

## NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

# MEMBERS' INFORMATION

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Produced by the Communications Team. Any comments, suggestions or contributions should be sent to the Communications Team at [MIS@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:MIS@north-herts.gov.uk)

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## AGENDA & REPORTS

### PUBLISHED WEEK COMMENCING 11 MARCH 2024

Standards Committee – 27 March 2024

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING 18 MARCH 2024

Cabinet Sub Committee (Local Authority Trading Companies' Shareholder) – 19 March 2024

Cabinet – 19 March 2024

Cabinet Panel on the Environment – 20 March 2024

Planning Control Committee – 21 March 2024

### UPCOMING CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

Date	Event	Location
Wednesday 20 March 2024	KHEPT Trustee Meeting	Knebworth House
Thursday 21 March 2024	High Sheriff of Herts	Weston Auditorium de Havilland Campus Mosquito Way

### UPCOMING VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

Date	Event	Location
	None	

### UPCOMING OTHER EVENTS FROM FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

Date	Event	Location
	None	



## RESOURCES

# MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

### **Nominations to the Asset of Community Value register**

We have received notification today that the Friends of the Robin wish to withdraw their application to nominate the Robin Hood and Little John PH as an asset of community value.

They are still able to nominate in the future should they wish.

For more information please contact:

Rachel Cooper

Controls, Risk and Performance Manager

Tel: 01462 474606

Email: [Rachel.cooper@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.cooper@north-herts.gov.uk)



## ENTERPRISE

# MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

### **An overview of the Shared Prosperity Fund Programme 2024/5**

The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme was originally designed to replace the 'EU funding' and is administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The fund has been in operation for two years, and North Herts has received a total of £550K over the last two financial years to spend on projects/programmes within the community according to the criteria set. To date, the money has been spent on Town Centre improvements, outdoor exercise equipment and enabled various programmes at our sports centres, helping those who could benefit most from fitness improvement. The fund has also supported the 'Moving Forward Together' programme, which focuses on developing the Voluntary, Community and Social enterprises in the district, and helping those who have become disengaged from society. The money has also contributed to more general support for business and skills development through the Local Enterprise Partnership and Herts County Council.

As we move into the third and final tranche of SPF money, a proposal detailing the 2024/5 spend has recently been endorsed and approved by the Leadership Team and Political Liaison Board. The final approval of this suggested spending is awaiting the next Cabinet meeting on 19 March 2024. The report also sets out how each project will be approved via delegated authority by relevant Service Director and Executive Member. This will enable a more robust approval process for this programme going forward.

The total allocation for 2024/5 is for £950K, which has been reasonably allocated across the Council service areas. These projects will be delivered alongside the continuation of the outdoor exercise programme, 'Moving Forward Together' and the business and skills support.

As mentioned, the above is awaiting Cabinet approval on 19 March 2024.

For more information on this subject, please contact either:

Andrew Figgis  
Economic Development Officer  
Tel: 01462 474 477  
Email: [andrew.figgis@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.figgis@north-herts.gov.uk)

**Or**

Chloe Gray – Enterprise Manager  
Tel : 01462 474223  
Email : [chloe.gray@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.gray@north-herts.gov.uk)

**Elections  
Legal and Community**

# MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

## **Briefing note - Changes to postal vote handling and secrecy**

These provisions will be in effect for polls taking place from 2 May 2024.

### **Restriction on political campaigners handling postal votes**

- Political campaigners will not be able to handle postal votes, except where the postal vote is their own, that of a close family member, or someone they provide regular care for.
- A political campaigner is defined in legislation as:
  - a) a candidate at the election;
  - b) an election agent or sub-agent of a candidate at the election;
  - c) someone employed or engaged for the purposes of that person's activities as a candidate;
  - d) a member of a registered political party who carries out activities designed to promote a particular outcome at the election (including displaying posters, distributing leaflets or posting campaign materials online);
  - e) someone employed or engaged by a registered political party in connection with the party's political activities;
  - f) someone employed or engaged by a person within paragraphs (a) to (e) to carry out an activity designed to promote a particular outcome at the election.

- If found guilty of handling postal votes as a campaigner, the individual could face a fine and/or imprisonment of up to two years.
- NB – These changes apply to Postal Voting packs (i.e. postal voting ballot papers) and not to the handling of Postal Vote application forms

#### **Limits on handing in postal votes at polling stations/council offices**

- There will be a limit on the number of postal votes a person can hand in at a polling station or the council offices – they will not be allowed to hand in **more than five postal ballot packs for other electors plus their own.**<sup>1</sup>
- If a person hands in more than five postal ballot packs for other electors, all the postal votes (other than their own) will be **rejected**.
- If there is reason to suspect that a person has already handed in the maximum number of postal votes on any previous occasion at the election, any subsequent postal votes handed in will be **rejected**.

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<sup>1</sup> Where the elector has been appointed as a proxy postal for another elector – handing in the proxy postal would count towards one of the five for other electors.

### **Completion of postal vote documents form**

- Anyone handing in postal votes **MUST** complete a 'return of postal voting documents' form.
- The person handing in the postal vote(s) will need to complete the form with their name, address and the reason for handing in other people's postal votes (where appropriate).
- They will also need to complete a declaration that they are not handing in more than the permitted number, and that they are not a political campaigner.
- If the form is not completed with all the required information, or to the authorised officer's satisfaction, the postal vote(s) will be **rejected**.
- Rejected postal votes will not be included in the count.
- After the election, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will write to electors who have had their postal votes rejected, explaining the reasons why.
- This applies to anyone handing in their postal vote(s) either to the council offices or to a polling station on election day.

### **Postal votes which are 'left behind'**

- Postal votes cannot be accepted if they are simply left at a polling station or at the council offices. If a person hands in postal votes without completing the return of postal vote documents form, the 'left behind' postal votes must be rejected.
- After the election, the ERO will write to electors who have had their postal vote rejected because they were left behind.

### **Handing in postal votes to the Returning Officer**

- Electors sometimes hand postal votes in directly to the Returning Officer (i.e. to the Council Offices) in advance of the election, and on polling day itself.
- The same restrictions, limits, and requirement to complete a form which apply at polling stations, will also apply to postal votes handed to the Returning Officer at the council offices.
- Postal votes handed in at any other address (i.e. not the council offices or a polling station) cannot be accepted as there will not be an 'authorised person' to provide and sign the return of postal voting documents form.
- Any postal votes which are left at any council building without the 'return of postal voting documents' form being completed will be **rejected**.
- Postal votes which are posted in the mailbox at the council office, or put in the internal mail system cannot be accepted. Signs will be displayed near the council office mailbox to make electors aware that they should not return their postal votes via this method.



- The only return method for postal votes which does not require a Postal Vote Return form to be completed is via the Royal Mail postal service.

#### **Secrecy requirements extended to postal and proxy votes**

- The secrecy requirements which apply at a polling station are being extended to postal and proxy votes.
- It will be an offence to try to find out how someone has voted when completing their postal vote, or to communicate how a postal or proxy voter has voted.
- Anyone found guilty of breaching the secrecy requirements could face a fine or imprisonment up to six months.

#### **What does this mean for you?**

- Make sure anyone supporting the election campaign understands the term 'campaigner' and is aware of the restriction of handling postal votes.
- If they are a campaigner explain that they can only handle other people's postal votes if they are a close relative or someone they provide regular care for.
- Be aware that suspicions of campaigners handling postal votes will be reported to the police.
- Please encourage postal voters to return their postal vote via the Royal Mail system in plenty of time.
- If a postal voter has missed the post, let them know they can still hand it in at the council offices or at a polling station before 10pm on polling day but they **MUST** also complete a Postal Vote Return form when doing so.
- On the day of poll - postal votes can be delivered to the council offices on the day of poll until 5pm, after that to the nearest polling station.
- Inform electors of the limit on handing postal votes in at polling stations and council offices – five, plus their own.
- Inform electors that they **MUST** complete a form when handing in postal votes, and any left behind at a polling station or council offices without an accompanying form will be rejected.
- Ensure electors know that postal votes returned via the council office letterbox or internal mail will be classed as 'left behind' and will be rejected.
- If you are handling any postal vote application forms, make sure you continue to follow the [Electoral Commission's Code of Conduct for campaigners](#).
- For further information on the changes to postal vote handling, please contact [elections@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:elections@north-herts.gov.uk)

For more information please contact:

Name: Thomas Marsh  
Title: Electoral services manager  
Tel: 01462 474305  
Email: [thomas.marsh@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.marsh@north-herts.gov.uk)

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## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted <i>[if applicable]</i>	
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**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** PLACE

### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

- 1.1 To approve to hold a Gumbles Childrens Fun Zone event from 12.00 to 18.15 hrs between 2nd April 2024 to 8th April 2024 (operating days 5th April 2024 – 7th April 2024) using Walsworth Common, Hitchin.

### **2. DECISION TAKER**

- 2.1. Andrew Mills, Service Manager Greenspace

### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

- 3.1 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 To support the organisers to provide an annual event for the whole community.

### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The organisers have approached North Herts Council to host this event. Other locations have been considered by the organisers that are outside North Herts.

### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in Property Services and the Safety Advisory Group.

### **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

### **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The organisers have approached NHC for approval to use this location for their event.

### **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The authority has an obligation to ensure that the public open spaces it maintains are at a standard that are safe for everyone to use. Additionally, the authority has an obligation to ensure that any environmentally sensitive environment is not damaged due to actions or intentions of others.

### **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no financial risks as this opportunity is generating income.

**11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no risk implications. However, risk assessments have been considered to endeavour that this is a safe event.

**12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 Central Government and national groups have expressed the continued importance of public Green Space in the health and well-being of communities. From April 2013 local authorities at county level are required to take on the statutory duty to improve the health of their communities as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and with it, to acquire many of the public health services currently the responsibility of the NHS. The use of open spaces, parks, playgrounds, and relevant leisure facilities are promoted in terms of reducing the impact of obesity on long term health, the importance in the management of wellbeing and in aiding relaxation, as well as sensory' enjoyment.

**13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 The event is open to everyone.

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this event.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 This item of work is contained within the Place Directorate existing work programs.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 Application form and supporting documents.

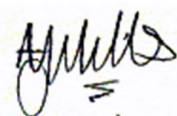
**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 None

**NOTIFICATION DATE - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....Not Applicable.....**

**Date .....12<sup>th</sup> March 2024.....**



**Signature of Decision Taker .....**

**Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.**

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted <i>[if applicable]</i>	
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**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** PLACE

### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

- 1.1 To approve to hold a Children's Roundabout Ride or Inflatable Slide at Howard Park & Gardens, Letchworth Garden City on various agreed dates (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024) between 10.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs on each occasion

### **2. DECISION TAKER**

- 2.1. Andrew Mills, Service Manager Greenspace

### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

- 3.1 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 To support the organisers to provide an annual event for the whole community.

### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The organisers have approached North Herts Council to host these events, no alternative options or locations have been considered.

### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in the Safety Advisory Group and the Greenspace Team.

### **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

### **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The organisers have approached NHC for approval to use this location for their event.

### **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The authority has an obligation to ensure that the public open spaces it maintains are at a standard that are safe for everyone to use. Additionally, the authority has an obligation to ensure that any environmentally sensitive environment is not damaged due to actions or intentions of others.

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11.1 There are no risk implications. However, risk assessments have been considered to endeavour that this is a safe event.

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12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 Central Government and national groups have expressed the continued importance of public Green Space in the health and well-being of communities. From April 2013 local authorities at county level are required to take on the statutory duty to improve the health of their communities as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and with it, to acquire many of the public health services currently the responsibility of the NHS. The use of open spaces, parks, playgrounds, and relevant leisure facilities are promoted in terms of reducing the impact of obesity on long term health, the importance in the management of wellbeing and in aiding relaxation, as well as sensory' enjoyment.

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14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this event.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 This item of work is contained within the Place Directorate existing work programs.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 None

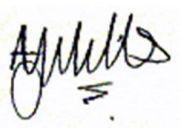
**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 None

**NOTIFICATION DATE - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....Not Applicable.....**

**Date .....12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



**Signature of Decision Taker .....**

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## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### **PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member  
**[NO]**

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned **[NO]**

**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** Legal and Community

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

1.1 The approval of the allocation **Letchworth Community Grant** funding of:

1.1.1 **£400** to Garden City Samba towards funding for several free performances that are offered to local charities and good causes.

1.1.2 **£2,500** to Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club towards a stairlift for current and potential new members.

1.1.3 **£2,060** to Home-start Herts towards the cost of funding support for a family currently waiting for support in Letchworth, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support and operational running costs. Home-start Herts has also applied to Baldock and Hitchin area forum – see item 8.2.

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

2.1 Cllr Alistair Willoughby, Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, in consultation with the Acting Service Director – Legal and Community.

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

**13 March 2024**

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

4.1 The **Letchworth Area Forum** held on 28 February 2024 considered funding applications from Garden City Samba, Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club, and Home-start Herts, and recorded their recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships for the formal commitment of Community Grant funds via the delegated authority process.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 There are no other reasonable alternative options.

#### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Letchworth Area Forum Members in a public meeting on 28 February 2024. Members are in favour and recommend that the Letchworth Area Community Grant budget should be used for this purpose.

#### **7. FORWARD PLAN**

7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

#### **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The grant applications were considered by the Letchworth Area Forum on 28 February 2024. The report with the application details is set out under item 4, available on the Council's website [\[CLICK HERE\]](#).
- 8.2 The grant application 1.1.3 has also applied to Baldock and Hitchin Area Forums. They have received funding from Baldock Area Forum (£2,060) and have been recommended funding by Hitchin Area Forum (£2,058).
- 8.3 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendation made by the Area Forum members was accepted by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, and Acting Service Director on applications 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3.

## 9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, an Area Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)(ii)A of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That decision will be subject to a five clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 At the start of this financial year, the carry over community grant budget for Letchworth from 2022/23 was £84. However, the grant allocated to a project by Wilbury and Icknield Parents Association (WISPA) of £2000 was re paid as the group no longer needed the funds as the project didn't happen, this provided an amended carry over of £2,084.
- 10.2 The 2023/24 base budget is £11,000 in addition to the £2,084 carry over the available budget was £13,084. The grants so far, this financial year have been using up the 2022/23 carry over and equate to £1,884. This left a remainder of £200 in the 2022/23 budget to utilise.
- 10.3 Also, a previous grant allocated to a project by Garden City Samba of £600 was re paid as the group no longer needed the funds as the project didn't happen.
- 10.4 **£8,072** has been allocated to date in 2023/24, leaving **£5,612** available to allocate for community grants.
- 10.5 The grant applications for this meeting total **£4,960**. If the grants are awarded as outlined in 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3, the remaining balance will be **£652**. This will be carried forward into the 2024/25 budget, subject to approval from Cabinet.

## 11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the



event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

**12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 Community Grant funds are awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

**13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 The activities of the Community & Partnership team are covered by existing budgets.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 Terms of Reference for Area Forums, see section 9 Constitution page: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/council-constitution>.

16.2 [Community Grants Policy, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023](#)

16.3 Letchworth Area [Forum](#) – 28 February 2024

**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 See website links above.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

14.3.24



**Signature of Acting Service Director Consulted**

**Date: 13.3.2024**

**Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships**



**Decision Taker .....**

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# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 at 7.30 pm

### 1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Tom Plater was elected Chair for this meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Tyler and Sean Nolan.

### 3 MINUTES - 31 JANUARY 2024

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 31 January 2024 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair advised that section 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.
- (4) The Chair advised a change in the order of the published agenda. Agenda item 11 Clearing the External Audit Backlog would be considered after Agenda item 5.

### 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

### 7 CLEARING THE EXTERNAL AUDIT BACKLOG

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the report including the implications on the approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2022-23 onwards.

### 8 SAFS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2023-24 PROGRESS UPDATE

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the progress made by the Shared Anti-Fraud Service on delivering the 2023/24 Anti-Fraud Plan.

### 9 SAFS PROPOSED ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2024-25

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reviewed and approved the Anti-Fraud Plan for 2024-25.

**10 SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee:

- (1) Noted the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 26 February 2024.
- (2) Noted the implementation status of the reported high priority recommendations.
- (3) Noted the plan amendments to the 2023/24 Annual Audit Plan.

**11 SIAS PROPOSED INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024-25**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Members approved the proposed North Herts District Council Internal Audit Plan for 2024-25.

**12 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2024 AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2023/24**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee:

- (1) Approved the Local Code of Corporate Governance 2024 (Appendix A).
- (2) Noted the current position with the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan (Appendix B).

**13 THIRD QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2023/24**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided comments and recommended to Cabinet the Third Quarter Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) Review 2023-24.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:**

- (1) That Cabinet notes the forecast expenditure of £6.521M in 2023/24 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the adjustments to the capital programme for 2023/24 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2024/25 by £0.960M.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 4 paragraph 8.6 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability.
- (4) Cabinet is asked to note the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of December 2023.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.
- (2) To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

**14 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided comments and recommended to Cabinet the Third Quarter Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023-24.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:**

- (1) That Cabinet note this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the adjustments to the 2023/24 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £415k decrease in net expenditure.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the changes to the 2024/25 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £411k increase in net expenditure.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:** Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

**15 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair led a discussion regarding possible agenda items for future meetings, no new items were suggested and the Committee agreed that updates on any new contracts including Churchgate, Waste and Leisure, and their impacts on future budgets would remain as future agenda items.

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Committee held in the Virtual Via Zoom  
on Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 at 10.20 am

### 1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Tom Plater was elected Chair for this meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Committee.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elizabeth Dennis.

Although not announced Councillor Raj Bhakar had sent apologies prior to the start of the meeting.

### 3 MINUTES - 6 DECEMBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 December 2023 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded;
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

### 5 STAFF CONSULTATION FORUM MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the minutes of the Staff Consultation Forum from 6 December 2023 and 31 January 2024.

### 6 HR INFORMATION NOTE

The Human Resources Services Manager presented the Information Note entitled 'HR update'.

### 7 DISCUSSION PAPER - FACE TO FACE vs ONLINE LEARNING

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee commented on and noted the Discussion Paper on Face to Face vs Online Learning.

### 8 DISCUSSION PAPER - LONG TERM ABSENCE MANAGEMENT

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee commented on and noted the Discussion Paper on Long Term Absence Management.

**9 FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Members considered subjects for discussion at future meetings. It was agreed that the following would be presented for discussion at the next meeting:

- (i) Staff Recruitment and Retention.
- (ii) Staff Survey Results.

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Planning Control Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council  
Offices, Letchworth Garden City  
on Thursday, 7th March, 2024 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Tyler, Sean Nolan, Ian Moody and Phil Weeder.

Having given due notice Councillor Dave Winstanley substituted for Councillor Nolan and Councillor Michael Muir substituted for Councillor Ian Moody.

### 2 MINUTES - 23 JANUARY 2024

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23 January 2024 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair clarified matters for the registered speakers.
- (4) The Chair advised that Section 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution applied to the meeting.
- (5) The Chair advised that item 6 **21/00541/OP** had been deferred until a future meeting due to unresolved outstanding matters in relation to S106 obligations.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair confirmed that the registered speakers were in attendance.

### 6 21/00541/OP LAND BETWEEN 134 AND 148 HIGH STREET, KIMPTON, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG4 8QP

**RESOLVED:** That application 21/00541/OP be **DEFERRED** to a future meeting due to unresolved outstanding matters in relation to S106 obligations.

### 7 23/00523/OP LAND EAST OF ASHMILL POULTRY FARM, HIGH STREET, BARKWAY, HERTFORDSHIRE

**RESOLVED:** That application 23/00523/OP be **REFUSED** planning permission subject to the reasons and conditions set out in the report of the Development and Conservation Manager.



**8 22/02205/FP LAND ADJACENT TO ARNOLDS FARM, CHAMBERS LANE, ICKLEFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG5 3YE**

**RESOLVED:** That application 22/02205/FP be **GRANTED** planning permission subject to the reasons and conditions set out in the report of the Development and Conservation Manager.

**9 23/02802/LBC 26 - 28 HIGH STREET, GRAVELEY, HITCHIN, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG4 7LA**

**RESOLVED:** That application 23/02802/LBC be **GRANTED** planning permission subject to the reasons and conditions set out in the report of the Development and Conservation Manager.

**10 APPEALS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report.

**EAST TEAM**

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
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**Ashwell Parish Council**

24/00463/TCA	Deputy Parish Clerk 6a Back Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5PE, United Kingdom	St Marys Church Mill Street Ashwell Hertfordshire SG7 5LY  Deputy Parish Clerk  T376 Lime - Remove the branches back to the trunk from floor level, up until the height of the neighbouring cottage.
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24/00547/TCA	Mrs Kerrie Morris Branching Out Tree and Garden Services 38 Station Road, Lower Stondon, SG16 6JL	25 Kingsland Way Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5PX  Mrs Debbie Armstrong  Cherry - Reduce by up to 1m. Laurel Hedge, Viburnum Hedge, Oak - Reduce by up to 1m.
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**Barkway Parish Council**

24/00541/LBC	Kate Pinnock 96 High Street, Barkway, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8EF	96 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EF  Kate Pinnock  Repairs to a side wall internally and externally. Other internal and external works.
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**Kelshall Parish Meeting**

24/00485/S73	Michael Collins Architect Llp Mr Michael Collins Suite 4A , 30 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG51LE	Land Adjacent To 9 North End Kelshall Hertfordshire SG8 9SD  Mr and Mrs Mark and Claire Williams  Variation of Condition 9 (Access) of outline planning permission 20/02292/OP granted on 03.09.2021 for a single dwelling with new vehicular access onto North End (appearance, landscaping and layout reserved)(as amended by plans received on 31 March 2021).
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**Letchworth Garden City**

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLANNING CONTROL  
COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, HERTS SG6 3JF**

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 15/03/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 04/04/2024**

24/00284/FPH	Michael Collins Architect Mr Michael Collins 12 Purwell Lane, Hitchin, SG40NE	6 Chaomans Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3UB	Dylan And Flora Balbirnie And Barton
			Part single storey, part two storey rear extension following demolition of rear conservatory and single storey element, erection of rear pergola, conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation, alterations to fenestration, creation of new openings, addition of timber cladding, creation of terrace, and landscaping.
24/00326/FP	Sphere25 Kathryn Waldron 5 Rayleigh Road, Shenfield, CM13 1AB, United Kingdom	Land On Campfield Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire	Ms Kathryn Waldron
			Redevelopment of site comprising demolition of existing buildings and provision of 157 dwellings; associated roads, landscaping, open space, car and cycle parking provision, drainage and infrastructure works and all associated ancillary works.
24/00371/FPH	Mr Edvinas Skripka 19 Caslon way, Letchworth, sg6 4qj, United Kingdom	19 Caslon Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4QJ	Mr Edvinas Skripka
			Installation of free-standing air source heat pump on rear elevation.
24/00422/FPH	Kingsholme Conservatories Ltd Mr Colin Pullen Timberley, Oakway, Studham, LU6 2PE	57 Lytton Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HY	Mr and Mrs Tomlin
			Erection of rear orangery following demolition of existing rear conservatory.
24/00470/TCA	Mr Thomas Oakley Oakley Arboriculture Ltd 115 Western Way, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 4TF, United Kingdom	Oakengates Broadway Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3PT	Mr Thomas Oakley
			T1 Beech - Reduce canopy by 2m. T2 Horse Chestnut - Re-pollard to previous points. T3 Beech - Reduce Canopy by 2m. T4 Horse Chestnut - Re-pollard to previous points. T5 Cypress - Reduce overhang over driveway.

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLANNING CONTROL  
COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, HERTS SG6 3JF**

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 15/03/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 04/04/2024**

24/00475/TPO	Mr Dom Walker The Blue Tree Company 50 Bunyan Road, Hitchin, SG5 1NN	1 Manor Farm Cottages Wymondley Road Willian Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2AH  Simrn Gill  T1 Horse Chestnut - Fell to ground level.
24/00477/LDCP	Mr Abdul Haque Rejig Homes Ltd 167 Heathfield Road, Hitchin, SG5 1TE	7 Farm Close Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4PD  Mr Berry  Insertion of rooflights to existing front roofslope and box dormer with Juliette balcony to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation.
24/00486/FPH	Whitebrick Colin Weatherall Morris 29B Hermitage Road, Hitchin, SG5 1BY	17 Greenway Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3UG  Mr and Mrs Borthwick  Single storey rear extension and the insertion of side dormer window.
24/00560/TCA	Mr Dom Walker The Blue Tree Company 50 Bunyan Road, Hitchin, SG5 1NN	Harvest Court Wymondley Road Willian Hertfordshire  Simrn Gill  G1 3x Beech, Pine, Silver Birch - Group of small trees hanging over the wall from the neighbouring property. Cut back to the boundary line.
<b>Royston Town Council</b>		
24/00500/FPH	CROE Architects Mr Joe Reader Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	Providence House 4 Melbourn Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7DB  Mr and Mrs Brown  Erection of detached garage.
24/00532/TPO	Mr James Cantle Shire tree limited 1A Trigg Way, Melbourn, Royston, SG8 6HX	22 St Marys Park Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7XB  Donald Harley  T1 Yew - Reduce height by 6m and sides by 2m

24/00556/TPO Mr James Cantle Shire tree limited 28 Hollies Close  
1A Trigg Way, Melbourn, Royston, Royston  
SG8 6HX Hertfordshire  
SG8 7DZ

David Atkins

T6, T8 Beech - Crown reduce by 5m.

**Sandon Parish Council**

24/00300/FPH Mr David Eggison Bradfield Barn  
Bradfield Barn, Gannock Green, Gannock Green  
Gannock Road, Sandon, Gannock Road  
Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 Sandon  
0RH Buntingford  
Hertfordshire  
SG9 0RH

Mr David Eggison

Detached carport and detached shed (retention application).

24/00510/FP Bidwells Miss Louise Newton Lower Barn Wheat Hill Farm  
Bidwells, Bidwell House, Sandon  
Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 Hertfordshire  
9LD

Saker Estates Ltd.

Erection of building for storage (B8) and light industrial (E(g)(iii))  
purposes

**Weston Parish Council**

24/00482/FP MRP Planning Mr Brian Parker Munts  
10 Orient Close, St Albans, AL1 Maiden Street  
1AJ, United Kingdom Weston  
Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG4 7AG

Mrs Deborah Curtis

Erection of one 4-bed detached dwelling with detached outbuilding.

**WEST TEAM**

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
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**Codicote Parish Council**

24/00355/FP Simply Planning Ms Holly Mitchell Laundry Cottage Stud  
8/9 Stephen Mews, Gresse Street, Hitchin Lane  
London, W1T 1AF Old Knebworth  
Knebworth  
Hertfordshire  
SG3 6QL

Mr And Mrs Colin And Melba Bryce

Amalgamation of two dwellings on site into one dwelling. Demolition and rebuild of existing ancillary residential storage within the former stables to create a 6-bed dwelling. External alterations to elevations of the existing property.

24/00480/TCA	Rachel Docherty 38 St Albans Road, Codicote, SG4 8UT, United Kingdom	38 St Albans Road Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8UT  Rachel Docherty  Evergreen - Remove
<b>Hitchin</b>		
24/00438/FPH	Mr K Mandalia 32 Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9RE	32 Benslow Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RE  Mr K Mandalia  Insertion of rear dormer window and two front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion (as a variation of planning permission 23/02872/FPH granted 07.02.2024.
24/00451/TCA	Mrs Allison Sparrow Arborcare Unit N, Shangri La Farm, SG1 2JE	26 The Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RJ  Leal-Bennett  T1 Beech - Fell. T2 Common Horse Chestnut - Fell
24/00455/TCA	Ms Jessica Meserve 15 The Chilterns, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9PP, Hertfordshire	Land Opposite 20 The Chilterns Hitchin Hertfordshire  Ms Jessica Meserve  T01 Lime- Lift canopy to approx 4m, remove deadwood, prune away from utility line to give 1.5m-2m clearance. T02 Lime - Lift canopy and remove deadwood. T04 Lime - Remove deadwood. T06 Horse Chesnut - Re-reduce to previous reduction points.
24/00472/FP	JBE James Burton 65 Shefford Road, Clifton, SG17 5RQ	59 Kings Hedges Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2QH  Mrs Mei Ling Foo  Erection of one self-contained 1- bed following demolition of existing garage.
24/00487/LDCP	Dr Alexandra Draper 4 Tudor Court, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 2BE	4 Tudor Court Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BE  Dr Alexandra Draper  Insertion of ground floor front window following removal of existing garage door to facilitate garage conversion into habitable accommodation

24/00495/FPH	Cregan Architecture Mr Dave Credgan 42, Chapel Lane, Southill, Biggleswade, SG18 9HT, United Kingdom	Woodlands Park Street Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9AH  Mr & Mrs Weller  Single storey side extension. Alterations to fenestration and external rendering.
24/00514/FP	HK Architects HK Architects 198 High Street, Barnet, Herts, EN5 5SZ	The Exchange Queen Street Hitchin Hertfordshire  Sonar Group  Alterations to fenestration and new fenestration on front, side and rear elevations
24/00518/NCS	Intouch Planning Ltd Mr James Gran 4 Ennismore Close, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 2SU, United Kingdom	11 Hampden Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0LD  Mr Pickering and Ms Tomkins  Single storey rear extension following removal of existing conservatory with the following dimension: Length (measured from rear wall of original house) - 4.5 metres
24/00529/LDCP	BBR Design Mr Ryan Albone BBR Design, 7 Paynes Park, Hitchin, SG5 1EH	2 York Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1XA  Mr M Martin  Insertion of rear L-shaped box dormer window and two front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion.
24/00551/FPH	Mr Stephen Chown 2 Storehouse Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9AB	2 Storehouse Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9AB  Mr Stephen Chown  Insertion of dormer window to existing rear roofslope and window to existing second floor side elevation to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation.
24/00564/TCA	Mr Mark Gibson 4Seasons Specialist Tree Surgeons Ltd 19 Tansy Avenue, Stotfold, Hitchin, SG5 4GJ	Communal Car Parking Area Silver Court Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1GB  Ms Lois Gumm Lois Gumm  T1: Sorbus - Reduce by approx. 25% to suitable growth points.

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLANNING CONTROL  
COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, HERTS SG6 3JF**

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 15/03/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 04/04/2024**

24/00567/TCA Mrs Allison Sparrow Arborcare Caulfield  
Unit N, Shangri La Farm, SG1 2JE Benslow Lane  
Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG4 9RE

Hatfield

T1 Holly - Reduce up to 20% and shape

**Holwell Parish Council**

24/00466/FPH Octagon Design & Consultancy Mr Glebe Lodge  
Trevor Johnson Pirton Road  
2A Bournemouth Road, Stevenage, Holwell  
SG1 2PN Hertfordshire  
SG5 3SS

Ms Robyn Owst

Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing boiler cupboard and detached garage/workshop. Erection of detached double garage and shed/workshop. External render and cladding and alterations to fenestration.

**Ickleford Parish Council**

24/00387/FPH Mr Michael Collins Michael Collins 4 Freewaters Close  
Architect Ickleford  
12 Purwell Lane, Hitchin, SG40NE Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG5 3TQ

Mr James Delow

Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory and utility room. Front canopy, alterations to fenestration and external cladding. Alterations to existing detached garage roof and fenestration to facilitate conversion to home office.

**Kimpton Parish Council**

24/00319/FPH Richard Lloyd Richard Lloyd 14 Kimpton Road  
11 Marshalls Heath Lane, Blackmore End  
Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8HR St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL4 8LD

Mr And Mrs A Cooke

Two storey rear extension, single storey front extension, front porch and alterations to existing front dormer windows involving enlargement and addition of pitched roofs, new front and side rooflights, alterations to openings (as a variation of planning permission 23/01600/FPH granted 25.08.2023)



24/00347/FPH	Simon Hvass 11 The Wick, Kimpton, SG4 8SA, United Kingdom	11 The Wick High Street Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8SA  Simon Hvass  First floor and single storey side and rear extensions. Front porch canopy and covered walkway. Insertion of solar panels to front roofslope. External render and alterations to fenestration. Alterations to ground levels in rear garden to facilitate additional hard standing with new fencing
24/00467/S73	DLA Town Planning Ltd DLA Town Planning Ltd 5 The Gavel Centre, Porters Wood, St Albans, AL3 6PQ, United Kingdom	Land To The Rear Of 61-69 High Street Kimpton Hertfordshire SG4 8PU  Mr M Hesketh  Variation of condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 23/02549/FP granted 18.01.2024 for erection of one detached 4-bed dwelling with integral garage including parking and landscaping following demolition of existing buildings.
<b>St Ippolytts Parish Council</b>		
24/00443/FPH	Whitebrick Mr Colin Weatherall Morris 29B Hermitage Road, Hitchin, SG5 1BY	2 Waterdell Lane St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7RB  Mr Pilch  Two storey front extension with open sided porch. Alterations to fenestration
<b>St Pauls Walden Parish Council</b>		
24/00565/TCA	Mr Warren Quinlan Honey tree surgeons ltd Frogmore Cottage, Kings Walden, Hitchin, SG4 8NW	49B High Street Whitwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8AJ  Mr N Hunt  Apple - Heavy limb reduction

(Including Withdrawn decisions)

**EAST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 23/00523/OP	<b>Location:</b> Land East Of Ashmill Poultry Farm High Street Barkway Hertfordshire <b>Applicant Name:</b> Edit Residential Edit Residential <b>Description:</b> Outline planning permission for the erection of 6 no. dwellings with access, parking and associated works (all matters reserved except for access)(as amended by plans received on 22 May 2023)	<b>Decision:</b> Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 11/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/01673/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 33 Willian Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2HQ <b>Applicant Name:</b> Ms Mandy Schlote <b>Description:</b> Erection of detached garage	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 11/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02851/FP	<b>Location:</b> Red Brick Cottage The Street Kelshall Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9SQ <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr and Mrs Cordell <b>Description:</b> Erection of single storey 2-bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking and carport, following demolition of garage and store buildings.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00095/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 68 Browning Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7EY <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Brigid Ann Smith <b>Description:</b> Single storey rear extension.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00114/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 4 Kiln House Yard Baldock Street Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5AY <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Colin Blundell Colegrove Estates Ltd <b>Description:</b> Front porch, internal and external alterations to building - retrospective	<b>Decision:</b> Unconditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00140/FP	<b>Location:</b> Old Maltings Cottage 3A Green Drift Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5DB <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Nigel Reader <b>Description:</b> Change of use of part of ground floor commercial space to one 2-bed residential flat (as amended by plan received on 11/03/2024).	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00209/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 62 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PY <b>Applicant Name:</b> Aisling McCarthy <b>Description:</b> 2x Leylandii Conifer - Remove	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00249/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 187 Nevells Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4TS <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Carol Hunter <b>Description:</b> Conifer - Remove	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00250/TPO	<b>Location:</b> The White House Valley Rise Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9GH <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Michael Easton Mike Easton <b>Description:</b> Sycamore , Ash, Fir - Remove	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00269/TCA	<b>Location:</b> Recreation Ground Lucas Lane Ashwell Hertfordshire <b>Applicant Name:</b> Deputy Parish Clerk Ashwell Parish Council <b>Description:</b> 2x Beech, Lime - Reduce by a max of 50% .	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024

**EAST TEAM**

**Application No:** 24/00270/TCA **Location:** 67 Glebe Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1DS **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Dr Stephen Thompson **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** Apple - Crown Reduction of 30% and thinning. **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**Application No:** 24/00309/TCA **Location:** Therfield Chapel The Causeway Therfield Hertfordshire SG8 9PZ **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Mr J Fosker **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** T1 Conifer - Remove. T2 Yew - Reduce by 25% **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**Application No:** 24/00324/TCA **Location:** 8 High Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3QZ **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Mrs Fran Salvo-Craigie **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** T1 Cherry - Fell to ground level **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**Application No:** 24/00456/EC **Location:** Land Opposite 7 Priory Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7DU **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Openreach Laxmi Gautam **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** Install and replace No. 1 medium pole. **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**Application No:** 24/00458/EC **Location:** Telecommunication Masts At Ivy Farm Over The Level Crossing Baldock Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9NU **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Gateley Hamer Sasha Craddock **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** Base station upgrade to include antennas and cabinet upgrades. **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**Application No:** 24/00473/EC **Location:** Telecommunications Mast Anglian Water Services Ltd Stotfold Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** WHP Telecoms Ltd Julia Marshall **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** Erection of No.3 antennas following removal of existing No.3 antennas, existing equipment cabin to be upgraded internally and associated ancillary works. **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**Application No:** 24/00479/EC **Location:** Land Opposite 9 Souberie Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3JA **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Openreach Chandrashekhar Pandit **Decision:** No Objection  
**Description:** Replace existing pole with one 9m pole. **Decision Date:** 08/03/2024

**WEST TEAM**

**Application No:** 17/01955/1 **Location:** Ickleford Mill Arlesey Road Ickleford **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Mr Isaacson Jas Bowman & Sons Ltd **Decision:** Conditional Permission  
**Description:** Outline Planning application for up to 71 dwellings and associated access, car parking, garages, landscaping and open space including demolition and removal of all existing structures, buildings and hardstanding (all matters reserved except means of access). **Decision Date:** 11/03/2024

**Application No:** 21/03380/FP **Location:** Land To The North And East Of Great Wymondley Hertfordshire **Appeal Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Mr Luke Rogers AGR 4 Solar Limited **Decision:** Appeal Allowed  
**Description:** Proposed solar farm measuring 88 hectares with associated battery storage containers, transformers stations, storage buildings, fencing etc including means of access (amended plans received 30.05.2022). **Decision Date:** 11/03/2024

**Application No:** 23/01752/FP **Location:** Bramble Bank Bedford Road Holwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3RX **Decision:**  
**Applicant Name:** Mr & Mrs Christopher & Leona Hitchings **Decision:** Refused  
**Description:** Erection of two detached 5-bed dwellings together with associated access drive, car parking, private gardens, hard and soft landscaping following the demolition of all existing detached structures **Decision Date:** 11/03/2024

**WEST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 23/02482/FP	<b>Location:</b> The Plough Plough Lane Kings Walden Hertfordshire SG4 8LA  <b>Applicant Name:</b> HAWTHORN LEISURE (MANTLE) LIMITED <b>Description:</b> Change of use and partial demolition of existing public house to one 4-bed dwelling (Use Class C3) to include part two storey and part single storey rear extension, external cladding and erection of carport following demolition of existing garage. Erection of a single storey rear outbuilding ancillary to main dwelling to facilitate gym/office/store with associated parking and hard and soft landscaping	<b>Decision:</b>  Withdrawn <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02689/S73	<b>Location:</b> 13 Kershaws Hill Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9AQ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Ms Sahiba Chadha-Rigby <b>Description:</b> Variation of condition 2 (submission of revised plan nos KER-01 0610 rev 4 and KER-01 0210 rev 7) of planning permission 21/03493/FPH granted 02.02.2022 for Erection of side entrance porch, single storey side extension, two storey rear extension, insertion of rooflights and solar panels to existing front roofslope and insertion of dormer to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation. Replace existing side elevation door with a window, insertion of side elevation first floor window and cladding of rear elevation brick wall (amended by plans received 09/02/24)	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 11/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02738/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 33 Hawthorn Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BP  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Debbie Butler <b>Description:</b> Alterations to roof including hip to gable roof extension with Juliet balcony, insertion of front dormer window and side rooflights to facilitate conversion of loft into habitable accommodation following demolition of existing chimney. External cladding.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02802/LBC	<b>Location:</b> 26 - 28 High Street Graveley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7LA  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Steve Jarvis <b>Description:</b> Relocation of an existing stud wall between the kitchen and bathroom. Creation of a new doorway from the dining room to the bathroom. Replacement of the kitchen window.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02924/S73	<b>Location:</b> 30 East Street Lilley Luton Hertfordshire LU2 8LW  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs K Cox <b>Description:</b> Variation of condition 2 (Revised plans) of planning permission 23/00897/FPH granted on 06.06.2023 for Erection of detached two storey annexe ancillary to the main dwelling following demolition of existing outbuildings.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00023/LBC	<b>Location:</b> Rosedale Maydencroft Lane Gosmore Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7QB  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Rebecca Robson-Elliott <b>Description:</b> Installation of white-painted, timber, flush-framed, double-glazed, bi-fold doors following the removal of existing French doors and adjoining windows	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 13/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00067/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 10 Stonecroft Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6BL  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Neil Mower <b>Description:</b> First floor rear extension. Alterations to existing rear dormer window and fenestration.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 13/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00169/FPH	<b>Location:</b> Little Barn Garden Court Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8QQ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs M Gibson <b>Description:</b> Single storey side extension. Alterations to roof and insertion of side dormer window to facilitate loft conversion into habitable accommodation	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024

**WEST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 24/00172/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 52 Bessemer Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1AG  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Dr And Mrs Wilson Bob Wilson Consultancy Limited <b>Description:</b> Insertion of ground floor front window following removal of existing door/window. Installation of rooflight in rear roofslope.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00173/S73	<b>Location:</b> 36 Bucklersbury Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1BG  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Ian Brian <b>Description:</b> Variation of condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 23/01630/FP granted 02.11.2023 for erection of two detached dwellings (1 x 3-bed and 1 x 4-bed) including associated parking and works following demolition of existing barn	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00183/FPH	<b>Location:</b> Highlands Willow Walk Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 9SQ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Michael Cook <b>Description:</b> Installation of free-standing air source heat pump	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00184/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 77 Bedford Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2TU  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Ms Helen Kemp <b>Description:</b> 3x Birches - Fell to ground level.	<b>Decision:</b>  No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 11/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00200/NMA	<b>Location:</b> 81 Willian Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0LS  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Eilidh Sinclair <b>Description:</b> Amendment to roof arrangement (as Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 23/01804/FPH granted 27.09.2023.	<b>Decision:</b>  Not Agreed <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00205/FPH	<b>Location:</b> Lime Tree House 4 Lime Avenue Blackmore End St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 8LG  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr & Mrs Munro <b>Description:</b> Single storey rear/side extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Insertion of front oriel window at first floor level, replacement front porch canopy and alterations to fenestration.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00220/TPO	<b>Location:</b> 36 Beech Way Blackmore End St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 8LY  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Rachael Peacey <b>Description:</b> Lime - Pollard	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 11/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00316/TPO	<b>Location:</b> Land At 21-23 Pirton Road And 25-59 High Point Pirton Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BH  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr T Timms High Point Hitchin (Maintenance) Ltd <b>Description:</b> G1 Mixed Beech/Sycamore - Reduce all lateral crown by up to 2m. Remove all deadwood and suspended limbs. Lift low crowns to 4m to clear access road. G2 Mixed Beech/Sycamore/Lime - Reduce the lateral crown overhang to the road side only by up to 2m and restore the crown line of the tree line close to the verge edge. Remove all major deadwood. Carry out crown lifting and removal of lower dead/declining limbs to mixed species along front road boundary line. Removing dead/hung material accumulation within crown line. T1 Lime - Fell.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00459/TCA	<b>Location:</b> Bury Farm High Street Kimpton Hertfordshire  <b>Applicant Name:</b> David B Phillips <b>Description:</b> Cherry, Beech, 2x Norwegian Maple - Cut back to boundary line	<b>Decision:</b>  No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024

**WEST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 24/00480/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 38 St Albans Road Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8UT <b>Applicant Name:</b> Rachel Docherty <b>Description:</b> Evergreen - Remove	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 08/03/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00503/NMA	<b>Location:</b> 1 Orchard Close St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7RH <b>Applicant Name:</b> Aleksandar Topalovic <b>Description:</b> Alterations to dormer extension and dormer windows (as Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 23/01164/FPH granted 27.07.2023)	<b>Decision:</b> Agreed <b>Decision Date:</b> 12/03/2024

# PRESS RELEASE

**PR 3838**

**11 March 2024**

## **Heroes crowned and money raised at Chair's civic event of the year**

Four special members of the North Herts community have been recognised for their voluntary contribution at the Chair's, Cllr Daniel Allen, end-of-year charity evening at Hitchin Town Hall on Friday, 1 March.

This year's North Herts Heroes, who have made a real difference in their local community, are:

- Caring Award sponsored by Nyaradzo Group – Veronica Raymond for working tirelessly to support refugee families with charity Herts Welcomes Refugees
- Green Award sponsored by John O'Conner – John Baskerville awarded posthumously for leading the Friends of Norton Common among other voluntary endeavours
- Health Award sponsored by Altro – Michael Hearn for restoring defibrillators in Royston
- Young star – Ranbir Dhillon for getting so involved in school, extra-curricular and charitable activities, despite his disability

Each winner was presented with an engraved glass trophy and gift voucher to acknowledge their achievements.

At the latest count, around £2,000 has been raised from the evening for the Chair's chosen charities – Resolve and Feed Up, Warm Up – mainly through a raffle and silent auction. VIP guests included other local chairs and mayors, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Liz Green and Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Dr Sally Burton.

Cllr Daniel Allen, Chair of North Herts Council, said: "The North Herts Heroes awards allows us the opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of the most amazing people in our area who go out of their way to make a positive impact on other people's lives. We know they don't do it for the acknowledgement, but we want to give thanks to these exceptionally deserving heroes. We hope our winners will inspire others to think about how they may help the wider community."

Our North Herts Heroes are nominated by the public and chosen by a judging panel including Cllr Daniel Allen, Georgia Barrow the editor of our media partner The Comet and Andy Nazer from North Herts Centre for Voluntary Service (NHCVS).

### **Veronica Raymond – Caring Award sponsored by Nyaradzo Group**

Veronica has volunteered for the charity Herts Welcomes Refugees for many years, working tirelessly to support asylum seeker and refugee families settle into their new life in North Herts.

Her patient, non-judgemental and caring manner means that families arriving into the area, often coming from traumatic situations, are made to feel at home in their new community and integrate more quickly and successfully.

Veronica assists in so many different ways, helping families with day-to-day tasks many of us can do with ease such as liaising with schools and arranging medical appointments.

More recently, Veronica has been supporting asylum seeker children who are staying in a hotel, helping them with homework and assisting them with learning English.

As both a charity trustee and area convenor for North Herts, Veronica oversees a team of volunteers as well as helps steer the organisation through an ever-changing landscape.

Veronica said: “I really appreciate the recognition of the valuable work of Herts Welcomes Refugees but I’m just one of a team. I have met many wonderful people through the charity, both refugees and volunteers, that it has been a thoroughly enriching experience.”

### **John Baskerville – Green Award sponsored by John O’Conner**

John sadly died in September last year, after a short period of illness with late-stage pancreatic cancer, so his award was collected by his wife Pat. John’s nomination actually spanned many categories, and with at least three long-term volunteer roles in Letchworth, his nominator stated “there needs to be a category of super volunteer!”

John was an active member and leader of the Friends of Norton Common. He cared about nature and enjoyed getting hands on with the regular work party which maintains the nature reserve. He was also very open to new ideas, helping the Letchworth Festival run a teenage event at the skate park for instance.

John used his considerable skills at Letchworth Settlement Players to design stage sets and props for theatre productions and oversaw their construction. His final creation was an ingenious set for The Games Afoot performed in November, after his death.

John also managed the accounts and payroll at Howard Garden Social Centre for several years. His quiet competence, friendliness and attention to detail were hugely appreciated.

His wife Pat collected the award on his behalf and said: “John was one of life’s givers and it was my good luck to be married to him for over 40 years.”



### **Michael Hearn – Health Award sponsored by Altro**

Michael has gone above and beyond to restore damaged and missing defibrillators in Royston after being informed of their status while working as a paramedic and volunteering with Project H, a local charity providing community defibrillators and training.

He has recently used his spare time to raise the needed funds to replace two defibrillators and get another in place to cover a stolen one. He also used his own time and expenses to install a new cabinet and ensure each defibrillator is registered with the East of England, never needing or expecting a thank you.

He is also now placing bleed kits in defibrillator boxes in Royston to increase further the chance of survival from catastrophic bleeds.

Michael said: "I am overwhelmed to have been nominated for such an award and I accepted it on behalf of all the volunteers and medical professionals out there contributing to saving people's lives."

### **Ranbir Dhillon – Young Star**

Ranbir has a benign brain tumour causing hormone imbalance, partial vision in his right eye, daily muscle pain and means he has to take medication for life which has its own side effects including short-term memory loss, weight gain and recently seizures including lack of sleep. Despite all this, Ranbir gets involved in school, extra-curricular and charitable activities, the list is endless!

As an avid reader, Ranbir takes part in his local library challenges each year and has also written his own short story which he is hoping to publish and won a poetry competition at school.

He loves Maths and took part in a school challenge with over 250 schools – his team came 12<sup>th</sup>, the first time his school reached the finals. His school has helped involve him in sport as a 'data analyst' where he records scores at tournaments and on sports day and helps to work out averages.

Ranbir has attended a drama club for the last four years and won his gold medal last year. He is in a film made during the Covid lockdown and performed at Gordon Craig Theatre last year where he played a key role.

Ranbir was recognised by Royston's Mayor last year for raising money for a local charity and volunteered through Baldock Rotary Club, receiving two certificates for his efforts as a young citizen and peacemaker. He has always helped fundraise, starting a 'wear a hat day' in infant school for brain tumour charities, arranging a bake sale for The Sick Children's Trust, and raising money for the charity that helped during his treatment at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

Ranbir is aware of the environment and as part of the eco committee at school he has been out litter picking and has also taken part in litter picking with local councillors.

Ranbir attends Punjabi language classes in Hitchin and volunteers when he can at both Hitchin and Letchworth Gurdwara in the kitchen serving food – the Hitchin Gurdwara also provides over 200 meals every month for homeless people in Luton.

Ranbir said: "I think it's important to help others as some people don't have the things we do, I have experienced needing help myself so I like to give back. I enjoy challenging myself academically and taking part in charitable fundraisers. My family, teachers and hospital staff always encourage and motivate me and if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be able to do all of these things."

**ENDS**

For more information please contact [Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk) / 01462 474403.

# PRESS RELEASE

**PR 3839**

**12 March 2024**

## **From Camden Town to the Garden City... three artists showcase in Hitchin**

Come to see paintings by a trio of Britain's most modern early 20<sup>th</sup> century artists, borrowed from museums and private collections from Cornwall to Copenhagen, Liverpool to Leeds, **until 30 June** at North Herts Museum, Hitchin.

Giving a "vivid snapshot of our social and cultural history", the exhibition looks at Harold Gilman (1876-1919), Frederick Spencer Gore (1878-1914), and William Ratcliffe (1870-1955), and specifically at paintings they made while living in Letchworth, the world's first Garden City. Many of these works have never been shown in North Herts since they were painted over a century ago.

The three artists are also linked as founding members of the Camden Town Group of artists in 1911, so-called because many of the members lived in that area of north London. A key feature of the group's work was that they were some of the first artists in the UK to paint ordinary everyday items and informal domestic settings.

The exhibition is supported by the Weston Loan Programme with the Art Fund. Created by the Garfield Weston Foundation and Art Fund, the Weston Loan Programme is the first ever UK-wide funding scheme to enable smaller and local authority museums to borrow works of art and artefacts from national collections. The show also has funding towards the illustrated catalogue from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, and the Hertfordshire Heritage Fund, and is covered by the UK Government Indemnity Scheme.

Cllr Keith Hoskins, Executive Member for Enterprise and Arts, said: "This is a fascinating exhibition celebrating pioneering artwork from our local area, which could not have happened without such generous external funding. The young Garden City was a good place to be creative, with many of the early settlers being artists and writers drawn there by a utopian idealism. And it's wonderful to see creativity alive and well in Letchworth and Hitchin still today."

Sir Michael Palin, actor and comedian, and fan of the Camden Town Group of artists, said: "What I find so appealing is the attention to detail. They show us, with honesty and precision, the fine detail of everyday life at the turn of the twentieth century. Their subjects are bedrooms, kitchen tables, teapots

and mugs. Apart from being beautiful works in themselves, they offer a wonderfully vivid snapshot of our social and cultural history. What people washed in, what crockery they used, how they decorated their rooms. These are very English paintings. They move me most of all because I recognise a truth there. They have captured a corner of English life in a way few others ever tried, and they should be treasured for that.”

Lord Chris Smith of Finsbury, Chair of the *Art* Fund, said: “There is no better place in the world for an exhibition of the works of Harold Gilman, Frederick Spencer Gore and William Ratcliffe than the North Herts Museum.”

Sophia Weston, Deputy Chair of the Garfield Weston Foundation, said: “We’re so glad to be able to support this exhibition, which brings a number of paintings by these three important Camden Town Group artists back to North Hertfordshire where they were made. Our programme is all about helping museums tell compelling stories like this through new loans, allowing more people to enjoy world-class art in their local area.”

William Ratcliffe arrived first in Letchworth Garden City and stayed the longest, with the town becoming his home on and off throughout his long life. In 1908 Gilman chose the new garden city as an ideal place to bring up his young family and commissioned a house from the Arts and Crafts architects Parker & Unwin, down the road from where Ratcliffe lived. Gilman recognised Ratcliffe’s potential to become a more interesting artist and encouraged him to give up his secure commercial work for a life of art. When Gilman left Letchworth he rented out his newly-built family house to his friend Spencer Gore and his wife Mollie for four months in 1912 – during this time Gore produced some of his most progressive and important paintings, many of which are included in the exhibition.

North Herts Museum is located on Brand Street, Hitchin, open Tue-Sat 10.30am-4.30pm and Sun 11am-3pm, this exhibition and general admission is free.

For more information check out @northhertsmuseum on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), @nhertsmuseum on [Twitter](#), visit the [North Herts Museum](#) website or call 01462 474554.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors**

A private view is due to be opened by local MP Sir Oliver Heald KC on 15 March and attended by MP Bim Afolami.

For more information please contact [Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk) / 01462 474403.