

Hertsmere News



Hertsmere Borough Council's magazine

Spring 2021

A photograph of two Covid marshals walking on a city street. They are wearing bright orange high-visibility jackets with reflective silver stripes, blue face masks, and blue lanyards with ID badges. The background shows a street with buildings, including a KFC and an Opticians shop, and other pedestrians.

Keeping us safe

Inside this issue

Covid marshals | **Elections** | **Council tax**
Health | **Rough sleepers** | **Museum project**



Lighting the darkness

Our Holocaust Memorial Day event was rather different this year because of the coronavirus pandemic but the annual ceremony, a key part of our calendar, went ahead online.

Mayor of Hertsmere, **Councillor Alan Plancey**, led the ceremony in late January, which was streamed live on our webcast system. More than 200 people watched the event live.

Whilst the event's format was modified, there was still a firm focus on taking time to remember the millions of people who suffered during the Holocaust, Nazi

Persecution and subsequent genocides in Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia and Darfur.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day this year was 'Be the Light in the Darkness'.

Principal speaker at the event was **Angela Cohen**, Chair of **Holocaust Survivors' 45 Aid Society** who took part in a Q & A session.



Holiday meals for Hertsmere children

Around 650 hot nutritious meals were delivered to Hertsmere children who needed them, thanks to our free meals project for the Christmas holidays.

The food, with a varied daily menu, was cooked fresh at the state-of-the-art charitable **GMSP Akshaya Patra Kitchen** in Watford. GMSP Foundation supports marginalised communities across the UK and in India.

We took care of the logistics and transportation, whilst invaluable voluntary support co-ordinated by

Communities 1st saw the meals delivered directly to the home addresses of the children who were registered onto the scheme.

Thanks also to the **Arsenal in the Community project** and **Herts Sports Partnership** for providing activity packs sent to the young people.



Keep in touch



There are lots of ways that you can stay in touch with us, keep yourself posted on our news, raise questions and give us your views. Here's a rundown:

- Follow us on Twitter for tweets, photos and links to our press releases – **@HertsmereBC**
- Like us on Facebook for updates, links to our press releases and photos – **www.facebook.com/hertsmere**
- Follow us on Instagram, where we showcase the best Hertsmere has to offer **@hertsmerebc**
- Watch our short videos to find out about our services and events across the borough – **www.YouTube.com/HertsmereBC**
- Check our website regularly. The homepage is updated frequently and all our press releases can be found under 'Latest news' – **www.hertsmere.gov.uk**
- Subscribe to our **FREE News for You** e-alerts for the latest news straight to your inbox. Click on the purple button on our website.
- Watch our planning, executive and full council meetings online – **www.hertsmere.public-i.tv**
- Contact your local councillor – **www.hertsmere.gov.uk/findmycllr** or call **020 8207 7558**

Welcome



It hasn't been the easiest start to the year for any of us.

Just four days in, we were plunged into our third lockdown and the whole of the country once again ground to a halt in a bid to save lives and protect the NHS.

Our local businesses have suffered. Almost three-quarters of companies who have so far responded to our survey on the impact of the pandemic told us they were struggling and two-thirds said loss of turnover was their biggest concern.

If you're a business owner or manager in Hertsmere, there is still time to respond to this survey and help shape the borough's economic recovery. See page 10 for more.

You can also read more about how we're supporting businesses through the aftermath of the current pandemic and beyond, in an interview with Lesley Crisp, our new Principal Economic Development Officer on page 11.

Despite the bleak beginning, there are reasons to be cheerful in 2021. The vaccination programme is continuing apace. More information on this and the testing facilities operating in the borough, including in our own Civic Car Park, is available on page 4 and 5.

You may also have spotted our dedicated team of Covid marshals, whilst out doing your essential shop or travelling to work. The marshals are doing a fantastic job encouraging people to follow the latest coronavirus guidance and rules, and I want to thank them for their vital work.

We're really pleased to announce that a construction company has been appointed to begin design work on the two new soundstages at Elstree Studios.

The development will eventually lead to at least 800 jobs in Hertsmere, plus apprenticeship and other training opportunities. You can read more on page 14.

And after a difficult winter, there are plenty of opportunities to get active and improve our health and wellbeing, with a range of online initiatives. See page 8 for more details.

Please also remember to fill out your Census forms on 21 March. This once-in-a-decade survey gives the most accurate estimate of all people and households in England and Wales. See page 7.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for playing their part to reduce the spread of infection during what can only be described as a challenging time in all our lives.

Let us look to the future with hope and optimism, while continuing to do all we can to keep each other safe and well.

Councillor Morris Bright MBE
Leader of Hertsmere
Borough Council
leader@hertsmere.gov.uk

This magazine is produced by Hertsmere Borough Council three times a year.

Each edition costs around 29p per copy to design, print and deliver.

On the cover:

Covid marshals out and about in Borehamwood

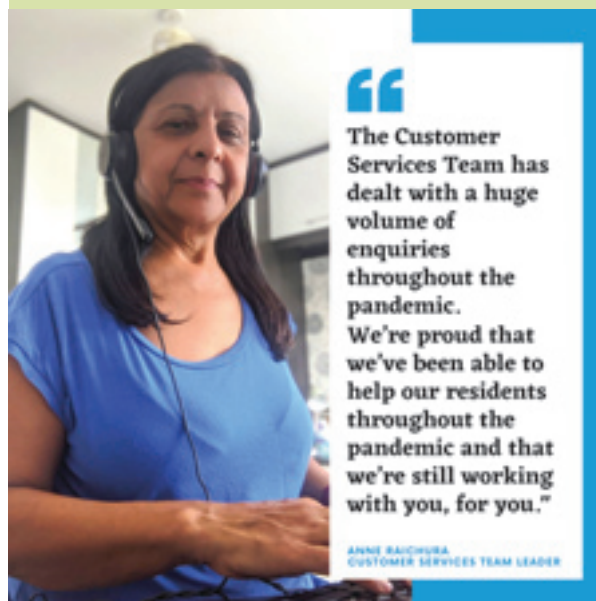


Contents

- 4 Coronavirus updates
- 6 Council tax
- 7 May elections | Census 2021
- 8 Healthy living
- 10 Covid & business
- 12 Rough sleepers
- 14 EU Nationals

Contact us

-  www.hertsmere.gov.uk
-  customer.services@hertsmere.gov.uk
-  @HertsmereBC
-  www.facebook.com/hertsmere
-  020 8207 2277
-  hertsmerebc



Still working with you, for you

Call 020 8207 2277 or email customer.services@hertsmere.gov.uk to contact one of our Customer Service Advisors.

Our main reception at the Civic Offices, in addition to our area offices in Bushey and Potters Bar, are closed in line with the latest restrictions.

www.hertsmere.gov.uk/contactus

If you would like this magazine in a different format please call 020 8207 7445.



The COVID-19 vaccine roll-out is based on decades of experience of delivering large-scale vaccination programmes. We will prioritise those who need it most.

VACCINATIONS IN HERTSMERE

All residents who are currently eligible to have a Covid-19 vaccination can now access a vaccination site near them.

If you are eligible, the easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service which can be accessed at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.

If a suitable and convenient slot is

not available, you can also call your GP practice.

The Covid-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.

Please continue to social distance, wear a face mask and wash or sanitise your hands regularly after you've had your vaccine, in order to prevent transmission.

COVID MARSHALS

COVID-19 marshals are out and about across Hertsmere to help and advise on the latest coronavirus guidance and rules.

The marshals, who are easily recognisable in their high-vis jackets, act as our 'frontline'. While they do not have powers of enforcement, they report issues to our environmental health team, or the police when needed.

If you are approached by a Covid-19 marshal, please cooperate with their request and be respectful, they are doing their best in difficult circumstances.

As well as concentrating on infection hotspots, the marshals work in partnership with the police whose 'Operation Sunrise' initiative includes a high-visibility presence in busy town centres as well as proactive patrols and reactive response where required.

> For regular updates about the current coronavirus restrictions in place in Hertsmere and more information about council services, visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/coronavirus

Walk-in test site

A walk-in coronavirus testing facility opened in our Civic Car Park in Borehamwood in January.

Testing at this facility is only available for those with coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms should book a test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling **119**. If you attend without a booked appointment, you are likely to be turned away.

Those being tested are required to follow public health measures,

including social distancing, not travelling by taxi or public transport, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face covering throughout, including while travelling to and from the test centre.

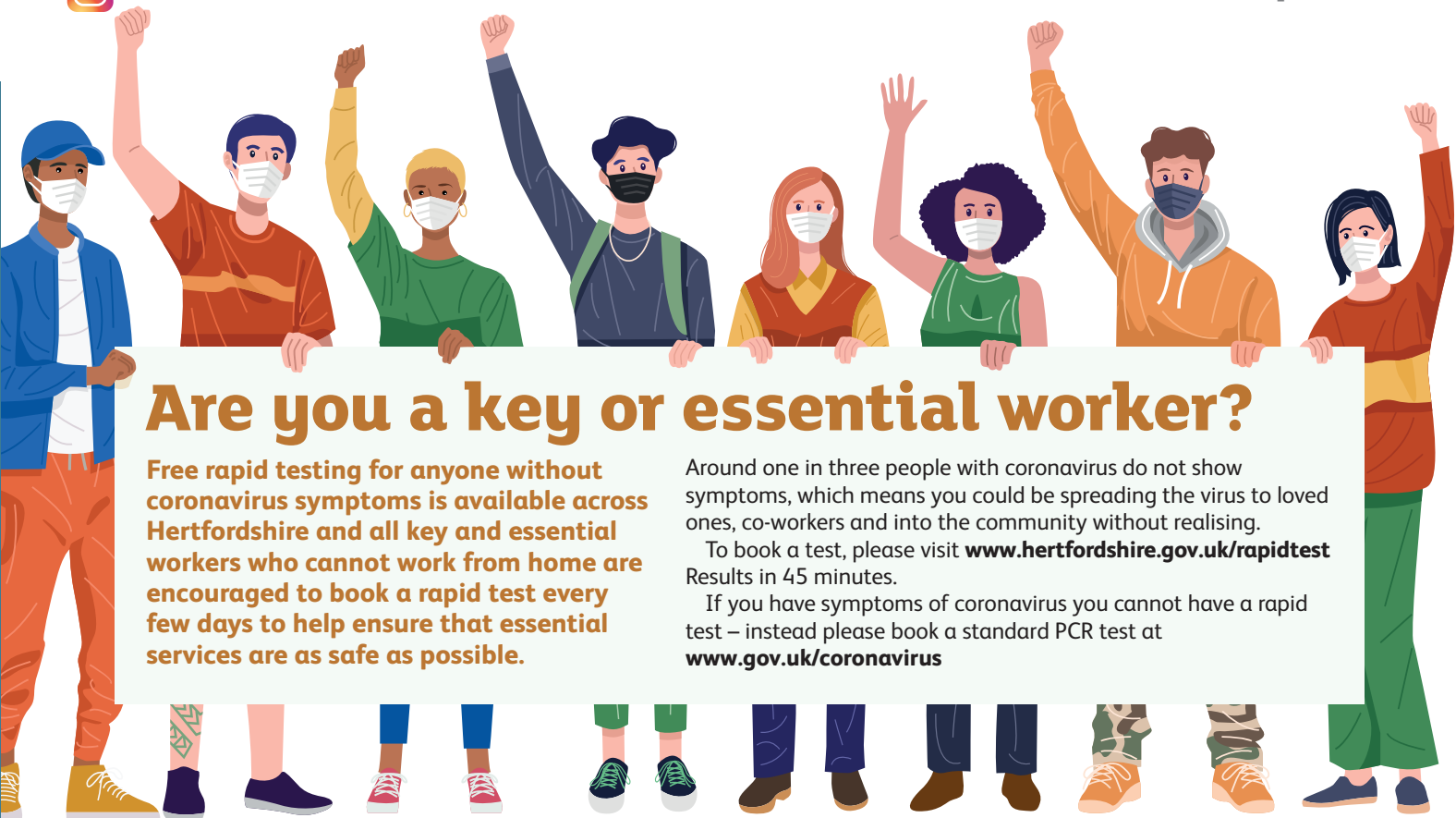
Anyone attending an appointment at a walk-through test site will be provided with guidance on getting to and from the test site safely, with additional support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.



Above: Civic Car Park

Financial support

We are administering a number of government measures aimed at supporting businesses as the pandemic continues. To check eligibility and for further information, visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/businesssupport



Are you a key or essential worker?

Free rapid testing for anyone without coronavirus symptoms is available across Hertfordshire and all key and essential workers who cannot work from home are encouraged to book a rapid test every few days to help ensure that essential services are as safe as possible.

Around one in three people with coronavirus do not show symptoms, which means you could be spreading the virus to loved ones, co-workers and into the community without realising.

To book a test, please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest
Results in 45 minutes.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus you cannot have a rapid test – instead please book a standard PCR test at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Helping our communities in lockdown

Youth football and local radio were among the good causes to benefit from a £13,000 funding boost for their work helping Hertsmere communities through the pandemic.

Among the groups to benefit from community grants was **Boreham Wood 2000 FC**, Boreham Wood FC's youth football wing based in Shenley. It received **£2,500** towards the purchase of a tractor and a container for storing equipment, and refurbishment of their car park. Unfortunately, just weeks after receiving the grant, the tractor was stolen by thieves. Hopes are to replace the machine in due course.

In addition, **Potters Bar Radio** received **£2,500** towards radio equipment for its presenters so they can broadcast from home. **Christmas in Potters Bar**, the group responsible for organising and installing

festive lights in the town for the past two years, received **£3,500**. While **Hertsmere Mencap** used their **£2,500** grant to provide festive treat bags for members.

Other projects to secure support were **DR96 (£1,100)**, a Borehamwood-based group for adults aged over 60 which will be offering online exercise classes; the **Community Association of North Bushey (£500)**, which is setting up a Street Champion initiative and community newsletter, and **Bushey Museum (£615)**, which will use the funds to upgrade its computer system to enable remote access.

In June, our Executive agreed to

award an additional **£10,000** to the existing pot of **£39,500** set aside for community grants in 2020/21 and supplement it with **£7,215** of unallocated funding from 2019/20, bringing the total to **£56,815**.

Just over **£35,000** was handed out to 14 voluntary sector organisations, small charities and community groups across the borough in an earlier stage of the grants programme.



For more information about the community grants programme go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk/communitygrants





Council tax for 2021/22 agreed

You will pay around £5 per year more for our services this year (April 2021 to March 2022), the same increase as last year.

A household in a Band D property will pay an average of just over **£187** in council tax to the borough council for our services for the year – just **51p** per day.

We collect council tax every year on behalf of other local bodies so we don't get the whole amount you pay each month, we get approximately 10 per cent of it.

The rest is allocated to other organisations.

Hertsmere's share of the council tax will contribute almost £8 million, or 30 per cent, towards our total service costs of £27 million.

Government funding of £4 million accounts for just 15 per cent of our funding with the majority, around £15 million or 55 per cent, being raised through fees and charges and rental from our assets.

We will continue to work on innovative ways to make further efficiencies and raise additional income. Go to page 14 for more details.

Where does your council tax go?

10% Hertsmere Borough Council

Services provided include: Benefits administration, car parking, community safety, elections, environmental health, housing needs, leisure and parks, licensing, planning, street cleaning, kerbside waste and recycling collections



General contact details
Tel: 020 8207 2277

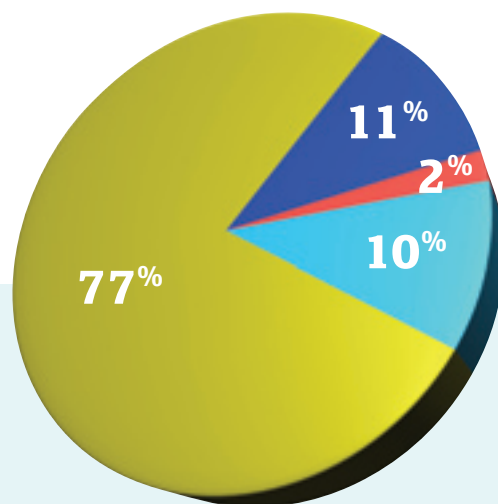
www.hertsmere.gov.uk
Twitter: @HertsmereBC
www.facebook.com/hertsmere

77% Hertfordshire County Council

Services provided include: Adoption & fostering, children's centres, early years childcare, Fire & Rescue, health & social care, household waste recycling centres, libraries, public health, public transport, registration and citizenship, roads and road maintenance, schools, street lights, trading standards, waste disposal, youth provision



General contact details
Tel: 0300 123 4040
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk
Twitter: @hertscc
www.facebook.com/hertscountycouncil



2% Town/parish councils (where in place)

Services provided include: Local events & some activities for young people & older people, Christmas lights, some allotments, cemeteries & parks, public clocks, war memorials

General contact details

Aldenhams Parish Council

Tel: 01923 856433
www.aldenhams-pc.gov.uk
Twitter: @AldenhamsPC



Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

Tel: 020 8207 1382
www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
Twitter: @EBTownCouncil



Shenley Parish Council

Tel: 01923 855 865
www.shenleyvillage.org
Twitter: @shenleyvillage



South Mimms Parish Council

Tel: 07976 708019
www.southmimmspc.org.uk

11% Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner

Services provided include: Community safety partnerships, crime reduction, neighbourhood policing, road crash investigations, tackling serious and organised crime, victims' services



General contact details

Tel: 01707 806100
www.hertscommissioner.org
Twitter: @hertspsc
www.facebook.com/HertsPCC

Contacting local police

Tel: 101 (non-emergency)
Always dial 999 in an emergency
www.herts.police.uk
Twitter: @HertsPolice
www.facebook.com/HertsPolice





Local elections scheduled for May should go ahead

We are working hard to ensure the upcoming local elections are Covid-secure.

Our elections team is planning and preparing safe polling stations for those voting for who will represent them in Borehamwood Kenilworth ward in Hertsmere; South Mimms, Shenley and Aldenham Parish Councils; Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner election.

Residents will be able to vote in person at a polling station, by post or proxy. You must have applied to vote by post or proxy by 5pm on 20 April and 27 April respectively.

You can expect many of the measures you've become used to in shops and banks over recent months, such as hand sanitiser, floor markings and face masks.

A number of our polling stations have changed location to meet Covid requirements. Details of your polling station will be on your poll card, which is due to be delivered later this month.

You can also check using our polling station finder, which enables you to find out where to vote simply by entering your address into the search bar, or you can call our Customer Service Team.

If you have registered to vote by post you may receive more than one postal vote pack, due to the number of elections taking place in some areas of Hertsmere. You need to respond to all packs to have your vote counted for each election.

We are working with the Electoral Commission and Hertfordshire County Council department for public health to ensure everyone will be able to cast their vote safely and securely, in a way that suits them. We'll keep you fully updated.

> For more details, visit our website:
www.hertsmere.gov.uk/May2021elections



Polling stations will be safe places to vote in May, but there are other ways to vote.



**Want to vote by post?
Apply early**

census 2021

Households across Hertsmere are being asked to take part in Census 2021.

Census day is on 21 March. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

You will receive a letter with online codes explaining how you can complete your

forms. If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

Local census support centres will be open while the census is happening. Staff will offer help for people not confident online, who don't have a computer or need help completing on paper.

> For more information visit census.gov.uk or call 0800 141 2021





Spring into action

It's been a difficult winter for many, but with spring around the corner, now is the time to focus on health and wellbeing.



Though indoor and outdoor leisure centres had to close again during the third lockdown, a range of virtual initiatives remain available in the borough helping you to stay trim and boost morale.

As restrictions change, providers are constantly reviewing the activities available. Please keep an eye on the relevant websites for updates.

We Move, She Moves (WMSM)

Our award-winning activity programme for women and girls aged 13 or over in Hertsmere. For updates go to the WMSM's website www.wemoveshemoves.me.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/wemoveshemoves

Healthy Hubs

Hertsmere's new one-stop shops for all your health and wellbeing needs. The hubs provide free lifestyle support for individuals and their families covering mental health, physical activity, weight management, smoking cessation, health MOTs and nutritional advice. To find out more visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/healthyhubs

Shape Up

A free 12-week weight management course for men delivered by Watford FC's Community Sports and Education Trust. To find out more call **01923 496391** or email rhys.ratcliffe@watfordfc.com

InspireAll

The NEW InspireAll app now includes a digital membership using the Mywellness platform. With over 100 on-demand and live-streamed classes, daily workouts, and outdoor activity tracking, it's a great way to keep connected and keep active at home. Please also keep an eye on InspireAll's website www.inspireall.com and The Venue's, Bushey Grove's and Furzefield's Facebook and Instagram pages for news and updates about the borough's leisure centres and services on offer.

THE BENEFITS OF THE APP

MYWELLNESS

1

All your activity data in a single app

2

Track your fitness activity indoor and outdoor

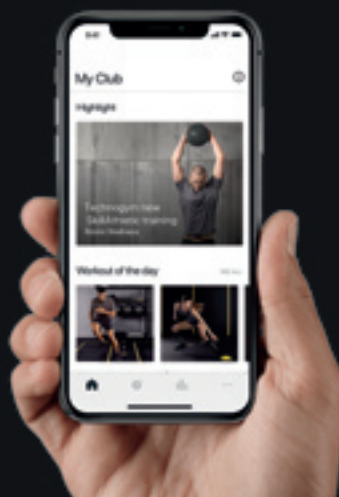
3

Connect to your favourite health and fitness apps

4

Take part in engaging challenges

Tap the digital membership icon in the InspireAll app to access mywellness



Treatment to control moth infestation

To ensure our green spaces remain a haven for residents, work to tackle Oak Processionary Moths (OPM) is due to start next month.

Since the moth was first reported in 2020, we have surveyed more than 1,350 oak trees and removed OPM nests from 48 trees across 16 of our sites.


Between April and June contractors will chemically spray OPM infected trees, in accordance with the Forestry Commission's Statutory Plant Health Notices, to try to control and limit the problem in Hertsmere.

The OPM caterpillar and their nest can cause itchy rashes, eye irritations and, in severe cases, breathing difficulties in people and pets.

Our advice remains 'spot it, avoid it, report it'.

If you see an OPM nest or caterpillars in a council park call **020 8207 2277** or email customer.services@hertsmere.gov.uk

If they are on a privately owned oak tree, report them to the Forestry Commission using the Tree Alert online pest reporting form, call **030 0067 442** or email opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

 For more OPM information: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/opm



Above: Tree planting

Improving our natural habitats

We're planting more than a thousand trees across the borough as part of our regeneration project and in line with our Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy.

We will:

- Restock the woodland at Furze Field Woods in Potters Bar by planting 500 whips as part of the woodland management.
- Plant 72 trees across our parks and open spaces
- Plant 500 whips to replace those trees that have failed and to increase the size of small woodland blocks within parks across the borough.

We aim to replenish and add to our tree stock to ensure habitats for wildlife, improve our green spaces as well as part of our climate change programme to achieve net-zero carbon emissions no later than 2050.

 Find out more about tree planting across the borough on our website: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/treesinparks

BYRON AVENUE PLAY AREA REVAMP

All ages and abilities are catered for at Byron Avenue's refurbished new play area.

The exciting new layout includes a playhouse, slides, swings, spinners, springers and seesaws all in wood to complement the surrounding village green. There is also a separate sports

zone including a street football court – the first of its kind in the borough – and basketball hoop.

The project has been funded using money for local amenities paid by developers who have built new homes in the town.

Below: The exciting new layout






HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOUR BUSINESS?

Hertsmere businesses are being urged to give their views on how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected them, in order to help shape the borough's recovery.

Local business owners and managers from companies of all sizes and sectors are being asked to complete a short online survey to help us get a clearer picture of how companies stand and identify where support is needed.

Businesses can complete the survey by visiting www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Covid19survey before 31 March, where they can also sign up to regular business updates via our News For You service.

 Further advice and information, including details on financial and in-kind support available for businesses is available at: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/coronavirusadviceforbusiness



I South West Herts

Four in five people are happy living in South West Hertfordshire, which includes Hertsmere, according to a poll.

Working with the five other councils which comprise the area – Dacorum Borough Council, St Albans City & District Council, Three Rivers District Council, Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council - we conducted the poll between February and May last year, to find out what is important to you.

Key findings were:

- Eighty-six per cent of those who took part felt positive about living and working in South West Herts.
- Nearly 70 per cent of all respondents said that parks and open spaces were their favourite thing.
- In terms of priorities, better health facilities (65 per cent), being able to get around easier (46 per cent) and climate change (36 per cent) were the most popular responses, with better housing choice also appealing to the under 25s.

The findings will be used to inform the emerging SW Herts Joint Strategy Plan which looks at the long-term future of the area and the creation of great places for people to live, work and enjoy, supported by the right infrastructure at the right time.

 Further details can be found at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/SWHerts

Affordable housing on the agenda

We've been awarded funding towards an important piece of work which will set out our approach to ensuring genuinely affordable homes are available in Hertsmere.

Currently, home ownership or private rental is beyond the reach of many of our residents as Hertsmere's lower quartile household income levels is significantly less than the average income needed to buy or privately rent in the borough.

Expert support, funded through the Local Government Association's Housing Adviser Programme, has been secured to help develop an Affordable Housing and Tenancy Policy for the borough.

The policy will help strengthen our position when negotiating with developers and improve transparency.

A draft policy is expected to be available for public consultation later this year. It will sit alongside our new Local Plan, which will guide development and influence how the borough changes over the next 15 years.



As our Principal Economic Development Officer, Lesley Crisp has a lot in her in-tray. She is responsible for shaping and driving forward Hertsmere's economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic and supporting local businesses and residents as the UK moves out of the EU.

Q&A LESLEY CRISP



Q What brings you to Hertsmere? What were you doing before this?

A Hertsmere is a growing borough with many opportunities for business. Formerly working at another council running the economic development team, I have worked in business support, advice, strategy and planning for nearly 20 years and hope to encourage the business community to work together to achieve their full potential.

Q You're the first Economic Development Officer we have had at the council. How do you see the role?

A I see this role as a chance to really help the borough to move forward, post-Covid, to enable the business community and residents to continue to find Hertsmere a

great place to live, work and achieve their goals.

Q You've started at a really challenging time. What are you going to tackle first?

A Initially, I will try to identify the immediate help required for the business community and look at a range of measures to minimise the effects of the pandemic. Whilst there are some challenges for the borough and my role, there are also a number of opportunities and I see a positive future for the economy. I am looking forward to working on a new and positive growth strategy for the borough, to establish working relationships with businesses and to help enable a way forward.

Q How do you think the council can support businesses in the short to medium term?

A We are here to help them, either directly or through our partners. Our teams across the council are looking to support business and I am always happy to speak to businesses to try to find the best way forward for them.

Q What about the longer-term? What do you think Hertsmere's economy will look like post-Covid?

A There are huge opportunities across business sectors and options for residents to upskill in order to take advantage of these. While the new ways of working will be different, they present possibilities to strengthen the business community and openings for our residents.

Q There are amazing opportunities ahead for Hertsmere with the development of Sky

Studios Elstree and the expansion of Elstree Studios. How can the borough benefit from these projects?

A The creative sector brings many opportunities for investment in the borough and job openings that will arise from this. It gives the opportunity to enhance the way in which the residents and the business community live and work and continue to ensure Hertsmere is a vibrant, prosperous place to be.

Q Tell us something about yourself that other people might not know.

A I am a fully qualified synchronised swimming teacher, having taught it in the borough for 11 years.



Preventing rough sleeping in Hertsmere

We've been working tirelessly towards ensuring no-one has to spend a night on the streets.

Our housing team has helped find temporary accommodation for more than 30 individuals who were sleeping rough and successfully supported some into longer-term homes since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, through rough sleeping initiatives, such as our No Second Night Out scheme. The aim of the scheme was to ensure no-one spends more than a night sleeping rough on the streets.

We've now launched a No First Night Out approach, originally pioneered by the City of London and Tower Hamlets, to prevent rough-sleeping entirely.

The team secured nearly £150,000 from the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020-21 towards the programmes. Hopes are further funding will be available from next month.

Currently we employ a Rough Sleeping and Tenancy Support Co-ordinator, who supports people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and works with them

to secure longer-term accommodation.

In addition, we are working with Herts Young Homeless to recruit a Rough Sleeping Outreach Worker, who will work directly with rough sleepers and liaise with partner agencies to deliver multi-agency interventions.

If you are concerned that someone over the age of 18 may be sleeping rough, you can alert us via the StreetLink app. The details you provide will help us to find the individual and connect them to support. If you think the person sleeping rough is under 18 or in need of urgent care, please call Herts Police on their emergency number **999**.

Visit www.streetlink.org.uk for more information




COME OUT FROM THE COLD

Hertsmere residents who don't have central heating are being urged to apply for funding to cover an upgrade.

In association with YES Energy Solutions, we're providing eligible homeowners and private renting tenants with an A-rated central heating system for free, if they are currently using inefficient storage heaters, room heaters or fires, through the Warm Homes Fund scheme. There is also separate funding available to cover the cost of a gas connection, where applicable, subject to survey and eligibility.

Mains gas central heating allows residents

to stay warmer whilst saving on their fuel bills. Gas central heating is three to four times cheaper than electric heating. The project is funded through National Grid's £150m Warm Homes Fund scheme which is administered by Community Intertest Company, Affordable Warmth Solutions.

 To find out more call YES Energy Solutions on **01422 880100** or email projects@yesenergysolutions.co.uk



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

You can help to
STOP
catalytic
converter
theft

BE AWARE
Catalytic converter
thefts happen on busy streets
and in car parks.

Call 999 to report a crime



FELINE

Prevent your catalytic converter being targeted

We're reminding car owners that a few simple steps can help reduce the opportunity for thieves to steal a catalytic converter from their vehicle:

- Don't park your vehicle half on the pavement, it makes it easier for thieves to get underneath.
- Park in a garage or other secure area, if possible.
- Property mark your catalytic converter. It is cheap and may reduce your insurance.
- If you have a diesel van or other high clearance vehicle secure your catalytic converter with a clamp.
- A sign in your window saying your catalytic converter has been marked or secured may deter thieves.

Models including pre 2008 Honda Jazz models, Toyota Prius (2004 to 2016 inclusive) and Toyota Arius (2012 to 2018 inclusive), are more likely to be targeted.

Together with the police, we are working with garages across the borough to offer free catalytic converter marking. Find your nearest garage at:

www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/Advice/Crime-prevention/Protect-your-property/Operation-Feline-garages

If you have any information about a catalytic converter theft please contact Hertfordshire Constabulary at **www.herts.police.report** or on the non-emergency **101**. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

For more advice on how to protect your catalytic converter visit:

www.herts.police.uk/protectyourproperty

Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings a range of organisations together to ensure a joined-up and strategic approach to tackling crime and disorder issues in the borough.

Visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/csp • Visit www.owl.co.uk to sign-up to your local Neighbourhood Watch



Cash rewards for landlords

Anyone looking to rent out their property will receive financial incentives on top of peace of mind and expert support through Let with Hertsmere.

Despite the challenges of the current pandemic, there has been strong interest from landlords in our private sector scheme run by our experienced team of letting professionals. But we're always looking for more properties.

Landlords can benefit from one of two incentive schemes.

Our cash incentive scheme offers a one-off cash payment, the amount is dependent on the property and length of tenancy; access to our handyperson scheme; and a video check-in inventory.

While our rent deposit scheme offers landlords two months' deposit; one month's rent in advance; video check-in and check-out inventory; landlord insurance cover (for two year tenancies only and up to £500 for the first two years); access to

handyperson scheme and support from a dedicated private sector liaison officer.

One of our landlords, Ari Aresti said: "I have used Let with Hertsmere for over ten years and can honestly say the team has always done their best to accommodate, both, the landlord as well as the tenant."

The Let with Hertsmere team will inspect the property ahead of accepting it on to the scheme and work with the landlord to ensure all documents are up to date.

To find out more go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk/LetwithHertsmere, call **020 8207 7555** or email letwithhertsmere@hertsmere.gov.uk





Contractors appointed for Elstree Studios

A construction company has been appointed to begin design work on the two new soundstages at Elstree Studios.

R. G. Carter Construction was successful in their bid for a pre-construction agreement to assist with designing the soundstages and ancillary workshops on the site of the former

Big Brother house, and drafting preliminaries for further bid documents. In total, four companies submitted tenders for the contract and each tender was evaluated by officers, Elstree Studios management team and our external consultants. The tendering process was undertaken in line with OJEU-compliant Crown Commercial Construction Framework.

The £12 million project, which is funded by us and the government's Getting Building

Fund, is due to open next year and will create at least 800 jobs in Hertsmere, plus apprenticeship and other training opportunities for local school leavers and the unemployed.

Construction company BAM has been appointed by Legal & General, Sky and NBC Universal to create Sky Studios Elstree, the film and TV production site at Rowley Lane, Borehamwood, which is due to open next year.

Call out to EU nationals

If you're an EU citizen living in Hertsmere you have just under four months to apply for an immigration status.

We're encouraging all EU nationals, including those from the European Economic Area or Switzerland, to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if you want to protect your rights and the rights of your family to stay in the UK.

According to figures released by the Home Office last year, 8,700 applications have been made by people living in the borough, of which 1,100 applications were for youngsters aged under 18; 7,400 from 18 to 64 year olds and 280 from over 65s.

As part of the process, you will need to have proof of your identity and proof that you live in the UK. You will also be asked to declare any criminal convictions.



The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. For more information, go to gov.uk/eusettlementscheme



Businesses or residents interested to know how the UK's new relationship will affect them, should go to gov.uk/transition

**IF YOU'RE AN
EU CITIZEN
LIVING IN THE UK
APPLY TO THE
EU SETTLEMENT
SCHEME ONLINE**



New director for development venture

A new face is at the helm of an innovative development venture for Hertsmere.



Joshua Summers has been appointed as Development Director of Hertsmere Development Limited, the local authority trading company set up to spearhead property

development and investment within and outside the borough, in order to help address the significant local housing need, drive economic growth and enable the council to become financially self-sufficient.

Joshua will be working with colleagues to seize opportunities to regenerate underused sites, whilst responding to local needs and producing returns that will be directly reinvested back into services and facilities for Hertsmere residents.

Meet your Councillors

You can contact your ward councillors at any reasonable time. Hertsmere has a Conservative majority, with 29 Conservative councillors, six Labour councillors, three Liberal Democrat councillors and one vacant seat. Your councillors are listed in alphabetical order by ward. If you don't know which ward you live in, please visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/findmycouncillor or call 020 8207 2277.

Key (Con) = Conservative (Lab) = Labour (Lib Dem) = Liberal Democrat	Aldenham East  John Graham (Con) cllr.john.graham@hertsmere.gov.uk 07976 360961		 Lucy Selby (Con) cllr.lucy.selby@hertsmere.gov.uk 07973 710696		Aldenham West  Caroline Clapper (Con) cllr.caroline.clapper@hertsmere.gov.uk 07818 427745		 David Lambert (Con) cllr.david.lambert@hertsmere.gov.uk 07802 412714		Borehamwood Brookmeadow  Glenn Briski (Con) cllr.glenn.briski@hertsmere.gov.uk 07771 688675			 Susan Brown (Con) cllr.susan.brown@hertsmere.gov.uk 07534 984703			 Rabbi Alan Plancey (Con) cllr.alan.plancey@hertsmere.gov.uk 020 8207 3759																
Bentley Heath and The Royds  Sarah Hodgson-Jones (Con) cllr.sarah.hodgson-jones@hertsmere.gov.uk 07817 890541				 Michael Reeve (Con) cllr.mike.reeve@hertsmere.gov.uk 07960 056749				Borehamwood Cowley Hill  Richard Butler (Lab) cllr.richard.butler@hertsmere.gov.uk 07706 079439				 Jeremy Newmark (Lab) - Group Leader cllr.jeremy.newmark@hertsmere.gov.uk 020 3637 9930				 Michelle Vince (Lab) cllr.michelle.vince@hertsmere.gov.uk 07549 130736				Borehamwood Hillside  Victor Eni (Con) cllr.victor.eni@hertsmere.gov.uk 07884 056187				 Meenal Sachdev (Con) cllr.meenal.sachdev@hertsmere.gov.uk 07973 401522				 Farida Turner (Con) cllr.farida.turner@hertsmere.gov.uk 020 8953 4347			
Borehamwood Kenilworth VACANT SEAT				 Rebecca Challice (Lab) cllr.rebecca.challice@hertsmere.gov.uk 07929 661391				 Brett Rosehill (Con) cllr.brett.rosehill@hertsmere.gov.uk 07876 714422				Bushey Heath  Paul Morris OBE (Con) cllr.paul.morris@hertsmere.gov.uk 07813 918881				 Seamus Quilty (Con) cllr.seamus.quilty@hertsmere.gov.uk 07595 372750				 Jerry Evans (Lib Dem) - Group Leader cllr.jerry.evans@hertsmere.gov.uk 07774 714625				Bushey North  Andrew Melville (Lib Dem) cllr.andrew.melville@hertsmere.gov.uk 07391 194895				 Paul Richards (Lib Dem) cllr.paul.richards@hertsmere.gov.uk 07838 786057			
Bushey Park North  David Carter (Con) cllr.david.carter@hertsmere.gov.uk 07715 221714				 Linda Silver (Con) cllr.linda.silver@hertsmere.gov.uk 020 8950 1431				 Anne Swerling (Con) cllr.anne.swerling@hertsmere.gov.uk 07814 241718				Bushey St James  Pervez Choudhury (Con) cllr.pervez.choudhury@hertsmere.gov.uk 07719 788185				 Harry Mortimer (Con) cllr.harry.mortimer@hertsmere.gov.uk 07939 145577				 Pete Rutledge (Con) cllr.pete.rutledge@hertsmere.gov.uk 01923 449950				Elstree  Morris Bright MBE (Con) - Leader of the Council leader@hertsmere.gov.uk 020 8207 7570				 Dr Harvey Cohen (Con) cllr.harvey.cohen@hertsmere.gov.uk 07974 910215			
Potters Bar Furze Field  Christian Gray (Lab) cllr.christian.gray@hertsmere.gov.uk 07535 925297				 Christopher Myers (Lab) cllr.chris.myers@hertsmere.gov.uk 07734 699706				 Jean Heywood (Con) cllr.jean.heywood@hertsmere.gov.uk 07793 868645				 Ruth Lyon (Con) cllr.ruth.lyon@hertsmere.gov.uk 01707 644302				 Paul Hodgson-Jones (Con) cllr.paul.hodgson-jones@hertsmere.gov.uk 07716 832365				 Abhishek Sachdev (Con) cllr.abhishek.sachdev@hertsmere.gov.uk 07712 837990				 Anthony Spencer (Con) cllr.anthony.spencer@hertsmere.gov.uk 07973 349083				 Natalie Susman (Con) cllr.natalie.susman@hertsmere.gov.uk 07939 208447			



Images from top to bottom:
Helen Wand's mask art, Tesco
in Potters Bar and man in PPE
supplied by Susan Alwin,
pebble snake provided by
Rebecca Robinson.

#Collecting COVID

Do you have a story to share?

Our museums have launched #CollectingCOVID to encourage residents to donate objects and first-hand experiences to their local museum.

Photographs, journals, letters and items to show life during the pandemic, tiers and lockdown, will ensure future generations learn about this extraordinary period. They would like items such as:

- **How the physical spaces in Hertsmere have been transformed** – from a bustling town centres to deserted streets, socially distanced gatherings, queues, empty shelves.
- **The effects on key and home workers** – clothing, stories and experiences, homemade face masks, letters, cards, journals.
- **How children and young people are reacting to and coping** – examples of home learning, games played, posters and pictures, diaries, coloured pebbles, chalk drawings on pavements.

Information on items you would be willing to donate can be emailed to:

- Bushey Museum and Art Gallery: busmt@busheymuseum.org (FAO Tony Woollard)
- Elstree and Borehamwood Museum: info@elstree-museum.org.uk
- Potters Bar Museum: pottersbarmuseum@gmail.com
- Radlett and District Museum: info@radlettmuseum.com

➤ Please contact the Heritage and Museums Officer for more information: ruth.stratton@hertsmere.gov.uk or visit: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/collectingcovid

