

Hertsmere News



Hertsmere Borough Council's magazine

Spring 2023



Get ready to vote!

Your guide to Voter ID

Working at our council

If you're looking for work, fancy a career change or are seeking your next step, then why not consider a career with us?

We employ people in many roles, such as Planners, Benefits Officers, ICT experts, Community Engagement Officers and Environmental Services technicians all working towards our shared vision 'being prepared for now, embracing change and setting our own future'.

And we need you to make that vision a reality.

As a colleague at Hertsmere you will have

access to a range of benefits and discounts including a competitive salary, Local Government Pension Scheme, free use of leisure facilities, the cycle scheme and season ticket loan.


We're particularly seeking Civil Enforcement Officers, waste and recycling crews, and HGV drivers, but we have other positions available.


Celebrating Hertsmere's Heroes



Nominations have now closed for this year's Mayor of Hertsmere's Civic Awards, and the winners will be announced in April.

Individuals or groups living or working in the community who give up their time to improve the lives and circumstances of Hertsmere residents have been nominated for the awards. Their names will be considered by a panel and the winners announced at the Mayor's Civic Dinner on Sunday 16 April.

 To find out more go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk/civicawards

 To see our current vacancies, for more information on the borough and our benefits visit www.hertsmerecareers.co.uk

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](https://twitter.com/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](https://www.instagram.com/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
- For our business and recruitment news, follow us on LinkedIn – www.linkedin.com/company/hertsmere-borough-council
- Subscribe to our FREE **News for You** e-alerts for the latest news straight to your inbox. Subscribe by clicking the link on our **contact us** page.
- Watch our planning, executive and full council meetings and various committees online – www.hertsmere.public-i.tv
- Contact your local councillor – www.hertsmere.gov.uk/findmycouncillor or call **020 8207 7558**

Welcome

Welcome to the spring edition of Hertsmere News in which we feature updates from across our key services.



Our Elections team is busy preparing for the borough, town and parish council elections on 4 May. In line with a change agreed nationally, voters will need to bring photo ID along to the polling stations. On pages 4 and 5 you can find more information about the eligible forms of ID and what you can do if you don't have an accepted form of photo ID. You can also find out how to register to vote, how to vote by post or proxy and also how you can join the team working at one of the polling stations or at the count. And keeping it on the elections theme, on page 17 you'll find a Q & A feature with Anastasia, our Electoral Services Assistant, who tells us all about her role and what's lined up over the next couple of months.

With the high cost of living at present, we've had some very difficult decisions to make with our budget for the forthcoming financial year and, as we go to press, we are proposing a 2.99 per cent increase for our share of council tax. There's more information on page 6 of what that is likely to mean for your bills and how your council tax payments overall are allocated to us, Hertfordshire County Council, town council and other organisations.

We have a workforce to be proud of here at Hertsmere and on the page opposite there's information about how to find out more about our career opportunities. And on page 16

we find out more about the hard work of our Homelessness Prevention team at a time when we're seeing more people than ever turn to us for help with housing.

As part of our collective push to recycle more to make the environment a cleaner place, conserve materials, save energy and reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill, we include a four-page pull out guide in our centre pages. It includes some frequently asked questions and signposts you to websites where you can find further information or receive updates.

Spring is now thankfully just around the corner so we dedicate page 15 to some suggestions for beautiful strolls in our award-winning parks and green spaces. Also on that page are details of the ever-popular Easter Egg hunts which will soon be upon us. And it's always a good time to get moving again so on page 13 we feature information about loads of activities for people of all ages and fitness levels to enjoy.

I hope you find this edition an enjoyable and informative read.

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

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Contact us

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

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: Our staff helping us to promote the voter ID requirement



Opening Hours

Reception is open between 9am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 5pm on Friday.

Call 020 8207 2277 to make an appointment

www.hertsmere.gov.uk/contactus

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



On Thursday 4 May local elections are taking place and you will now need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station.

Voter ID – are you ready?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use a passport, driving licence, blue badge, national identity card or identity card with PASS mark or other forms of ID pictured below, in which case you're ready to vote!

If you have ID, but it's out of date, you can still use it to vote at a polling station if the picture still looks like you.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, don't worry. You can apply for a free **Voter Authority Certificate** either online or via a paper form, but you need to be registered to vote to do so.

When applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address
- National Insurance Number

If you don't know your National Insurance Number, or don't have one, you can still apply. You will just need to provide an alternative proof of identity.

You will also need to submit a photograph with your application, similar to a passport photo.

International travel

- Passport

Local travel

- Certain concessionary travel cards

Driving and parking

- Driving licence (including provisional licence)
- Blue badge

Other government-issued documents

- Biometric immigration document
- Defence Identity Card
- National identity card

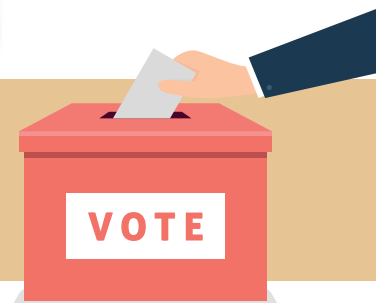
Proof of age

- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at these elections is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April

You should apply as soon as possible in case we need to check any details with you.

If you need any help applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, want to request an application form or for any other elections/registration queries, contact us on **020 8207 7481** or visit: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/VoterID
You can apply at: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate



Borough council elections – are you ready?



With ‘whole council’ elections taking place in Hertsmere on 4 May 2023, where all 39 council seats are up for grabs, it’s vital you are ready to vote and have your say on who represents you.

If you’re not registered to vote, have recently moved house, changed your name or just turned 18, register online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You can also apply by completing a paper application form.

If you’re not registered, you won’t be able to have your say on who your local councillor is.

The deadline to register to vote is 11.59pm on Monday 17 April.



Poll cards

Poll cards will be delivered to residents from mid-March, so look out for yours!

Your poll card (see below, left) will show the address of the polling station you should attend on Election Day, as well as a reminder to take valid ID when you vote.

Some polling stations may have changed, so please check your poll card. You can check your polling station on our website using our ‘Polling Station Finder’. Simply enter your address into the search bar and it will tell you the name and address of your polling station.

The polling station finder is on our FAQ page, under the heading “How can I find my Polling Station?” at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/elections2023

Not around on Election Day?

If you know in advance you’re not around on Election Day, why don’t you register for a postal or proxy vote?

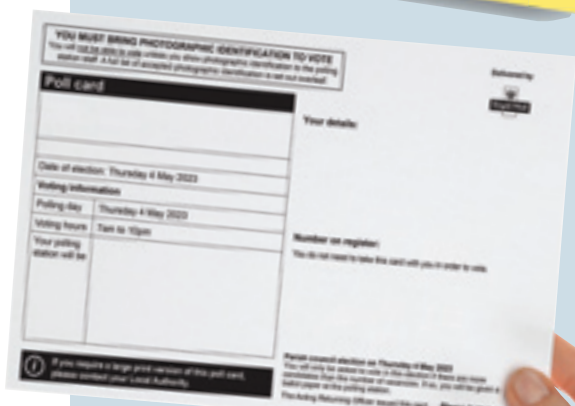
With a **postal vote** you will receive your ballot paper by post approximately ten days before the election, which needs to be completed and returned by Election Day to be counted.

A **proxy vote** allows someone else to vote at your polling station on your behalf. Please note that all nominated proxies will also require their own voter ID to vote on your behalf.

It’s simple to apply. Visit our website: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/waystovote to find out more or apply online or call our elections team using the details given on page 4.


The deadline to vote by post is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April...

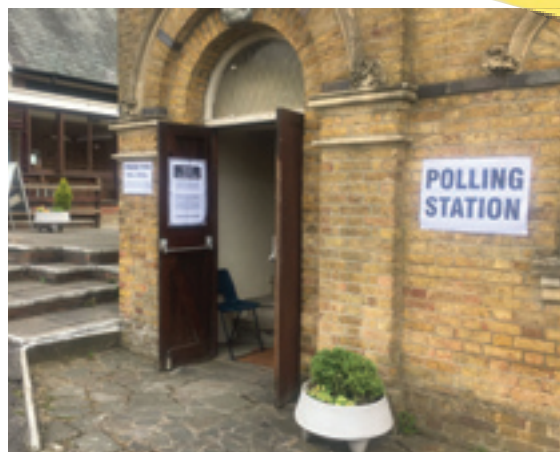
...and 5pm on Tuesday 25 April for a proxy vote. But don't wait, do it today!



Staff for Elections

We are looking for people to work at our polling stations across the borough and during the count in May.

 You can register your interest or find out more about the roles and pay, by emailing election.staff@hertsmere.gov.uk or visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/workelections





Our 2023/24 budget

What our budget means for you

As Hertsmere News went to press, our budget for 2023/24 was due to be considered by all elected members following a period of public consultation.

The budget proposes that you pay around £5.71 per year more for our services this year (April 2023 to March 2024), which is a 2.99 per cent increase on last year.

A household in a Band D property will pay an average of just over £198 in council tax to the borough council for our services for the year – or 54p per day.

With the high cost of living at present, this proposed increase is well below the current rate of inflation showing that we are doing all we can to minimise the impact on our residents whilst continuing to maintain those services.

We also 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.

Where does your council tax go?

77% Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

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
0300 123 4040

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Twitter: @hertscc

www.facebook.com/hertscountycouncil

11% Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

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

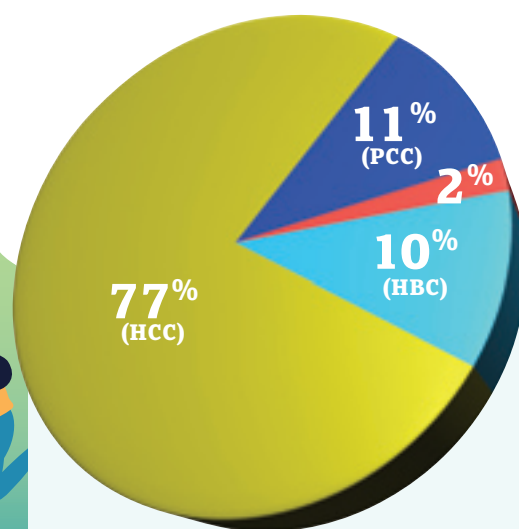


General contact details
01707 806100

www.hertscommissioner.org

@hertspsc

www.facebook.com/HertsPCC



Contacting local police
101 (non-emergency)
Always dial 999 in an emergency
www.herts.police.uk
www.facebook.com/HertsPolice

10% Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC)

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
020 8207 2277

www.hertsmere.gov.uk

@HertsmereBC

www.facebook.com/hertsmere

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

Aldenham Parish Council
Tel: 01923 856433

www.aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Twitter: @AldenhamPC



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

Supporting the cost of living

With the ongoing pressure on household budgets, we are continuing to support those most in need.

The Hertsmere Food Poverty Alliance's 'Worrying about Money?' leaflet is for residents experiencing financial insecurity, and anyone supporting them.

The leaflet, which has been designed to help people identify and access local advice providers as well as existing entitlements, has been updated.

> For more information, please go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk/financialsupport

In addition, **Warm Spaces** are open until the end of March. Thank you to all volunteers and community groups who have supported the initiative since November.

> Find your nearest Warm Space at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/warmspaces



Above: Warm Space at St Michael's and All Angels Church in Borehamwood



Below: The Mayor and Mayoress attend a Warm Space at SRMD UK London Spiritual Centre in Bushey

Honouring Holocaust Memorial Day

The Mayor of Hertsmere, Councillor John Graham, led a poignant candlelit parade and ceremony to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in January.

The candlelit parade travelled from the car park of Radlett Train Station, along Watling Street to The Radlett Centre, where a ceremony took place which included a first-hand personal account from Dzemal Paratusic, a Bosnian genocide survivor about his experiences.

The event was held to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Joining the Mayor were Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Reverend Patrick Moriarty, a number of our borough councillors and officers, other local dignitaries and residents.

Holocaust Memorial Day is held on 27 January, the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the Soviet Army liberated the largest Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST



Left: Mayor of Hertsmere, Cllr John Graham



Emmanuel Boyd, Sports Development Manager at InspireAll and Lee Bruce, Healthy Hub Advocate at InspireAll.

Helping out to improve your health and wellbeing

Physical activity isn't the only way to look after your health. A range of support is available to keep you healthy and well.

Healthy Hubs

The hubs provide free lifestyle support covering mental health, physical activity, weight management, smoking cessation, health MOTs, nutritional advice and sexual health testing kits.

www.hertsmere.gov.uk/healthyhubs

Hertsmere Against Cancer

We've launched a new project aimed at early prevention of cancer. We're working with GPs to contact anyone who has not taken up screening invitations. Listen out for your phonecall.

Chatter Tables

The scheme brings people together in an informal setting for a free cuppa and a chat. Borehamwood's Chatter Table at St Michael's Church takes place every Monday from 1.30pm to 3pm. For more information, email community.services@hertsmere.gov.uk

Potters Bar's Chatter Table at the Wyllotts Cafe takes place every last Friday of the month from 10.30am to 12pm. For more information, email friendsofparkfield@gmail.com

Happy birthday community lottery!

Belstone Football Club have received an additional £250 in support, as a special gift from Hertsmere Community Lottery in celebration of its first birthday.

The community lottery is on track to help local groups, sports clubs, heritage groups, voluntary organisations and charities raise over £10,000 in funds per year by selling lottery tickets to their supporters.

Could your good cause join? It's completely free to register and for every £1 ticket bought, organisations receive 50p directly back to them, with a further 10p going to a Hertsmere general good causes fund.

It's quick and easy to register. Once your charity has been approved:

- Your supporters will have the chance to win £25,000 every week plus other bonus prizes.
- You've got the chance to easily raise over £1,300 with just 50 weekly tickets throughout the year.
- Your good cause can raise recurring, unrestricted funds paid into an account monthly.
- We'll help you with marketing support and your very own easy to set up webpage.

**Hertsmere
Community
Lottery**

To find out more visit: www.hertsmerecommunitylottery.co.uk or www.hertsmere.gov.uk/communitylottery



RECYCLING GUIDE



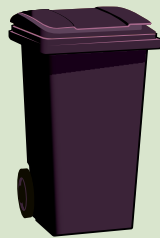
Collections in Hertsmere

We collect from your property on the same day every week and we encourage you to recycle as much of your waste as possible.

Every house should have:

- a brown bin for mixed recycling
- a green bin for food and garden waste
- a black bin for non-recyclables

**On Week 1
we will collect
your black bin**



**On Week 2
we will collect
your green and
brown bins**



Please present your bin on the boundary of your property by 6am on collection day.

Collection calendars are delivered twice a year with Hertsmere News.

Alternatively you can find out which week it is by visiting www.hertsmere.gov.uk/bincollections

Recycling in flats

Your collections may vary if you live in a property with communal bin stores.
For more information please visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/recyclinginflats



Black bin

Use this bin for waste that cannot go in your recycling bins.

The black bin is for general waste but there are still some items that are not acceptable including: batteries, vapes/e-cigarettes and electrical items, paint/paint containers, soil, gas cylinders and DIY waste such as bricks, rubble, asbestos and plasterboard.

You can take these items to the local Recycling Centre – see our FAQs on the back page for information on extra waste. Asbestos and other hazardous items may need specialist removal.

IMPORTANT

Hot ash in the back of our vehicles can lead to a fire. Please allow all fire/BBQ ash to cool completely before putting in your general waste bin.





Mixed recycling bin (brown bin)

Use this bin to recycle glass, cartons, plastic, cans, cardboard and paper.

If recycling bins contain the wrong items they will not be emptied. Please only put acceptable items in and
'if in doubt, leave it out!'

IMPORTANT Items must be:

• Loose, not bagged

If you are using a bag to carry your recyclables to the bin please empty the items into the recycling bin first, then dispose of the bag in the general waste bin or reuse it.

• Clean and empty

Please rinse out any food residue. Pizza boxes, dirty foil and any other food containers with food stuck to them are not acceptable.

YES PLEASE



NO THANKS





Green recycling bin

Use this bin to recycle all food and garden waste.

If recycling bins contain the wrong items they will not be emptied. Please only put acceptable items in and **'if in doubt, leave it out!'**

YES PLEASE



NO THANKS



Kitchen caddies and compostable liners

To make it easier to collect food waste in the kitchen we provide free kitchen caddies.



You can line these with our compostable liners, which can then be tied up and put straight into your green bin. Alternatively supermarket stocked

caddy liners are accepted but they must carry the EN 13432 certified seedling logo shown here and be labelled as 'compostable'.



Garden waste sacks

You can buy Hertsmere paper sacks for any garden waste that won't fit in your green bin. You can put out up to three bags on collection day alongside your green bin.

Where can I get them?

Caddies, liners and sacks are available from several outlets across the borough. Please contact us or visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/kitchencaddies for an up to date list of stockists.



All of the food and garden waste you recycle will be turned into nutrient-rich compost for local farmers.

FAQs

My bin wasn't collected, what should I do?

There may be a reason your bin hasn't been collected, e.g. due to contamination or being overloaded. If your bin hasn't been collected by 2pm please call Customer Services on 020 8207 7480 to report it. You must report a missed bin within two working days.

I have extra waste, what can I do with it?

Recycling centres are available for any additional waste and recycling that won't fit in the bins. They can be found at a number of locations across Hertfordshire, including:

- Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, EN6 3JE
- Allum Lane, Elstree, WD6 3NN
- Waterdale, St Albans Road (near Garston), WD25 OPR

These are managed by Hertfordshire County Council and details of opening times can be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/recycling. Please note, we will not remove anything left on top of or next to your bins.

Events

To keep up to date with events we run, such as clothes swaps, nappy events, bike recycling and compost giveaways, please sign up at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/newsforyou

What does it mean when my bin is contaminated?

If your bin is left unemptied due to an item(s) that shouldn't be in there we say it's contaminated. We are in a strict contract with our recycling facility to ensure we deliver good quality recycling that meets their requirements. When the wrong items are found in a load it can cause problems with machinery or with the type of material needed in the end product. This can lead to rejections, which are both costly and inefficient.

I have a bulky item to get rid of, how can I get it collected?

Consider donating items in good condition to charity, some offer a free collection service. Or you can take it to a Recycling Centre listed left. Alternatively we offer a chargeable collection service for large items booked in and presented outside of your property. For more information visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/bulkywaste

There are a lot of nappies going in my bin, are there any alternatives?

More and more parents are switching to reusable nappies. They're easy to use, sustainable and save you money as well as room in your bin! For more information and a 15% discount off a range of suppliers, visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/nappies

IMPORTANT

Abuse to our crew

Whilst most people recycle well and are happy with the service we offer, there are some residents who abuse our crews when they are just doing their job. **We will not tolerate aggressive or abusive behaviour aimed at our employees and may report incidents to the police. All of our vehicles are fitted with CCTV.**

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

 **recycle**
for Hertsmere



Get Sporty this Spring

With warmer weather and longer days, it's time to get back to outdoor activities. Whether you're a novice or a pro, where fitness is involved, there is something for everyone going on in our borough.

We Move, She Moves

Our award-winning activity programme for women and girls aged 16+ has classes including Dance, Aerobics, Pilates, Zumba, Aqua Zumba, Golden Dance Fit, Yoga and Pound.

www.wemoveshemoves.me.uk

InspireAll

Bushey Grove, The Venue and Furze field leisure centres have a great range of activities available including gym, swimming, classes, indoor and outdoor sports and lots of children's activities. Make sure to visit the centres' websites and social media channels.

Back2Bowls

Our popular bowls community event is continuing at our all-weather green at Aberford Community Centre on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm. Learn how to bowl, meet new friends and enjoy the outside. Indoor equipment available if weather is adverse. Everyone is welcome to play and equipment is provided if needed.

www.communities1st.org.uk/aberfordbowls



Friday Night Project

More than 100 young people attend Hertswood Academy each week to take part in football, basketball, rugby and dance. The project is part of our Active Local Project and focuses on providing activities in Cowley Hill. Food is provided by WD6 Foodbank. For more information, email community.services@hertsmere.gov.uk



Rugby training at the Friday Night Project



Fit to work

Have you considered a career in the health and wellbeing industry?

Bushey Grove, The Venue and Furze field leisure centres in Bushey, Borehamwood and Potters Bar offer a great range of roles including leisure assistants, duty managers, fitness instructors, swimming teachers, catering assistants and many others.

Why not join a team of people who love coming to work and making a difference to the quality of people's lives?

Visit www.inspireall.com/vacancies for the latest opportunities available.





Get involved and make a difference

Communities 1st offers services for those with mobility issues and anyone struggling to get out and about or carry out simple DIY jobs.

The **Community Car** scheme and the **Shopper Bus** scheme can help you get out and about. To find out more email: travel@communities1st.org.uk



The **handyperson** service is available for anyone who is on benefits and needs help with gardening, furniture assembly and fixes, single plumbing works, tiling or other tasks. To find out more email handy@communities1st.org.uk.



If you want to help in the community and enjoy working outside, you could consider volunteering as a **gardener** and help someone improve their green space. Email volunteer@communities1st.org.uk to find out more.



Communities 1st
Working with you to make a bigger difference

Let's scrap flytipping



Each year, fly-tipping costs over £75,000 in clean-up costs in Hertsmere, funds which could be spent on much-needed services.

We all have a duty of care to ensure our household waste is disposed of correctly. If your waste is fly tipped you could receive a fixed penalty notice of up to £300 or face criminal prosecution, even if you didn't put it there.

Last year a north London man was fined over £25,000 for allowing his waste to be dumped in Hertsmere – the largest fine received for waste dumped in the borough. Remember, if it's your waste, it's your responsibility.

If you need to have your rubbish removed, remember the SCRAP advice:

For more information visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/flytipping.

Suspect all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until they have proven themselves to be legitimate.

Check their waste carrier registration details, then verify by searching the Environment Agency website or by calling 03708 506 506.

Refuse unexpected offers to have any rubbish taken away.

Ask what will happen to your rubbish and get evidence.

Paperwork should be obtained. Get a proper invoice, waste transfer note or a receipt for your waste removal.

Call **999** immediately if you see fly tipping in progress. Otherwise, report it using our online form - www.hertsmere.gov.uk/reportit - or call us on **020 8207 2277**.

Street Traders – do you have consent?

Street traders will now need our consent to set up in the borough.

A street trader includes anyone selling items in a public street or market stall, including food outlets, either at a stationary location or a mobile seller. Open air events such as markets or fun days may also fall within the requirements.

If you work as a street trader, find out more: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/streettrading

Street traders must display their permit. If you see someone trading without a permit or who is causing a nuisance, please report them to: licensing.services@hertsmere.gov.uk



Stroll through spring gardens near you



From beds of colourful tulips to delicate blossom, gardens across the borough are beginning to wake up from the winter sleep.

We've selected some spring walks for you to enjoy in Hertsmere:

Parkfield in Potters Bar

A Green Flag award-winning park with traditional meadows, a Japanese garden, holly walk and pond.

Above: The beautiful pond at Parkfield in Potters Bar

Studio Way Woodland in Borehamwood

A park rich in wildlife thanks to the natural habitats. You may even be lucky to see bats, a fox, Great Spotted Woodpecker or a Muntjac deer.

Bushey Rose Garden

Of special historic interest with more than 40 varieties of roses and over 4,000 different plants.

Mary Forsdyke Garden and Warren Lake in Bushey Heath

An enchanting garden with boardwalk and many different plants on offer.

To find out about more than a hundred flagship parks across Hertfordshire, visit www.ParksHerts.co.uk

Top: Warren Lake in Bushey Heath
Bottom: Bushey Rose Garden



Egg-cellent idea

If you're looking for an Easter activity for all the family, why not hop along to one of your local parks in April.

Easter Egg Hunts will be taking place from midday to 4pm at:

Aberford Park, Borehamwood, Tuesday 4 April
Oakmere Park, Potters Bar, Wednesday 5 April
Bushey Rose Garden, Thursday 6 April

Find hidden images and letters to make the Easter-related word and win a treat. It costs £2 per person to participate.

For more information, visit www.parkevents.co.uk or follow @ParkEventsHerts on Facebook.



Helping people off the streets

We've helped dozens of Hertsme individuals and families avoid or move out of homelessness despite an economic climate which is seeing more people than ever turn to us for help with housing.


Working in collaboration with other agencies, our **Homelessness Prevention team** found accommodation for nine individuals known to be sleeping rough in the borough and **helped 180 households** remain in their homes or find alternative accommodation, before they become homeless last year. In addition, with funding from the government's **Homelessness Prevention Grant**, our officers found accommodation for **16 single people** faced with homelessness and supported four families to clear their arrears so they wouldn't lose their homes last year.

We've seen an increase in evictions of tenants by private landlords last year. More than **313 eviction cases** were dealt with by our tenancy relations officer in 2022, up from 133 the year before.

Emily Dillon, our **Housing Services Manager**, said: "I'm very proud of all the team have achieved so far and continue to achieve.

"Please do keep reporting anyone you see rough sleeping who might need help through the Streetlink app or website."

The **Homelessness Prevention Grants** were made available to local authorities in 2022-23 so they could step in to ensure vulnerable households are not forced into homelessness.

 You can find out more on our website www.hertsme.gov.uk/homelessness




Support for worthwhile projects

A whole host of local projects from diversity celebrations to community groups have received a much-needed boost thanks to financial contributions from our **Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (WIIS)**.



The past year has seen 26 different applications made and a total spend of £16,155 to groups and organisations for projects that are actively supporting our local communities.

The Christmas lights switch-on event in Potters Bar benefitted from funding, as did Hertsme Mencap (pictured) and Sebby's Corner.

 For further information visit www.hertsme.gov.uk/WIIS

Planning – Call for Sites update


More than 140 potential housing, employment and green infrastructure sites have been put forward during our recent Call for Sites.

We asked developers, landowners, stakeholders and anyone who knew of any available sites with potential for development to get in touch towards the end of last year.

These sites will be assessed for suitability over the coming months.

Among the submissions were just over 40 sites which had not been submitted during previous Calls for Sites, of which half were on sites containing previously developed land.

It was decided, just under a year ago, that the current version of Hertsme's new Local Plan would be set aside following an extensive public engagement.

 Work is now underway on a new version of the plan, which will guide development and influence how the borough changes in the future. For more go to www.hertsme.gov.uk/newlocalplan



ANASTASIA EVANS

Q&A

We spoke to Anastasia Evans, our Electoral Services Assistant, about her role and the changes coming to elections this year.

Q Tell us about your role as Electoral Services Assistant.

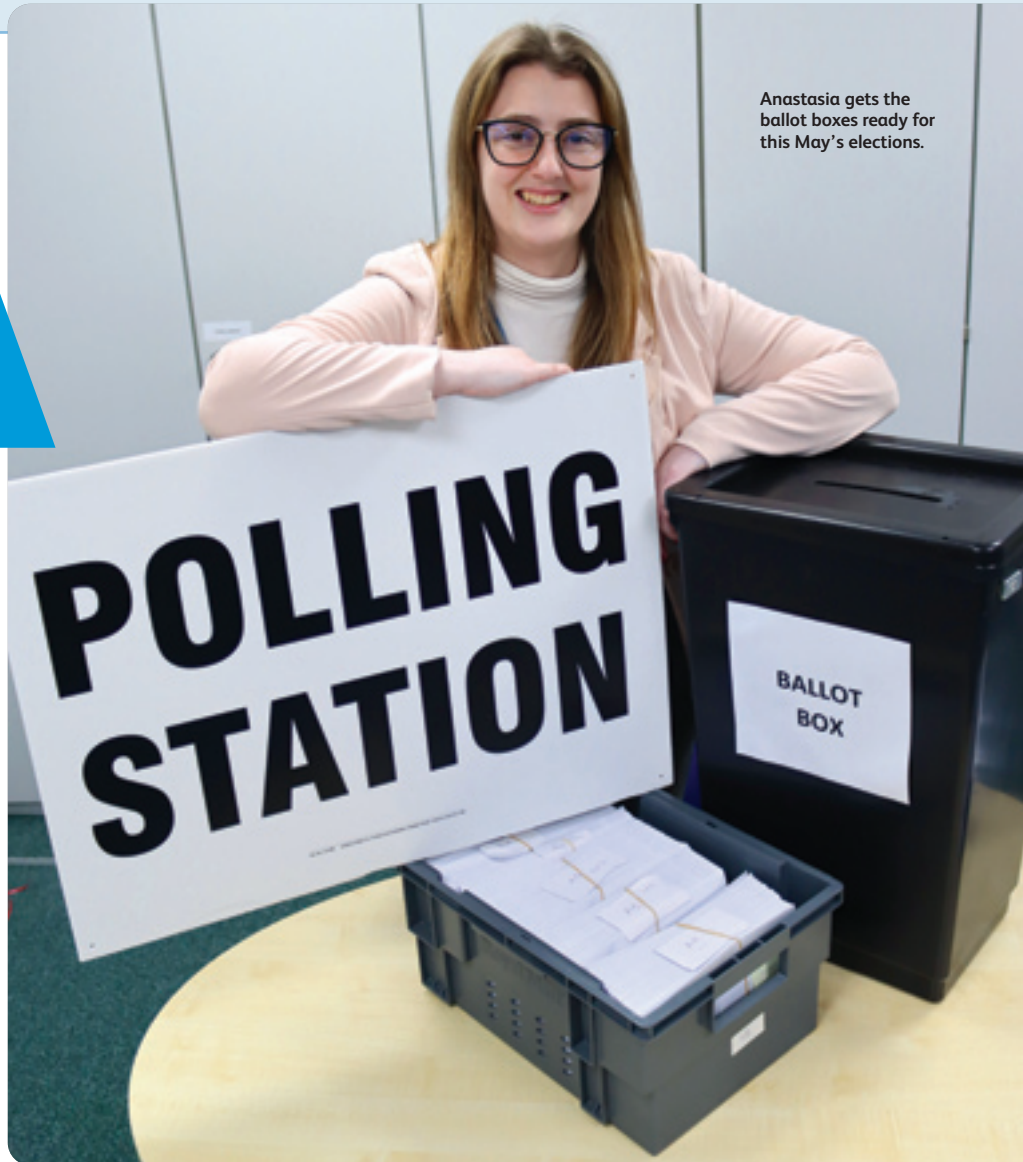
A Elections may happen on one day a year but that does not mean our department only works that day. There are many things to work on throughout the year, including managing the electoral register; carrying out different community tasks; running the annual canvass, which ensures the electoral register is as up to date and accurate as it can be; as well as other legislative tasks set by Government.

Q Tell us about a key project you are working on at the moment?

A In 2022, the Government introduced a new bill which changes the way people will vote from May 2023. This includes having ID to vote within a polling station; improvements on accessibility for voters; changes to postal and proxy voting; changes to overseas voting – and more. Ensuring that our electoral services department are prepared for these changes and that we have communicated with our residents is very important to us.

Q What do you hope to achieve over the coming months?

A I hope to deliver a well-managed election for the department, the council and the voters.



Anastasia gets the ballot boxes ready for this May's elections.

Q What is the biggest challenge your department is facing?

A We want to ensure the new Voter ID rules do not stop anyone from voting, so we are sending out regular messages through our social media channels, sending out printed leaflets and posters, and most importantly, going out and about in the community spreading the message and helping those who need ID to get access to some. Voting is so important that we want everyone in Hertsmere to have the opportunity to vote.

Q What would you say to anyone who isn't registered to vote / or perhaps isn't interested in voting?

A Voting is your right. Working in electoral services, I see how important every single vote is, how important every single elector is. No matter who you are, where you come from, what your political ideology is, you

have the power to have your say and be heard. We, as a department, are happy to help get you registered and the changes brought about by the Elections Act should make you feel confident that we want to help you. Visit our website for information.

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

A When I was 10 years old, I helped change the speed limit outside of my school. This helped to kick start a campaign to have lower speed limits outside all schools. That experience makes me know that no matter how small you think your voice may be, you can make a difference.



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.

Safe as houses?

Have you reviewed your home security lately?

Some simple crime prevention advice can help protect your home from burglaries.

- Make your home less inviting to a burglar by closing and **securely locking** all windows and doors when you go out.
- If you're not home in the evenings use **timer switches** on lights to give the illusion someone is in.
- Install dusk to dawn **external lighting**.
- Consider installing a **doorbell camera** and **monitored burglar alarm**.
- Keep keys and valuables secure and **out of sight**.
- Ensure boundary fences are **secure** with side gates **locked**.
- Keep tools and ladders in a **locked** shed, as these items can be used to gain access to your property.

- **Secure bins** at night and **put garden furniture away**, as these can be used by burglars to gain access to upper floor windows.
- Ensure your **vehicle is locked** and **remove all valuables** as burglars often check to see if doors are left unlocked.
- Join Hertfordshire's **Neighbourhood Watch** for alerts and advice.

For more advice visit www.herts.police.uk/protectyourhome
You can report suspicious activity in your area or provide information online at herts.police.uk/report, speak to an operator in the Force Communications



Room via their online web chat at herts.police.uk/contact or call the non-emergency number **101**, quoting the relevant crime reference number.

Alternatively, you can stay 100 per cent anonymous by contacting the independent charity **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111** or at www.crimestoppers.co.uk

For more crime prevention advice visit www.herts.police.uk/protectyourhome and www.hertscitizensacademy.org

Taking stock of Hertsmere

Do you run or manage a business in Hertsmere?
How is the cost of living crisis impacting you?

We're asking all businesses in the borough, large and small, to complete our Hertsmere Works business survey 2023 before Wednesday 15 March and help us assess how rising energy costs and inflationary pressures are affecting our local economy.

Your responses will help inform our work and how we prioritise the implementation of our economic development plan going forward.

In addition, we are looking at ways to improve our town centres and we would appreciate your views on this.

Your responses will be treated confidentially and will be used for council purposes only. Your company information will not be shared with any third party.



Find out more go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk/businesssurvey2023



Meet your Councillors

You can contact your ward councillors at any reasonable time. Hertsmere has a Conservative majority, with 29 Conservative councillors, seven Labour and Co-operative councillors and three Liberal Democrat councillors. 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 & Co-op) = Labour and Co-operative

(Lib Dem) = Liberal Democrat

Aldenham East



John Graham
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Lucy Selby
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Aldenham West



Caroline Clapper
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David Lambert
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Borehamwood Brookmeadow



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Rabbi Alan Plancey
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Bentley Heath and The Royds



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Borehamwood Cowley Hill



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Borehamwood Hillside



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Borehamwood Kenilworth



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Potters Bar Furze Field



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Potters Bar Parkfield



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What's on

The Radlett Centre

1 Aldenham Avenue, Radlett
01923 859291
www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Thursday 23 March James Ketchell – It's all Mental

Record-breaking aviator, adventurer and author James Ketchell is the only person to have climbed Everest, cycled around the world and rowed an ocean. Tickets £17.50

Wednesday 5 April The Jungle Book

Immersion Theatre is back with its critically-acclaimed adaptation of this family favourite. Filled with music, audience interaction and bags of comedy, join Mowgli and friends on this adventure. Tickets £15, family (4) £55

Wylllyotts Theatre

Wylllyotts Place, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar 01707 645005
www.inspireall.com/wylllyotts-theatre



Thursday 30 March The Fureys

One of Ireland's all-time most acclaimed and influential middle of the road, folk and traditional bands returns to the stage. Classics include I Will Love You and When You Were Sweet 16. Tickets £25

96 Shenley Road

Saturday 8 April NT Live Encore Screening: Life of Pi

Puppetry, magic and storytelling combine in a unique, Olivier Award-winning stage adaptation of the best-selling novel. Tickets £14



Discover our museums

Bushey Museum and Art Gallery

Kate Cowderoy

Kate Cowderoy joined the Herkomer Art School in 1899 and was an active artist until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. She settled with her family in Bushey becoming part of the artistic community that developed as a result of the reputation of the Herkomer School, the attraction of studio accommodation and the availability of good art teachers.

Open Thursday to Sunday,
11am to 4pm.

busheymuseum.org

Potters Bar Museum

The History of Gardening

This exhibition outlines the development of gardens and gardening since Roman times showing the evolution of plants, shrubs and trees as well as the changing styles and fashions. Visit the museum's website to create your own Potters Bar wall calendar, which features historical images from the town. A new calendar page is available to download and print each month.

Open Tuesdays and
Wednesdays 2.30pm to 4.30pm
and Saturdays 11am to 1pm.

pottersbarmuseum.org.uk

Radlett and District Museum

Latest exhibition

'The history of religious buildings in the parish of Aldenham' traces the history, in words and photographs, of each building.

Open Wednesdays and
Saturdays 10am to midday.

radlettmuseum.com



Elstree and Borehamwood Museum

New exhibition

'Murder, Mayhem and Mystery – A Journey Through The Dark Side' starts in 1735 when Dick Turpin invaded an Elstree farm with his gang and travels through 250 years of local history to 1971 when Barclays Bank in Shenley Road was raided. The exhibition explores dastardly deeds, murders punished and unpunished, secret houses hidden in plain sight and 'celebrities' in trouble.

Open Tuesday to Thursday
between midday and 6pm,
and on Saturdays from 10am
to 3pm.

elstree-museum.org.uk

De Havilland Museum

Mosquito

Experience what it's like to fly at high speed and low altitude in the new Mosquito flight simulator – could you be the next Top Gun!

The museum is looking forward to celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March and World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April.

Check their social media for special event details.

Open Tuesday to Sunday
10.30am to 5pm.

dehavillandmuseum.co.uk

Above: The Mosquito flight simulator in action.

Left: 'Garden' by Kate Chowderoy

