

Ms G Felstead – Treasurer

Cllr A Furnace

Cllr C Chester

Mrs G Hawkins

Ms L Rodriguez

Mr A Parsad-Wyatt

Mr S Pagdades/ J Barnard

Mrs L Dale is our Centre Manager, who attends all the committee meetings and manages the hall bookings and deals with all matters relating to the centre and open space.

It has been a strange time to live through in the last two years with the first Covid Lockdown in March 2020. All Hall and Community Centres had to close along with the rest of the country.

Centres that operated pre-schools were allowed to reopen first but with a lot of Covid safe procedures put in place. With all the extra measure the groups slowly returned.

During this time East Herts Council issued grants to help cover the reduced income. This was extremely useful and enabled the Centre to keep operating.

As the groups restarted with restricted numbers some were not allowed to be inside the centre so ran their sessions on the field depending on the weather.

All the groups have now restarted. The Centre was used for the County Council HAPpy programme during the summer of 21.

When the new developments for Sawbridgeworth were first proposed the committee decided to investigate how to utilise the space of the Centre to be able to cater for the increase numbers of residents. A firm of architects were appointed, and plans were drawn up to build an extension to the centre. Because of the original trust agreement, we are restricted in size for the proposed building works. We hope to fund the majority of the works from S106 monies but will also need to secure separate funding.

The committee looked at ways to improve the service to the youth of Sawbridgeworth and decided to start to run its own events. Grants were secured to buy equipment to run a film club for the 11-13 yr olds. A trial session was held for the Leventhorpe pupils which was very successful, and another will be held soon. It is also hoped to be able to restart the music nights.

A cooking club was suggested, and funds were raised including a grant from Clarion to install a new cooker and units. This will be fitted during the Easter holidays. At the present time we are still looking for a tutor to run the club.

The Centre has had some issues with vandalism over the last year so are having CCTV installed for the safety of the users and the protection of the building.

Bookings to hire the hall have increased especially at weekends. These are for various reasons including parties and quiz nights.

The field is part of the centre and comes under the committee's responsibility to maintain. People are often confused and assume it is a public open space and are aggravated that we do not allow dogs on the field. This is to ensure that it is a clean safe space for the children to use. All the play equipment is regularly inspected and repaired to keep it safe for use.

Earlier this year the committee planted 15 saplings as part of the Queens Green Canopy. They have survived so far so will be checking and watering them regularly.

All these things run alongside the day-to-day upkeep of the centre to ensure it is kept to a good standard.

All these things take time and effort to organise and arrange and with out the hard work and effort that the committee put in to running the centre we would not be in such a good shape. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their hard work and dedication.

Finally, I have the sad news to report that our Centre Manager is stepping down after many years of dedication and care to the Centre. A huge thank you for all you have done over the years.

## **STC's Eco-Audit Working Group – Sawbridgeworth Town Meeting on 4 April 2022**

The Eco-Audit Working Group brings residents and councillors together to discuss, action and promote sustainability across the town. It was formed in January 2020 to follow up recommendations in 3 Acorn's eco-audit, and develop new initiatives to involve the whole town.

The Group reports into STC's Amenities Committee and full minutes are available in the Amenities packs <http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/town-council/meetings/agenda-meeting-archive>

### 3 Acorns eco-audit

The audit recommended 10 top priorities, listed in the Eco Audit Action Plan (links below). The majority of actions have been completed. The Covid-19 pandemic made it difficult to progress much further on this work and STC is now awaiting a follow up visit from 3 Acorns on next steps.

- 3 Acorns report: [http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Sawbridgeworth\\_Council\\_Eco-audit\\_Report\\_200124.pdf](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Sawbridgeworth_Council_Eco-audit_Report_200124.pdf)
- Eco Audit Action Plan: [http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Eco\\_Audit\\_action\\_plan\\_STC.pdf](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Eco_Audit_action_plan_STC.pdf)

### Environmental Audit of Sawbridgeworth

Local environmental expert Bob Reed undertook this comprehensive audit of the natural environment in and around Sawbridgeworth [http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Bob\\_Reed\\_Eco\\_Audit.pdf](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Bob_Reed_Eco_Audit.pdf)

### Citizen Science Group established

In 2021 the Group supported the setting up of the Citizen Science Group led by Bob Reed:

- September 2021 STC hosted a webinar to mark COP26, showcasing Bob's Environment Audit and launching the Citizen Science Group. The event was also supported by community group Sustainable Sawbridgeworth. The webinar is available here: [https://player.vimeo.com/video/613482020?h=d3ecadb4de&badge=0&autopause=0&player\\_id=0&app\\_id=58479](https://player.vimeo.com/video/613482020?h=d3ecadb4de&badge=0&autopause=0&player_id=0&app_id=58479)
- November 2021 a first meeting studied lichens growing on branches in Rivers Orchard and Pishiobury; in March 2022 another meeting recorded observations from Feakes to Sheering Mill Lock along the river Stort. Further dairy dates are planned for 2022, as well as a River Day with the Canal & River Trust on 21 May.

### Other activities and actions

- Facilitated Clean Air Day June 2021 posters and stall in Bell Street car park
- EV chargers are due to be installed in Bell Street carpark in April 2022
- Discussion of ongoing work at Pishiobury Park
- Discussion of allotment environmental activities
- Sustainable Sawbridgeworth's Christmas recycled lanterns display.

*For further details contact Cllr Annelise Furnace*

## Guiding Update

Numbers - Guiding has slightly decreased in numbers over the past year, however this is not due to a decrease in girls but rather to do with a lack of willing volunteers stepping forward, we have therefore had to close 2 Brownie units and 1 Rainbow unit.

The current Rainbow units in Sawbridgeworth are also under threat as the existing leadership team are all stepping down at the end of the summer term. We have potentially managed to save one unit but that isn't guaranteed.

On the upside though, we have increased in our Guide numbers (this is against the national trend) and now have 2 full units. In total we have about 180 girls involved in guiding in the Town. All units in High Wych are now closed due to a lack of adult volunteers. We are still recruiting for leaders and will continue to do so forever more I think.

Damage - Last Easter the Guide hut suffered significant and repeated vandalism. Residents and some businesses, contributed to a fundraising campaign, which allowed the repair and replacement of the broken property. We also then installed a CCTV system, from which we have already seen how people were cutting through the hut to get to the car park. Therefore we changed the locks on the back gate so that they now need a code both ways, also the pub have put back in place a gate into the car park - which seems to be solve the problem.

Money - The prospective increase in fuel bills has forced us to cease the employment of our cleaner but also increase the cost to parents for Guiding. We are trying to save passing the costs onto parents as much as we can but unfortunately with HQ putting up membership fees and fuel situation, we have no choice but to do this. We retain a small amount of funds to help those parents in financial difficulty so that no girl should miss out on guiding through lack of money.

Sustainability - Unfortunately we can not consider solar panels on the hut roof due to the underlying asbestos roof and also the shade cast by other buildings and trees (we had this checked out a while back). Therefore we are now looking at airsource heat pumps etc but the cost of these are prohibitive. We are also investigating the possibility of insulating the hut from the inside. In the meantime, we have replaced the light bulbs with LED's and have installed thermal blinds on the windows.

Adventure - All the guide units and 2 of the 3 Brownie units will have taken the girls away for camps and holidays by the end of the year. Summer camp is planned for Norfolk (3rd time lucky we hope) and we have rented minibuses so that we can take trips out, currently we have about 20 girls coming away for a week in tents and wildcamping. (hammocks and tarps).

Awards - This year 3 Leaders were belated awarded the National Guiding Hero award for their work in keeping guiding going in Sawbridgeworth through the pandemic (only 12 were awarded in Hertfordshire in total, so I hope this shows the dedication how much these ladies went above and beyond), but more excitingly 2 of our young leaders (Charlotte Stride and Frankie Bailey) have been selected to attend the County International Opportunities day early next month. If selected they will then be able to go on some of the wonderful community minded trips abroad, previous locations have included Uganda and Nepal. We will keep you posted on how they do as we are exceedingly proud of them.

Ukraine - We have got in touch with the Sawbridgeworth team who are working with the refugees that will come to Sawbridgeworth. Guiding will help in what ever way we can.



Summary - Guiding continues but without new adults coming in, the future of some units is looking bleak, we need more volunteers. The cost of fuel is a great concern. The units that are running are delivering a wonderful programme and the girls love it.

Gilly

District Commissioner - Sawbridgeworth & High Wych

## RHSO report for Annual Town Meeting 2022

This is the Chairman report for 2021/22

We started the year in another lockdown and Covid restrictions continued throughout the year. We were able to carry on with the maintenance of the orchard with new and existing volunteers joining in.

A lot of volunteer time and energy was spent looking after the membranes at the expense of other work that needed doing. Because of this we are now looking into other methods of protecting the trees. We also need to look at the sustainability of the methods we use e.g., plastic membrane or wood chip.

The group welcomed new members during the year, and we thank them for joining the group. That also raises another issue of the sustainability of the group. We need more of the members to take on some extra responsibilities, i.e., first aid training, pruning training. We need to look to the future and the best way we can keep going, some of us aren't getting any younger!

Apple Day was held in October and was open to the public this year. Even though it rained all day we had a good steady turn out of helpers from the community. The apples are then taken to a juicing company, and we have 847 bottles of juice this year.

The juice is sold throughout the year at 'Full of Beans', a shop in Sawbridgeworth. The volunteers also run stalls through the year at the 'Scarecrow Festival' and in Bell St car park.

A Wassail was held this year after not being able to do so last year. I think everyone agrees that it is a very popular event with approximately 150 people attending. This is technically the start of the Orchards year as we bless the trees for a good harvest.

I would finally like to thank everyone for all their hard work in keeping the orchard a very special place going and thriving, and also to all the committee members for all the hard work they put in.

Ruth Buckmaster Chair

## **County Councillor Report for Annual Meeting**

### **-Some Highlights April 2021 to March 2022**

**Decarbonisation funding.** £23.5m for Hertfordshire County Council to upgrade 182 council buildings, including 74 schools and 23 emergency service buildings. This will include the installation of heat pumps, battery storage and solar panels and improving the energy efficiency of the buildings through installing double glazing and cavity wall insulation. Hertfordshire County Council is progressing the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), (via Salix) funded

works to decarbonise the schools and non-schools' estate. The £23.5 million in successful grant funding will be used to deliver works such as the installation of air source heat pumps and solar panels across 149 selected sites

**Progress Update Feb 2022** Most of the programme has been completed, with the remaining sites currently on track to be delivered before the agreed deadlines with issuers of the grant fund. As of the 7th February 2022, £14,312,898.49 of grant funding has been committed to the installation programme, supporting the delivery of the following completed works programmes:

- 81 sites have received solar panels, delivering direct reductions in carbon emissions, and improving the council's portfolio of renewable energy sources. The panels have been installed across the council's schools and non-school's property portfolio
- 15 schools sites have received wall insulation and double glazing works, improving energy efficiency and heat retention
- Work continues on the delivery of air source heat pumps across the council's schools and non-schools portfolio. Upon programme completion, two schools will have received air source heat pumps and accompanying heating upgrades and eight non schools sites, including Farnham and Robertson House. Once completed, these works are expected to deliver improved energy efficiency and significantly reduce carbon emissions across all sites

**Low Carbon Skills Fund** Hertfordshire County Council has been successful in receiving £254,270.41 in grant funding from the Low Carbon Skills Fund – Phase 2, managed by Salix Finance. This funding will be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans across the Council's school's portfolio, with the plans for 318 schools completed by March 2022. The heat decarbonisation plans will be used to provide an overview of the energy performance for each site, outlining recommended infrastructure upgrades to deliver carbon neutral buildings

**Contracts complete for £171m investment in Harlow Gilston Garden Town.** Contracts have now been signed and completed to release £171m of government funding for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) project. The original bid was led by Hertfordshire County Council on behalf of local authority partners Essex County Council, East Herts, Epping Forest and Harlow District Councils, the Harlow Gilston Garden Town under the Harlow Gilston Garden Town Partnership, supported by leading affordable homes-led placemaker, Places for People.

**Services for Young People (SfYP) YCH Services for Young People will now be known as Services for Young People (SfYP).** The vision for SfYP is that the needs of young people who are challenged in education, their community or home life are met, to ensure a successful transition to adulthood.

The primary purpose of SfYP is "Enabling Young People to Succeed" through the delivery of targeted prevention and early intervention work to address emerging needs, improve life chances and reduce escalation to more expensive and intensive services.

Youth Workers, Personal Advisers and other practitioners work in schools, colleges, young people's centres, access points, on the streets and in other local community venues delivering youth work, information, advice, guidance and work-related learning.

### **Recycling Centres**

Three of Hertfordshire's largest recycling centres now open seven days a week  
As reported by In Your Area, Hertfordshire's three largest household waste recycling centres - Ware, Stevenage and Waterdale (Garston) - are now open seven days a week as the county council responds to high use of the network.

**Reuse Centres go from strength to strength.** The newly refurbished Harpenden Reuse Centre, located next to the recycling centre, was open in the summer. This is the third centre where residents can buy good quality items, at a reasonable price, that would otherwise have been needlessly thrown away and destroyed.

### **High Street Recovery schemes**

Hertfordshire County Council had kept residents and its communities safe by putting in place measures to support government guidance and social distancing. The changes were made to help businesses reopen and ensure everyone could access our busier towns and high streets across Hertfordshire. These changes included footway widening, road closures, reduced speed limits and increased cycle parking provision. As we continue to follow the roadmap for easing this current lockdown, Hertfordshire County Council is reviewing with local councils each of the locations where changes were made.

### **Hertfordshire's Mass Rapid Transit**

Working together for sustainable growth

So that we can achieve our ambitions for the MRT, we are working together with the countywide Growth Board for Hertfordshire which is made up of the County Council, 10 District and Borough Councils and Hertfordshire's Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

The MRT would form a key part of Hertfordshire's ambitious growth agenda to support a sustainable transport network. Working collaboratively to enable a coordinated response to tackling future pressures across the A414 – both in terms of sustainability, enabling economic growth and net zero carbon – while simultaneously making the design development process more transparent.

### **Gilston Neighbourhood Plan wins two Awards**

The HEGNP Group have won a Plan Making Award and in addition to that the Editors Award of the best overall entry. The Editor commented that Planners have 'got to work with the community to deliver development'.

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group said 'We are clearly delighted as this recognises the vast amount of time our community put into this as well as the professionalism of our advisors, Urban Silence, who helped us so much on the way'.

The task is now to use the Plan to help shape the development to be what was promised as a being development of exceptional quality.

**Adopt an Area litter campaign launches in East Herts** Litter-conscious residents in East Herts will now get extra support to help keep their streets and parks free of litter by signing up to

our Adopt An Area scheme. East Herts District Council (EHDC) alongside North Herts District Council have launched the campaign to support both existing volunteers who have already been litter picking in the district, as well as to appeal for new volunteers to adopt an area and make a real community effort to reduce litter. Volunteers will be asked to let the council know the area they wish to adopt and will be provided with safety information and dedicated bags. Anyone who adopts an area will be able to have their litter picked waste collected alongside their normal scheduled waste and recycling collections.

### **Hertfordshire hits record high number of officers**

Hertfordshire Constabulary now has more officers than at any time in its history.

The latest intake of 18 new recruits means there are now 2,212 officers in the county, the previous high was 2,202 in 2007.

To mark the milestone Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd and Chief Constable Charlie Hall welcomed the latest student officers at Police Headquarters in Stanborough, Welwyn Garden City.

The final target at the end of the uplift is planned to be even higher with 2,314 officers in post by April 2023.

**Hertfordshire's Healthy Hubs, a free local service where people can get health and wellbeing support and advice, are re-opening their doors again.** The Healthy Hubs initially launched in early 2020 but Covid-19 restrictions meant they had to move online. With a number of venues beginning to re-open, the Covid-safe hubs are now able to welcome face-to-face visitors once again. Whether you need help to reach a healthy weight or want to stop smoking, become more active, get mental health support or even cut down on your drinking - your Healthy Hub can help you. To find your local hub, simply visit [Healthy Hub East Herts | East Herts District Council](#) on line.

**Hertfordshire County Council is unveiling plans for a new waste and recycling transfer Station, near Ware,** which will reduce lorry miles and meet the urgent need to manage waste collected from residents and business in the east of Hertfordshire. The plans, for an enclosed facility with sound and odour controls, where collection vehicles can take kerbside waste to be stored before being sent on to recovery and disposal facilities, was unveiled at a consultation event on 9 and 10 August. The transfer station will primarily accept household and business waste but will also be able to accept recyclable materials.

**Broxbourne Studio Announcement.** Blackstone and Hudson Pacific Properties announce that they intend to invest in building a new film, TV and digital studio in Broxbourne for the first expansion of the Sunset Studios platform outside of the US This is wonderful news for local people and our ongoing commitment to ensuring high quality local employment opportunities, with more than 4,500 permanent jobs to be created in Broxbourne which will be vital to delivering sustainable growth. This announcement is fantastic news for Hertfordshire and, together with the new Sky Studios development currently being built at Elstree, is another clear sign of our county's continued attractiveness and status as home to the UK's world-class creative media industry.



**Hertfordshire secured over £1bn investment in its world-leading cell and gene therapy and film and TV industries,** The Prime Minister visited Stevenage to open Airbus' new £35m UK space and defence headquarters. With £400m for a new life sciences campus on the GSK site and Broomfield chosen as the location for Hollywood's £700m Sunset Studios, investor confidence in our county has never been higher. Investments like these have a major impact on the local economy, invigorating supply chains and creating a spiral effect that continues to encourage so many major multinationals to come to Hertfordshire.

**Hertfordshire County Council is asking residents, businesses, community groups, and other interested parties to join them in planting a tree for the jubilee** The Queen's Green Canopy is a national initiative which will celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee by sustainably planting trees, improving the environment and leaving a legacy for future generations. Residents who want to get involved by planting trees will be given advice and guidance on the correct types of trees to plant, as well as tips on aftercare to ensure they grow into healthy adult trees. Residents or businesses who are unable to plant trees on their own land can pledge funds to help facilitate planting schemes elsewhere in the county. The county council will be playing its part by creating statement planting sites at County Hall in Hertford, and Aldenham Country Park near Elstree, where large numbers of trees will be planted in eye-catching arrangements, improving the natural beauty of these locations while also tackling carbon emissions and improving air quality,

In addition to this tree and hedge planting will take place at schools and academies across the county and along the sides of highways. District and borough councils have also committed to plant trees on their own land over the next two years, as part of the project.

**Hertfordshire County Council has successfully bid for £313,000 from the Department of Transport's (DfT) Local Authority Capability Fund.** The funding, which is part of the Government's Active Travel programme, will help the council to plan, design, consult and develop more county-wide cycle and walking infrastructure schemes. The council will also work with the pedestrian charity Living Streets to support and encourage school children and parents to walk to school more often.

Several initiatives will be supported through the funding, including:

- An increase in the number of British Cycling participation schemes, offering adult and child cycle training and led rides, including free loan bikes for those who don't have one.
- Cycle maintenance and storage facilities, for schools, cycle hubs and proposed Sustainable Travel Towns
- Working with Living Streets to employ local coordinators to support a new initiative; The School Walk, encouraging sustainable travel to and from school
- Planning, design and consultation of a trial Low Traffic Neighbourhood in St Albans and the ongoing design of extensions to a proposed cycle route along North Road in Stevenage.

**New on-demand bus service launched in Hertfordshire** A new on-demand bus service, HertsLynx, is launching in Hertfordshire from 19 September, as part of Hertfordshire County Council's plans to improve transport in the county.

Residents in the east and north of Hertfordshire are able to use a new app to order a bus pick up and drop off from virtual bus stops along routes where normal bus services are infrequent.

The HertsLynx service is designed to improve connections between rural villages and larger town centres, making it easier for people to get to work or school, go shopping, or travel to appointments, without needing to use a car or taxi.

## **Hertfordshire unveils Blueprint to 'Build Back Better' after COVID-19**

**Cleaner, greener and healthier priorities** will be at the heart of a roadmap to lead the county out of the pandemic and make it fit for the future. From helping pupils catch-up to enabling residents to be fit and healthy to supporting workers and businesses to get back on their feet, the Covid-19 recovery Strategy has something for everyone in Hertfordshire to 'build back better'.

**It is in-part under-pinned by a £9.7 million dedicated Covid-19 Recovery Fund** to help drive local recovery and an ambition to be innovative in making services the best they can be for residents. **The Covid-19 Recovery Strategy brings together a series of projects designed to support health and wellbeing and economic recovery over the next two years** with the new funds being split across three key priority areas: Health and wellbeing, the environment and sustainable growth. Some of these projects are already up and running, and have been embedded into team practice while others are new initiatives that use the Recovery Fund.

### **Highlights under each of the priorities include:**

**Health and wellbeing.** Adult Care Services projects receiving £3m, including money dedicated to fighting homelessness, alcohol, mental health and domestic abuse. £285,000 will support over 700 adults with disabilities in finding education, work and volunteering opportunities that has been more challenging through the pandemic.

**Carer projects,** as part of Adult Care Services, will be receiving £258,000 to counter the loneliness, digital exclusion and mental health effects heightened through the pandemic.

**Expanding community protection** with £60,000, enabling an increase in Safe and Well visits, targeted at the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Hertfordshire residents. There has been an increase in vulnerability, social isolation and domestic abuse during the covid pandemic. The money allocated will enable more of these 'one stop shop' visits to people's homes, keeping them safer and signposting them to further support such as advice on fuel poverty, stopping smoking, weight loss and mental health.

**Supporting families in or at risk of falling into poverty** with joint programmes between Children Services, Public Health and Adult Care Services. One is the 'Good start in Life' project, receiving £228k over the next two years to develop services for vulnerable families who have become pregnant or have young children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Helping residents stay active and maintain a healthy weight,** including a new pilot linking physical activity with good mental health. The Never Too Late campaign aims to increase physical activity for those aged 55 and over, and four-hour activity sessions for young people who receive free school meals. There will also be a pilot with the NHS to explore the role hot food takeaways play in obesity.

**Schools 'coming back stronger' and mental health support enabling** additional educational psychologists' and Speech and Language capacity to support children and young people and additional investment in counselling schemes to help address the mental health impact of Covid-19 on children and families. £1.2m will be dedicated to these projects.

**Addressing inequalities across the county** by offering advice on home adaptation, fuel tariffs and managing utilities. There will also be new food welfare initiatives, and work with partner organisations to increase finance/benefits advice to those leaving care of families with disabled children.

**The Environment** Cutting food waste disposal by raising awareness of the financial and environmental costs. Food waste disposal costs Hertfordshire's taxpayers around £7.1 million each year. The Hertfordshire Food Waste Initiative has been allocated £65,000 as part of a campaign to promote food waste prevention measures to residents.

**Restarting Environmental volunteering programmes** encouraging residents to get involved to make their county a better place to live and expanding the Hertfordshire Health Walks across the county. It is anticipated this will include wood wardens, health walks and conservation volunteers.

**Sustainable Growth.** Supporting pupils and schools catch up after the pandemic are a number of initiatives, including £120,000 into a schools mentoring pilot and targeted work with children most at risk of exclusion.

**Focussing on residents' wellbeing when considering planning and delivery of growth projects.** The initiative involves working closely with the health sector to ensure new developments are places that enhance residents' lives.

### **The Government Household Support Fund (HSF)**

Hertfordshire County Council will use part of The Government Household Support Fund (HSF) grant to offer families who qualify for free school meal vouchers through the holidays in Hertfordshire this winter

Announced last week, this new grant will run from 06 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and totals £6,172,064.84 for Hertfordshire. At least 50% of the total funding must be spent on families with children. In terms of type of support, the expectation is that the Household Support Fund should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs.

Since June 2021 the county council has provided:

- £240,000 to local food banks and food poverty organisation
- £550,000 to families using our early years and family intervention services
- allocated £464,850 into crisis support and targeted and specialist support for vulnerable families
- £1.3m spent on vouchers over the summer for eligible families.
- 

**Construction work has officially started at the new site for The Bishop's Stortford High School in Whittington Way, ahead of the school's move from its current London Road site in Spring 2023.** Representatives from the school, Hertfordshire County Council, and local councillors gathered at the site to celebrate the start of construction works, which are being carried out by the county council's contractor, ISG.

The move will see the secondary school relocate to a new, expanded site where it can offer additional places in a modern environment, with further potential to expand in the future to support the proposed scale of new housing growth within the area.

**Review of the Library Service** Cabinet agreed to commence the development of new Library Service Strategy in 2022/23, to ensure the Service is best placed to thrive and support Hertfordshire residents and communities over the next ten years.



The county council will start developing a new 10 year Library Service Strategy next year. This will build on the current Inspiring Library Strategy 2014-2024, that went on to see over £6m of capital invested in buildings and an estimated £500,000 in technology projects across the county.

**Libraries and Lateral Flow test collection.** Nine libraries across Hertfordshire offered assistance to Hertfordshire's Public Health team, by becoming collection points for Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) in their local communities. The libraries which acted as collection points are Baldock, Bishop's Stortford, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hoddesdon, Oxhey, Rickmansworth, Stevenage, and Watford. They will help ensure as many residents as possible have access to these home test kits, and can stay safe and well this winter.

**Electric and zero emission equipment to carry out resurfacing and repairs.**

In collaboration with infrastructure partner Ringway, the county council is using an electric mini-excavator, a breaker and a disc cutter, together with a zero-emission staff welfare unit, on sites in Stevenage (The Willows) and Letchworth (Rookes Close).

The sites will help create a healthier environment for both residents and staff, with significant reductions in carbon emissions, improvements in air quality and lower levels of noise pollution. The trial will enable the county council to establish the cost and practicality of using electric equipment and is part of its overall commitment to the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and Action Plan, specifically to be net zero in its operations by 2030 and a net zero county by 2050.

**UK Community Renewal Fund,**

All five Hertfordshire bids for Community Renewal Fund successful

**Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership have issued this joint statement.**

This £3.26m funding will deliver a raft of measures to support people and communities most in need by piloting programmes and new approaches to drive innovation and productivity, champion local business and create employment opportunities within our key sectors.

Hertfordshire's successful bids are:

Building Back Better: Inclusive business support delivery for SME business support £612,993

Community Wealth Building Together £715,673

Driving creative innovation and culture-led regeneration through the film industry £844,795

Hertfordshire Opportunity Generator £524,233

STEM City £565,175

**Hertfordshire County Council has set out an ambitious vision to improve bus services across the county**

In response to the National Bus strategy, the county council has published its own Bus Service Improvement Plan.

The plan outlines the county council's vision and what needs to happen to achieve this and forms a key element of the authority's bid for a huge £84 million of additional funding.

A county-wide review and passenger survey conducted over the summer of 2021 identified a number of key areas for improvement, such as greater bus frequencies, simpler fares and ticketing, more real time information, and transport that gets you to places you need to go.

Further work will be conducted over the coming months to develop ideas in key areas, such as rail/bus integration, decarbonising the bus fleet and improving accessibility across the bus network.

**Sustainable Hertfordshire Central Fund**

The purpose of the Sustainable Hertfordshire fund is to provide support

to the delivery of the Action Plan and the nine central ambitions of the Strategy. The central fund was confirmed as £10 million from April 2021 to deliver capital programmes. An additional £2 million was allocated for revenue expenditure to support in the delivery of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy. Available from April 2021, this fund will be available for a two-year period or until it has been fully spent.

The project bids that have been approved are:

1) Net Zero Carbon Schools – MACE Consultancy - Commissioning of the consultancy to support the delivery of a feasibility

study, establishing the strategic approach and implementation programme to deliver carbon neutral primary schools by 2030.

2)HCC Property Waste Audit - Conduct an audit on the provision of waste management services at approximately 200 County Council properties. The results of the audit will provide the opportunity to improve the environmental sustainability of the current waste operations.

3) Queen's Green Canopy Funding to help Hertfordshire County Council lead, enable and inspire tree planting for the national Queens Green Canopy Project. This funding will deliver planting on HCC office sites, highways land and schools. Funding is also being allocated to deliver planting on other land – via District/Borough Councils, Town and Parish Councils, nonHCC schools and community groups.

4) Air Quality Monitoring Software - Funding to procure mapping software services to help map, monitor and therefore predict the air quality across the county. This data will help target and inform specific campaigns.

5) Waste Disposal Authority Carbon Baseline - Commissioning of a consultancy service to develop the Carbon Baseline for the WDA and present options and opportunities for reducing the carbon emissions from this service.

6) Countywide Biodiversity Baseline Commissioning of a consultancy service to develop the baseline of the countywide biodiversity level and provide insights into how to increase this. This project is being delivered via the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership.

7) Highways Hedgerow Replacement - Funding to increase planting on Highways land and deliver hedgerow replacement over a three year period.

8) Hertfordshire Sustainable Periods - Co-Funded project with WasteAware, Herts Waste Partnership and Public Health to provide 180 Sustainable Period Ambassadors with training and sample packs for re-usable period products in schools

across Hertfordshire.

9) Rural Estates Strategic Review -

Funding to deliver the full review of the Rural Estates Improvement Plan aimed at identifying locations which can help with the successful delivery of the nine strategic ambitions.

10) COP26 -

Funding to deliver a series of events across Hertfordshire to link in with the UN Climate Conference (COP26) event happening in Glasgow. Events will include an Eco Fair in November, a Youth COP in January 2022 and further engagement in Spring 2022.

11) Expansion of the Schools Energy project Funding to deliver low-cost, energy saving measures and LED lighting upgrades to all schools across Hertfordshire over the next two years.

12) Sustainable Hertfordshire Crowdfund Platform

Funding to run a pilot project via the existing Crowdfund platform. This funding will be available to external groups and is aimed at getting local communities engaged in the successful delivery of the 'enable and inspire' strategic ambitions. Projects will be assessed as suitable by HCC staff and initial funds will need to be raised by the external group before HCC commits any financial support.

13) Climate Change Risk Assessment -

Funding to support the commissioning of consultancy services to provide an updated climate change risk assessment for the organisation.

14) HCC Carbon Baseline Review and Reduction Trajectory, HCC Carbon Budget Setting and Countywide Carbon Emissions reduction strategy -

Funding to support the ongoing consultancy service to provide a detailed trajectory for HCC to identify carbon reduction measures and set a carbon budget. Expansion of the HCC work to include countywide emissions, engagement with HCCSP, businesses and residents and to identify reduction measures – including comms campaigns.

**15) Zebra Scheme, Zero Emission Bus Scheme for Stevenage, £499,287 capital funding** This is to support a bid where Department of Transport could fund around 75pc of the difference between diesel and electric buses and if successful we'll fund the charging infrastructure. The ZEBRA scheme funding would see a total of 27 of Stevenage's ageing diesel bus fleet replaced with new electric ones, which should be in service by 2024. A press release was made by Phil Bibby

**£5000 in funding available for sustainable projects across Hertfordshire**

Hertfordshire County Council has teamed up with Crowdfunder to create the Sustainable Hertfordshire Fund, providing up to £5,000 in funding for local projects that will contribute to tackling climate change.

Through the fund, the county council wishes to enable and inspire projects to be delivered that assist with one or more of its Sustainable Hertfordshire ambitions.

These ambitions include:

- To become a net zero greenhouse gas county before 2050
- To ensure communities are ready for future climates
- To improve wildlife across the county by 20 per cent by 2050
- To provide access to clean air for all by 2030

To qualify for funding, projects must be local to Hertfordshire and benefit people who live or work in the county. To apply for funding and see further eligibility criteria visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sustainablefund](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sustainablefund)

### **Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair a 'storming' success**

Hertfordshire County Council's first ever Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair proved to be a triumph as residents flocked to the event in their hundreds despite the wind and rain caused by Storm Arwen.

Over 350 residents came to the event at County Hall, Hertford, where they were treated to an inspirational day of climate action thanks to over 50 exhibitors made up of county council services, local businesses, and climate organisations leading a mixture of talks, workshops, and activities.

The feedback from residents and exhibitors has been overwhelmingly positive, as people came away from the event better equipped with the knowledge and tools needed in the fight against climate change.

### **A recent report from the Department for Transport (DfT) into road conditions in England for the years ending March 2020 and 2021, has shown that roads in Hertfordshire are better than or equal to the national average.**

The DfT statistical release, which has been produced annually since 2007/8, categorises roads into three categories, green (good condition), amber (work may be needed) and red (roads that should be considered for maintenance). It then considers the class of road, 'A', 'B', 'C' and unclassified.

The DfT statistics show the roads that should be considered for maintenance and so a lower percentage is better. In 2020 and 2021, the number of roads in England classified as red was 4% of 'A' roads, 6% of 'B' and 'C' roads and 17% of unclassified roads. In Hertfordshire, 3% of 'A' roads were classified as red, 6% of 'B' and 'C' roads and 12% of unclassified roads.

### **Hertfordshire's Queen's Green Canopy takes root with 36,000 trees to be planted in the next year**

The first of over 36,000 trees have been planted as part of Hertfordshire County Council's efforts in the Queen's Green Canopy, a project which encourages people to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'.

Currently just over 850 trees have been planted, including 100 trees at 43 Hertfordshire schools, as well as on highways verges across the county. The remaining 36,000 trees will be planted across a number of sites in Hertfordshire over the next 18 months.

This year's planting includes a 'statement' site at County Hall, Hertford, where 27 trees were planted followed by a small ceremony during the Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair on Saturday 27 November.

In addition, an avenue of 30 lime trees at Aldenham Country Park make up the second 'statement' planting site, with 350 more trees planned for Aldenham next year as part of the park's 100 Aker Wood.

**Positive change for people the priority as innovation scheme in Hertfordshire gathers pace** With significant progress being made on the ground-breaking Hertfordshire Living Lab project, our county is showing clear signs of securing a more sustainable future.

Work on Hertfordshire County Council's pioneering Living Lab initiative, for which it received a Local Growth Fund grant of £748,000 from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), started in 2020 – the scheme is leading the way in ultimately creating 'smart' towns and cities across the UK. As well as Hertfordshire LEP, the County Council's other partners on the scheme include Ocado Group, BT and the University of Hertfordshire.

In simple terms, the project has seen Hatfield Business Park become a 'test-bed' for 'smart' living, with a variety of innovations being developed there as viable solutions to tasks and issues we all face in our everyday lives.

The Living Lab has and will continue to provide experimental services to residents, local workers and students such as the driverless delivery of goods, while people will have the opportunity to help to shape these innovative concepts through a dedicated digital engagement platform.

This cutting-edge innovation, which includes the use of drones and robots, is being developed to test the way in which technology can seamlessly interact to make life better for everyone.

The Hatfield Business Park is a perfect location for these trials – being home to a range of private businesses, the university and residential properties.

### **Cole Green Way Geared Up for Cycling and Walking**

A small group of members from Hertfordshire County Council gathered outside on Friday 17 December to celebrate the completion of a project to improve a popular local traffic-free route.

The Cole Green Way – once the railway line between Welwyn Garden City and Hertford – has had a major makeover, thanks to funding from Sustrans and the county council.

Walking and cycling charity Sustrans are custodians of The National Cycle Network which is a critical part of the UK's active travel infrastructure. At almost four miles long, the Cole Green Way forms part of the network and provides a valued connection between Welwyn Garden City and Hertford. Sustrans were able to support the project as part of their 'Paths for Everyone' review and a funding package from the Department for Transport to improve the network.

### **Strategy to establish 1.8 million new trees in Hertfordshire recommended by councillors**

Hertfordshire County Councillors today (Thursday 3 February) recommended the adoption of the county council's first Tree and Woodland Strategy. The strategy sets out the council's approach to improve tree and woodland management in Hertfordshire, as well as outlining ambitions to establish 1.8 million new trees in the county by 2030. (Approved by cabinet March 2022)



The establishment of 1.8m new trees will support the council's target to improve nature across the county by 20% by 2050 as outlined in its Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy. In addition, the 1.8m new trees will also play a role in improving air quality and reducing carbon in the atmosphere.

The strategy also outlines ways the county council will improve the management of existing trees and woodlands in Hertfordshire to ensure that they remain as healthy as possible while providing maximum benefits to landowners, wildlife, and residents.

The strategy also includes plans to allow residents and businesses to play their part in establishing and enhancing trees and woodlands in their local communities through grant schemes and volunteering opportunities.

**Planning at East Herts** On 22<sup>nd</sup> February East Herts Council Development Management Committee met to determine the Central and Eastern River Crossing plans connected with the proposed Harlow and Gilston Garden Town developments. The Neighbourhood Plan Group, residents and I made verbal representations. Members unanimously agreed the Central crossing. Three members voted against the Eastern crossing but the majority were in favour. The meeting commenced at 5:30pm and concluded at 12:15am. This was following a full day at County Council including agreeing the budget and precept for 2022/3

The Harlow DMC met on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb to determine the same applications, and which were also agreed.

**Hertfordshire County Council has recently submitted its bid for government funding to support the introduction of over 20 electric buses in Stevenage.**

The Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme is a central government initiative to help local transport authorities introduce zero emission buses, together with the infrastructure needed to support them. The county council, in partnership with bus operator Arriva, were successful with their initial proposal and have now submitted their final business plan. A decision on whether the plan has been successful should be known by March 2022.

The ZEBRA scheme funding would see a total of 27 of Stevenage's ageing diesel bus fleet replaced with new electric ones, which should be in service by 2024.

Public consultation opens for Brookfield Riverside and Garden Village in Cheshunt  
Development Partners, Borough of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire County Council and Sovereign Peveril Brookfield Limited are developing the masterplan for the new town centre and 1,500-home scheme at Brookfield.

The public consultation has launched and will close on 21 March. Three separate planning applications for the overall site will be submitted later in 2022.

Information and a feedback form are available online. A series of five events are also taking place for the local community to find out more and ask any questions they may have before giving their views. The three planning applications will comprise:

## **County Budget 2022/23**

### **Environment Portfolio**

#### ***Waste and recycling: there is significant investment.***

- Making seven day opening at our larger recycling centres permanent
- We are working hard to ensure as little as possible of the waste we manage goes to landfill. It's why we are investing £440,000 per year to ensure residents are able to help us recycle as much waste as possible.

- A £34.6 million new Capital investment in waste management infrastructure will allow us to manage our waste efficiently and effectively.
- We are investing in our waste services to ensure we can meet the needs of our growing communities.

### **Sustainability:**

- £5m for decarbonisation match funding, to drive forward delivery of the Sustainable Hertfordshire strategy and enable the council to seek external funding by providing matched funding where needed.
- Remember we have already been successful in attracting over £23m of Salix funding towards decarbonisation of public buildings and schools. And we'll continue to proactively seek external funding as it becomes available.

We are investing £600,000 in additional resources to support the delivery of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy. This will provide additional staff to manage more projects and initiatives, in addition to using the balance of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Revenue and capital money to either directly fund or in seeking external match-funding. To protect our environment for generations to come, we are implementing various initiatives through the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy aimed at making Hertfordshire a net zero carbon county by 2050. We'll also be undertaking a review of the Strategy over the coming months as agreed recently in panel, and in addition to the appointment of an Executive Director for Environment and Growth and Director of Environment we'll be able to give great momentum to our sustainability objectives.

### **Fire service**

To help tackle climate change, HFRS has switched from diesel to Gas-To-Liquid (GTL), which converts natural gas – the cleanest-burning fossil fuel – into high-quality liquid fuel that would otherwise be made from crude oil. The move reduces carbon emissions from our vehicles by up to 90% compared to diesel fuel.

### **East Herts Projects in my Portfolio**

**New Grange Paddocks now open** On 23<sup>rd</sup> October we formally attended the opening of the new Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre in Bishops Stortford along with Olympic Medalist and presenter Colin Jackson. The centre includes 25mtr pool, 20mtr training pool and confidence pool along with fitness suites and studios, spacious changing areas, and separate changing for outdoor sports, plus café. Next stages this month will be the demolition of the old centre. A planning application will be presented for a 3G pitch to go on the site. The upgrade of Hartham Leisure Centre in Hertford is ongoing.

**Hartham Leisure Centre** Work continues on the refurbishment of the pool and is anticipated to open in the Spring. A temporary Gym has been set up and demolition and construction of the new extension should commence by the end of March.

**Hertford Theatre** additional funding from New Homes Bonus Reserve agreed to offset inflationary pressure of £4m since Covid.

**West Road** There are two sites working concurrently, Barratt David Wilson Homes on the South side of West Road, and Taylor Wimpey on the North side.

The sites have been under construction since January 2021. Early safety issues arose from contractors HGVs not observing the restricted delivery times in their Construction Management Plans in which they were supposed to prevent deliveries before 09:30 and after 15:00. There were

some near misses as HGVs passed through the school crossing patrol. The Crossing Patrol lady and other residents kept me updated. I insisted that the developers put marshals at the junction with Cambridge Road at the restricted times to move vehicles on. Barratt didn't even have an agreed Management Plan owing to difficulties over surface water arrangements on their haul road. They therefore continued in breach of planning conditions for 12 months until finally discharged in January this year.

There have also been significant safety issues arising from road closure and suspension of weight limits to enable utility work to proceed. Vehicles were entering at the wrong end of the road and dangerously reversing. My complaints to Highways Network Management resulted in a temporary suspension of the work by Gas utility Cadent. I visited the sites with the Police on several occasions.

Residents generally are understandably angry that their neighbourhood has been turned into a building site with the accompanying dust, disturbance and noise.

My experience is that of the two Taylor Wimpey has proven to be more responsive and cooperative. Barratt is a particular problem. There have also been boundary disputes with residents still ongoing. Late last year it started to emerge that they believed they could not maintain a 3 metre buffer between the existing properties and their new dwellings. They suggested they would put the buffer in the gardens of the new homes so the property owners would maintain it. I enquired further and they said they would put in covenants on the sales. They continued to sell properties without a buffer. In November and December last year I asked East Herts planning enforcement to intervene. They wrote to Barratt advising them they were in breach of planning. Barratt responded by threatening legal action. They subsequently put in an application for a non material change to try to confirm what they had illegally done. The suggested that I was in agreement 'in principle' a statement which was not true since I had asked East Herts to enforce against them. My experiences in West Road, and particularly with Barratt, have been a real eye opener as to how a developer can proceed with no apparent respect for residents, for planning conditions, or for the planning Authority.

**Mandeville School expansion to two forms of entry** This is funded by contributions from the developers but delivered by Hertfordshire County Council. Discussions have taken place between the head teacher, Governors and the education planners. Some differences in approach have been resolved, eg relocating the kitchen to be adjacent to the dining hall. A major item that the school wanted but which won't be included is an all-weather pitch. The planning application will be determined under delegated authority. I'm not sure of the construction programme or date for opening. The school has obviously requested that safety be a priority for parents, staff, and children attending school.

**The tragic situation in Afghanistan** has resulted in the British government offering formal routes for certain individuals to access the United Kingdom for their own safety. A number of these individuals and families have arrived in Hertfordshire and are being housed in three hotels in the county whilst they await permanent housing across the UK.

The British Red Cross are providing initial 'crisis' support with the help of the local voluntary sector. Hertfordshire County Council is working to co-ordinate the efforts to meet the longer term needs of those arriving in the county. This has involved establishing a formal process for the receipt of donations and support, planning the direct provision of education, supporting the local NHS to arrange immediate healthcare provision, and working alongside District and Borough councils who are reviewing available housing and supporting the hotels in their areas.



**The emerging and tragic situation in Ukraine.** Strategic migration steering group is managing Hertfordshire's response. Been in existence for some years, born out of Syrian Crisis, then Hong Kong, Afghan, and now Ukraine. County, Districts, health, LGA, and voluntary organisations involved. We have over 600 Afghans in Hertfordshire, Also the factor of small boat arrivals,

4 hotels already established but 4 more coming on track. Highest population of Ukrainians in St Albans area. That may put pressure on schools and health etc. Ukrainian embassy can provide translators

Family scheme launched on 4th March, some already received but not directly known to HCC. Homes for Ukraine scheme launched on 18th March.

There will need to be DBS checks for matches, to include all family members over 18 and needs to be in place for safeguarding, Background checks need to be taken, and up to local authority to do DBS checks, but people with visas should not be turned away.

There will need to be:

Accommodation checks

Data sharing

Administer £200 interim payment to help people as they arrive

Education

Health care, some of it specialist and there will be trauma

Job centre plus, and being able to apply for benefits, maybe bus passes if needed.

NHS can support initially, but we need to train more trauma specialists

Govt is providing £10,500 per individual to support families. Support Agencies will be able to claim reimbursement against their costs from these sums.

As at March 2022 we are still waiting for more government guidance

We are encouraging monetary donations more than items, but that may change as peoples needs are known.

Meetings with voluntary sector organisations are taking place to help tailor support. There is a Ukrainian Association of Great Britain in Waltham Cross. CVS organisations across County will help support local organisations to coordinate action.

The point of contact for any queries is [Ukrainesupport@Hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ukrainesupport@Hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Triaging happens every day the forwarding to relevant body

## Grants awarded from my Locality Grant Budget 2021/22

			£15,000.00
Applicant organisation	Date applied	Purpose	agreed
Red Kite Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service	26/05/2021	helpline for Recovery from Sexual Abuse	£300.00
Hunsdon Parish Council	26/05/2021	Community Event	
CHIPS	17/06/2020	vouchers for young volunteers	£400.00
BS Breathe Easy Group	01/06/2021	Breathe Easy Group activities, residents with COPD	£250.00
Hunsdon Scouts	03/06/2021	replacement mess tent	£500.00
Citizens Advice	09/06/2021	resident advice	£300.00
Hunsdon CCTV Camera to stream PC and Public Meetings	21/06/2021	community involvement and engagement	£150.00
Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline	11/07/2021	helpline	£300.00
YC Serices For Young People	11/07/2021	Youth Activities at Bullfields Centre	£750.00
Headway	21/07/2021	rehabilitation of people with acquired brain injury	£250.00
Home Start Hertfordshire	16/08/2021	support for families	£300.00
Stort Valley Pride	19/08/2021	Stort Valley Pride event	£300.00
BS first Responders	21/09/2021	equipment	£300.00
BS Child Contact Centre	24/09/2021	funding contact centre	£300.00
Wiggley Willow	01/10/2021	adults with learning difficulties	£300.00
BEE Creative Admin <>	01/10/2021	dance for over 55s	£300.00
Grove Cottage	11/10/2021	to support shortfall in income arising from Covid	£300.00
Sawbridgeworth Local History Society	27/10/2021	Supply and fix 9 QR code boards in for local heritag	£300.00
East Herts Community Wellbeing Platform, Frontline	03/12/2021	contribution to running costs in EH	£750.00
Keech Hospice Care	09/12/2022	children's hospice for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire r	£500.00
Ware Cricket Club Widford	19/12/2021	Bowling machine	£300.00
St Margarets Parish Council	06/01/2022	skip hire for volunteers to clear footpath	£225.00
Hunsdon JMI The Barney & Echo Mindfulness Project	14/01/2022	internet safety for Key Stage 2 pupils	£180.00
Widford JMI The Barney & Echo Mindfulness Project	14/01/2022	internet safety for Key Stage 2 pupils	£210.00
Reedings Junior school The Barney & Echo Mindfulness Pr	14/01/2022	internet safety for Key Stage 2 pupils	£360.00
Mandeville Primary The Barney & Echo Mindfulness Projec	14/01/2022	internet safety for Key Stage 2 pupils	£192.00
High Wych Primary The Barney & Echo Mindfulness Projec	14/01/2022	internet safety for Key Stage 2 pupils	£180.00
Spellbrook COE school The Barney & Echo Mindfulness Pr	26/01/2022	internet safety for Key Stage 2 pupils	£180.00
Wareside Parish	07/02/2022	Folded map showing best walks and bike rides in W	£500.00
<b>Centre for Wellbeing project for 5 schools</b>	08/02/2022	Yellow book for students, Art & mental wellbeing	£4,500.00
Spellbrook school	08/02/2022	Yellow book for students, Art & mental wellbeing	£0.00
Fawbert & Barnard School	08/02/2022	Yellow book for students, Art & mental wellbeing	£0.00
Reedings School	08/02/2022	Yellow book for students, Art & mental wellbeing	£0.00
Mandeville School	08/02/2022	Yellow book for students, Art & mental wellbeing	£0.00
High Wych School	08/02/2022	Yellow book for students, Art & mental wellbeing	£0.00
Hailey Centre and St Claire Hospice	28/02/2022	Breavement Café	£323.00
		Contribution towards replacing 2 parish footpath	
Eastwick and Gilston Parish	18/02/2022	sign boards	£1,000.00
		<b>Running Total</b>	<b>£15,000.00</b>

Councillor Eric Buckmaster

March/April 2022

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR TOWN ANNUAL MEETING 4 APRIL 2022

The Sawbridgeworth Local History Society is now six years old; our aim is to research, collect, record and preserve the heritage of our town and the surrounding area, including High Wych. The last year has been another strange one, but we have coped well and managed to keep going, with members' meetings in September and November at the Cricket Club, the first face-to-face after the February 2020 AGM; we held committee meetings via Zoom in January, April, June and August last year, as well as in January this year. Peyman Akhondzadeh of Tudor House has given us invaluable and continuing support, especially with the website.

We had an excellent and generally well-attended programme of talks:

- *January: Liz Waugh, RAF Sawbridgeworth and Eric Ravilious*
- *March: Peter Reed, Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall*
- *April: Anne Rowe, The hunt for lost deer parks*
- *May: David Short, Education in Hertfordshire*
- *October: David Devine, Harlow New Town*
- *November: Mark Gorman, Saving the People's Forest.*

This year we have already had Peter Reed's fascinating talk on Sir Edwin Arthur Cutforth, which links nicely to the Sports' Association's 100th anniversary; and Mark Smith at the end of March on the Victoria Cross, at the Memorial Hall. The great thing about our talks is that they spark off ideas and connections to other people and events etc.

Our priorities for 2022 will be:

- *Jubilee photos montage*
- *Talks programme*
- *Articles for the website*
- *WW2 book, drawing on existing resources. plus new material*
- *Town walks (Millennium and Explore Sawbridgeworth; John Rider) and airfield walk in conjunction with the BS Museum (Liz Waugh)*
- *Book marketing and sales at community events (May Fayre, Scarecrow Festival, Nostalgia Day)*
- *Links with neighbouring societies and 100 Parishes*

Our programme for 2022 is below and you can find our publications and articles on [www.sbwhistory.com](http://www.sbwhistory.com). We welcome new members.

David Royle, Chairman SLHS [david.royle1@gmail.com](mailto:david.royle1@gmail.com)



## 2022 PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 26 APRIL	MEMBERS' MEETING
MAY FAYRE 1 MAY	STALL/BOOK SALES
THURSDAY 6 MAY	TWO MURDERS THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF POLICING IN HERTS – NIK PRINGLE
TUESDAY 28 JUNE	MEMBERS' MEETING
THURSDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	110 YEARS OF AVIATION HISTORY IN HERTS – GUY THOMAS
AUGUST	NO MEMBERS' MEETING
SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 1100	TOWN WALK (TB/BS MUSEUM)
10/11 SEPTEMBER	SCARECROW FESTIVAL
TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER	MEMBERS' MEETING
THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER	THE OLD DAYS IN SAWBRIDGEWORTH – BOB REED
TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER	MEMBERS' MEETING
SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 1100	SAWBRIDGEWORTH AIRFIELD WALK (LW/BS MUSEUM/AIRFIELD GROUP)
SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER	NOSTALGIA DAY/WREATH LAYING
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	WREATH LAYING
THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER	TALK TBC
TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER	MEMBERS' MEETING
DECEMBER	NO MEMBERS' MEETING

## Sawbridgeworth Sports Association (SSA)

The SSA was created by local town benefactors at the instigation of Sir Arthur Cutforth in 1922, so this is its centenary year, the celebration of which is in hand. However the 1920's are also the centenary of the acquisition of all the current Sports playing fields in Sawbridgeworth, despite the town since having a tenfold increase in size. The SSA tried about 15+ years ago to rectify this, but developers had taken out options on the suitable land. The potential for this they had somehow obtained well in advance and would not consider selling farmland at less than its value for houses. Which thwarted a joint development venture for 75 houses on the spare ground at Leventhorpe (which went ahead) and the Football Ground moving to the fields to the north of the school (part of which somehow the Leventhorpe seem now to have acquired!).

The Bowls Club and Tennis Club have currently sufficient space, but the Football Club and Cricket Club don't, especially for the increasing demand from juniors and female teams. The Cricket Club have an arrangement with the Leventhorpe that the Club maintain a wicket there, which the school can use weekdays and the Cricket Club at weekends in return for the Club supplying the groundsman (£9,000 pa) but the school are now seeking an additional actual income.

Tennis and Football Clubhouse are in bad condition. Bowls and Cricket Pavillions just refurbished.

The new West Rd and Mandeville School extension will mean that the Football Club is completely surrounded by houses giving no room for expansion. Provision for recreational ground was challenged by the owners and removed by the Inspector from the final plan for West Rd areas.

The SSA look after the site aspects of Town Fields and Crofters, they do not have a responsibility for playing areas and buildings which remain with the four autonomous clubs. The clubs are charged an annual levy to pay the SSA their costs. The other source of income to the SSA is from the rent from operators of two phone masts, approx £10,000 per annum. The Government have legislated that in order to promote the coverage of mobile phones, which was being held back by some landowners demanding exorbitant rents for phone masts on their land, that the rents should now reflect the value of the land without a mast. Whilst the rent to the SSA was what was offered at the time, new contracts have been insisted on, in effect a compulsory lease. So despite a battle the new rent will be reduced to £4,000 per annum, the shortfall having to come from the Clubs.

East Herts Council commissioned a report in 2017 of the sports fields in its area to highlight any shortcomings. Unbelievably Sawbridgeworth are not in this report !!!

Section 106 money charge levied on Developers - The third phase for the West Rd etc. area where interested parties can apply for this money was not communicated by East Herts Council to the SSA or any of its Sports Clubs!!! The closing date for this was only found out by a local Councillor by chance at the last moment, despite his efforts it was too late for any Club to get anything costed. However a FOI request on the previous stage showed that with only a few exceptions the Section 106 money only went to areas and organisations where a Council had influence.

The local MP Julie Marson has been made aware of the need to expand, especially in the light of the increase in residents from the massive housebuilding around us. She proposes to visit us soon, probably at the Cricket Club when a match is on, probably for lunch. I will let the Town Council know when I have arranged it.

Steve Hyam Sec SSA

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 4 APRIL 2022

### SUSTAINABLE SAWBRIDGEWORTH

In 2019 the local Brownies pack wanted to reduce the number of plastic bottles in town and set up refill stations with the support of local businesses. Covid got in the way. Brownies leader Gilly Squire decided to set-up a local group to focus on creating a plastic-free community and a small but well-informed number of individuals from Sawbridgeworth, High Wych and Spellbrook answered the call. Meeting roughly bi-monthly, the group shares a mutual interest in everything to do with sustainability and the environment. The aims of the group are to promote sustainable living practices, in liaison with local businesses and community groups, to provide residents with information on recycling and reuse opportunities, to act as an umbrella organisation for other local groups, to liaise with Sawbridgeworth Town Council on its eco audit and measures to implement its recommendations. Our sub-group *Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth* organises regular community litter picks, ideally to coincide with *Keep Britain Tidy* campaigns. Covid interrupted our plans to set up a *Repair Café*, but that will be happening soon.

We have arranged a community noticeboard on the wall outside Budgens

#### A Positive Glimpse into 'Tomorrow'

In June 2021, with the help of an East Herts Council grant, we had a stall on Bell Street to promote Clean Air Day and anti-idling strategies, which we shared with East Herts Wise Warriors' project on home composting; we also had a stall at the Herts County Council's Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco Fair in November.

On 6 November we organised a screening of the climate change film 'Tomorrow' as part of a series of Glasgow COP26-related events. The 40 attendees were treated to a tour of environmental projects from around the world and responded to three key questions: *What inspired me in the film? What can Sawbridgeworth do? What can I do?*

We developed the responses into an action plan and forward programme focusing on: *community growing spaces; cycling, walking and transport; shop local; recycling/re-use and refills; energy efficiency/community energy initiatives*. All these actions include working with local residents, like-minded groups in East Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire to share good practice and our Town, District and County Councils, our twin towns, local schools (eco and school councils) and community groups and involve them in our activities wherever possible. We have received a grant from the Town Council to help us carry out our programme

We also have regular monthly meeting with the EHC/Community sustainability partnership officer and colleagues from Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Buntingford and are in contact with the HCC Sustainable Hertfordshire Community Engagement Programme Manager.

#### Forward programme

**January:** an international discussion on the response to climate change took place via Zoom on 12 January linking our sustainability agenda with our twin towns in Germany (Moosburg) and France (Bry-sur-Marne) in Germany, attended by members of Sustainable Sawbridgeworth and the Town Twinning Association, as well

as residents and town councillors. It provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about environmental activities in each town, as well as to exchange ideas on eco-initiatives.

**February:** a talk by Rob Whitehouse from Garden Organic on how to reduce waste, part of East and North Herts' 'Waste Warriors' campaign. The particular issue of food waste was highlighted. Our youngest member, Thomas Cubitt, also showed his video on litter in the town and the damage it can do to our environment.

**March:** 26th Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth community litter pick.

We borrowed a thermal imaging camera from Sustainable St Albans and members have been discovering insulation issues; we plan to share case studies/general issues and organise a talk by house owners who have installed energy efficient equipment. We have put forward suggestions for cycling routes out of Sawbridgeworth. Linking up with Harlow/Gilston and Bishop's Stortford and have had preliminary discussion with our County Councillor Eric Buckmaster and an HCC officer.

**April:** a talk by a local farm manager about climate change impact and the new DEFRA sustainable farming initiatives.

**May:** stall at the May Fayre

**June:** stall to highlight messages from Clean Air Day

**September:** stall to coincide with the schools' travel challenge week.

### **Publicity**

We have arranged a community noticeboard on the wall outside Budgens and we have two Facebook pages:

Plastic Free Sawbridgeworth (279 members, set up in June 2019)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/323482455214456/> and Sustainable Sawbridgeworth

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/664281761043860/> (140 members, set up in February 2020).

We also publish regular updates in the *Flyer*, *Link* and *Bishops' Stortford Independent*. We welcome new members.



# Sawbridgeworth Town Twinning Association

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR TOWN ANNUAL MEETING 4 APRIL 2022

Sawbridgeworth has had town twinning links with Bry-sur-Marne, just east of Paris, for the last 50 years, starting in 1973, with the support of the Town Council and successive Mayors. Bry is also twinned with the German town of Moosburg an der Isar, near Munich in Bavaria, which was formalised in March 2018 by the Mayor of Moosburg and our then mayor, Cllr. Ruth Buckmaster. The various oaths and declarations hang in the hallway leading to the Council Chamber. You will also have noticed the two new updated town twinning signs on the roads into Sawbridgeworth. We expect to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sawbridgeworth Town Twinning in 2023.

2021 was another odd year, mixing Zooms and face-to-face meetings, but on the whole was very positive for many reasons. We now, for example, have flourishing, entertaining and rewarding French and German monthly conversation groups, usually with representatives from each twin town.

We had committee meetings last year in January, April, June and November and a fairly raucous but entertaining three-way Christmas Zoom in December with Bry and Moosburg, with short presentations on our respective Christmas customs. We had an Autumn newsletter, capturing 2020/21 events and an enjoyable pétanque picnic in Pishiobury Park in August; much wine but little pétanque...

**Presentation to Reedings School Year 4 September 2021:** we were invited to visit Reedings School and gave a short presentation on Town Twinning to Year 4 children who had been learning about France. It was well received, especially when we started mentioning food!! We have offered to do the same to our other schools.

**Town Remembrance Day Service 14th November 2021:** I laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

**Visits to Bry and from Moosburg:** we expect to visit Bry-sur-Marne in September via Eurostar and to receive our friends from Moosburg in October. Next year is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.b

### **Profile and publicity:**

We have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/537455026663868/> and are planning to develop a website.

There is coverage of STTA and its history on the Town Council website: <http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/town-information/other-town-services/town-twinning/>

We are also trying to record our history more systematically and 'archive' our photos etc.



*Twinning is open to all who live in Sawbridgeworth and its environs. It is non-political and based on an interest in experiencing a different culture and in building and maintaining friendships. For further information contact David Royle: [david.royle1@gmail.com](mailto:david.royle1@gmail.com) or Sally Pribul: [sally@pribul.co.uk](mailto:sally@pribul.co.uk). A brief history of twinning with each town and their own history can be found in these articles from the Local History website [www.sbwhistory.com](http://www.sbwhistory.com)*

<https://sbwhistory.com/the-history-of-sawbridgeworths-town-twinning-with-bry-sur-marne-by-david-royle/>

<https://sbwhistory.com/the-history-of-sawbridgeworths-town-twinning-with-moosburg-in-germany-by-david-royle/>

**David Royle Chairman, STTA**