

DRAFT2

Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Monday 7th July 2026 at 7.30 in Widford Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Mike Allen (MA); Cllr Ian Collins (IC); Cllr Mark Rome (MR)
Cllr Josh Warren (JW)
Five members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.32pm

ACTION

26.062 To receive and approve apologies for absence

1. Councillors: None
2. Others: County Cllr Eric Buckmaster

26.063 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. Interests

Cllr Mike Allen has a dispensation in re Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Cllr Ian Collins has a dispensation in re the Closed Churchyard, his wife having the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

26.064 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2026 were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Clerk/MA

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2026 were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Clerk/MA

Draft Minutes of the 7th April 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish Electorate were not available to be received.

Clerk

26.065 Police report

1. Crime Report June 2026

*NO RECORDED CRIMES – Does not include reports for domestic incidents, child protection investigations, or sexual offences. Not all reported incidents end up being recorded as crimes and will therefore not appear on the report.

ALBURY No reported crimes	ANSTEY No reported crimes
BRENT PELHAM No reported crimes	DASSELS No reported crimes
EASTWICK & GILSTON 1x Residential Burglary	FURNEUX PELHAM No reported crimes
GREAT HADHAM No reported crimes	GREEN TYE No reported crimes
HORMEAD No reported crimes	HUNSDON 1x Theft of motor vehicle
LITTLE HADHAM 1x criminal damage	MUCH HADHAM No reported crimes
STOCKING PELHAM 1x Fly tip	WARESIDE No reported crimes
WIDFORD No reported crimes	MEEDSDEN No reported crimes

Neighbourhood Policing Update – Buntingford & Rural East Herts

Local Priorities

The Local Priority Setting Forum met earlier this month to agree neighbourhood policing priorities for the next four months.

The agreed priorities are:

Buntingford Town: Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Buntingford town centre.

East Herts Rural: Fly-tipping between Anstey and Albury, including The Pelhams.

These priorities will remain in place until **August 2026**, with new priorities due to be reviewed and set in **September 2026**.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) continues to work proactively to reduce anti-social behaviour in and around Buntingford.

Current activity includes:

- Ongoing joint-agency engagement and intervention work involving a number of young people.
- Continued monitoring of reported incidents, which have reduced in recent months.

Whilst reports of ASB have decreased, the NPT will continue to work with partner agencies and the local community to address concerns and prevent further incidents.

Fly-Tipping

Fly-tipping remains a priority led by **East Herts District Council**, with support from the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Current work includes:

- Reviewing reports and supporting investigations where appropriate.
- Ongoing efforts to identify offenders and disrupt fly-tipping activity across the rural area.

We encourage residents to continue reporting incidents to help build intelligence and support enforcement action.

Increase in Vehicle Crime

There has been a notable increase in vehicle crime across the East Herts Rural area.

The trend began in **Standon and Puckeridge** during early May 2026 and subsequently spread to other areas, including **Tewin, Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone** during June 2026.

Reported offences include:

- Interference with motor vehicles.
- Theft from motor vehicles.

Despite increased patrols and community engagement, many incidents have involved vehicles being left insecure, making them attractive targets for opportunist offenders.

Vehicle Crime Prevention Advice

Residents are encouraged to follow these simple but effective security measures:

- Lock all doors and ensure windows and sunroofs are fully closed when leaving your vehicle.
- Always remove keys from the ignition.
- Use vehicle security devices such as immobilisers, alarms, steering locks or wheel clamps where available.
- Never leave valuables inside your vehicle, including in the boot or glove compartment.
- Keep personal belongings out of sight, including bags, coats, laptops and sunglasses.
- Store vehicle keys securely and away from doors and windows to reduce the risk of "hooking" or relay theft.
- Owners of keyless vehicles should use signal-blocking pouches and consider additional security measures such as trackers, steering locks or ghost immobilisers.
- Keep vehicle documents at home rather than inside your vehicle.
- Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Recent Operational Activity

The Neighbourhood Policing Team has been actively engaged across the area and has recently:

- Investigated multiple fly-tipping incidents and identified potential offenders.
- Conducted rural crime operations targeting hare coursing and poaching in **Buckland, Chipping and The Pelhams**.

- Carried out operations targeting anti-social vehicle use in **Broxbourne Woods, Thundridge and High Cross**.
- Increased reassurance patrols in response to vehicle crime and conducted community street meets in **Puckeridge and Bayford**.
- Conducted increased patrols and a street meet in **Hertford Heath** following reports of criminal damage at the allotments.
- Delivered educational talks on policing-related topics at schools across the area and carried out parking patrols around school locations.
- Increased patrols in **Buntingford** in response to ASB and as part of the local policing priority.
- Increased patrols in **Much Hadham** following reports of anti-social parking.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together with our communities helps us keep East Hertfordshire a safe place to live, work and visit. If you witness suspicious activity or wish to report a concern, please contact Hertfordshire Constabulary through the appropriate reporting channels, or call **999 in an emergency**.

The constabulary are particularly keen for local people to give us feedback on policing via the Herts Connected surveys. We will be looking to set our policing priorities for the upcoming quarter and would very much appreciate if you could share the link and QR code below on social media:- <https://bit.ly/hertspolice-psf>

If you need to report a crime in progress, please call 999, for all others please use 101 or online reporting <https://www.herts.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

The Herts Connected system delivers Hertfordshire police's crime alerts. Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in your area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm.

The more residents that register, the better informed and safer our communities will be. We would be most grateful if you could continue to share the link below in any parish communications, and especially on social media, to encourage as many local residents as possible to sign up: <https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/>

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

East Herts Rural Highlights Video 2024-25 <https://youtu.be/bnf6PE4uuvv?feature=shared>

26.066 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman noted that the Playing Field is now in excellent condition as the result of the regular maintenance programme. Village Hall events continue to be well supported.

26.067 Reports by County and District Councillors

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster's written report is reproduced in the Appendix to these Minutes.

26.068 Planning

1. New Applications:

E/24/0211/ENF	Yongs Little Acre: ENFORCEMENT APPEAL reference 6008192 RESOLVED: To endorse the appeal enforcement.
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Clerk

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

3/26/0398/HH	The Croft, Nether Street: Roof alterations and extensions; replacement gable roof with 2 x dormers to front and 3 x dormers to rear. Construct storm porch and single story front, side and rear extensions. Demolish existing rear extension and conservatory.	GRANTED
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3/24//1495/FUL	Land at Bourne Lane: Change of use to of land to a glamping site. APPEALED Ref: 25/00043/REFUSE	APPEAL DISMISSED
3/25/0901/OUT	Priory Farm: Outline with all matters reserved except access for the demolition of the Doe Shed and erection of a single self-build dwelling.	Awaited
3/25/0480/OUT	Land South of Levenage Lane: Outline planning for 8 houses.	Awaited

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

- 1. Other planning matters: None**
- 2.** Land for sale and Bourne Lane access: Concerns and action are ongoing.

26.069 Finance

1. Report of the Council's finances at 30th June 2026

Finance Summary to 30 th June 2026	£
Opening cashbook balance 1st May	33,012.57
Plus: income to 30 th June	9,187.50
Minus: expenditure to 30 th June	<u>4,424.51</u>
Balance available to Council at 30 June (cashbook balance)	37,775.56
Plus unrepresented cheques/payments	0.00
Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 30th June	<u>37,775.56</u>

RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 30th June 2026 be approved.

2. Bank reconciliations

The cashbook balance was checked against the bank statement.

Cashbook balance £37,775.56 Unity Bank balance £37,775.56

RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented.

Clerk

3. Performance vs budget at 30th June 2026

The Clerk's detailed report on the financial performance vs budget to 30th June was received. There were no untoward transactions to note.

Income: Budget £19,400 To 30th June £9,188 Balance outstanding £10,212

Expenditure: Budget £29,665 To 30th June £5,642 Balance available £24,023

Summary: Opening cashbook balance 01/04/26	£34,366
Cashbook gross income to 30/06/26	£ 9,188
Cashbook gross expenditure to 30/06/26	£ 5,778
Cashbook balance 30/06/26	£37,776

RESOLVED: that the financial performance report to 30th June 2026 be accepted as presented.

Clerk

4. List of payments for approval.

4.1. 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
Sharon Collins	Closed Churchyard 3 of 4	325.00	
Mrs J English	Litter picking July	157.50	
Clerk	Expenses June/July	23.75	
TP Jones LLP	Payroll April - June	64.40	10.73
Clerk reimburse	Printer ink	113.93	18.99
Clerk	Salary July	495.60	
HMRC	PAYE July	123.80	
HMRC	Employer's NIC July	30.36	
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge TBC	7.00	
Recoverable VAT included			£29.72

5. Audit: Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

It was noted that the AGAR has been received by the external auditor PKF Littlejohn.

Clerk

6. Pensions Regulator: The Clerk reported that the Pensions Regulator 3-year re-declaration duties were completed on 29th June.

Clerk

26.070 Village Archive

Work at the church will hopefully start by the end of September with Rackline probably able to deliver in December. It has been confirmed that there will not be a price increase.

Dinah Findlay submitted the following written report:

I spoke to Ann who is in charge of Operations at Rackline, and she is extremely busy for July and August so I think was quite relieved that ours weren't needed just yet. I mentioned to her that it was likely to be December and I'd keep her in touch re progress, and she was happy with that.
Dinah

Archivist Helen Giles submitted the following written report:

E-hive (the collections management database) has now been purchased to catalogue the collection. The Parish Council kindly provided funding for 3 weeks of cataloguing by Helen Giles which has yet to be undertaken. This is likely to take place in September-October and updates will be provided at the autumn meeting.
Widford Archive has been presented with a digital projector by Phil Savile, to be used for future events and talks.
Helen

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

- Parishioner: Allotments vacancy enquiry (26.072.4)
- EHC: £17,157 S106 money being held for upgrading VH/Playing Field parking facilities (26.072.2.2)

26.072 Village Reports

1. Village Hall

There was nothing to report. There is a pub night this coming Friday, 10th July.

2. Playing Field

Cllr Mike Allen reported that regular mowing of the field continues, the perimeter has been strimmed, the gate posts have been replaced and the field is looking in very good condition. An equine boot sale will be held shortly.

MA

3. Section 106 funds available

EHC sent a reminder of the S106 that is currently being held for parking facility upgrades at the Playing Field and Village Hall. The deadline for its use was noted as December 2029. Efforts will be made to see how to make best use of the funds.

MA

4. Allotments

1. Appointment of new portfolio holder: RESOLVED: That Cllr Mike Allen holds the Allotments portfolio.

MA

2. Update report: Nothing to report.

MA

3. Allotments vacancy enquiry: Cllr Ian Collins to contact the enquirer. The Clerk to forward the enquiry to Cllr Collins.

Clerk/IC

4. Mains water supply installation: Will not proceed at present; remove from agenda.

Clerk

5. Grasscutting payment for 2025/26: Remove from agenda until the tenant submits an invoice.

Clerk

Cllr Ian Collins noted that he would arrange to give the allotments rent money to the Clerk in due course.

IC

5. Closed Churchyard.

All fine. The SW corner has now been cleared, giving a clear view across the valley. Cllr Ian Collins to send the Clerk a quote for clearance work. Bulbs will be planted for the Spring.

Clerk

26.073 Highways, Footpaths and byways

1. Footpaths and PRow.

1. No issues reported.

2. Highways and footways

1. Greenacres enforcement issues: ongoing.
2. Railway bridge wall update: Remedial action with HCC.
3. B1004 overgrown hedge report ref 102002112166: Nothing done and has dropped off the report system. Cllr Ian Collins reported it again.
4. TRO30758 Hunsdon Road closure noted.
5. Proposed quarry at Stanstead Abbots

IC

Cllr Eric Buckmaster sent the following email update on 26th June:

I received a Tarmac Briggens Scoping Notification from one of the Stanstead Abbott's District Councillors, and I in turn emailed the Head of Service for Development Control at County.

Briggens was brought up in a planning training session yesterday and I also had a discussion afterwards with the officers. They are aware of your concerns raised below and they tell me that they will advise Tarmac as to what they would expect to see in a potential future planning application. The outcome of Elenbrook is uncertain as it currently sits back with the Secretary of State to decide. The view of officers is that even if approved there will still be a requirement to provide the 7-year ongoing supply.

How things will be dealt with post LGR is not yet known. It is possible that minerals and waste planning could be one of several that remains as a shared service. I also raised the question of the ongoing transport works for the next few years in relation to Eastwick Lodge junction, River Crossing and Church Lane. How Tarmac would propose dealing with getting on to the A414 is still not known.

So we can speculate that given all of the above that is going on, including LGR, and the likely period of years before any extraction may be even possible, that this may be a step towards an application perhaps later this year or during the remaining life of the County Council. As we know from housing developments these days, where no current plans exist, the NPPF permits developments to be approved 'on balance'. We also await the outcome of the current draft of the NPPF which continues to move towards an assumption of approval.

I would have no problem contacting Tarmac directly or asking them to arrange a meeting with affected parishes to explain their position further if you all agree with that?

Eric

3. Other parish matters and concerns

1. Nether Street railings repair: Ongoing with HCC/EHC
2. Defibrillator Management: The Chairman reported that he has yet to replace the broken door.
3. Other issues
 1. Parking at Chapel House update: The Clerk reported that he had written to Chapel House on 26th June but as yet has not received a reply.

MA

26.074 Benningfield Green

1. Issues reported: None.
2. Annual Licence renewal due 11th August : **RESOLVED: to increase the annual fee in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) to be published by The Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 15th July 2026.**

Clerk

26.075 Change to .gov.uk domain and email

Cllr Warren said he would be changing his shortly; Cllr Rome asked the Clerk to resend him the password; Cllr Djemal was not present to comment.

**JW
MR/Clerk**

26.076 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda:

None raised.

The Clerk's annual leave from 10th to 21st August was agreed.

The meeting was not suspended for Public Comments

26.077 Items for future agendas

To ratify the Benningfield licence for 2026/27 – September meeting

Clerk

26.078 Date of next Parish Council Meeting – all in the village Hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 8th September; 3rd November; 5th January 2027

Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.39pm.

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

APPENDIX

E Buckmaster County Councillor Report June 2026

the Age Friendly: Live Better (AF:LB) countywide programme which is working to make Hertfordshire the best county to age in; supporting residents to age well, stay connected, live independently for longer and remain active within their communities. Funded by HCC Public Health and delivered by Age UK Hertfordshire, Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership and North Herts & Stevenage CVS, the programme builds on existing age-friendly work to drive both system-wide change and local community action.

We will provide regular updates as to the work the team does via our Age Friendly Hertfordshire professionals newsletter (bimonthly) and our Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire newsletter (monthly), you can use the hyperlinks to sign up for the newsletters.

Supporting individual residents

If you meet a resident who is experiencing loneliness, isolation, or looking for activities and support, the primary route for individual support is HertsHelp (0300 123 4044).

HertsHelp is Hertfordshire's commissioned single front door and can connect people to appropriate local services, activities and specialist support. While locality leads are not able to manage individual referrals at scale, they work closely with HertsHelp and other commissioned services to ensure learning from lived experience feeds into wider improvements.

How to get in touch with us – agefriendly@ageukherts.org.uk

Hertfordshire urgent call for more local foster carers

The HELP campaign is Hertfordshire County Council's latest community-focused drive to recruit more foster carers.

The launch in Hoddesdon Market kick-started recruitment efforts in East Hertfordshire, encouraging local residents and business to help spread the word about the importance of fostering, and reach more people who hadn't previously considered this rewarding role.

More than 1,000 children are currently in care in Hertfordshire and, despite recent recruitment successes, the council urgently needs more local foster carers so children can stay close to their schools, friends and communities.

Standout year for Hertfordshire's screen sector as Film Office drives collaboration and growth
Hertfordshire's screen sector has delivered its strongest year on record, with film and television productions generating an estimated £29.1 million in local economic spend during 2025/26[1] – more than double the previous year's total.

This exponential growth has been driven by an increase in productions as well as improved reporting, with Hertfordshire Film Office (HFO) playing a strategic role in attracting filming to the county, strengthening local partnerships, and coordinating activity across locations and businesses.

Part of the Hertfordshire Futures family of services, HFO helps raise the county's profile nationally and internationally, supporting inward investment and the growth of the creative economy. By linking productions with local suppliers and services, HFO helps ensure that spending is retained within Hertfordshire, benefitting businesses and residents. Recent productions filmed locally include Project Hail Mary in Hemel Hempstead, Wonka in St Albans, Bridgerton at Hatfield House, and Trigger Point and Code of Silence at locations across the county.

Hertfordshire Film Office provides free, end-to-end support to productions of all sizes. With hands-on expertise, commercial understanding, and strong local relationships, the team removes barriers and streamlines processes through:

- Location sourcing across Hertfordshire's towns, countryside, heritage sites, and urban settings
- Securing filming permissions and coordinating with local authorities and landowners
- Logistics support, including access, parking, and unit bases
- Introductions to trusted local suppliers, crew, studios, and specialist services

Hertfordshire's winter service keeps the county moving through coldest conditions. Between October and the end of April, the council's winter service completed 34 gritting runs, spreading just under 10,000 tonnes of salt to help keep roads as safe as possible. Crews also refilled the county's nearly 1,400 salt bins twice over, once ahead of winter and again following a severe cold snap and snowfall in early January, totalling around 2,800 refills across the season.

Winter arrived in full force in early January, with temperatures dropping to -8.4°C on 6 January and widespread snowfall across the county in the same week. Thanks to careful planning and rapid response, teams were able to react quickly and keep vital routes open.

This winter also marked positive progress in making essential services more sustainable. The council operated one electric gritter during the season, saving an estimated 15 tonnes of carbon compared to a traditional diesel vehicle. Building on this success, the council continues to explore opportunities to expand the use of cleaner, greener vehicles across the fleet. The winter service was further strengthened by a new highways contract, which saw 41 new gritters introduced for the 2025/26 season, meaning around two-thirds of the fleet was made up of new vehicles. The upgraded fleet proved to be reliable and highly effective throughout the winter.

Around 150 staff from the Highways teams were on standby 24 hours a day, seven days a week for more than seven months, often responding during the night, at weekends and in challenging conditions. While some colleagues will remain on call over the summer, others can finally enjoy a break from the threat of a late-night phone.

Battery fires increasing

Fire brigades were called to 1,760 fires linked to lithium-ion batteries in 2025, equating to 4.8 fires a day, an increase of 147 per year over the past three years. Fire chiefs have warned that lithium ion battery fires linked to e bikes and similar devices are increasing in the UK, highlighting that these incidents can be more intense and harder to extinguish than typical fires and pose growing risks to homes and communities. It is reported there is rising concern among firefighters about inadequate regulation and safety standards for batteries and devices, particularly those bought online or modified, with calls for stronger product controls and greater public awareness.

Hertfordshire Rights of Way Map Reaches Five Million Views

The Google map of public rights of way in Hertfordshire, published by Hertfordshire County Council, has now been viewed more than five million times.

The interactive map can be easily loaded onto your smartphone, making it simple to follow your location as you walk and explore. It's a great way to discover routes close to home and enjoy more than 3,000km of public rights of way across the county.

Hertfordshire's rights of way network is a valuable asset, offering plenty of opportunities for residents and visitors to get active and enjoy the countryside. [Rights of way - definitive map | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Young Carers Offer - now delivered by Hertfordshire County Council

From 1 April 2026, Hertfordshire County Council is proud to be delivering young carers support in-house, bringing this vital service fully within council provision as the contract with Carers in Hertfordshire came to an end.

This change strengthens our commitment to young carers by embedding support directly into council services, helping us work even more closely with children, families and partners across Hertfordshire.

Support for adult carers will continue to be delivered by Carers in Hertfordshire, with no change to that service.

A new [Young Carers webpage](#) has been developed in collaboration with young carers and their families and includes information about the support available, team contact details, and 'a Day in the Life of' form to register a young carer online so that they can get the support they need.

All registered young carers have been contacted directly to be welcomed, provide updated contact information, details on how to access support, and a link to the new webpage.

Changes approved to home to school travel policy

Hertfordshire County Council's cabinet approved an amendment to the county council's Post 16 Transport to Education and Training Policy. The amendment will see the introduction of Personal Travel Budgets (PTBs) becoming the standard offer of support for the majority of young people travelling to school or college.

The policy amendment is proposed for the academic year 2026-27 and will be implemented from September 2026. Pupils aged 16-18 currently using contracted transport would keep their current arrangements until they turn 19 or move home or education provider.

While there is a statutory duty to provide transport for pupils aged 5-16, there is no legal entitlement to Post-16 transport. Despite this, the council has continued to provide support through discretionary contracted transport arrangements for many young people aged 16-18, mostly those with EHCPs.

Residents urged to help shape Hertfordshire's new Road Safety Strategy

Hertfordshire residents are being invited to shape the future of road safety across the county by sharing their real-life experiences of travelling on local roads and streets.

A new public consultation has launched on Hertfordshire's Road Safety Strategy, seeking views not just on where crashes happen, but on how roads and streets feel in everyday life, including the places where people feel unsafe, uncomfortable or lack confidence when travelling.

The consultation, led by Hertfordshire's Road Safety Partnership, recognises that road safety goes beyond statistics alone. It is about understanding how people experience streets and public spaces when walking, cycling, wheeling, driving or using public transport, and using that insight to help shape priorities and determine how safety improvements are delivered in practice.

Residents, community groups and organisations are being encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives, helping ensure the strategy reflects the reality of daily journeys across Hertfordshire, from busy town centres and rural roads to school routes and neighbourhood streets. Residents urged to help shape Hertfordshire's new Road Safety Strategy.

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Residents, community groups and organisations are being encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives, helping ensure the strategy reflects the reality of daily journeys across Hertfordshire, from busy town centres and rural roads to school routes and neighbourhood streets.

The Road Safety Strategy is built around a shared responsibility approach, recognising that creating safer travel environments is not something the county council can achieve alone.

Instead, it relies on partnership working between local authorities, emergency services, health partners, schools, communities and road users themselves.

Full details of the Road Safety Strategy consultation, including how to take part and the

consultation closing date, will be available online
at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/RoadSafetyStrategy> consultation closing date: Monday
22 June

Hertfordshire launches first partnership Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and calls
on media to sign new charter

Hertfordshire has taken a major step forward in tackling violence against women and girls
(VAWG) with the launch of its first-ever partnership strategy, accompanied by a new
Communications Charter co-created with survivors. Alongside the partnership strategy,
Hertfordshire Constabulary has also launched its latest Police VAWG Strategy, further
strengthening the coordinated response across agencies.

The Hertfordshire VAWG Partnership Strategy 2026-2029, which supersedes the Domestic
Abuse Strategy, aligns with the UK Government's national VAWG strategy and sets out a clear
vision reinforcing Hertfordshire's commitment to working collaboratively to prevent abuse,
protect victims and survivors, hold perpetrators to account and drive long-term change.

Pupils breathe healthier air thanks to Hertfordshire schools ventilation investment

A growing number of pupils and staff members are benefitting from cleaner, healthier air in
their classrooms following the installation of air purification units as part of the Hertfordshire
Schools Ventilation Project.

The project, funded through the Sustainable Hertfordshire Central Fund, is helping to reduce
children's exposure to air pollution by installing HEPA air purifiers in classrooms. Priority has
been given to schools in areas with poorer air quality and higher levels of deprivation, where
the health impacts of pollution are often felt most.

A local primary school from East Hertfordshire is among 39 primary and SEND schools to
receive air purifiers as part of the latest phase of the programme. To date, the project has
positively impacted 12,510 children, with pupils now benefiting from improved air quality
every school day.

By the end of this phase of delivery, more than 30,000 children across Hertfordshire will have
access to healthier classroom air, supporting better learning environments and long-term
health outcomes.

Hertfordshire County Council Residents' Survey

At Hertfordshire County Council we want to create a county where every resident thrives and
achieves their aspirations. Where economic growth, innovation and industry are supported,
and our environment is protected for future generations. We'd like to hear your thoughts
about our services, your local area, and the ways you want to be kept informed. Take part in
the survey, open until 12 July.

Excerpt from letter to Minister of State for Policing and Crime by Leader of the Council.

This was as a result of a motion at Full Council introduced by the Conservative Group

.....I am writing regarding the current independent review of police force structures, and the
possibility may result in the merger of Hertfordshire Constabulary with neighbouring forces.

I recognise there may be merit in making changes to how policing is delivered in

England. In particular I can see how changes to the national tier of policing,

bringing together existing national bodies, including the National Police Chiefs'

Council, the College of Policing, the National Crime Agency and Counter Terrorism

Policing into a single organisation, could enable the most complex and serious crimes

to be tackled more effectively and efficiently. I also recognise there is a potential case

for consolidating some smaller police forces. However, reforms should not come at the

expense of the effective, locally responsive local policing currently being delivered by

forces such as Hertfordshire Constabulary. The creation of larger forces risks diluting

community relations, as well as reducing the visibility and local accountability of senior
officers.....

Annual Survey of Hertfordshire's Parish, Town and Community Councils

Hertfordshire County Council, working with the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town
Councils (HAPTC), is taking steps to strengthen relationships with Parish & Town Councils,
particularly around communication and engagement. A key part of this work is the annual
survey, relaunched in 2023 to help identify areas for improvement.

County Councillors are invited to view the 2025 Annual Survey results. While the response rate
was low, findings suggest declining engagement with Hertfordshire County Council and

highlight the need to improve communication and consultation, particularly transparency, feedback, and clarity of responsibilities. Parish & Town Councils also expressed a desire for more structured engagement and practical guidance. They felt they had to rely on County Councillors for updates rather than structured communication, especially around local government reorganisation.

The Stakeholder Bulletin from Hertfordshire County Council sent to all Clerks was seen as helpful. However, it was felt it could be more impactful. In response, the Corporate Strategy and Policy team has introduced a new monthly bulletin for Parish and Town Councils, aimed at both Councillors and Clerks, with more tailored and relevant content to support engagement. This will be sent to all Clerks, with a request that it is promoted to all Parish and Town Councillors.

HertsLynx celebrates 250,000 passenger journeys across Hertfordshire
Hertfordshire County Council's on-demand transport service, HertsLynx, is celebrating a major milestone after completing its 250,000th passenger journey.

Since launching in North and East Hertfordshire in September 2021 and expanding into Dacorum in December 2023, HertsLynx has become an important part of the county's transport network, helping people connect with work, education, healthcare, shopping, and leisure opportunities.

The service currently operates 12 accessible minibuses across two service areas. Unlike traditional bus services, HertsLynx allows passengers to book journeys through a mobile app, website, or telephone, providing flexible transport when and where it is needed.

Passenger feedback continues to demonstrate the service's popularity, with an average customer satisfaction rating of 96% five-star reviews between January and May 2026. During this period, passengers submitted more than 12,000 five-star ratings.

The service is particularly popular with concessionary pass holders and students travelling to schools and colleges. One regular passenger has completed an impressive 1,975 journeys using HertsLynx.

The milestone comes as the council continues to explore opportunities to expand the service. In a recent public survey asking residents where they would most like to see new HertsLynx pick-up points, more than 300 responses were received. Hertford was the most requested location in the North and East service area, while Hemel Hempstead Hospital was the most requested destination in Dacorum.

Passengers regularly praise the convenience of the service and the professionalism of drivers.

LCWIP going through approvals at East Herts and County

The raw details of the routes will be added to a countywide, shareable and accessible webmap to make it easy for Development Management, Highways Locality Budget and other colleagues to use, as well as a reference for members.

Priority Areas include

Route/Area	Town
Bishop's Stortford (Bishop's Stortford to Sawbridgeworth)	Bishop's Stortford
Sawbridgeworth 1 (Footpath 017/Cambridge Road)	Sawbridgeworth

Summary The East Herts District LCWIP has been developed in partnership with East Herts District Council and with input from the local community and key stakeholders at key stages. While the East Herts LCWIP identifies key walking and cycling networks across the whole district, infrastructure improvements have focused on the larger settlements of Hertford, Ware, Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford, along with the larger villages (known as Group 1 villages) and key links between them. These are the areas considered to have the greatest potential for higher levels of cycling and walking and therefore where targeted infrastructure improvements in the short-medium term are likely to have the greatest positive impact.

By adopting the East Herts LCWIP, we will be able to support the progress of developing and bringing forward the walking and cycling improvements proposed within the Plan, bid for additional funding towards implementation including negotiating planning contributions towards the schemes from developers as part of the planning application process.

The link to the report is (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Environment, Transport & Growth Cabinet Panel, 11/06/2026 10:00 Starting on page 15

E Buckmaster County Councillor June 2026

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