

## UNAPPROVED DRAFT1

# Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm in Widford Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Mike Allen (MA) Chair; Cllr Ian Collins (IC); Cllr Mark Rome (MR);  
Cllr Josh Warren (JW)

Nine members of the public, HCC Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.33pm.

**ACTION**

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

1. Councillors: None
2. Others: Gilda Deterding

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

**1. Interests**

None declared. Noted: Cllr Mike Allen has an interest in Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Noted: Cllr Ian Collins has a DPI because his wife has the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

**2. Dispensation requests:**

None

**25.063 Approval of Minutes**

1. **RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 are a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes
2. **RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 are a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes

**Clerk/MA**

**25.064 Police report**

No police report was received for June. The May report noted one theft was recorded in Widford, no details provided.

**25.065 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman said that the Village Archive Policy has been drafted. All suggested amendments would be considered to make the policy as comprehensive as possible, protecting and preserving it for future generations of parishioners. A few details would be expanded later on the agenda.

The Safari Supper had been a great success, although it was suggested that future events should include a reasonable finishing time to avoid hosts being inconvenienced too late into the night.

**MA**

**25.066 Reports by County and District Councillors**

District Cllr David Andrews did not send a report.

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster commented on some items recorded in his latest written report, which is included as Appendix A at the end of these Minutes. He also noted that the May elections resulted in there being no party with a majority, the Liberal Democrats holding 41% of the seats, the Conservatives 28% and Reform 18% and the other seats split between the Greens and Labour.

**At 7.45pm the meeting was suspended**

The floor was given to Mr Mike Newman, Co-Chair of the Governing Body of The Federation of Widford and Hunsdon JMI Schools. He explained the recent Federation changes will enable

single-year classes, and the temporary arrangements that will be in place while the RAAC issues are dealt with at Widford. He also explained how the two sites would operate as a single school from September 2026, including traffic mitigation plans that will be particularly important for parents who might have children at both sites.

Appreciation was extended to Cllr Mark Rome for his contribution as a member of the Governing Body.

The Chairman thanked Mr Newman for his comprehensive report.

***The meeting was restored to order at 8.05pm***

## 25.067 Planning

### 1. New Applications:

3/25/0901/OUT	<b>Priory Farm:</b> Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the demolition of the Doe Shed and erection of single self-build dwelling and associated infrastructure. <b>RESOLVED: No comments</b>	Clerk
3/25/0808/FUL	<b>Priory Farm Land East Of The B180:</b> Creation of a new agricultural access and stopping up of the existing access for vehicles. <b>RESOLVED: To comment on whether there is a commercial aspect to this application and to request that a condition be made for it to remain for agricultural purposes.</b> It was agreed that the Chairman would give the Clerk a form of words for submission to EHC Planning.	MA/Clerk

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

3/25/0764/HH	<b>15 Benningfield Road:</b> Part single storey, part two storey rear and side extension. Single storey front extension. Removal of existing chimney. Permeable driveway and new dropped kerb.	WITHDRAWN
3/25/0466/FUL	<b>9 Benningfield Road:</b> Removal of childcare business use from dwelling.	GRANTED
3/25/0460/FUL 3/25/0461/LBC	<b>Priory Farm Barns:</b> Conversion and partial re-building of agricultural buildings into two residential dwellings; alterations to fenestration and openings; landscaping and carparking.	Awaited
3/25/0534/HH	<b>Gilston 42 Bell Lane:</b> Repair roof and construct attached covered car port/cart lodge, covered bin store and covered car charging point.	GRANTED
3/25/0480/OUT	<b>Land South of Levenage Lane:</b> Outline planning for 8 houses.	Awaited
3/25/0231/FUL	<b>Wilmoor:</b> Demolition of outbuilding. Erection of dwelling incorporating air source heat pump, landscaping and creation of access.	Awaited
3/25/0182/FUL	<b>Youngs Little Acre:</b> Retention of a welfare unit and a turkey preparation and storage building.	Awaited
3/24/1031/HH	<b>Ashbourne Manor:</b> Extension to single storey garage.	REFUSED

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

- PL/0470/25 (HCC): Widford JMI School.** Replacement roof to modern part of the building in order to remove raac and associated alterations to the roof, windows and rooflights and new vehicular access for construction vehicles at Widford JMI School.

**RESOLVED: No comments.**

Clerk

2. **Land for sale and Bourne Lane access.** Cllr Ian Collins explained the issues and ongoing concerns regarding the land and access in question. It was agreed to keep this as a running agenda item until the matter is resolved.

Clerk

## 25.068 Finance

### 1. Report of the Council's accounts at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

<b>Finance Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Opening cashbook balance 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>35,938.75</b>
Plus: income to 31 <sup>st</sup> May	8,750.00
Minus: expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<u>5,107.41</u>
<b>Balance available to Council at 31<sup>st</sup> May (cashbook balance)</b>	<b>39,581.34</b>
Unpresented cheques/payments	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b><u>39,581.34</u></b>

**RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 be approved.**

### 2. Bank reconciliation 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

**Cashbook balance £39,581.34    Unity Bank balance £39,581.34**

**RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented**

### 3. Performance vs budget at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

The Clerk's detailed report on the performance vs budget to 31<sup>st</sup> May was received.

Income:        Budget £18,565    Performance to 31<sup>st</sup> May £8,750

Expenditure: Budget £29,962    Performance to 31<sup>st</sup> May £4,956

The income/expenditure surplus to 31<sup>st</sup> March is £3,794 against -£11,397 deficit budgeted.

Summary: Opening bank balance 01/04/25	£35,939
Income to 31/05/25	£ 8,750
Expenditure to 31/05/25	£ 4,956 net (excl VAT)
VAT to be reclaimed	<u>£ 152</u>
Bank balance 31/05/25	<u>£39,581</u>

**RESOLVED: The performance report to 31<sup>st</sup> May 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

		<b>Gross</b>	<b>VAT incl</b>
Sharon Collins	Closed churchyard 2 of 4 June	<b>310.00</b>	
Mrs J English	Litter picking June	<b>150.00</b>	
Imperative Training	AED battery and pads	<b>302.40</b>	50.40
Clerk	Salary June	<b>479.96</b>	
HMRC	PAYE	<b>120.00</b>	
HMRC	Employer's NIC	<b>27.44</b>	
Sharon Collins	Closed churchyard 3 of 4 July	<b>310.00</b>	
Mrs J English	Litter picking July	<b>150.00</b>	
Clerk	Expenses June/July	<b>18.65</b>	
Clerk	Salary July	<b>479.96</b>	
HMRC	PAYE	<b>120.00</b>	
HMRC	Employer's NIC	<b>27.44</b>	
TEEC	Domain and email switch to .gov.uk	<b>120.00</b>	20.00
<b>Recoverable VAT included</b>			<b>£70.40</b>

### 5. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Clerk reported that the AGAR was submitted before the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and that receipt has been acknowledged. The external auditor's report is awaited.

Clerk

- 25.069 Correspondence:** The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:
- Cllr Eric Buckmaster: various road works and closures
  - EHC: New bin and collection arrangements from August
  - Parishioner: Concerns about the overgrown verge at Ash View.
  - Quill Hall Arboriculture Ltd: Tree, grass and roadside/footway services
- 25.070 Village Reports**
- 1. Village Hall**
1. No update report was received.
- 2. Playing Field**
1. The Chairman reported that the grass continues to be mowed regularly and is being built up into a usable space. An equine boot sale is booked for the coming weekend. **MA**
- 3. Allotments**
- The feasibility laying on of mains water is being investigated. **IC**  
One rent payment is still to come; the full collected amount will then be transferred by a BACS payment to Unity Trust Bank.
- 4. Closed Churchyard.**
1. No issues reported. **IC**
- 2.071 Highways, Footpaths and byways**
- 1. Footpaths and PRow.**
1. FP1; Stile replacement remains with Nicholas Maddex and will be done in due course.
2. Nether Street kissing gate: repairs to the rotted post, step and rail are being completed and this item should be removed from the next agenda. **IC**
3. Footpath gate and ditch: Arrangements for the necessary work to be done is underway. **IC**
- 2. Highways and footways**
1. Update on Enforcement issues by Greenacres: Ongoing, but no progress noted. It remains on the agenda to monitor. **MA**
- It has been reported that the verge outside Ash View is very overgrown and needs to be attended to.
- An introduction from Quill Hall Arboriculture Ltd was noted. The Clerk was asked to refer them to the Chairman to talk about what they might be able to offer for grass cutting and roadside/footway management. **Clerk**
- 2. Other parish matters and concern**
1. **Defibrillator management.** New battery and pads were fitted this week. To remain on the agenda as a standing item. **Clerk**
2. **Chalk stream improvements:** Cllr Ian Collins drew attention to the good work being done along the valley and to the fact some trees need to be cleared where they have fallen into the river. **IC**
- 25.072 Village Archive**
1. **RESOLVED: That the Parish Council formally adopts ownership of the Village Archive.**
2. **Archive Policy:** The Chairman produced a draft policy to be considered by the Parish Council and by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who will be housing the Archive in the Church when its refurbishment programme is completed. Before **MA/PCC**

the September Parish Council meeting the PCC will consider the draft and submit comments for inclusion in the finalised policy.

3. The Policy to be reviewed annually at the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Clerk

- 25.073 **Urgent matters** received too late for inclusion on this agenda:  
None received.

***The meeting was suspended at 9pm for public comments.***

Concerns were raised about the potholes in Abbotts Lane. It was noted that these should be reported on the HCC Highways Fault website.

***The meeting was restored to order at 9.05pm.***

- 25.074 **Items for future agendas:**

1. Benningfield Green licence renewal (September meeting)

Clerk

- 25.075 **Date of next meeting**

1. Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Tuesday September 2nd at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

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

**E Buckmaster County Councillor Report June 2025**

**Regulation 19 Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation**

This remains on hold pending the outcome of the Hatfield Ellenbrook appeal via the Planning Inspector and Secretary of State.

**Council Leaders rule out single county unitary authority proposal for Hertfordshire**

The Leaders of Hertfordshire's 11 councils have agreed to rule out the option of a single unitary authority for the county as part of ongoing discussions on local government reform proposals.

In response to the Government's invitation to councils in all two-tier areas to submit an interim plan for moving to a single tier of unitary councils providing all services, Hertfordshire's interim submission outlined a number of options for further consideration ranging from one to four unitary councils.

Following the election of a new County Council administration in May, there will be no further work to develop the business case for one unitary council covering the whole of Hertfordshire. This reflects a shared view that a single unitary council covering Hertfordshire's 1.2m residents would be too remote from the county's diverse communities.

Leaders' shared priorities remain ensuring any changes benefit residents and businesses, excellent local government services are maintained, residents are kept safe, and strong democratic accountability is available to communities across the county. They will continue to explore the evidence and refine the options to be considered ahead of submitting final proposals to the Government by 28 November for Ministers to consider.

Councils will also continue to prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to people and communities during this period of transformation. A team of officers drawn from the County Council and all 10 District & Borough Councils has been established to develop the options and make recommendations for Leaders to consider. Key considerations will include ensuring value for money in any new structures; the need to understand the impact of any changes to key services like social care and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); how proposals support future devolution; and making sure communities continue to have a strong say in local decisions. The Government will provide £378,077 funding to support this project.

The views of residents, businesses, local government partners, colleagues, and other stakeholders across the public and private sectors will be essential as proposals develop and significant engagement will take place over the coming months.

#### **‘Your Tree Our Future’, back by popular demand (now fully allocated)**

Hertfordshire is set to become a whole lot greener as the ‘Your Tree Our Future’ scheme returns for 2025. Residents are encouraged to [sign up to apply for their tree](#) free of charge today, 9 June, as the scheme opens with even more trees available this year than last year.

This year, over 60,000 trees will be made available free of charge to residents, enabling them to plant at home and improve their area. Since the launch, 191,000 trees have been given away for free to residents by the county council in partnership with local district and borough councils through the scheme.

Following on from high demand from residents last year, the project has been expanded and aims to provide habitat for wildlife, improve air quality, and help the county reduce its overall carbon footprint.

#### **Latest transport funding announcement from Government leaves Hertfordshire disappointed**

Following the announcement of £15bn of central government funding to boost regional transport links outside London, Councillors in Hertfordshire have expressed dismay that the county has received nothing in this latest round.

Hertfordshire has hundreds of miles of roads along with critical public transport links to the capital, Cambridge and the Midlands and urgently needs additional funding to boost all forms of sustainable transport.

Instead, the £15bn of funding will be distributed to regions with a directly elected Mayor and which already have strong existing public transport infrastructure, such as Manchester.

**Greater Anglia, which serves the lines to Bishop’s Stortford and Hertford East, will be the first Hertfordshire train operator to be nationalised under the current process.** On 12 October it will be taken over by Department for Transport Operations Ltd in a step to wards the creation of Great British Railways.

The provisional transfer dates for the other operators serving Hertfordshire are 20 September 2026 for West Midlands Trains, 18 October 2026 for Avanti West Coast, and 1 April 2028 for Govia Thameslink Railway. LNER has been under Department for Transport control since 2018, and London Overground services will remain with Transport for London. The ‘Open Access Operators’ such as Lumo and Hull Trains, as well as freight companies, will stay in the private sector.

The Bill to create Great British Railways is expected to be presented to Parliament later this year, with the new body being formally established by early 2027. The timetable for the completion of the nationalisation of train operators is June 2028.

#### **Age-Friendly Communities in Hertfordshire**

By 2043, it’s estimated that 1 in 4 Hertfordshire residents will be over 65 years old. As our population ages, it is vital that we ensure older people in Hertfordshire are valued, and able to live well throughout later life.

A great deal of work is already taking place as part of Age-Friendly Communities Hertfordshire, there is a fantastic summary of some of this work available here: [Age-friendly work in Herts](#).

Our recently announced [Prevention Investment Programme](#) has identified ‘ageing well’ as one of the key priorities, ensuring that we develop programmes and activities to promote ways to age well, reduce ageism, and prevent frailty and social isolation.

Age UK’s [Take Five to Age Well](#) campaign kicked off in May, encouraging people to make small daily changes over 30 consecutive days for better ageing.

Building on the success of the annual *Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire Celebration Day*, Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) ran their first ever Live Longer

Better with Dementia Celebration Day on Friday 6 June from 10am-3pm at Wodson Park Leisure Centre. Funded by Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts Council, and delivered in partnership with the new Memory Support service, it promised to be a day of fun and accessible taster sessions, to help those living with dementia to stay active, independent and socially connected

Age UK Hertfordshire has launched the Herts Ageing and Amazing campaign, to challenge negative stereotypes and celebrate the many ways people continue to contribute, thrive, and stay independent as they age. Residents aged 55+ have been submitting photos and videos, to shine a light on the real stories, energy and experiences of ageing, which will be shared on Age Without Limits Day on 11 June 2025. Finally, there's a great Age-friendly communities handbook of principles now available from the LGA and the Centre for Ageing Better to help guide local policy and action.

#### **Hertfordshire's emergency services tested in freezing temperature exercise**

Hemel Hempstead's Snow Centre was the scene for a multi-agency training exercise on Monday 19 May, when responders from Hertfordshire's fire and rescue, ambulance and police services, supported by partners, carried out a rescue simulating a real-life incident.

A five-car collision during a snowstorm at night tested the plans of emergency services working together to assist casualties and make the area safe in extreme weather conditions, as cold as minus six degrees, on the Snow Centre slope.

#### **Recognition for Hertfordshire service who have supported the Aid for Ukraine project**

A service within Hertfordshire County Council has received official recognition from the International Charitable Foundation SOTA, for the humanitarian assistance they have provided.

Hertfordshire Equipment Service (HES) have been donating equipment for the last 12 months to help those impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. Items have included beds, mattresses, hoists, walking and toileting equipment.

#### **Hertfordshire Music Service,**

The Hertfordshire Schools Gala, which takes place every two years, offers a unique opportunity for our young people to showcase their creativity and talent on a truly grand stage. This year, 117 schools came together to perform at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall, an experience that will live long in the memories of all involved. For some, this event may mark the beginning of a journey into the creative industries; for many, it will remain a powerful and uplifting moment that affirms the life-enhancing value of music and dance.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Gala, we remain committed to ensuring that every child in Hertfordshire, regardless of background or circumstance, can access the joy and transformative power of music. We have been able to reach more schools and communities, providing inclusive and inspiring musical opportunities that are essential to a well-rounded education.

This year's theme, For the Record, was developed with direct input from young people through a youth focus group, ensuring their voices were at the heart of the performance. With the support of creative professionals and our dedicated team, the Gala has once again become a platform where our children can express themselves freely, confidently, and authentically.

#### **District**

#### **East Herts Executive agrees to recommend to Council to adopt Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, published in 2022, provides a strategic framework for the delivery of green infrastructure in the county, that can usefully inform local planning policies and strategy in East Herts. Local planning authorities are required to complete a review of their local plans at least once every 5 years from the

adoption date to ensure that plans remain relevant. The 30-month period of formal plan-making will commence in early 2026.

The Hertfordshire GI Strategy presents an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of Hertfordshire's current green infrastructure network. It also identifies priorities, mechanisms and an overarching vision to provide green infrastructure enhancements, with the aim of delivering a more resilient and healthier Hertfordshire

Green Infrastructure (GI) is the network of green and blue spaces and routes, landscapes, biodiversity, water bodies and heritage, which provide a range of benefits for people, nature and the climate. Essential for creating high-quality, sustainable places, it is an important planning policy consideration. The NPPF requires strategic local plan policies to conserve and enhance green infrastructure. Therefore, policies and site allocations in the new District Plan will need to promote the protection, provision and enhancement of green infrastructure in East Herts, at various scales. GI can serve multiple functions, so will be relevant to a range of topic areas, including nature recovery, biodiversity net gain, sport and recreation, flood risk management, design, active travel, climate change mitigation and adaptation and improvements to air and water quality.

**Membership of the District Plan Executive Panel** To assist with the progression of the new District Plan, the District Plan Executive Panel (DPEP) is proposed to be reconvened. This paper discusses the purpose of the Panel and proposes the format and membership arrangements. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE to recommend to Council that:

- a) The District Plan Executive Panel is reconvened as a sub group of Executive for the specific purposes of advancing the new District Plan;
- b) Three Members are drawn from the Executive to sit on the DPEP, namely Cllrs Vicky Glover-Ward (Chair), Ben Crystall and Joseph Dumont, with Cllr Tim Hoskin nominated as a substitute for Green Party members and Cllr Chris Wilson for Cllr Joseph Dumont, and
- c) The Council's website is updated to reflect the formation and purpose of the Panel and forms the primary source of information pertaining to the Panel.

**The County Councils Network (CCN) had warned that county and unitary councils faced a £2.2bn funding black hole next year.** The Spending Review says that local authorities will receive a 2.6% increase in spending power each year. However, CCN has estimated that three-quarters of this spending power increase is based on the assumption that councils will raise council tax by the maximum they are allowed to each year.

**Hertfordshire County Council announced an alternative approach to pothole repair** on residential streets will be trialled in the county between 23 June and 4 July. The new approach will involve highways crews identifying and fixing the worst potholes, looking for other issues in the same section of road that could cause potholes in the future and fixing them too, that same day. It's anticipated that this way of working could reduce costs, provide a better service for residents with less disruption, keep our roads in a better and safer condition for longer and prevent potholes forming in the first place.

The two-week trial will take place in residential areas in Abbots Langley, Leavesden, Garston and part of North Watford with the potential for it to be rolled out in other areas if evaluation of the trial shows it to be effective and cost efficient. The crews will use the Roadmender machine on the trial, which uses asphalt to fix potholes and other damage to roads and then seals the area, rather like a plaster.

**County Hall to be marketed for sale with funds to be reinvested in vital services**

Hertfordshire County Council has confirmed plans to market the entire County Hall



site in Hertford for alternative uses following a meeting of the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel, subject to final Cabinet approval on Monday 23 June. The decision supports the new administration's efforts outlined in their first 100-day plan to make the council more effective and reduce costs through better use of its existing assets.

County Hall has been marketed for employment use since September 2023, following the council's decision to move most of its services from the Hertford site to its Stevenage Campus. To date there has been limited interest in securing the site for employment use, with most interested parties looking to rent small parts of the building. The council is now able to, as part of the planning process, market County Hall for alternative uses, including residential or commercial use. The previous cabinet decision to market County Hall for employment use included an ambition to retain the front part of the building, including the Council Chamber, for political meetings. The new administration has decided that the whole building will now be included in the marketing.

Work has now commenced to create new spaces to allow for democratic meetings to take place at the council's Stevenage campus, bringing councillors closer to the officers responsible for delivering council services.

#### **Gritting response from HCC officer**

"We are currently in various discussions with Ringway (who have been confirmed as the provider of the new Highways Maintenance Contract from October 2025 onwards). Part of these discussions is focused around gritting routes and the vehicle fleet; trying to solve some of the longstanding difficult locations that we've spoken about previously.

In addition to this I have made some initial enquiries internally as to how parking restrictions could be proposed at a location such as this, although I believe that may come with some resistance from residents/businesses of course."

#### **New Waste collection arrangements and flats**

I was asked to get some answers for residents in High Gate Grove in Sawbridgeworth. The reason is that the standard letter sent to residents doesn't inform them about their particular set of circumstances. There are 7 blocks of 4 flats each a single bedroom. See photo attached. Currently each block of 4 has a large communal bin and two recycling bins between them. They have just had two of the new residual waste bins delivered and just two sets of food waste container and caddy between the 4 apartments. They are concerned this won't be enough. They need to know what their new frequency of collection will be in order to assess how many of each type of container they need. Is everything remain weekly as now, or will the residual waste collections and recycling revert to a different cycle. It is extremely urgent to get this right to avoid things going seriously wrong and resulting in waste spilling into the street. Please confirm the arrangements asap so that I can let the residents know, and which in turn may inform your approach.

#### **Fibre Rollout in Villages in my Division**

Following an enquiry from the Chairman of Widford I received the following response from County...

*Dear Cllr Buckmaster,*

*I'm now leading the Towards Digital Growth programme which was originally the Connected Counties programme back in the days of Superfast.*

*From what I've been able to investigate, the majority of these areas are already covered by full fibre through a few different providers but there are certainly still addresses without. We are currently supporting governments Project Gigabit fibre delivery programme. Under this programme there were multiple Lot's awarded within Hertfordshire, one of which covers your area and was won by Openreach. Please note, the following information is indicative and subject to change, with the*

*contract being between Openreach and BDUK and therefore predominantly outside of Hertfordshire County Councils control. The main areas currently being targeted are around High Wych and Spellbrook with a few premises in Widford, Wareside, Babbs Green and Stanstead Abbots. Delivery has begun on the contract in Dane End and is building out from there. At this stage we expect delivery to the east of the county to take place more in 2026 and 2027.*

*Netomnia also have a good presence in the east of the county. They have most recently built within Stanstead Abbots and are making good residential progress. They are likely to move onto MDU and commercial coverage in the area once the majority of residential is covered. We would strongly recommend residents and businesses register with commercial suppliers if currently without full fibre, as this does often inform their future coverage, particularly with Netomnia.*

*I hope you find this information helpful but please let me know if you have any questions. We will be looking to share further news with impacted Members as the contracts progress.*

Eric Buckmaster June 2025