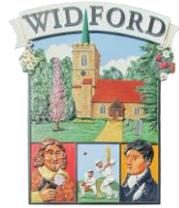


# Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm in Widford Village Hall



**PRESENT:** Cllr Mike Allen (MA); Cllr Babs Edwards (BE); Cllr Mark Rome (MR)

Five members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

**ACTION**

**22.091 To receive and approve apologies for absence**

1. Councillors: Cllr Ian Collins (work); Cllr Michael Ripsher (away): **Approved**
2. Others: PCSO Leon De Bruyn

**22.092 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations**

**1. Interests**

As noted on the agenda: Cllr Babs Edwards: an interest and a dispensation in respect of Playing Field matters, her husband being Treasurer of the PFMC. Cllr Mike Allen has an interest and a dispensation in re Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Cllr Ian Collins has a dispensation for the remainder of the electoral term in respect of his wife having the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

**22.093 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**Clerk/MA**

**22.094 Police report**

1. Crime report: No crimes reported in Widford.

The Chairman read the following area report from PCSO Leon DeBruyn:

Crime report for October 2022.

As you will see, this monthly crime report now covers the additional areas of Standon, Puckeridge and Braughing.

ANSTEY –

- ATTEMPT BURGLARY – Suspects have gained entry to a business Farm yard and have attempted to break into the workshop and a metal storage container on site, causing damage to a lock. Suspects have been unsuccessful and have then left in an unknown direction. Police enquiries are in progress and Prevention 1<sup>st</sup> advice has been provided.

HORMEAD –

- BUSINESS BURGLARY – THEFT of tractor – The Property owner has discovered the roller shutter to the barn open on arrival to the site. Unknown Suspects have gained entry to the barn by unbolting fixed wall cladding to the side of the barn, have removed the drill trailer from the tractor and have taken the tractor from site via the roller shutter door. They have then left in an unknown direction and by means unknown.

BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN –

- CRIMINAL DAMAGE – has been caused by unknown Suspects to field areas between Buntingford and Brent Pelham. This is believed to have been done during an incident of Hare Coarsing. Suspects have left in an unknown direction and by means unknown.

STOCKING PELHAM – no reported crimes

FURNEUX PELHAM – no reported crimes

ALBURY – no crimes reported

LITTLE HAHDAM –

- THEFT – A solar ring camera was stolen from the front of a residential property in The Ford in Little Hadham. Unfortunately there are no known Suspects, Witnesses or enquiries to progress to further investigate this crime.

MUCH HADHAM –

CRIMINAL DAMAGE – A vehicle has been damaged by unknown means in Windmill Way, Much Hadham. Unknown Suspects have scratched the drivers door and boot area of the vehicle using an unknown implement and have then made off in an unknown direction.

HUNSDON –

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE – A Land rover vehicle has been removed from the front drive of a residential property in Wicklands Road by means unknown. Suspects have removed the vehicle without the key (keyless entry), somehow surpassing the vehicle jamming device. They have then left in an unknown direction and by means unknown.

WIDFORD –

THEFT of COPPER – Suspects have broken into a metal container on a renovation site of a residential property in Widford. Suspects have damaged the lock to the container and removed copper pipes from within required for the site renovation. Suspects have then left in an unknown direction and by means unknown.

WARESIDE – no reported crimes

EASTWICK & GILSTON – no reported crimes

BRAUGHING –

- THEFT – Unknown Suspects have approached a barn at a property in Ford Street and removed 2 x hydraulic rams and 1 x post hole digger from within. They have then left in an unknown direction and by means unknown.
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE – a car tyre has been damaged on a vehicle parked in Greenhill Close in Braughing. Unknown Suspect have used a sharpe bladed instrument (believed to be a knife from the puncture shape) and has then made off in an unknown direction and by means unknown.

STANDON & PUCKERIDGE- no reported crimes.

Other news and updates:

- DOMESTIC OIL THEFTS – schools and churches are being targeted. Local SNT officers have carried out Increased site assessments at various locations to help reduce the risk of becoming a target.
- KEYLESS VEHICLE THEFTS – Land rovers a preferred choice for this particular criminal offence, but other vehicles also targeted.

Leon Leon De Bruyn

Police Community Support Officer

It was noted that a burglary in Widford was reported about 10 days ago but is not included in the above report.

**2. Drivesafe update:**

As reported previously, the Drivesafe application failed. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a request for a speed and volume (S&V) study to Cllr Eric Buckmaster to see if that could be progressed with HCC as a way forward. A petition to complain was also considered. Cllr Babs Edwards said it was very disappointing that a lot of work had been carried out, as required, but without any result.

**Clerk**

**22.095 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman said he had no announcements, but brought forward agenda item 22.103 inviting Helen Giles to give a report presenting the position of the Village Archive:

***The Widford Archive***

*Thank you for allowing me to give an update on the Widford Archive this evening.*

*I've been working with the village archive for a few years now. I'm a museum curator by trade, so I feel passionate about history, its preservation and sharing it with people.*

***WHAT IS THE WIDFORD ARCHIVE***

*It's a collection of many historical photographs and documents about the village and its residents.*

*It was originally compiled by Bunty Smith (who used to reside at Chestnut Tree Cottage) when she was preparing to write her book 'Portrait of Widford' in 1989. After Bunty's death, her archive material was donated to the village by her family. Since then, it has been maintained and added to by Frances Luck and over the last few years, me. At some stage, the Archive needs a permanent new home where it can be easily accessed, cared for, and enjoyed.*

*There are over 55 boxes in the archive and there's new acquisitions. The majority of the archive dates to the 20th century.*

*There are over 1,000 photographs relating to the village, collected by Bunty over the years and still collected today, as prints but we now also accept borne digital images.*

*The Widford Archive will happily accept more recent photographs (from the last 10 years or so) of the village to chart the changes and events that take place.*

*There's a huge amount of paper-based items: such as typed or written sheets, maps, plans, indentures, posters, drawings, paintings, books, news cuttings*

*And these are organised into themes including:*

- People - biographical information, obituaries, stories, copies of the census, photographs*
- Houses and homes*
- Work*
- Local businesses – including the shop, pubs*
- The landscape (footpaths, maps)*
- Sport and leisure (including the cricket club)*
- Worship*
- Education*
- Widford at War*
- Transport*
- The Parish Council*
- Events (such as the jubilees, bike rides etc)*

*We also have the Widford Parish Magazines from 1917 up to present day (although not a complete set). There is a small number of objects in the collection as well as videos and cassettes.*

***TO DO LIST***

*Those involved with the archive are very keen to see it be used, through the likes of local and family history research and display. It's an incredibly important asset for the village and the top of my to do list is to increase awareness of it first.*

*I write about the archive each month in the Widford Magazine and hope to start putting news pieces onto the Widford Community Facebook page. As I am digitising the images, I would also like to create an Instagram page. Social media would be a good place to increase awareness for those people who perhaps have left the village and for those that don't get the Widford Magazine.*

*Last January a 'Come in from the Cold' event was organised to showcase the archive,*

with a lot of the collection on display for people to see and interact with. I think there are plans afoot to do something similar next year.

**THERE'S MUCH TO DO!**

Thanks to funding from a village resident, we have recently purchased archival and storage material to store the items so that they are preserved for many years to come. We have also purchased a flatbed scanner to start digitising the collections.

The next job for me is to go through each box and catalogue everything so that we know what we have and which box it's in. This will help for future displays and events, but also for research enquiries.

**FUTURE PLANS**

The two key things to consider for the future are ACCESS to the archive, by way of events and also digital access and a permanent HOME for the archive. It currently resides in a loft of a house but this isn't an ideal permanent home for it. We're not sure what a permanent home for the archive looks like, but we are trying to put our heads together to come up with some realistic ideas to present.

I would very much like to provide updates about the archive at future Parish Council meetings, either via a short report or hopefully in person.

I'm learning something new about the village every time I work on it, I hope I can share my enthusiasm with you all and garner support for this village gem.

Helen Giles AMA

The Parish Council agreed to formally consider supporting the Archive and to include a contingency figure in the budget to be approved at the January 2023 Parish Council meeting.

Clerk

**22.096 Reports by County and District Councillor Eric Buckmaster**

Cllr Buckmaster arrived at 8.10pm and gave a brief overview of his report – this is reproduced in full as an Appendix to the Minutes of this meeting.

**22.097 Planning**

**1. New Applications:**

*None*

**2. Decision Notices.** For information only, the following were noted:

<b>3/22/0888/HH &amp; 3/22/1001/LBC The Old Rectory:</b> Demolish attached outbuildings & conservatory; build single storey side extension and other works.	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>3/22/1196/HH Gilston, 42 Bell Lane:</b> Installation of solar panels	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>3/22/1686/FUL Land to rear of the Green Man:</b> Build two new dwellings.	<i>Awaited</i>
<b>3/22/1852/HH Phoenix Farm:</b> Side extension	<i>Awaited</i>
<b>3/22/1501/HH 28 Benningfield Rd:</b> Remove garage; build side extension.	<i>Awaited</i>
<b>3/19/1045/OUT Land North of the Stort Valley &amp; A414, Gilston:</b> Outline planning	<i>Awaited</i>
<b>3/21/2668/FUL: Ash View Stables:</b> Additional capacity on existing site.	<i>Awaited</i>
<b>E/21/0288/ENF 30 Benningfield Road:</b> Enforcement investigation.	<i>Awaited</i>

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

**1. Other planning matters**

**1.** Late planning applications

**3/22/2261/HH Wilmoor:** Replace conservatory with single storey side extension and add pitched roofs to utility and dining rooms. **RESOLVED: No objections**

Clerk

**2.** Concerns about delays in determining planning applications:

Cllr Eric Buckmaster's reply to concerns was noted, but the reasons given were unsatisfactory. Cllr Ian Collins will write a response.

IC

22.098 Finance

1. Report of the Council's accounts

Finance Summary to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

	£
Opening cashbook balance 1 <sup>st</sup> September	38,241.09
Plus: income to 30 <sup>th</sup> September	7,503.90
Minus: expenditure to 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<u>748.30</u>
<b>Balance available to Council at 30<sup>th</sup> September (cashbook balance)</b>	<b>44,996.69</b>
Plus unrepresented cheques/payments	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b><u>44,996.69</u></b>

**RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be approved.**

2. Bank reconciliations

Copies of the bank statement were presented. **RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented.**

3. Performance vs budget at 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The Clerk's detailed report on the financial performance vs budget to 26<sup>th</sup> October was received. There were no untoward transactions to note. Income for the year to date totalled £17,441 against a budget of £17,155. Expenditure for the year to date totalled £10,037 against a budget of £25,243. The projected closing balance at year end, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, is £38,229.

It was noted that £7,500 is held in reserves for the Playing Field play area equipment grant, to be paid when the play area funding is resolved.

**RESOLVED: that the financial performance report to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be accepted as presented.**

4. List of payments.

4.1. **RESOLVED: to approve the list of payments as presented by the Clerk**

Clerk

*All expenditure made under the General Power of Competence.*

		Gross	VAT incl
Jo English	Litterpicking: October 7 of 12	125.00	
Clerk	Salary October	407.25	
HMRC	PAYE October	101.80	
M Allen reimburse	RBL Poppy Wreath	50.00	
Jo English	Litterpicking: November 8 of 12	125.00	
Clerk reimburse	Printer paper	4.00	
Clerk	Expenses October-November	17.75	
Clerk	Salary Nov – incl backdated pay award	629.25	
HMRC	PAYE November	157.40	
<b>Recoverable VAT included</b>			<b>£0.00</b>

5. Replacement Parish Council laptop

The Clerk reported that the Council's laptop, purchased in 2015, is no longer powerful enough to support MS 365 updates and consequently Word and Excel are no longer working. The Clerk is currently having to use another council's laptop (with their permission) to work on agendas, minutes, and the cashbook. An independent computer technician for another council has estimated the current cost of replacing the laptop and setting it up to be approximately £800 - £900, depending on laptop availability. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk purchase a new laptop asap.**

Clerk

6. Notice of payroll fee increase

It was noted that payroll company TP Jones will be increasing their quarterly fee by 10.1%, from £58.50 to £64.40 (incl VAT) from December.

Clerk

7. Draft 2023-24 budget and precept

The Clerk presented a draft proposal for 2023-24 that is to be finalised in January. It was agreed that in light of EHDC's decision to no longer make a litter picking grant, the Parish Council will fund that expense at the current level in order to maintain the service. It was agreed to include a Village Archive contingency of £250, subject to further information from

Clerk

Helen Giles. Consideration will be given to the Benningfield Green licence income position once the issues have been resolved.

**22.099 Correspondence:** The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- **Parishioner: Ongoing Road safety concerns on Ware Road by Greenacres (22.101.2.2)**
- PRow Officer: Broken kissing gate FP18/Bridleway16 (22.101.1.2)
- TP Jones LLP: Notice of price increase (22.098.6)
- HCC: Bus stop bench location enquiry (22.101.3.1)

**22.100 Village Reports**

**1. Village Hall**

1. Village Hall poll update: Cllr Mike Allen said he was not aware that a detailed presentation had been prepared by the Village Hall Chairman. It was agreed that he would ask the VH Chair if the presentation could be shown at the next Parish Council meeting.

**MA**

**2. Playing Field**

Cllr Mike Allen gave the following report :  
The VHMC has not met recently. Quotes for the play area refurbishment will be put together for the Parish Council to consider. The PFMC and VHMC will have to liaise and agree on the way forward.

**3. Allotments**

Cllr Babs Edwards reported that all is going well.

**BE**

**4. Closed Churchyard.**

Nothing to report

**Clerk**

**22.101 Highways, Public Rights of Way, and other Parish matters**

**1. Footpaths and PRow.**

1. FP1: No update on PRow replacing the stile with a suitable bollard. This remains under consideration in Nicholas Maddex's programme of works.
2. FP18/Bridleway16 broken kissing gate. Nicholas Maddex reported that as the kissing gates are no longer required to keep stock in the field, they are no longer legal. Therefore he would arrange for the gates to be removed.

**MA**

**Clerk**

**2. Highways and footways**

1. Update on general clean-up of verges, gutters and overgrown footways: Agreed that Cllr Mike Allen will provide an update in January.
2. Update on road safety concerns by Greenacres, Ware Road: Recently provide photos of flooding issues due to blocked storm drain are with HCC and EHC Planning Enforcement to action. Cllr Eric Buckmaster is helping progress this issue.
3. Update report of dogs running loose on BOAT22 and the Permissive Path off BOAT 22: Cllr Ian Collins had followed this up and no further incidents have been reported.

**MA**

**3. Other parish matters and concerns**

1. Update: Alternative location for the QEII Platinum Jubilee Memorial bench. It was agreed to defer this to the January meeting.
2. Ongoing fly tipping in the layby: Incidents are still happening; Cllr Babs Edwards said she is reporting the latest occurrence that involves dumped glass.

**Clerk**

**BE**

**22.102 Benningfield Green**

1. Ongoing parking issues: An incident is to be addressed and the Chairman is drafting a response. Any consequent outcome will be allowed for in the 2023-24 budget.

**MA/Clerk**

**22.013 Village Archive**

Report given by Helen Giles at agenda item 22.095above.

**22.104 Urgent matters** received too late for inclusion on this agenda:

None received.

**Suspension of Meeting for Public Comments**

No comments made.

**The meeting was restored to order**

**22.105 Items for future agendas**

- Village Hall proposal: January agenda
- Finalise 2023/24 budget and precept: January agenda
- Benningfield Green parking issues

**22.106 Date of next Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

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

**APPENDIX**

**District and County Councillor Report, November 2022**

**An operation was held across various locations in Hertfordshire on 26 October to target criminals using the road network.**

Op Agrarian saw officers join forces with representatives from partner agencies including local councils, Trading Standards, the Environment Agency, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Commercial vehicles were stopped and examined in East Herts, Broxbourne, North Herts, Stevenage and Hertsmere to ensure they were in a road worthy condition and had the correct licenses to operate.

During the day:

- Almost 170 vehicles were stopped
- 15 waste licence offences were identified
- 15 vehicles were prohibited from being used until they were made road worthy
- 19 Traffic Offence Reports (TOR)\* were issued
- Three vehicles were seized for having no licence/insurance
- One person dealt with for a drug offence

\* A TOR can be issued by police for a minor road traffic offence and can lead to drivers receiving a fine, points on their licence or a court summons.

**Hertfordshire reuse shops are full of planet friendly bargains**

Hertfordshire County Council’s network of reuse shops are a prime destination for those looking to find high-quality pre-owned goods at low prices.

As the cost-of-living increases, the reuse shops provide an opportunity for residents to purchase typically more expensive items at very reasonable prices.

The items sold at the reuse shops are either dropped off directly by residents or diverted from the waste bins at one of the council’s 16 recycling centres. Friendly site staff are on hand to help visitors recycle materials correctly or where appropriate direct them to use the reuse drop-off points.

An item can be reused if it’s still in good condition and it’s likely that other people would want to buy it and use it. Before being displayed in the shops, items are checked to ensure they are good enough quality to sell. The kinds of items available include furniture, toys, boardgames, sports equipment, bicycles, tableware, and lots more.

The reuse shops have recently started selling small electrical appliances including games consoles, televisions, and power tools which are all electrically tested on site to ensure they are safe to use.

Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for The Environment at Hertfordshire County Council said: “As household budgets are getting stretched, we are really keen to ensure that as many people as possible use our reuse shops to give good quality, low-cost items a new home and reduce the amount of unnecessary waste in our county”

The county council currently has three purpose-built reuse shops at the Harpenden, Ware and Waterdale recycling centres, with a smaller pop-up shop at the Stevenage recycling centre. More information about the shops, including what items they will accept, and their opening hours is available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/reuse](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/reuse).

### **Hertfordshire County Council unanimously agrees motion around the current financial challenge**

Hertfordshire County Council unanimously agrees motion around the current financial challenge: County Hall 2022 1200x675-2

At the Full Meeting of Hertfordshire County Council, held at County Hall on Tuesday 18 October 2022, a motion was moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Roberts in relation to the financial challenge being faced by the authority.

Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Roberts re-iterated his commitment to doing everything that it takes to prudently manage the finances of the county council in the face of increasing inflation while also protecting services for those most in need.

A commitment has also been made as part of the motion to maintain the county council's £17 million cost of living support programme.

Councillor Richard Roberts said: "While the outlook for future years remains uncertain, we are committed to plan for the worst whilst delivering the best. We will maintain services to vulnerable residents and will move heaven and earth to ensure that the council continues to provide the right support, services and advice to our residents as they too seek to balance their budgets."

**Hertfordshire's New Business Waste Service is Now Open:** Hertfordshire County Council has recently opened its first Business Waste Service. Located at Ware Recycling Centre, the service is designed to allow small and medium sized businesses, (SMEs), the opportunity to dispose of waste generated from their trade activities in a transparent and compliant way.

Waste including wood, hardcore, green garden and plasterboard, can be disposed of at competitive prices. Some items, such as cardboard and scrap metal, can be disposed of for free. All bookings are subject to a £4.99 weighbridge charge.

Bookings can be made online and there is no need to set up an account. Payment can be made by debit or credit card, as well as Google Pay and Apple Pay, with the Business Waste Service open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5.30pm. Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for Environment, Hertfordshire County Council, said: "We are delighted that our first Business Waste Service is now open, offering local businesses the opportunity to dispose of waste in a compliant and affordable way. This is a key infrastructure development, one which supports businesses with how they recycle their waste, providing them with a service that actively meets their needs. Our new Welwyn Garden City Recycling Centre, which is due to open in spring 2023, will provide an equivalent facility, ensuring more businesses across the county will have access to this vital service."

The commercial waste service can also be used by residents who have too much construction, demolition and excavation waste. Paying for the excess material could mean that they avoid having to hire a skip. For further details visit Business waste | Hertfordshire County Council

### **Construction begins on Hertfordshire's first full net-zero carbon school**

The Buntingford First School, which is being funded by Hertfordshire County Council and built by Morgan Sindall Construction, will open for September 2023 and will be operated by the Scholars Education Trust.

This is the first school in the county to be built and operate at net zero carbon, in line with the Hertfordshire County Council's sustainability strategy and ambition to be carbon neutral in its own operations by 2030. It will utilise a Passivhaus design which will improve the school's air quality, reduce carbon emissions and lower its energy running costs.

As part of the highly sustainable project, solar panels, triple-glazing windows and air-source heat pumps will be installed. The new school will also include a rooftop outdoor classroom, play areas and a "forest school". In addition, all the teaching spaces in the school will face north, avoiding south-facing windows that cause rooms to over-heat.

### **New 'Warm Spaces' directory launched in Hertfordshire**

Hertfordshire County Council, and the county's ten district and borough councils, have today, Thursday 27 October, launched a new directory of public spaces and buildings which people

can use as warm, welcoming spaces as temperatures drop.

This online directory will let people find libraries, family centres and community spaces near them where they can stay safe and warm. Many will also be running additional activities to provide people with the opportunity to meet others and take part in events such as slipper swaps for older people in libraries and stay and play events in family centres for families with young children.

To support this initiative, we are making £100,000 worth of funding available to local community groups, with grants of up to £2,000 to help them provide welcoming indoor spaces this winter. The funding can be used to cover energy bills, staff time, venue hire as well as other relevant costs such as transport to the venue. The grant scheme is being run by Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

The warm spaces directory is just one of the ways Hertfordshire County Council is helping people to manage the cost of living and remain safe and well this winter. Other support available for residents is being highlighted through the council's **Here for You** this winter campaign which is shining a light on the services the council delivers, and those it funds other organisations to deliver.

### **Hertfordshire County Council launches new campaign to support residents this winter**

We want residents to be aware of the help and support that's on offer locally to help them this winter. Our public reassurance campaign - 'here for you this winter' is about sharing our story with them.

The campaign is shining a light on services which will help residents to stay safe and well as temperatures drop, in addition to providing information around services and support to help them manage the rising cost of living.

From 24 October our winter health and wellbeing booklet will be landing on doorsteps across the county. Aimed at helping residents stay safe and well during the colder months (particularly those without digital access), the guide contains key information on how to receive the flu and covid vaccines, support to deal with the rising cost of living, advice on how to access NHS services and much more. It is compiled in partnership with the NHS and we have also been working with partners to ensure it's shared at key public-facing places across the county.

Help us spread the word?

There is a communications toolkit with ready-made text and shareable images.

Key links

Campaign website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hereforyou](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hereforyou)

Communications toolkit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hereforyoutoolkit](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hereforyoutoolkit)

Winter health booklet [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterwellbeing](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterwellbeing)

If you need help, please get in touch with HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044. For more information, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hereforyou](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hereforyou)

### **Council to consult on changes to school admission numbers**

Hertfordshire County Council is consulting the public on plans to reduce the number of pupils admitted at five primary schools in the county. The county council isn't proposing to make any changes to how admissions work, but with demand for primary school places falling in some areas and rising in others, the county council's Cabinet is launching a consultation on changing the number of pupils admitted each year at certain schools from 2024/25.

In each case, the demand for primary school places in these areas is falling, and reducing the PAN would provide a better match between demand and actual places. In all cases the reductions have been requested and supported by the Headteacher and Governing Board.

As part of the same review, county councillors have already agreed an increase in the PAN at two community primary schools:

Codicote C of E Primary School in Codicote and Mandeville Primary School in Sawbridgeworth.

This follows enlargement of the school premises and is needed to cater for increased demand for primary school places in these areas from new housing developments. The Governing Body and Headteacher of both schools are in agreement with the proposals.

### **East Herts Waste Collection Service**

The Executive approval included the following recommendations

- To approve a Competitive Dialogue procedure for the procurement of the Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing contract.

- To approve to a Contract length of 8 years with the possibility of up to an 8 year extension.
- To approve the introduction of a new weekly separate food waste collection service in 23L caddies for houses and in wheeled bins for flats in East Hertfordshire from 2025.
- To approve residual waste collections occurring on a three weekly collection cycle from 2025.
- To approve the standard receptacle for residual waste being 180L in size and that all new and replacement residual waste containers for houses will be 180l as soon as is reasonably practicable and phased in commencing no later than from 1st April 2023 in East Hertfordshire.
- To approve the transition to a standard bin colour across East and North Hertfordshire as soon as
- is practicable and no later than 1st April 2023.
- To approve the inclusion of plastic film in the mixed dry recycling collections from 2025, the implementation date confirmation to be delegated to the Project Board and subject to the outcomes of Resources & Waste Strategy consultation on consistency.
- To approve the cessation of bring bank services for paper in East Hertfordshire as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than the end of 2023.
- To approve the cessation of bring bank services for textiles in East Hertfordshire and kerbside textiles collections in North Hertfordshire with the shared waste service proactively engaging with the charity-sector to promote alternative outlets for used textiles by the end of 2024.
- To approve the cessation of Parish litter picking grants and for street litter bins currently maintained under this scheme to be serviced under the waste and recycling contract from 1st April 2023.

*District and County Councillor Eric Buckmaster  
November 2022*