

**CLERK'S REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 2004**

At a busy December's meeting, the following matters came up for discussion:

East of England Plan

The East of England Plan has been published for public consultation. The Plan is available for inspection at main local authority offices, at main libraries and via the East of England Regional Assembly's website – www.eera.gov.uk.

Both Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts District Council are encouraging residents to have their say on the Plan which proposes, amongst other things, an additional 20,800 new homes in East Herts by 2021.

The Councils have set up a 'portal' on the Internet to give people a single point of access to information: www.speakuphertfordshire.org.uk

The site provides a direct link to the consultation form on the East of England Regional Assembly's website, which can also be accessed via www.eera.gov.uk.

The consultation period ends at 5:00pm on 16 March 2005.

Briefing packs to help explain the different proposals and to help people respond are being developed by Hertfordshire County Council. These will be available via the website.

East Herts Council is developing an information pack which can be obtained by calling 01279 655261 or completing an online form.

It is hoped that the packs will also be available at the following meetings:

11 JANUARY @ 7.00pm HERTFORD HEATH VILLAGE HALL

COMMUNITY VOICE MEETING

27 JANUARY @ 7:30pm CASTLE HALL HERTFORD

In the view of Mike Carver, leader of East Herts Council: "The proposals are flawed, based on flawed thinking and have been pushed through a deeply flawed and undemocratic process. The options are both unsustainable and illogical: dumping thousands of homes in the Green Belt will create environmental chaos."

Do make sure that you attend an information meeting and/or get a briefing pack and let the Regional Assembly have your views. As East Herts Council says: "Speak up East Herts – let your voice be heard".

Playing field

The practice goal post has been reinstated and replacement bolts fitted to the teenagers' meeting point. (I think I may have inadvertently given people the welcome/unwelcome impression that the meeting point was to be moved. I do apologise if you got that view from what I said in the Council minutes. I was simply

looking at the National Playing Fields Association's recommendations to check that their guidelines would not be flouted by locating further equipment in the future.)

The Playing Field Committee has been considering brochures of equipment and is recommending that all be obtained from Wickstead's – the supplier of virtually all the children's play equipment. The committee hopes to get someone from Wickstead's to visit the playing field and discuss the plans.

The next step in the process is to find out what grants are available.

"Pavements are for people"

I realise that I have raised this issue a number of times over the past year but it would seem that it needs repeating. It is illegal to obstruct the pavement in any way, whether by parking a car wholly or partly on it or by parking the car in one's drive so that the front or the rear sticks out onto the pavement. Many people do not seem to realise that the white lines along London Road are not there to say that it is OK to park on the pavement. I know that such parking is allowed in a number of areas (and that there may be a solid white line to show where parking is allowed). However, those areas also have signs to indicate that parking is permitted on the pavement. There are no such signs along London Road, so please leave the pavements clear for pedestrians.

"Nothing is accessible unless you can get there."

Hertfordshire Action on Disability has a seven-strong fleet of adapted, fully accessible vehicles to transport disabled people to work, doctor's appointments, shopping, holidays and other leisure activities 24 hours a day. All vehicles have HAD livery, floor claming, inertia reel seatbelts and a low rear ramp. Each vehicle can transport up to two wheelchairs and two seated passengers comfortably, plus additional seating for a carer.

Two self-drive Citroen Dispatch multi-purpose vehicles are also available. These are ideal for family holidays as well as day trips and shorter journeys.

Contact Phil Caley or Mike Sage on 01707 375159 for details.

Hertfordshire Dial a Ride provides door to door transport for the elderly, disabled and those who cannot easily use passenger transport. The vehicles used are designed to offer easy access and have tail-lifts/ramps that can be used by those who cannot climb steps easily or who use a wheel chair. Membership of the scheme should be obtained before the scheme can be used.

The service can be used for local journeys to shops, libraries, visiting friends or places of interest and local GPs and dentists. Dial a Ride does not provide transport to hospitals as an outpatient, to full time education or to social services/health service day centres.

Once you have been accepted as a member you can book your trips up to seven days in advance. The service is available between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm, Monday to Saturday.

Phone 01992 588744 for membership, 01992 465642/443902 for bookings and 01992 465541 for cancellations.

Parish Council noticeboards

The Council is happy for village organisations to put up posters on its three noticeboards, namely at the Mission Room, in the Church yard and on the Pindar Green (providing of course that the Council's notices are not removed or obscured). However, it decided at its last meeting that commercial advertising would not be permitted and I have been authorised to remove all such advertising.

Advertising village events and services on the website is no problem, so if you would like to advertise something, do let me know.

And finally ...

You may recall that, in last month's Parish News, I reported on a presentation on affordable housing by Sally Smallwood (East Herts Council's Housing Development Manager). Sally has been advised that it is incorrect to say the government's key worker housing provision is not available for fire fighters who went on strike and that she apologises for indicating otherwise.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10 January 2005 in the Mission Room starting at 7:30pm. Members of the public are always welcome.

Carolyn Morgan
Clerk to the Council

**HERTFORD HEATH VILLAGE HALL
Schedule of Rates**

Weekday sessions

9.00 am to 12.30 pm or 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Non-commercial organisations:	£6.00 per session
Commercial organisations	£15.50 per session

Weekday evening sessions

Non-commercial organisations:	£18.00 per session
Commercial organisations	£27.50 per session

Weekend sessions

Morning or afternoon session

Non-commercial organisations	£30.00 per session
Commercial organisations	£50.00 per session

Full day Saturday or Sunday

Fund raisers for village organisations	£50.00
Non commercial hires by village residents	£85.00
Hires by non village residents and commercial hires	£100.00
Regular Commercial hires	£93.50

Children's Party Special any day, times by arrangement **£20.00**

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