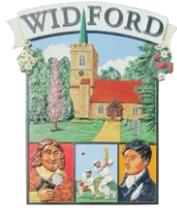


# Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in Widford Village Hall



**PRESENT:** Cllr Mike Allen (MA) -Chair; Cllr Ian Collins (IC), Cllr Michael Ripsher (MPR)

Eight members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

**ACTION**

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

1. Councillors: Cllr Babs Edwards (away), Cllr Mark Rome (work): **Approved**  
Cllr Mike Allen (work), Cllr Ian Collins (work): **Approved**
2. Others: Cllr Eric Buckmaster

**23.018 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.

**2. Dispensation requests: None**

**23.019 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**Clerk/MA**

**23.020 Police report**

7.40pm: PC Jack Culverhouse and another officer attended the meeting and commented on the written crime report submitted by PCSO Leon DeBruyn, noting in particular that no crimes were reported in Widford in February. It was noted that there has been an increase of reported thefts in the area, particularly relating to catalytic converters, number plates, and keyless vehicle crime in which Land Rovers seem to be the preferred vehicle, although not exclusively so:

**Crime Report FEBRUARY 2023**

**ANSTEY:** no reported crimes

**HORMEAD :** no reported crimes

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN**

**THEFT – 2 X large bronze statues** have been taken from outside the front of a residential property in BRENT PELHAM. Statues have been removed by unknown means.

**STOCKING PELHAM**

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY – 2 Offenders** have accessed a rear garden of a property in STOCKING PELHAM and attempted to gain entrance to the residential property. They were deterred by the audible alarm at the premises and have left the area.

**FURNEUX PELHAM:** no reported crimes

**ALBURY:** no reported crimes

# UNAPPROVED DRAFT<sup>1</sup>

## **LITTLE HAHDAM**

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Number plates) – Offenders have removed the front and rear number plates from a vehicle parked outside the residential property in Lloyd-Taylor Close.

## **MUCH HADHAM**

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Number plates) – Offenders have removed the front and rear number plates from a vehicle parked outside the residential property in Ferndale.

THEFT – 2 x large steel container tanks have been taken from an open car port at a residential property in Ferndale.

3 X RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY – There have been 3 incidents involving the theft of a sit-on lawnmower at properties off Kettle Green Lane and Widford Road in MUCH HADHAM. The offences have involved Suspects breaking locks to gain entry to the outbuilding and also smashing a fence to exit a property.

## **HUNSDON**

3 x THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Number plates) – Offenders have removed the number plates from vehicles parked outside a residential properties in Wheatsheaf Road and Paddock Close.

**WIDFORD:** no reported crimes

**WARESIDE:** no reported crimes

**EASTWICK & GILSTON:** no reported crimes

## **BRAUGHING**

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Catalytic converter) – Offenders have removed the catalytic converter from a vehicle parked outside the residential property in HAY STREET.

2 X THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Number plates) – Offenders have removed the front and rear number plates from a vehicle parked outside the residential property in Malting Lane, BRAUGHING.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Catalytic converter) – Offenders have removed the front and rear number plates from a vehicle parked outside the residential property in Green Lane, BRAUGHING.

## **STANDON & PUCKERIDGE**

TOMV – A10 - a broken down vehicle parked in the Puckeridge layby has been stolen.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE – a lorry parked in the A10 layby has had the side curtain of the vehicle damaged by unknown persons.

2 X THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (Number plates) – Offenders have removed the front and rear number plates from a vehicle parked outside the residential property in High Street, BRAUGHING.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE – damage has been caused by unknown persons to a communal post box outside a residential block of flats in, Kents Lane , STANDON

### **Other news and updates:**

- THEFT – Sit – on lawn mowers targeted in area of Much Hadham
- Land Rovers a preferred choice for this particular criminal offence, but other vehicles also targeted.
- KEYLESS VEHICLE THEFTS – Land Rovers a preferred choice for this particular criminal offence, but other vehicles also targeted.
- VEHICLES TARGETED –  
There has been a notable increase in THEFTS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES, namely catalytic converters and number plates, concentrated in the Standon and Puckeridge area and

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routes close to the A120 and A10. This continues to be the case across the County.

There has also been an increase in THEFTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES, with keyless entry. This has been seen across Hertfordshire and police are targeting patrols in this identified area.

Please ensure that all vehicles are locked and secured, dashcams used where applicable and external light at your homes are working. External 'sensor' lights are recommended to illuminate the front/ side of your homes should unknown persons approach your property.

Please continue to report suspicious Vehicles that may be seen driving around in your area. If you are able to record the Make and Registration number of the vehicle, that would be very helpful.

Leon De Bruyn, Police Community Support Officer

7.52pm: The police officers left the meeting. The Chairman thanked them for attending.

## 23.021 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman said that he had been working away recently and therefore not spending as much time in the parish as he would like. He is involved with a group of parishioners in the village Coronation plans, the information for which will be posted on the village Whatsapp. It is proposed to close Bell Lane for a street party following Sunday church. The coronation will be shown on a big screen in the Village Hall.

The Chairman also noted that a collapsed wall at the allotments water supply needs some maintenance work before the summer growing season.

MA

## 23.022 Reports by County and District Councillor Eric Buckmaster

Cllr Buckmaster was not able to attend, but his written report is included in the appendix at the end of these Minutes.

## 23.023 Planning

### 1. New Applications:

**3/23/0327/FUL Hadham Mill Pumping Station:** Installation of kiosk.

**RESOLVED: No objections**

Clerk

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

**3/22/1501/HH 28 Benningfield Rd:** Remove garage; build side extension. **GRANTED**

**3/22/1196/HH Gilston, 46 Bell Lane:** Installation of solar panels **GRANTED**

**3/23/0098/HH & 0099/LBC Westbury, 46 Bell Lane:** *Awaited*

**3/21/2668/FUL: Ash View Stables:** Additional capacity on existing site. *Awaited*

**3/19/1045/OUT Land North of the Stort Valley & A414, Gilston:** Outline planning *Awaited*

**E/21/0288/ENF 30 Benningfield Road:** Enforcement investigation. **CLOSED – NO ACTION**

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

1. Late planning applications: None

## 23.024 Finance

### 1. Report of the Council's accounts

**Finance Summary to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

£

**Opening cashbook balance 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**41,210.65**

Plus: income to 28<sup>th</sup> February

0.00

Minus: expenditure to 28<sup>th</sup> February

2,938.32

**Balance available to Council at 31<sup>st</sup> December (cashbook balance)**

**38,272.33**

Plus unrepresented cheques/payments

0.00

**Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**38,272.33**

**RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be approved.**

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## 2. Bank reconciliations

Copies of the cash book and bank statement were presented. **RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented.** Cllr Ian Collins signed the reconciliation statement.

## 3. Performance vs budget at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The Clerk's detailed report on the financial performance vs budget to 28<sup>th</sup> February 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 £16,360 against a budget of £26,093. The projected closing balance at year end, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, is £36,594 (excluding VAT reclaim).

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: The performance report to 28<sup>th</sup> February be accepted as presented.**

## 4. List of payments.

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

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

Clerk

		Gross	VAT incl
TP Jones LLP	Payroll Jan-March	64.40	10.73
Glasdon	Elwood bench	1,100.34	183.39
Glasdon	Coronation plaque for bench	136.67	22.78
Widford Village Hall	Hall hire – defib training 16/02/23	18.00	
Widford Village Hall	Hall hire – 7 Council meetings for 2023	98.00	
Jo English	Litterpicking 1 of 12	125.00	
Clerk	Salary March	434.95	
HMRC	PAYE March	112.95	
Clerk	Expenses Feb-March	18.20	
Unity Trust bank	Quarterly Service charge	18.00	
<b>Recoverable VAT included</b>			<b>£216.90</b>

## 5. Internal Auditor for 2022/23 AGAR

**RESOLVED: To appoint Steve Vine, Accountancy Book-Keeping Services, as the internal auditor for the 2022-23 AGAR.**

Clerk

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

- Citizens Advice Service: Thank you for donation
- EHC: Pre-Election Period of Sensitivity
- HAPTC: Armed Forces Covenant (23.027.3.3)

**23.026 Village Reports**

### 1. Village Hall

1. Village Hall poll update: Cllr Ian Collins reported that had spoken to the VH Chairman, who is seeking approval of the draft poll leaflet. It was agreed that the leaflet heading should be changed to read "Widford Village Hall" and not "Widford Parish Council" since the VHMC should be the lead party. The poll result to be based on the number of parishioners' votes cast. Cllr Ian Collins to liaise with VHMC. The postman to be asked to deliver leaflets to all houses in the village.

IC

### 2. Playing Field

Update reports: The PFMC met recently. Alison Woodley has resigned, leaving only three committee members. The PFMC is therefore looking for recruits. The Parish Council reaffirmed its commitment to support the purchase of new play area equipment. The water leak has been repaired. The trees were recently inspected and all identified work have been completed. The grass cutting regime will continue regularly this year. The equine car boot sales will also continue during the year.

MA

### 3. Allotments

No report.

BE

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## 4. Closed Churchyard.

Sharon Collins confirmed she will continue to maintain the churchyard during the year.

Clerk

## 23.027 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.

MA

### 2. Highways and footways

1. Update on general clean-up of verges, gutters and overgrown footways: Cllr Mike Allen agreed to create a map for a rota system of maintenance work around the village.
2. Update on road safety concerns and Enforcement issues by Greenacres, Ware Road: Cllr Eric Buckmaster is continuing to follow up with EHC Planning and HCC Highways. It was noted that despite Planning Enforcement's notice that remedial action would happen by the Spring, the trees are still in situ and the wall continues to make restricted sight lines a major safety issue. The assertion that the wall is permitted development continues to be contested as nonsense. It also remains the case that the broad verge, which also includes the now filled-in drainage ditch, is Highways land and its ongoing use constitutes a land grab. The Parish Council's position is that it will let the Enforcement action take its course before taking up the matter again. But if the Enforcement process fails, the Chairman said the Parish Council will continue to fight until a satisfactory outcome is achieved.

MA

MA

### 3. Other parish matters and concerns

1. Platinum Jubilee/Coronation bench: This has now been delivered, but it was agreed there is an obligation to the family that donated the current bench by the bus stop to inform them of the proposed location for the new bench.
2. Coronation events update: As the Chairman noted in his announcements earlier in the meeting, plans are under way for the Coronation weekend celebrations.
3. The Armed Forces Covenant: It was agreed to defer consideration of signing up to the Covenant to the May or July Council meetings.

MA

MA

Clerk

## 23.028 Benningfield Green

1. Ongoing parking issues: No current issues reported.

MA

## 23.029 Village Archive

The following report from Helen Giles was received and noted:

1. **Come in From the Cold event, 21<sup>st</sup> January:** This was a really great village event that was very well attended. The village archive featured, with display boards showing some of the World War II photographs from the collection, as well as a 'handling table' of items kindly lent by Lowewood Museum. There was also an opportunity for visitors to look at some of the objects that the archive contains, including pieces of aircraft wreckage. We are very much looking forward to doing this again next year, and are thinking about having the theme as 'the home'.
2. **Thank you to the Parish Council** for funding the backup drives and icloud storage which I have started to use. The photographs and documents are being digitized and stored on there.
3. **Thank you also to the Parish Council** for the Find My Past subscription which I have already used.
4. **New additions** to the archive include: old postcards found at Nether Hall (behind a fireplace), a certificate and token of gratitude for Charles Wren for his services in the forces during the Second World War from the people of Widford.
5. I recently recorded Mrs Dorothy Livings' memories of living in the village for the archive. This will be one of many oral histories that I hope to do over the coming years, to capture personal memories of the village.

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6. I have set up a Widford Archive email account: [widfordarchive@gmail.com](mailto:widfordarchive@gmail.com)
7. I am continuing to do a monthly piece for the Village News and hope to put these on Facebook when time allows.

Helen Giles AMA  
Museums and Heritage Consultant. HG Museum Consultancy

## 23.030 Parish Council election, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

The 4-year term of office of all current councillors ends in May and everyone wishing to be a councillor for the 2023 – 2027 term must stand for election. The timetable, deadlines for submitting nominations and Guidance for Candidates was explained, with information and updates coming from East Herts Electoral Services nearer the time.

It was also noted that the Government now requires all those voting in person to provide voter ID at the polling station.

Anyone requiring further information or explanation may apply to the Clerk in the first instance.

Clerk

## 23.031 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda: None received.

### **8.40pm: The meeting was suspended for public comments**

A parishioner noted that a parcel of land to the west of the allotments had been the subject of a lease to an adjacent land owner and asked that the Parish Council ensured the lease had expired and that the land had reverted to the Parish Council. The Clerk said the land in question had been covered by a licence that had been determined some years ago due to the conditions of the licence being breached. The Clerk agreed to send confirmation of the status to the Chairman.

Clerk

### **8.44pm: The meeting was restored to order**

## 23.032 Items for future agendas

- Review and approval of Financial Risk Assessment (May Annual Council Meeting)

Clerk

## 23.033 Date of next Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm: Annual Meeting of the Parish Electorate (this is NOT a Parish Council meeting)

Clerk/MA

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May (to be notified later):

7pm Annual Parish Council Meeting, immediately followed at approximately 7.30pm May Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

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

## APPENDIX

### District and County Councillor Report, March 2023

#### Gilston Villages 1-6 Outline Application approved

This was considered by the committee on 28<sup>th</sup> February. The Hunsdon Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group were given 12 minutes to address the committee as was I. Residents and other groups had a lesser amount of time. We had a number of concerns around affordable homes, delays in delivering infrastructure that would protect Pye Corner, cumulative impact of traffic, flood risk, air quality, health provision, education and more. Officers responded to all points but it seemed to me that whatever the concerns are that they will be addressed later. It was approved by majority, with two against and one abstention. I still have some strong concerns over the impact of around 25,000 houses across the sub region of Harlow, Gilston, Ware and Hertford and how it will be managed, monitored and enforced. Village 7 Outline will be heard on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

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## County Budget approved

Over the coming financial year, the county council will spend over £1billion delivering essential services to residents and businesses.

The decision to raise council tax comes after the council had exhausted all means of protecting services. Additional grants from government have softened the scale of the challenge, but the council has also set out plans to deliver savings of £27.4m in the coming financial year, the highest for many years and utilising £19m of our reserves.

Persistently high levels of inflation have had a significant impact on the council's budget, and the council is also seeing increased demand for vital services, particularly as households see their own finances stretched.

The approved budget for the coming financial year will allow the council to protect services to those most in need while also investing in the council's Corporate Plan priorities.

Councillors have voted to increase Council Tax by 4.99 per cent (including 2 per cent for social care). This means that a typical Band D household will pay £1,605.63, an increase of £1.47 per week from April this year.

The budget for 2023/24 reflects commitments made in the council's Corporate Plan, and will see services funded to the tune of £121m extra in 2023/24, including:

- £38m to ensure adult care providers can continue to support residents – including funding to ensure our excellent care workforce is paid a fair wage for all they do, day in day out, to help those in need. This is supported by the social care precept
- £15m is expected from the extension of the Household Support Fund to support our most vulnerable residents with the cost of living
- An extra £19m for Children's Services, including an extra £5.2m to support the children in our care
- £10m for home-to-school transport for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities to ensure they can get to school easily
- £6.4m to support waste disposal services, alongside new contracts that will mean that no waste in the county will go to landfill from 2024.
- £4.6m of extra funding into highways revenue budgets to cover inflation and ensure we can continue repairs and maintenance work on our roads - plus another £3m next year to help respond to the impact of the cold weather over the winter
- £36.4m to continue our work to improve recycling centres and make our waste infrastructure fit for the future
- Funding to continue moving forward the Brookfield Riverside and Garden Village developments in Broxbourne
- Continuing to invest in our website to enable more people to carry out transactions online.

The county council is also investing in projects that will ensure future savings. This investment will lead to projects that will help residents remain independent for longer, keep families together through early intervention schemes and save taxpayers money by transforming partnership working.

## East Herts County budget

This was approved on 1<sup>st</sup> March and is an increase of £5.50 per annum for a band D, or £189 per month.

## Concern over proposed ULEZ expansion

The Leader of Hertfordshire County Council has written to the Mayor of London outlining opposition to the planned expansion of the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). While the county council supports the aim of the ULEZ in improving air quality, the expansion of the scheme does not properly assess the impact on the Hertfordshire towns and villages bordering London or put sufficient measures in place to mitigate the impact on the county's most vulnerable residents. Therefore, the council cannot support the ULEZ expansion, and do not accept that any signage or cameras aimed at fining drivers, potentially up to £180 if they forget to pay the £12.50 charge, should be based in Hertfordshire.

## Strategic migration

The Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group continues to lead on Hertfordshire's

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coordinated partnership response to the arrival of and support for refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Ukraine. Currently there are 1277 Ukrainians in Hertfordshire on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and work to increase the number of hosts families has been successful in finding a further 58 hosts. A new support package to assist refugees who wish to stay in Hertfordshire to move into the private rental sector is planned. People continue to seek asylum in the UK and there are currently 12 hotels in Hertfordshire being used as temporary accommodation for them. The County Council observed the national minute's silence at 11am on Friday 24 February to mark the one-year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

## Links to various campaigns and updates

The county council's campaign - '**here for you this winter**' is about making sure that residents are aware of the help and support that's on offer locally to help them throughout the winter months. Please share the [here for you this winter campaign webpage](#)

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has teamed up with Public Health Hertfordshire to launch Healthy Body Healthy Mind Hertfordshire, a new campaign to highlight the positive effect that being active can have on our physical and mental health and wellbeing.

During the winter months there are an increase in potholes due to snow and ice. The council is encouraging residents to report potholes found on the road network online so that they can be added to the repair and maintenance programme.

Hertfordshire County Council is encouraging residents to apply now if they need to **close a road for a street party to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort** from 6 to 8 May 2023. Recognising the social and community benefits of celebrating this historic event the county council will not be charging any fees should you or your neighbours wish to close your road and hold a party. Please apply by 26 March 2023.

## Secondary Transfer in our local Schools

Across Hertfordshire, application numbers for Secondary Transfer were very similar to last year, with 14,972 applications compared to 14,997 for 2022, a decrease of just 25. Satisfaction rates have remained high with the percentage of Hertfordshire children offered a ranked school in 2023 almost the same as last year, 94.3% compared to 94.7%. The percentage of children offered their first ranked school is also very similar to last year, 77.8% compared to 78.6% last year.

Across Bishop's Stortford, the number of families applying for secondary school places in September 2023 increased by 12.8% to 572 compared to 507 for September 2022 entry. In Sawbridgeworth, the number of families applying for secondary school places decreased by 8%, with 109 applications received for September 2022, compared to 118 for September 2022 entry.

The opening of Avanti Grange School has increased satisfaction rates across the district and the school is full with applicants who ranked it as a preference.

In Bishop's Stortford, the percentage of families offered a ranked school is higher than last year, 99% compared with 98% in 2022. The percentage of children in Bishop's Stortford offered their first preference school also increased this year to 81%, compared to 78% in 2022.

In Sawbridgeworth, the percentage of families offered a ranked school is the same as last year at 99%. The percentage of children in Sawbridgeworth offered their first preference school has also remained the same at 93%.

## Non-Ranked Allocations

There are 5 non-ranked allocations (NRAs) in Bishop's Stortford. Applicants who could not be offered one of their preferred schools have been allocated a place Birchwood High School.

In Sawbridgeworth, there was 1 NRA. This was a late application. This child has also been allocated a place at Birchwood High School.

Parish	2023	2022	2021
Bishop's Stortford	5	9	9
Sawbridgeworth	1	1	8
Total	6	10	17

As at 1<sup>st</sup> March, Birchwood High School is the only school with places available in the local area. Places are also expected to become available at other schools through the continuing interest

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process due to places being returned and movement between schools and through the appeals process.

Children will be entitled to free transport if they are attending the nearest available school place and the distance between home and school is more than three miles. Families on low-income, the easiest measure of which is those children entitled to free school meals, have an extended entitlement; free transport is available to any one of their three nearest available schools between two and six miles from their home. Families who are entitled to free transport will be contacted in May with details of how to take up the offer of free travel.

## Some info on Highways

- Hertfordshire has 5,100 km of busy roads and 5,600km of footways and cycleways.
- We spend approx. £90m on maintaining the highways infrastructure, including additional investment in drainage and vegetation cut-back.
- Our approach to maintenance is well regarded nationally, ensuring we receive optimal grant funding from Government.
- Hertfordshire is in the top quartile of Authorities in being successful in bidding for funding for such things as Active Travel schemes.
- The condition of our carriageways continues to compare very well to national averages, i.e. A roads, 2% require maintenance against national 4%, B & Cs 4% against 6%, and Us 7% against 15%, the latter as a result of a specific investment of £29m.
- Two of our recent major projects, namely the New River Bridge in Hoddesdon and the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme have been delivered, with the A602 upgrade due to complete by late summer, costing well in excess of £100m in total, and residents are now benefitting from the improvements..

## HAPpy camps are back this Easter

Fully-funded holiday activity camps return for the Easter holidays, giving eligible children and young people a chance to meet friends, learn new skills and enjoy nutritious food.

The HAPpy programme, funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the Department for Education (DfE\*) via the government's Holiday Activity and Food programme and coordinated by Herts Sports Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation. The programme will be running more than 200 activity camps from 3 April – 14 April 2023 (not bank holidays).

With over 14,000 free activity camp places available, eligible families are being encouraged to get their booking code from their school and reserve a place at a camp near them as soon as possible. **Booking opens on Monday 6 March.**

As part of its commitment to help residents manage the cost of living, Hertfordshire County Council provided funding for more than 69,000 places last year for children to attend free activity camps.

*District and County Councillor Eric Buckmaster*  
March 2023