

**Minutes of the High Wych Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th November 2018 at 8pm in
The Green Room, High Wych Memorial Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr Tom Payne, Chairman (TP); Cllr Gareth Emanuel (GE); Cllr Wendy Marks (WM);
Cllr David Smith (DS); Cllr Sam Clark (SC) following co-option

3 members of the public and Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8pm

ACTION

18.001 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Bridget Parrish (BP) (personal); Cllr Brian Sullivan (BS) (business): Both reasons approved by the Council
2. Others: Sgt Duncan Wallace

18.002 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. **Interests:** All councillors declared non-pecuniary interests in respect of planning application 3/18/2476/FUL, Bakers Farm, because the property shares a boundary with the Parish Council's pavilion/scout hut.
2. **Dispensation requests:** None received

18.003 Casual Vacancy

It was unanimously **RESOLVED to co-opt Sam Clark as a member of the Parish Council.** Cllr Clark signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and his consent to receive the summons by email, and took his place at the table. He received the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form for completion within 28 days.

**SC/
Clerk**

At 8.15pm it was agreed to suspend the meeting for public comments

Two residents from Allen's Green raised the car parking problem outside their Village Hall. Cars are parking on Slough Road because of the limitations of the VH car park. This causes serious access issues on Slough Road due to it being so narrow, even with the small layby there. The VH car park needs to be improved, and funds are available, but that would still not create sufficient parking space. The suggestion was that if two or three metres of the southern end of the Village Green could be released as parking for a small number of cars instead of parallel parking in the layby there, it would alleviate the problem. It is believed that the Parish Council owns the Village Green and the residents requested the Council's permission for this. The residents produced copies of register documents that indicated the PC's ownership (ref VG015). The Clerk asked for copies of these and it was agreed to email them to him.

BS

The Clerk said that the laws governing vehicular access to registered Village Greens and Common Land are a complex mix of the interpretation of statutory and common law, although registered Village Greens law is far more rigid. Legal advice would have to be obtained to ensure the Parish Council does not breach the law whilst at the same time seeking an outcome that would benefit the parish and its residents. The Clerk said he would have to verify the status and the precise boundaries of the Village Green before the Parish Council could consider what action to take. He had already ascertained that there appears to be no County Council land (ie Highways verge) between Slough Road and the Village Green boundary.

Clerk

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for raising the matter and said the Parish Council would look at what it could do to facilitate the request.

The meeting was restored to order at 8.25pm

18.004 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2018
Printed Minutes were not available. Cllr Clark read notes made at the meeting and it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2018 were a true and accurate record as read.** It was not possible to sign the Minutes.

Cllr Clark agreed to email the Chairman and the Clerk copies of the September and July PC meeting notes.

SC

18.005 Parish Magazine – (The Link)

The editor requested that if a précis of the Parish Council's Minutes are to be printed in the magazine, would a member of the Council undertake that editorial responsibility. Cllr Sam Clark volunteered to do it. However, it was noted that the December edition will be the last one in The Big Link format and it will then probably revert back to its former smaller Link size. Team Link members were meeting later to discuss the range of practical options for its future production.

TP/SC/
DS

18.006 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman welcomed Colin Marks as the new Clerk to the Council.

18.007 Police report

Sgt Duncan Wallace apologised that due to unforeseen sickness, no officer was available to attend. However, he sent a report that was read by the Chairman:

Crimes recorded between 01/10/18 and 13/11/18:

High Wych

- 1 x Burglary and 1 x Theft at restaurant premises in High Wych – suspect identified for these.*
- 1 x attempt break to the post office (gemmy marks found on doors). No entry gained.*
- 1 x breach of restraint order due to suspect accessing computer data.*
- 1 x Blackmail – personal E Mail hacked and threat to distribute information unless monies paid. No money paid.*
- 1x Burglary to dwelling garage where three pedal cycles were taken.*
- 1 x Malicious Communication offence – text messages from an identified suspect.*
- 1 x Assault, domestic related.*

Allens Green

- 1 x Burglary to outbuilding, alarm disturbed offenders, no items taken.*
- 1 x Criminal damage to cropped land by offenders making off across fields in relation to the above.*
- 1 x Theft of metal from farm and residential premises.*

There appears to be a lot of criminal activity in the area and a current widespread spate of vandalism is recognised. Cllr Buckmaster said the new Chief Constable wants to conduct regular Town Locality panels to determine policing priorities and he suggested that the Parish joins with Sawbridgeworth Town to take part of this initiative. Although High Wych is actually part of the Rural Police team, Cllr Buckmaster said he would speak with Rural Police Sgt Duncan Wallace to seek agreement for this merger.

EB/
Clerk

18.008 Reports by County and District Councillors

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster presented his November report (reproduced in full in **Appendix A** at the end of these Minutes). He drew particular attention to the Briggins mineral extraction plans and the impact this would have if adopted – which would be additional to the impact of the Gilston development.

He also spoke about community transport services, in particular those relating to Leventhorpe School and the issues surrounding what is considered a safe walk. County regards that it is a safe walk from Gilston and Terlings Park to Leventhorpe – this cannot be right. It is suggested the service could continue for £800 per household using it. Cllr Buckmaster suggested a joint meeting between the councils of Sawbridgeworth, Gilston, and High Wych to seek a viable solution, possibly by looking whether there is unmet daytime demand. Bus costs are £12k per bus per year. The Sawbo Bus is run using STC staff.

TP/GE

Cllr Buckmaster also drew attention to the proposal for two large Sawbridgeworth developments totalling 350 houses either side of West Road. He said it was important to get an appropriate level of Section 106 money from the developers.

District Councillor Ian Devonshire was not present to give a report. The Chairman said he would encourage Cllr Devonshire to attend in future.

TP

18.009 Planning

1. New Applications. The Parish Council resolved to make the following comments:

3/18/2452/HH 58 Mabeys Walk, High Wych: First floor rear extension with changes to fenestration. **RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

3/18/2318/ARPN Tharbies Farm, Rook End: Change of use of agricultural barn to 3 residential dwellings (Class C3). **RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

3/18/2288/FUL Three Lillies Lodge, High Wych Road: Demolition of stables. Erection of dwelling (part retrospective). **RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

2. Decision Notices. None

3. Other planning matters, including items received too late for the agenda

1. Late planning applications

3/18/2476/FUL Bakers Farm, High Wych Lane: Build one pair of 3-bed semi detached houses and associated garages with access and parking road. **RESOLVED: No objections - but to be reconsidered if parishioners approach the Parish Council to intervene.** Clerk

3/18/2323/HH New House Farm, Spellbrook Lane West: Demolition of garage and erection of 3-bay cart lodge. **RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

3/18/2139/HH Poplars, High Wych Lane: Demolition of outbuilding. Erection of a 3-bay detached garage. **RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

2. District Plan

The formal adoption by East Herts of its 2018 District Plan on 23 October was noted.

18.010 Finance

1. Treasurer's Report for the HWPC Meeting on the 14th of November 2018

2018-2019 Accounts

The account balances as at the 6th of November are:

Current Account	£1,107.46	
Deposit Account	£9,000.00	
Total	£10,107.46	

The Reserves/Contingency forecast is £868.41

Summary of transactions since the September meeting

Receipts

Precept	4,220.00
Allotment Rents & Water Levy	920.00
Total	5,140.00

Payments

Statutory power

Grant for WW1 Books	100.00	LGA 1972 s137
Grass Cutting	1,010.00	LG(MP)A 1976 ss9&10
Litter Picking	180.00	OSA 1906 ss9 &10
Allotments Water	351.57	S&AA 1908 s23
Website Software	17.96	LGA 1972 s142
E&H Air Ambulance Grant	100.00	LGA 1972 s137
Poppy Wreath	16.00	LGA 1972 s137
Outreach Post Office Subsidy	87.50	LA 2011 ss1-8
Playing Fields Bench Repair	107.00	LG(MP)A 1976 ss9&10
Hall Hire	21.00	LGA 1972 s111
WW1 Event Grant	100.00	LGA 1972 s137, and s144
Clerk Salary	193.68	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A)
Total	2,284.71	

Treasurer/Clerk Interface

Access to the Barclays accounts to be arranged on a 'read only' basis.
Access to the HWPC Accounts file for the Clerk to be set up via Dropbox.

Grants/Finance

Initial enquiries have been made to The Wildlife Trusts & Groundwork East (Landfill).
Groundwork East have been approached and advise that these funds are no longer available.
To be followed up.

2. Accounts Reconciliation as at 06/11/2018

	Current Account	Deposit Account	Total
Actual bank balances	1,107.46	9,000.00	10,107.46
Balance as per books			10,107.46
Difference to pay in			0.00

Clr Wendy Marks, as a non-signatory member, signed the reconciliation sheet and bank statement to verify reconciliation.

3. It was RESOLVED to accept the Accounts Report and Bank Reconciliation as at 06/11/2018 and to approve all payments.

4. Budget and Precept for 2019-2020

The Treasurer presented a comprehensive draft budget proposal for the ensuing year.

Overview

The budget for 2019-2020 has to take into account a number of significant changes. From a cost point of view the main change is the appointment of a Clerk. This post has remained vacant for 5 years and has been performed on a voluntary basis. The new Clerk joined the Council on the 1st of October 2018.

From an income point of view, the New Homes Bonus is being phased out and is reduced for the coming year.

As a consequence of these changes, the precept will need to be increased substantially to maintain the current services and 'development' expenditure will have to be cut back.

The main components of the budget for the past 6 years are as follows:

Historical Costs for Comparison

Year	Precept	New Homes Bonus	Clerk Costs
2013-2014	8,000	3,051	1,000
2014-2015	7,375	4,460	0
2015-2016	7,700	5,728	0
2016-2017	7,700	5,728	0
2017-2018	8,450	6,447	0
2018-2019	8,450	3,043	1,500

Extract from the Details:

Income

Reserves: The General Reserve is the unattributed portion of the balance brought forward from 2018-2019. At present this is forecast to be £868.41.

Playing Fields Development Fund: earmarked during the 2018-2019 year for new equipment in the Playing Fields.

Commemorative Sign Fund: created from the WW1 Commemoration Events in the Village

Precept: The figure of £11,350 is an increase of £2,900 on 2018-2019 (34% increase). Increase required to pay for the new Clerk and to compensate for the reduced New Homes Bonus.

VAT Refund: The amount of VAT on general expenses expected to be recovered during the year.

Interest: The amount of interest expected to be received on the Council Deposit Account.

New Homes Bonus: As advised by EHDC during the last year. This may be subject to change.

Allotments Rent Income: As for 2018-2019.

Water Levy: The budget has been set to zero. This can be levied if the use of water exceeds the budgeted cost (as happened for the first time in 2018-2019).

Pavilion Lease: Paid by Harlow Theatre Company.

Pavilion Insurance Refund: Paid by the Harlow Theatre Company under the terms of the lease of the Pavilion. This amount is advised separately by the Council Insurers.

Expenditure

Allotment Water: Estimated usage during a normal year

Allotment Development Grant: Included to allow the High Wych Allotment Association to maintain and develop the site. Note that this is reduced from £300 last year.

Stationery: For paper and supplies

Postage: For letters sent by the Council

Mileage: For claims by the Clerk and/or Councillors on Council business.

Audit Fee: Possible expense for an Internal Audit .

Insurance: General Council insurance plus the Pavilion

HAPTC Fee: Annual subscription fee for advice and guidance

Training: For the Clerk and/or Councillors as required

Clerk: Payroll costs plus charges relating to the Clerk working from home.

Miscellaneous Expenditure: For unforeseen expenses

Web Site: For the hosting and software costs for the High Wych and Allen's Green website

Memorial Hall Internet: Now phased out

Hall Hire: For Council and ad hoc meetings

Grass Cutting: Cutting the grass on the High Wych Playing Field and the Allen's Green Village Green by Mokut. Also includes strimming of the verges twice a year.

Inspections: Inspection of the equipment in the Playing Fields at High Wych (arranged by EHDC).

Development: An amount has been allocated towards redeveloping the High Wych Playing Fields. Further funds to be sought by way of a grant(s)

General Maintenance: To allow for repairs to fences and maintenance of trees etc.

Car Park Maintenance: For maintaining the car park hedge and borders

Loan Servicing: Repayment of the capital and interest to the Public Works Loan Board for the cost of resurfacing the Car Park. Year 7 of 10.

Litter Picking: Litter picking in the High Wych Playing Fields and emptying the bins.

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Grant: As per 2018-2019.

Outreach Post Office: Subsidising the cost of retaining the Outreach Post Office in the High Wych Memorial Hall.

Small Grants (Other): Allocation to be agreed in Council

Parish Election Costs: Possible Parish portion of the costs in the event that there are more applications than positions for the election in May 2019

General Reserves/Contingency: Sufficient funds need to be retained to meet expenses incurred in April each year in advance of the Precept being received at the end of April.

Commemorative Sign Fund: An amount held by the Council to provide a commemorative sign for High Wych. The funds have been provided by the Stansted Airport Community Trust in recognition of the efforts of the High Wych WW1 Commemoration Event committee.

The Clerk, as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, and the Treasurer to oversee the administration of the budget as the year progresses.

RF0/DS

It was **RESOLVED to approve the 2019-2020 Budget and Precept, to be ratified and signed at the January Parish Council meeting.**

TP/Clerk

Asset Register: It was agreed to review and revise as appropriate the Asset Register.

DS/Clerk

5. Research Grant to the High Wych historian

It was **RESOLVED to make a grant of a maximum of £100**

DS

- 18.011 Correspondence:** The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:
- Parishioner: Concerns about traffic speed by the school (18.012.4)
 - Parishioner: Request for historian research grant (18.010.5)
- 18.012 1. Highways and Public Rights of Way**
1. Noted: TRO12314 Spellbrook Lane West closure
 2. Noted: TRO12359 Gangies Hill closure
 - 2.1 Late advice noted: TRO12364 closure of 19 roads in the parish and surrounding area.
 3. Fly tipping concerns and permissible action. The Clerk had circulated information from the East Herts website on responsibility and reporting. Cllr Buckmaster said that the police have been proactive in checking vehicles and trucks and have also set-up cameras at dumping hot-spots. All
 4. There was a discussion on safety concerns raised about traffic speed near the school and a parishioner's request that a 20mph limit be imposed. The setting of speed limits is strictly within the powers of the Highways Authority. A speed and volume survey would need to be carried out, funded from the county councillor's Highways Locality Budget (approx. £275 to £350). The successful application for the speed limit would probably be limited because there is already a Speed Indicator Device (SID) by the location and there is also an active DriveSafe scheme operating in the village. Cllr Gareth Emanuel said the road did not meet the speed management criteria and he will look at the problem with the DriveSafe team to see what can be done. The Clerk also to follow up with Cllr Buckmaster as to whether this can be successfully taken forward. GE
Clerk/EB
- 5. Footpaths and other Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**
Cllr Wendy Marks reported safety issues with the stiles on FP6. These have been discussed with the PRoW Officer but nothing has been resolved. Cllr Marks agreed to forward the email correspondence to the Clerk who would then pursue the matter. WM/
Clerk
- 2. Other Parish Matters**
1. **Notice boards:** Cllr David Smith recorded the Parish Council's thanks to the parishioner who has refurbished the parish notice boards at no cost to the Council. The Clerk was asked to send a formal letter of thanks. Clerk
 2. **WWI centenary event report**
Cllr David Smith reported that the community event over the centenary weekend had been a tremendous success. A number of letters of thanks and appreciation had been received. Cllr Buckmaster said the community should be proud of what it achieved; he had brought three visitors from Sawbridgeworth's twin town to the Saturday events and they were very impressed. Cllr Smith thanked everyone for their support.
 3. **PSPO consultation**
Under statutory requirements, East Herts is reviewing areas covered by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). The Parish Council decided that there are no areas in the parish that currently require the serving of these orders. BS
- 18.013 Village Reports**
1. **Playing Fields and buildings**
Cllr David Smith said there will be a meeting to get suggestions for what new play equipment to buy. The budget provides for £30k - £40k. DS/SC/
BP
 2. **Allotments**
An allotments meeting was held the previous evening and the HW Allotments Association is running well. There have recently been a number of thefts, mainly of produce. The Association has been getting more involved in village activities and a question was raised as to whether they could help by providing plants for the village planters. Amendments to the Terms and Conditions of the Tenancy Agreement are to be discussed and agreed with the HWAA Secretary and Committee. Two signed Tenancy Agreements were passed into the custody of the Clerk. DS
Clerk
- 18.014 Safeguarding Policy**
It was **RESOLVED to adopt without amendment the draft Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults.**

18.015 Banners and Posters policy
Following a discussion prompted by recent incidents of fly-posting, which is a criminal offence, the Parish Council determined that it should have a banners and posters policy. It was therefore **RESOLVED that the posting of banners, posters or leaflets will not be permitted or supported by the Parish Council.**

However, the Parish Council does support an official sign indicating presence of the village shop and the Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Buckmaster in pursuit of this once Cllr Clark has discussed it with the shop owner to promote this positive action.

SC/
Clerk/EB

18.016 Items for future agendas

- To finalise the 2019/20 precept – January PC meeting

18.017 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th January at 8pm in Allen’s Green Village Hall
(This is contrary to the notice on the Agenda. HW Memorial Hall booking to be cancelled; Allen’s Green Village Hall to be booked).

Clerk
DS

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was **RESOLVED that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for agenda item 18.018, the signing of the Clerk’s Contract of Employment, since any related discussion with the Clerk would be confidential.**

18.018 The Clerk’s Contract of Employment

This was duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

A copy of the “High Wych, Sawbridgeworth and the Great War” history book was given to the Clerk.

There being no further business, the Chairman apologised for the lateness of the hour, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.55pm.

Signed.....Dated.....

ACTIONS

Cllr Tom Payne

- Link magazine future: discuss TP/DS/SC/AG
- Joint Council meeting STC/GPC/HWPC to discuss viability of community transport from Gilston to Leventhorpe TP/GE
- Contact District Councillor to encourage attending PC meetings
- Booking Allen’s Green VH for Jan meeting and cancel HW Memorial Hall TP/DS

Cllr David Smith

- Link magazine future: discuss TP/DS/SC/AG
- Review asset register and ongoing discussion on budgeted work programme DS/Clerk
- Pay grant to HW historian
- Gather suggestions for new play equipment DS/SC/Clerk
- Allotments: 1) Amendments to T&Cs 2) Plants for planters
- Booking Allen’s Green VH for Jan meeting and cancel HW Memorial Hall TP/DS

Cllr Sam Clark

- Link magazine future: discuss TP/DS/SC/AG
- Complete and return the Register of Pecuniary Interests to the Clerk by 11th December
- Email copies of the July and September meeting notes to the TP and the Clerk
- Gather suggestions for new play equipment DS/SC/Clerk
- Village shop sign – discuss with shop owner and organise with HCC SC/EB/Clerk

Cllr Gareth Emanuel

- Joint Council meeting STC/GPC/HWPC to discuss viability of community transport from Gilston to Leventhorpe TP/GE
- Check viability of DriveSafe team providing speed control assistance by the school

Clr Wendy Marks

- Email details of FP6 problems to the Clerk

Clr Brian Sullivan

- Issues relating to the Allen's Green Village Green parking request – with the Clerk
- To note the PC did not pursue the PSPO consultation (agenda item 18.012.2.3)

Clerk

- Allen's Green parking request – pursue legal options and Green status
- Discuss with Eric Buckmaster possible merger with STC for Police Locality Panel
- Formally respond with comments on planning applications
- Review asset register and ongoing discussion on budgeted work programme DS/Clerk
- Check with EB whether further speed restriction at the school can be taken forward
- Discuss FP6 stile problems with the PRow Officer
- Letter of thanks to parishioner for notice boards refurbishment
- Gather suggestions for new play equipment DS/SC/Clerk
- Village shop sign – discuss with shop owner and organise with HCC SC/EB/Clerk
- To note the January PC meeting is at Allen's Green Village Hall

APPENDIX A

County councillor report Nov 2018 from agenda item 18.008

Quarry, Briggens Park.

On Friday 12th October the leader and the chief executive of East Herts and I as the local county member were taken on a tour of the proposed site. This is an account of what we were told. Tarmac stated that if adopted a planning application will be raised in 2025. The intervening years will be used to undertake further technical work. They said that extraction will be over 2 large areas to the East and West of the site with the plant site in the middle. They say that bunds will be raised close to settlements and dwellings to obscure the operation and noise. I presume they will use the clay overburden they will need to dig out. The central plant site will be sunken.

Of concern to me is the proximity of the site to Stanstead Abbots and the settlements at Home Farm and Olive Farm. The edge of the plant site is within a couple of hundred metres of Olives Farm. They also said that there will be 400 vehicle movements per day, 200 in and 200 out. As we know the access will be on the B181 between Stanstead Abbots and the A414. They will then have to turn left on the A414 then either go through Harlow to the M11 or around the Eastwick roundabout and back towards the A10. A planning application will have to be submitted and there will need to be conditions around the operation and vehicle routes. There will also need to be ongoing monitoring. The site could be in operation for approximately 22 years.

The restoration over time will be filling in using inert materials presumably taken from construction sites elsewhere.

HCC will publish the Minerals Local Plan early next year. If the Briggens site is accepted as a 'preferred option' it will be included along with other specific sites and be submitted for independent examination. An 'examination in public' will then be held at a time to be agreed by the inspector. There will then follow several years more technical work before a planning application for specific site within the preferred site is made possibly by 2025.

2018 Traffic and Transport Data Report (based on 2017 data) has now been published. To view visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ttdr

Transport data in Hertfordshire shows:

- Traffic grew by 2.3% between 2016 and 2017 (this compares with 1.3% nationally)
- Traffic is predicted to grow by 18% by 2031 (this compares with 8% nationally)
- Rail use grew by 1.5% in Hertfordshire between 2016 and 2017, despite a drop in rail use nationally
- HGV traffic in Hertfordshire increased by 9% between 2016 and 2017
- Hertfordshire accounted for 2% of all newly registered low emission vehicles in the UK in 2017
- There are 32 known locations in Hertfordshire that exceed emissions thresholds, of these, all but one are related to NOx

Hertfordshire's Year of Physical Activity

2018 is Hertfordshire's Year of Physical Activity (YOPA). It aims to make Hertfordshire the most active county, by increasing physical activity, celebrating what's already happening and encouraging new programmes and events. YOPA is led by Public Health and Herts Sports Partnership (HSP), and it is supported by the 10 district councils and many other organisations across sectors.

A number of great achievements have been celebrated throughout the year, and it's still going until December! Some key achievements from the year include:

- Securing over 4,000 sign ups to the 'It's never too late to be active campaign' that encourages older adults to become more active.
- More than 30 schools offering an intergenerational 'daily mile', an initiative that encourages walking or running a mile every school day for pupils.
- Breaking all previous records with an impressive 815 people taking part on Hertfordshire's Mass Health Walk.
- Doubling the number of visits to the 'ParksHerts' website that encourages people to explore their local parks and green spaces.

- Encouraging more girls and women to get active, with over 3,000 females being active during “This Girl Can” month.
- Boosting the number of those involved in cycling by facilitating cycle training for over 1,000 people.

Hertfordshire County Council publishes its 2017/18 Annual Report

Residents and businesses can see how Hertfordshire County Council performed in the last financial year through its newly released annual report.

The report summarises how we performed during 2017/18 in delivering our services from social care and schools to highways, fire and rescue, libraries and environmental management.

Highlights include:

- Continuing to plan for the future housing needs of the county together with our District and Borough Council colleagues, with particular focus on the older and disabled population
- The launch of the pioneering Hertfordshire science partnership in March, a collaboration between the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the University of Hertfordshire
- A record low rate of 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training, at only 3.08 per cent
- Establishing Herts Living Ltd to enable us to play our part in providing new homes for the county over the next 15 years on 12 sites that the council already owns
- Overall winner at The Guardian Public Service Awards for our Family Safeguarding Service
- An all-time low for the number of smokers at 13.5 per cent, with pregnant smokers dropping to 6.7 per cent
- Our appointment as an ambassador to promote The Family Safeguarding Project, our innovative work on reducing parental conflict, to other local authorities
- 90.5 per cent of schools rated good or outstanding in their most recent Ofsted inspection and GCSE results for summer 2017 in the top 15% nationally
- As part of Hertfordshire’s Year of Physical Activity 67 schools participate in the daily Mile, running for 15 minutes per day
- An underspend of 0.7 per cent against budget in the face of grant reductions and multiple financial challenges.

This year the council faced many challenges and made some difficult decisions around the closure of Nascot Lawn respite centre for disabled children and Cuffley Camp outdoor education centre. As well as focussing on the highlights, the report also reviews some of the challenges faced in the past year, which include:

- Our roads continuing to be some of the busiest in the country, coupled with a long hard winter, increasing the need for interventions and repairs to the network as well as almost double the salt runs
- The scale and pace of growth across the county proceeding more quickly than anticipated
- A much larger cohort of students starting secondary school than in previous years, yet nonetheless 94% of secondary school applicants were successful in securing a place at their preferred school
- We were disappointed with the announcement that the funding was no longer in place for the Metropolitan Line extension to Watford but will continue to work with partners to try and find a way forward.

Plans for future of the fire service published

A bold vision for the future of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has been published by the county council ahead of a public consultation.

The draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) sets out what resources the fire and rescue service needs, and where they need to be to comprehensively deal with risks across the county now and in the future.

The draft IRMP makes some key proposals to get the fire and rescue service ready for the future.

These include:

- Investing more in firefighter training
- Investing in preventing fires and making sure buildings are safe
- Trialling the use of new firefighting vehicles alongside traditional fire engines
- Making changes to crewing and shift patterns
- Making better use of on-call firefighters

The plan reaffirms Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service’s commitment to close collaboration with other emergency services, particularly with Hertfordshire Constabulary, following the agreement signed by the county council and Police and Crime Commissioner earlier this year.

The draft plan is online at

<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=209&MIId=1295> .

Councillors are set to agree a 12-week public consultation on the plan, starting on 4 December 2018 and ending on 28 February 2019.

The process for applying to primary, junior and middle schools in Hertfordshire opens today (Monday 5 November).

The easiest way to apply for a school place for September 2019 is to visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and complete the online application form. Online applications can be amended at any time up to the closing date and you can access your school offer before allocation letters are received and accept your school allocation online.

Last year nearly 98 per cent of children in Hertfordshire were allocated one of their four ranked primary, junior or middle schools.

Leaflets explaining how to apply were distributed to families at the beginning of the month. They were posted directly to families with children of reception age and distributed by schools to children in year 2 in infant schools and year 4 in first schools.

Before making an application, parents and carers are strongly advised to visit schools to help decide their preferences. Parents/carers should contact schools directly to find out more.

The closing date for Under 11s applications is **Tuesday 15 January 2019**. It is vital that parents/carers make their applications on time.

All the information you need about the Under 11s process is available on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Parents/carers without internet access can request a paper application form from the Customer Service Centre that must be returned direct to the Admissions and Transport team. Application forms cannot be returned to any Hertfordshire school.

Family Centre Service

The Family Centre Service brings together our Children’s Centres, Health Visiting and School Nursing Services to support children, young people and their families to thrive. Families will be able to access available services from any Hertfordshire Family Centre, allowing them to fit more sessions and services around busy family life. Within each district there will be one main delivery ‘hub’ with opening hours from 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, and satellite bases where services will be delivered more locally. You can find the details of the district managers below.

For more information on the service visit www.hertsfamilycentres.org

Quad-rant	District	Provider	Contact	Contact details
North	North Herts	Barnardos	Angela Hall Children’s Services Manager	angela.hall2@barnardos.org.uk
			Sarah Rutherford, Team Manager	sarah.rutherford@barnardos.org.uk
	Stevenage	Barnardos	Sharon Bell Children’s Services Manager	Sharon.bell@barnardos.org.uk
			Andrea Hall, Team Manager	andrea.hall@barnardos.org.uk
North Herts & Stevenage	HCT	Fiona Petty, Locality Manager for North Herts and Stevenage	fiona.petty@nhs.net	

East	East Herts	OneYMCA	Heather Crouch District Manager East Herts	Heather.Crouch@oneymca.org
	Broxbourne	OneYMCA	Sue Smith District Manager Broxbourne	Sue.Smith@oneymca.org
	Welwyn Hatfield	OneYMCA	Sarah Fitzgerald District Manager Wel/Hat	Sarah.Fitzgerald@oneymca.org
	East Herts, Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield	HCT	Kim Bilsby, Locality Manager for East Herts, Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield	kim.bilsby@nhs.net
South	Hertsmere	InspireAll	Kelly Hempenstall Family Support Team Leader	Kelly.hempenstall@hertsmereleisure.co.uk
			Katie Marks Early Start Team Leader	Katie.Marks@hertsmereleisure.co.uk
	Watford and three rivers	InspireAll	Aliyah Shabbir Family Support Team Leader	aliyah.shabbir@hertsmereleisure.co.uk
			Jo Burgess Early Start Team Leader	Joanne.Burgess@inspireall.com
	Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers	HCT	Nikki Sharkey, Locality Manager for Hertsmere, Three Rivers and Watford	nicola.sharkey3@nhs.net
West	St Albans	InspireAll	Claire Norris Family Support Team Leader	claire.norris@hertsmereleisure.co.uk
			Emma Ashworth Early Start Team Leader	Emma.Ashworth@inspireall.com
	Dacorum	InspireAll	Rosie Seaman Family Support Team Leader	Rosie.Seaman@inspireall.com
			Katrina Walsh Early Start Team Leader	Katrina.Walsh@hertsmereleisure.co.uk
	St Albans and Dacorum	HCT	Liz Little, Locality Manager for St Albans and Dacorum	liz.little1@nhs.net
All quadrants	HCT	Deirdre Wisdom, Service lead	deirdre.wisdom1@nhs.net	

If you have any questions, please contact FamilyCentres@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Pioneering Empathy Project nominated for prestigious award

A pioneering scheme set up by Hertfordshire County Council's youth service, YC Hertfordshire, has been nominated as a Helpforce Champion - National awards for Volunteers in Healthcare 2018.

The Empathy Project, which was launched in October 2017, is run by YC Hertfordshire in collaboration with the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and East and North Herts NHS. So far it has trained more than 100 young people as community navigators, able to administer social prescriptions and give emotional support to other young people attending A&E and children wards.

For more information about the Empathy Project please contact peter.hosier@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Eric Buckmaster
November 2018**