

Community

news Summer 2010



Town Council Annual Report 2009/10



I am very pleased to present the Council's Annual Report for 2009/10. It aims to explain the background to the legislation and the history, duties and powers of the Town Council and what it has done in the last year.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2010/11 were elected on 13th May 2010 they are Councillor Linda Clark and Councillor Dave Kay and I wish Linda an enjoyable year as the Town's first citizen.



Mayor for 2010/11 Councillor Linda Clark and Deputy Mayor Councillor Dave Kay

CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK

We want to know your views on the contents of this Report, and receive your comments, queries and complaints regarding the services provided by the Town Council.

Up to date information on all Town Council activities can be found on the website www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Members of the public are also invited to attend every Council meeting to ask questions, make comments and raise matters of local interest.

Please send any comments to:

Ms. Carrie Lloyd, Town Clerk
Hatfield Town Council
Birchwood Leisure Centre
Longmead, Hatfield
Herts. AL10 0AN

Telephone: 01707 262023

e-mail:

enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk

text: 07749 550312

Contact Details

Hatfield Town Council
Council Offices
Birchwood Leisure Centre
Longmead
Hatfield AL10 0AN

Tel. 01707 262023

Fax. 01707 271145

Email:

enquiries@hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Town Clerk – Carrie Lloyd

Deputy Town Clerk – Paul Widdicombe

Our office is open 9am – 4:30pm
Monday to Friday.

Website:

www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk

News Report & Accounts

Description of the **Council**, its Membership and Establishment

Hatfield Town Council comprises 15 elected Councillors who each serve for a term of 4 years. The next Town Council elections are due in May 2011. The Councillors annually elect one of their number to be the Town Mayor who chairs Council Meetings. Town Councillors do not receive any payments or allowances with the exception of the Town Mayor who receives a small allowance. Members of the Council as at 5 June 2010 are listed on page 6.

Most of the business of the Council has been delegated to 3 main Committees. The Resources and Policy and Leisure Committees meet 6 times a year and the Planning Committee meets 11 times a year.

Copies of the Agendas for all meetings are available for inspection 3 days beforehand at the Council Offices and of Full Council at the Council Offices and Hatfield Library. Members of the public are welcome to ask questions about matters being considered at all meetings. Advance notice is required and details of how to do this are available from the Council Offices.

The Council employs a team of 27 contracted staff, headed by the Town Clerk, who is Ms. Carrie Lloyd, to implement its policies. A further 43 casual staff have also been employed over the last year mainly as holiday playscheme or bar staff.

The Town Council serves the parish of Hatfield, which has a population of 34,000 (Hertfordshire County Council estimate for 2007). Hatfield is also served by two principal Councils - Hertfordshire County Council, which is responsible for education, social services, highways, strategic planning and libraries and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council which also covers Welwyn Garden City, Welwyn, Welham Green, Brookmans Park, Essendon, Northaw, Cuffley, Woolmer Green and other surrounding villages and which is responsible for housing, local plans and development control, environmental health, refuse collection and major recreational facilities.

Our Main Purpose and Objectives

Our unique purpose is to offer a range of very local services that meet the need of our communities, many of which would not otherwise be provided.

More specifically we will offer our residents:

- A main sports and leisure centre offering a wide range of indoor and outdoor sporting options, an indoor playground, as well as a holiday playscheme, all at competitive prices meeting local needs.
- Other venues, situated within the heart of our communities, two of which are highly valued village

based centres, providing local people and local groups with a choice of easily accessible activities, including outdoor and indoor sports, playgroups, play areas, and hosting a variety of local clubs requiring meeting and other social event space.

- Well maintained and well occupied allotment spaces.
- Well maintained community parks and open spaces.

In addition to these specific services, we seek to promote the broader interests of the community. The Council will achieve these objectives by

- Consulting the community generally and service users specifically on services provided, and by demonstrably responding to findings.
- Engaging the Community on the big issues facing Hatfield and playing a key advocacy role on their behalf.
- Working in partnership with a wide range of local organisations to ensure an improving standard of services to meet the needs of residents and others. Our relationship with the University of Hertfordshire, and other public bodies are critical to that success.

News Report & Accounts

Business Planning and Performance Management

The Council's business planning process and performance management has until now been centred around its budget process and financial performance. In the budget cycle

the Leisure and Resources and Policy Committees consider their strategies for the following financial year, review performance for the current year to date and set appropriate budgets.

Once the policies and budgets are approved, the Officers are instructed to ensure that income, expenditure and financial performance are closely monitored.

Town Council Services

The Town Council's Final Accounts for 2009/10 will be considered by Council in July 2010. The net budget for 2010/11 is set out below together with a comparison to the 2009/10 budget.

2009/10		2010/11
£		£
69,424	DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION & MANAGEMENT	67,818
155,804	CORPORATE MANAGEMENT	158,652
28,030	COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES	28,030
38,240	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS & COST OF PCSOS	38,240
7,450	ALLOTMENTS	7,400
153,185	BIRCHWOOD CENTRE & PLAYING FIELD	168,520
28,268	LEMSFORD HALL & PLAYING FIELD	25,490
19,430	NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD	19,270
2,616	OXLEASE HOUSE & GROUNDS	-520
80,374	COMMUNITY PARKS & OPEN SPACES	75,345
48,988	ROE HILL HALL & PLAYING FIELD	54,710
165,865	IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES	170,808
7,193	HOWE DELL COMMUNITY CENTRE	8,170
25,133	LOAN CHARGES	12,567
-15,000	INVESTMENT INTEREST	-4,500
815,000	PRECEPT ON DISTRICT COUNCIL	830,000

ESTIMATED RESERVES

31/3/2010	31/3/2011
£314,446	£330,778

Electorate figures for Hatfield

Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated
2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
19,743	20,592	21,000	22,838	23,316	23,398	23,480

Figures obtained from electoral department, Welwyn Hatfield Council as of 15 October annually.

Planning

Planning Committee



During the past year 149 planning applications have been considered and 34 observations have been made.

Items discussed have included applications for and consideration of:

- restoration of mineral workings at Hill End Farm



- residential development on phase 4 of the former aerospace site
- removal of a condition to allow 24 hour deliveries to Asda
- one stop shop at Breaks Manor



- part demolition and rebuild on the Bush Hall Hotel site (later withdrawn)
- housing growth options in the East of England Plan
- waste development framework proposals for New Barnfield
- temporary accommodation blocks for the University of Hertfordshire



- redevelopment of High View
- redevelopment of Hatfield Town Centre



This Council did not agree with New Barnfield being allocated for a site for waste incineration. Traffic concerns, the Special Needs School, Local Heritage and wildlife concerns were the key reasons for not supporting the site. The Committee also considered the local infrastructure inadequate for a proposal of this magnitude.



Members have made site visits, attended other meetings and received presentations at Council meetings so that members have been as informed as possible about applications and proposals prior to making a decision.

Report by Welwyn Hatfield Borough on Draft Plans for High View: Feedback from the Consultation Events

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council held a number of consultation events in April 2010 to find out what residents, local businesses, and people with a key interest in the area, thought about the draft development plans for High View. The project team also attended the South Hatfield fete on the 8th May to exhibit the plans.



In total, we consulted around 300 people as part of this exercise, and were really pleased with the response that we had from everyone who participated – so thank you for coming along and sharing your views with us.

On the whole, there was a lot of support for the draft plans, and everyone welcomed the proposals for a medical centre, play area, and better seating and landscaping at High View. Concerns were however raised over the amount of car parking proposed in the new development, the servicing arrangements for the shops, vehicular access to the church, and the future of the community hall attached to the pub if that site were to be re-developed.

A number of people also stated that they would like the planned re-development of High View to be taken forward in the short term, as the area is in need of investment.

Following the events, we are now in the process of amending the draft plans for High View to take account, where possible, of the comments raised during the consultation exercise. We will consult you on the final plans for the re-development of High View in the Autumn, and will be in contact with further details of planned events closer to the time.

Leisure Committee



This has been another busy and varied year for the Leisure Committee with yet further development of our leisure facilities. This year has also seen the setting up of two working party groups, the de Havilland Working Party and the Hatfield Town Football Club Working Party to pursue two significant leisure projects, and the appointment of our very first Skate Park Champion to support the Hatfield Skate Park Project as part of the town centre development.



Birchwood Leisure Centre

Birchwood continues to play a central part in the Council's leisure portfolio. We have experienced several challenges this year, namely the closure of the café service in response to reduced income and increasing costs.

We have also faced a challenge in discussions with Hatfield Town Football Club in discovering that the property and grounds of Birchwood are not correctly registered with the Charities Commission, and will be pursuing this matter along with Council officers to a successful conclusion.

The Council remains committed to Birchwood. We have replaced heating in the main hall and continue with plans to secure funding for an astro turf pitch, ongoing maintenance projects and options on refurbishing the



showers. We will be actively looking at developing and marketing our offering here and at our other facilities throughout Hatfield.

Community Halls

Roe Hill Hall

Roe Hill had a new wooden floor installed earlier this year and remains a popular venue.

Newgate Street Village Hall & Howe Dell Community Centre

Are both well utilised, and we look forward to the installation of the new kitchen in Newgate Street later this year.

Lemsford Hall continues to be a popular location and will have a long awaited replacement roof and new fencing in the new financial year.

Open Spaces

De Havilland Grange Sports Pitch & Meadow & Chipmunk Chase



Consultation began in Dec 2009 and is ongoing regarding options for play facilities for older children and young adults in these areas. The Council used text voting for the first time in these consultations with much success. A suggested table tennis table for Chipmunk Chase and teen play equipment at de Havilland Grange will not be progressed but the area will have static goal posts and new

signage, and we will be seeking expert advice on management of the meadow. The Council's officers have also started negotiation with the planning authority regarding a community use building on the Grange. We have had well attended meetings during these consultations and will be continuing to support the views of our residents through community led problem solving.



Coppice Close and Newstead

Both areas will have new wetpour surfacing and additional play equipment in the new financial year.



Millwards and Ellenbrook

We have also installed new play equipment and wetpour safety surface in Millwards and Ellenbrook. This was thanks to funding from BIG lottery funding, the Play Partnership and prudential forward planning by this Council.

Centenary Park

Unfortunately we have not been successful in our bid to Veolia for grant funding towards an outdoor gym but we are seeking funding from elsewhere in the hope that the project will still be able to go ahead.

Resources

Resources and Policy Committee

Capital Expenditure

The Town Council has received additional open spaces and play areas from developers along with money to enable the Council to maintain them. In order to manage these areas efficiently, the Council has opted to use the money to improve efficiency and purchase additional equipment including a mower and tractor.



Our policy is to keep all the Town Council properties in good condition by implementing a rolling programme of repair and decoration.

This year, improvements and replacement equipment have been purchased for the Funzone, and TVs installed in the Fitness Suite.

In keeping with this Council's commitment to green issues, movement sensors have been installed in the Leisure Centre to reduce electricity consumption.

Grants

Last year 8 local organisations benefited from grants offered by the Hatfield Town Council, these grants are to help facilitate community activities within our area.

The recipients include:

South Hatfield Fair
Birchwood Car Rally
Guinness Trust
The Ryde School PTA
Green Lanes Primary School
Town's Women's Guild
Green Lanes Allotment Association
Lemsford Youth FC

Annual Youth Exchange

Last year it was reported that there were fears that the twinning with Zierikzee in

Holland may come to an end. Sadly this has now happened. The twinning with Zierikzee started over 50 years ago and developed from the 1953 disaster, when so many lives were lost during the floods which devastated the lowlands.

The people of Hatfield contributed to the flood relief fund, part of which was sent to Zierikzee, from this action a bond was formed.

Budget

This Committee also sets an annual budget and is acutely aware of its responsibilities to use public money with economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

I am therefore pleased to say that we have been able to keep Council Tax increases below the rate of inflation for the 7th consecutive year.

[Councillor Caron Juggins](#)
[Town Mayor 2009/10](#)

Your Town Councillors 2008 - 2011

Cllr. Mike Alder

69 Northfield Hatfield AL10 0AH
Tel: 01707 271827

Cllr. Sarah Atkinson

365 St. Albans Road West Hatfield AL10 9RU
Tel: 01707 260467

Cllr. Doug Berry

9 Daffodil Close Hatfield AL10 9FF
Tel: 01707 259843

Cllr. Hannah Berry

9 Daffodil Close Hatfield AL10 9FF
Tel: 01707 259843

Cllr. Mick Clark

39 Chantry Lane Hatfield AL10 9HW
Tel: 01707 262082

Cllr. Linda Clark

39 Chantry Lane Hatfield AL10 9HW
Tel: 01707 262082

Cllr. Stan Laver-Walton (Elected 2009)

1 Almond Walk Hatfield AL10 8SY
Tel: 01707 265485

Cllr. Caron Juggins

44 Park Meadow Hatfield AL9 5HP
Tel: 01707 276480

Cllr. Dave Kay

49 Northfield Hatfield AL10 0AH
Tel: 01707 894612

Cllr. Howard Morgan

Flat 2, Maynard House The Common Hatfield AL10 0NF
Tel: 01707 264391

Cllr. Kim Langley

37 Stanley Drive Hatfield AL10 8XX
Tel: 01707 690775

Cllr. Ron Smith

44 Willow Way Hatfield AL10 9QE
Tel: 01707 264742

Cllr. Ron Wheeler (Co-opted May 2009)

53 Westland Drive Brookmans Park Herts. AL9 7UG
Tel: 01707 647878

Cllr. Margaret White (Elected June 2008)

30 The Downs Hatfield AL10 8JX
Tel: 01707 880324

Cllr. Geoff Wiltshire

Tolmers Park Farm Newgate Street Village
Newgate Street Hertford SG13 8RG
Tel: 01707 872561

Win £50 cash



Complete this form and send it back to the Town Council for the chance to win £50 cash.

In our drive to improve services we are conducting a survey throughout the Town.
We would value your help and ask you to complete the following questionnaire.
Will you please answer for your whole household.

Q1. Please tell us your postcode: _____

Q2. How would you describe your ethnic origin?

White <input type="checkbox"/>	Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>
Black African <input type="checkbox"/>	Indian sub-continent <input type="checkbox"/>
Black other <input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese / Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/>
Other ethnic group <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Specified <input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify _____	

If you want to be entered into the cash prize draw please put your name and phone number or email address below.

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Hatfield Town Council currently provides the following facilities and services:

Working down each column, for each service please circle the appropriate response:

SERVICE		Q3. Did you know that this service existed?		Q4. Did you know that this service is provided by Hatfield Town Council?		Q5. Have you ever used this service?	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
A	Allotment Green Lanes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
B	Birchwood Leisure Centre & playing Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
C	Roe Hill Hall & Playing Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
D	Lemsford Village Hall and Playing Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
E	St. Albans Road East Recreation Ground	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
F	Centenary Park/ Millwards	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
G	Children's Play Areas	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
H	The Dell, The Ryde	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
I	Oxlease House Community Centre	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
J	Howe Dell Community Centre	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
K	Newgate Street Village Hall & Playing Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
L	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
M	Town and Community Events	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
N	Information and advice on local issues	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
O	Holiday Playscheme	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
P	FunZone	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Q6. How do you rate your overall view of the service provided?

(Please tick the relevant rating, 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest or a cross if you do not use the service)

	1	2	3	4	X
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					
I					
J					
K					
L					
M					
N					
O					
P					

Q7. If you do not use any of the services that Hatfield Town Council provides can you give a reason?

	Not aware it existed	Service too Expensive	Service too far away to access	No transport available to get to service	No interest
A Allotment Green Lanes					
B Birchwood Leisure Centre & playing Fields					
C Roe Hill Hall & Playing Fields					
D Lemsford Village Hall and Playing Fields					
E St. Albans Road East Recreation Ground					
F Centenary Park/ Millwards					
G Children's Play Areas					
H The Dell, The Ryde					
I Oxlease House Community Centre					
J Howe Dell Community Centre					
K Newgate Street Village Hall & Playing Fields					
L Grants to Voluntary Organisations					
M Town and Community Events					
N Information and advice on local issues					
O Holiday Playscheme					
P FunZone					

Q8. Do you have any suggestions on how these services could be improved?

Service	Improvement

Q9. Do you have any further comments or suggestions for additional or alternative services?

Thank you for your time in completing and returning this form by 21st July 2010.

www.hatfield-herts.gov.uk

Please detach this questionnaire, fold it in half, seal the edges (staple or sticky tape) and return it in the post (no need for a stamp) to:

**Hatfield Town Council
 Freepost ANG9379
 Hatfield
 Hertfordshire
 AL10 0BR**