

NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

**WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 20
JANUARY 2023**

MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Topic	Page
News and information	2-3
CCTV Reports	
Pre-Agenda, Agenda and Decision sheets	4-8
Planning consultations	
Planning applications received & decisions	9-14
Press releases	15-16

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

NEWS AND INFORMATION

AGENDA & REPORTS

PUBLISHED WEEK COMMENCING

16 JANUARY 2023

Council Tax Setting Committee - 30 January 2023

Cabinet - 31 January 2023

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING

23 JANUARY 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 24 January 2023

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee - 25 January 2023

CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS WEEK COMMENCING

23 JANUARY 2023

Date	Event	Location
Friday 27 January 2023 @ 11am	North Hertfordshire Council Holocaust Memorial Day 2023	Council Chamber and via Zoom

VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS WEEK COMMENCING

23 JANUARY 2023

Date	Event	Location
Friday 27 January 2023 @ 11am	North Hertfordshire Council Holocaust Memorial Day 2023	Council Chamber and via Zoom

OTHER EVENTS WEEK COMMENCING

23 JANUARY 2023

Date	Event	Location
	None	

Community Engagement Executive Member briefing – January 2023

Community Protection

Community Safety

- There has been another spate of criminal damage at NHC managed public toilets in Howard Park Gardens and Norton Common, Letchworth. CCTV cameras are in operation at HPG and investigation is ongoing.
- Another large quantity of butchered meat products have been fly tipped in North Herts on the Letchworth/Baldock border. This time it is a large number of hessian sacks containing pigs' ears. Enquiries ongoing with the National Farmers Union and other local authorities.
- This weekend (15th January) there is the VAWG SAFE event at Hitchin Town Hall, starting at 2pm.

Health & Wellbeing /Safeguarding briefing January 2023

- The Healthy Hub drop-ins are now scheduled to the end of March 2023. Further information can be found [HERE](#)
- This month we launch our new Winter Warmer Homework club based in Royston for adults and their children. The Healthy Hub team will be there on hand with drinks, snacks a warm space, free activities and a welcoming space. Running on Tuesdays at the Royston Catholic Church between 3-5pm.
- New safeguarding team **Lisa McDonnell** and administrative assistant **Lisa McDonald**, have been in post for a month and are starting to introduce themselves to relevant service areas & managers. Lisa McDonnell also attended a multi-disciplinary County meeting with the Service Director to meet partners for a Safeguarding Adult Review.
- Funding applications have been submitted to the lottery for physical activity programmes for older people and physical and mental health project for men in the Jackmans Active Local area.
- Successful bid to Health Protection Bid with Mind Mid Herts for outreach mental health service – project scoping starts Jan 23.

Policy & Community Engagement

Policy & Community Engagement

Throughout December and January, the team have been busy coordinating various partnership networks and events and the provision of ongoing Community and Member support:

- Finalising arrangements for the Holocaust Memorial Day 2023; finalising programme, receiving drafts from speakers, working on poetry competition.
- Liaising with Helping Herts Homeless and Keystage Housing on a potential project in 2024.
- Exploring the possibility of launching a VHSE group to support refugees recently arrived in Baldock.
- Coordinating and launching North Herts Heroes – (Chair's Awards).
- Collating, sharing and signposting information regarding Warm Spaces with community groups.
- Support for events including Baldock and Letchworth Festival – to provide an overall *North Herts Summer of Arts & Culture* and ongoing Snowman Trail (on until 20th January 2023).
- Meeting with Hitchin Allotment Association to discuss ideas around green and growing network group.
- Approval of revised Council's Climate Change Strategy and updated Council achievements and additional proposed actions.
- Approval of the revised Council's Equality Strategy with new equality objectives.
- Promoting the Sustainable Warmth scheme to residents via social media, posters, and mailouts.
- Meeting with CDA Herts to discuss needs in rural areas and ways of working together.

Democratic Services

Committee Services

- The newest member of the Team, **Eleanor Hopcraft** joined on 3 January 2023 as a Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer, filling one of the three vacant Officer posts.
- The remaining two Officer roles are currently being advertised, due to close on Tuesday 24 January 2023, with interviews on Tuesday 7 February 2023.
- The vacant Apprentice role had nine applications, of which six were invited for an interview, to take place on Tuesday 10 and Friday 13 January 2023.
- Meeting support for some January meetings has been provided by other colleagues within the Council.
- Ongoing Audit issues in the Council Chamber did not seem to occur as much during December. Discussions are taking place regarding business resilience in the event of future issues with the AV system, which will ensure the meetings can still proceed effectively.

Electoral Services

- Following the publication of the revised electoral register on 1 December, we have been working on the distribution of the new register to all eligible recipients who have requested a copy. Most have now been sent with a few outstanding to be distributed.
- Nominations are open for the upcoming Hitchin North County by-election on Thursday 9 February 2023. We are therefore making preparations including booking polling stations, proofing poll cards, making staffing arrangements and liaising with candidates and agents.
- Preparation work for elections to be held in May 2023 are also well underway – polling station bookings have all been secured and we are in the process of checking facilities where necessary. Initial staffing plans are also being drawn up and we are undertaking some project work on elections fees and equipment.
- We are continuing with our work to prepare for the incoming Elections Act 2022 changes. We have attended training sessions in recent weeks on the process for issuing Voter Authority Certificates to prepare for 'go live' on 16 January and have now have advance access to the system to familiarise ourselves with this. We have been liaising with the communications team to ensure that relevant coms are issued after the election in February and in the meantime that a page with relevant information is available to the public.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth
on Thursday, 19th January, 2023 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kay Tart, Nigel Mason, Tamsin Thomas, Terry Tyler, Carol Stanier, Ian Moody, Raj Bhakar, Lisa Nash, Juan Cowell, Michael Weeks, Jean Green, David Barnard.

2 MINUTES - 22 SEPTEMBER, 8 NOVEMBER AND 19 DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED: That the Part 1 Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 22 September, 8 November and 19 December 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (2) Members were reminded that this Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and meant that, as this was an emergency, all of us, officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (4) The Chair clarified the rules of debate for Members.
- (5) The Chair advised that a comfort break would be taken at a suitable time in the proceedings, if required.
- (6) The Chair noted that the date of this Civic Reception had been moved to Sunday 19 March 2023.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 two questions had been submitted by the deadline date for questions set out in the Constitution.

- (A) NHDC providing Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding to Keystage Housing

Councillor Claire Strong to Councillor Sean Prendergast (Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health)

(B) Local Plan Reviews

Councillor Ian Moody to Councillor Ruth Brown (Executive Member for Planning and Transport)

In the absence of Councillor Moody, Councillor David Levett asked the question.

7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were two motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

(A) Motion on Proportional Representation

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Call upon the UK Government to commit to changing electoral law to permit the introduction of a PR system of voting in any reforms to local government presented to Parliament.
- (2) Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to North Hertfordshire District Council's three MPs to ask them to call for a change to electoral law to permit a PR system of voting and promote the matter for debate in Parliament.

(B) Motion on Urgent unlocking the potential of local High Streets

RESOLVED: That Council will:

- (1) Write to the Government to urge it to scrap business rates and replace them with a system which is fit for purpose and which levels the playing field between bricks and mortar businesses and online retail giants.
- (2) Campaign to devolve funds like the Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other national funding pots, to give local communities, councils and regions the ultimate say in how it is spent in their area.
- (3) Continue to take local action to revive our high streets, including:
 - a. Make any data that the Council can lawfully make public on ownership of high street properties public and in an accessible format, so that community groups seeking to buy empty shops through a community share offer have the information they need to do so.
 - b. Proactively contact landlords of vacant premises (and work with Chambers of Commerce, Landlord Associations and BID managers) to explore 'meanwhile use' options and/or encourage alternative rental models (e.g. turnover rather than market rent) to enable new co-operatives, SMEs, social enterprises and 'community owned' businesses to open their doors on the high street.

8 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

8a) Referral from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on 7 December 2022 – Annual Review of the Contract Procurement Rules

RESOLVED: That Council considered and adopted the proposed changes to the Contract Procurement Rules.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Contract Procurement Rules (CPR's) are part of the Constitution (under Section 20) and must be regularly reviewed and updated as part of the Council's governance and procurement review processes, contributing to the Council's system of effective internal control.

8b) Referral from Cabinet on 13 December 2022 – Second Quarter Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) Review 2022/23

RESOLVED: That Council noted the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of September 2022.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

8c) Referral from Cabinet on 13 December 2022 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/2024

The Chair advised that this item would be taken with Agenda Item 9.

9 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2023/2024

RESOLVED: That council:

- (1) Noted that a full review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme had taken place and that consultation with the public and Major Precepting Authorities had taken place.
- (2) Noted the aim of the review had been to introduce a new scheme that will:
 - enable us to increase the overall level of support for the lowest income households;
 - reduce the administrative burden placed on the Council following the introduction of Universal Credit and;
 - make the scheme easier for our customers to understand and calculate entitlement.
- (3) Approved the adoption of a new banded scheme for working age applicants from 01 April 2023.
- (4) Approved the use of the Council Tax Hardship Grant to fund a discretionary scheme to provide additional transitional support where appropriate and that decisions regarding Discretionary support are delegated to the Service Director Customers in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT.
- (5) Noted that the new scheme may increase the costs from those of the current scheme, any increase will be split between the Council and its Major Precepting Authorities. The Council's share is expected to be around 12.5%.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Council has a fit for purpose Council Tax Reduction Scheme that:

- Provides the greatest support to the lowest income households.
- Reduces the administrative burden that has been placed on the Council since the introduction of Universal Credit (UC).
- Is simple to understand, meaning that customers will be able to calculate entitlement and assess the impact of potential changes in circumstances.

10 REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Considered the report and recommendations of the IRP, as attached as Appendix A of the submitted report.
- (2) Agreed the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/2024 as set out in Appendix B of the submitted report, subject to the removal to restrict to only one Special Responsibility Allowance.
- (3) Agreed the increase to the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Persons allowances as detailed in 4.9 of Appendix A and 8.11 of this report.
- (4) Agreed the allowance to the Independent Non-Voting Member on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as detailed in 4.7 of Appendix A and 8.12 of this report.
- (5) Expressed appreciation to the IRP for their work over the last 4 years.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirements of an annual review and adoption of the scheme.

11 ELECTORAL SERVICES - SCALE OF FEES 2023/2024

RESOLVED: That the Council agreed the Scale of Fees for 2023/2024 as set out in Appendix A.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to remunerate the Returning Officer and the staff employed to carry out tasks during electoral events and to be open and transparent regarding other payments.

12 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REPORT

RESOLVED: That Council approved the amendments detailed in Appendix A, subject to the removal of proposed changes to Section 8 of the Constitution regarding the Planning Control Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: To reflect good decision making practice and keep the Constitution up to date.

13 PENSION POOLING WITH ORPHANED BODIES

RESOLVED: That Council approved that North Hertfordshire District Council (as the relevant Admitted Body) be pooled with the following Orphaned Employers: Letchworth Garden City Town Council, Veolia ES Services team and Hitchin Markets.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) All of the Orphaned Employers (based on the 2019 valuation) have over 100% funding, which is better than the Council's funding position. Therefore, it is probably in the Council's best interest to be pooled with them.
- (2) In the case of Letchworth Garden City Town Council, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) (as the Hertfordshire LGPS administrator) have legal advice that we are required to be pooled with LGCTC.

14 CHURCHGATE UPDATE - PART 1

RESOLVED: That Members noted the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure Members a kept updated on the progression of Churchgate.

15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Section 200A(4) of the said Act (as amended).

16 CHURCHGATE UPDATE - PART 2

Details of decisions taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 200A(4) of the said Act (as amended).

17 PART 2 MINUTES - 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

Details of decisions taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 200A(4) of the said Act (as amended).

EAST TEAM

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
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Letchworth Garden City

23/00059/FP	Pegasus Planning Group Ltd Mr Archie Roberts First Floor, South Wing, Equinox North, Great Park Road, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4QL, United Kingdom	Telecommunications Mast Letchworth Garden City Football Club Baldock Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire Cellnex Installation of telecommunications apparatus consisting of 30m latticed tower, mast and No.12 antenna and ancillary development, following removal of existing 25m mast and No.6 antenna.
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23/00061/FPH	Fast Plans Mr George Kain Woodpeckers, Chase Lane, Haslemere, GU27 3AG	2 Cedar Gardens Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1GQ Rachel Orr Insertion of rooflights to existing rear and side elevation roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation. Insertion of window to existing first floor side elevation eaves.
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23/00073/TCA	Mr Mark Thurley The Arborist 7 Crossways Close, Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6BE, United Kingdom	35 South View Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3JJ Mr Mark Thurley Apple - Crown Reduction by 50% (17-18-feet/5-6-meters) with thinning and balancing. Plum - 50% Crown Reduction (7-8-feet/2-meters). Eucalyptus - 30-40% (10-12-feet/3-4-meters) Crown Reduction.
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Royston Town Council

22/03295/FP	CROE Architects Mr Joe Reader Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	45 Barkway Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9EB Mr & Mrs Houlihan Erection of one 3-bedroom dwelling house with attached garage following demolition of existing garages.
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23/00063/FPH	CBArchitect Mr Christopher Bond Office 1, First Floor, 1 Market Hill, Royston, SG8 9JL, United Kingdom	72 Old North Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5EP Mr & Mrs Grove Erection of single storey detached outbuilding for use as a gym with attached garage following demolition of existing detached garage.
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WEST TEAM

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

22/03275/FPH	Mr And Mrs Michael Payne Hogsnorton Cottage, Sally Deards Lane, Rabley Heath, Welwyn, AL6 9UE, United Kingdom	Hogsnorton Cottage Sally Deards Lane Codicote Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 9UE
	Mr And Mrs Michael Payne	
		Insertion of dormer window to side elevation roofslope

Hitchin

23/00045/FPH	CROE Architects Mr Joe Reader Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	8 Granville Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0LE
	Mr and Mrs Simpson	
		Single storey rear extension, first floor rear dormer extension and insertion of three rooflights to front roofslope following demolition of existing rear conservatory

23/00062/TPO	Mr Thomas Oakley Oakley Arboriculture Ltd 115 Western Way, Letchworth Garden City, SG64TF, United Kingdom	12 The Finches Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PB
	Mr Tom Oakley	
		T1 Sycamore - Reduce by 2.5-3m removing all regrowth and cutting decaying pruning points into healthy wood. T2 Oak - End weight reduction of the top of the canopy with a sympathetic prune on the remainder to correctly balance.

23/00072/LDCP	Rejig Homes Ltd Mr Abdul Haque 167 Heathfield Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1TE	42 Uplands Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9NL
	Mr and Mrs Sheridan	
		Insertion of rear dormer window including Juliet Balcony and 3no rooflights in existing front roof slope to facilitate loft conversion. Alterations to existing fenestration.

Knebworth Parish Council

23/00041/FPH	Mrs Nancy Covello NTC Designs Ltd 3 Hastings Close, Stevenage, SG1 2JG	28 Stockens Dell Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6BG
	Robert and Agata Neave	
		First floor front infill extension, single storey front extension and open sided front porch following demolition of existing front extension

23/00052/FPH NTC Designs Ltd Mrs Nancy Covello 26 Stockens Dell
3 Hastings Close, Stevenage, SG1 Knebworth
2JG Hertfordshire
SG3 6BG

Selim Sheik

First floor front extension

Offley Parish Council

22/03231/FP Terence O'Rourke Ltd Mr Paul Land North East Of
Rogers Wandon End
Everdene House, Deansleigh Road, Hertfordshire
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DU

EPL 002 Limited

Proposed solar farm within 106 hectares with associated access,
landscaping, battery storage and ancillary infrastructure.

Pirton Parish Council

23/00070/LDCE Intouch Planning Ltd Mr James Walnut Tree Farm
Gran 21 Walnut Tree Road
4 Ennismore Close, Letchworth Pirton
Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 Hitchin
2SU, United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG5 3PX

Mr Cole

Retention for the use of former orchard as residential garden land for
Walnut Tree Farm

St Ippolytts Parish Council

22/02716/LDCE Mr Mark Reynolds 20 Waterdell Lane
20 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts, St Ippolyts
Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7QZ Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 7QZ

Mr Mark Reynolds

Erection of lean to garage to side elevation of existing dwelling

(Including Withdrawn decisions)

EAST TEAM

Application No: 22/01027/LDCE	Location: 2 Barns Courtyard Mansfield Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6FE Applicant Name: Mr Brian McAleer Description: Retention of existing rear extension	Decision: Refused Decision Date: 12/01/2023
Application No: 22/02392/FP	Location: Margaret House Church End Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JS Applicant Name: Mr Thomas Kelly Description: Reconstruct boundary wall.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 13/01/2023
Application No: 22/02814/DOC	Location: Bury Cottage Bury Cottage Nuthampstead Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8NQ Applicant Name: Mr & Ms Mark and Emma Hedderson and Doughty Description: Discharge of Condition 3 (Clay pantiles and brick for chimney stack) as attached to Listed Building Consent 21/02988/LBC granted on 25.07.2022	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/02821/DOC	Location: Bury Cottage Bury End Nuthampstead Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8NQ Applicant Name: Mr & Ms Mark And Emma Hedderson And Doughty Description: Discharge of Condition 4 (timber cladding finish) as attached to Listed Building Consent 21/02988/LBC granted on 25.07.2022	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/02951/FP	Location: Former Poultry Farm Redhill Rushden SG9 0TG Applicant Name: Mr Tom Doughty Fusion Description: Erection of four 4-bed dwellings, car ports and parking areas, access road, paving, landscaping including a new orchard, and laying of services following demolition of existing commercial buildings.	Decision: Refused Decision Date: 13/01/2023
Application No: 22/03041/FPH	Location: 19 Ascot Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9JD Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs Stuart Bennett Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory. Erect rear garden retaining wall.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 12/01/2023
Application No: 22/03063/FPH	Location: 31 Hawthorn Hill Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4HF Applicant Name: Mrs Erika Carroll Description: Replace existing flat roof window over rear kitchen extension with a larger flat roof window and insertion of ground floor side elevation window following removal of side elevation roof light tube.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023

EAST TEAM

Application No: 22/03130/S73	Location: 52 Sparhawke Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4PX Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Ahsan Ghalib Ahmed & Afrin Ahmed Description: Variation to condition 2 (The development hereby permitted shall be carried out wholly in accordance with the details specified in the application and supporting approved documents and plans listed above) of planning permission ref 22/02294/FPH granted on 06.10.2022 for part single storey part two storey rear extension. Conditions(s) Removal: Condition 2 to remove reference to drawings 52S-FP203 Rev 00, 52S-FP211 Rev 02, 52S-FP213 Rev 01; and instead make reference to drawings 52S-FP203 Rev 02, 52S-FP211 Rev 03, 52S-FP213 Rev 02.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 12/01/2023
Application No: 22/03199/TCA	Location: 2 - 3 Flint Cottages Church End Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8JR Applicant Name: Robin Saklatuala Description: Elder - Fell as low as access allows. Field Maple - Crown reduce by 2-3m, raise crown to 3m. Silver Birch - Remove major deadwood, crown thin 20%. Apple - Crown reduce by 3-4m, remove major deadwood. Sycamore - Reduce low laterals over plot by 3-4m. Sycamore - Remove major deadwood. Sycamore - Reduce laterals by 2-3m to balance. Ash - Remove hanging limb	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/03206/TCA	Location: Forge House Pedlars Lane Therfield Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9QA Applicant Name: Mr Chris Snell Description: T1, T2, T3 Ash - Fell to ground level.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 12/01/2023
Application No: 22/03211/TCA	Location: 37 Glebe Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1DS Applicant Name: Mr Paul Humpheryes Description: T1 Walnut - Fell. T2 Cherry - Fell	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/03222/LDCP	Location: 8 Ashtons Lane Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6JJ Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Mann Description: Single storey infill extension to existing side elevation, replace existing garage door with window, and install rooflight to existing roof to facilitate conversion of garage into habitable accommodation.	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 12/01/2023
Application No: 22/03228/TCA	Location: The Steadings Wymondley Road Willian Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Robbie Barnes Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foun Description: T1 Common Walnut - Reduce lateral branches back by 2m. T2 Common Walnut - Raise Crown by 2.5m and reduce lateral branches by 1.5-2m. G1 Mixed Oak, Ash, Sycamore - Remove primary branch. Reduce overhang branches by 1.5-2m. Remove deadwood.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 16/01/2023

WEST TEAM

Application No: 22/02469/FP	Location: Highfield Nurseries Slip Lane Old Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6QG Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs K Bridgeman Description: Change of use from office to one detached 2-bed dwelling including insertion of two front dormer windows and front entrance canopy.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 13/01/2023
Application No: 22/02484/FPH	Location: 30 Shillington Road Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3QL Applicant Name: Lake Description: Two storey extension to rear and both side elevations including first floor rear balcony and rear Juliette balcony and first floor front extension following demolition of existing detached garage.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023

WEST TEAM

Application No: 22/02640/FPH	Location: 7 Roberts Court Whitwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8AF Applicant Name: Ms Amanda Bolton Description: Part two storey and part single storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear extension.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/02946/FPH	Location: 171a High Street Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8UD Applicant Name: Mr D Wiggins Description: Insertion of dormer to existing front elevation roofslope and rooflights and dormer to existing rear elevation roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation (as amended by plan received 12/01/23)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/02985/PNQ	Location: Lordship Farm Pirton Road Holwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3SS Applicant Name: Ms Flint c/o Agent Roebuck Land and Planning Ltd Description: Conversion of existing agricultural barn to provide 2x four-bedroom dwellings with all associated building works.	Decision: Withdrawn Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/03005/FP	Location: St Lukes House 5 Walsworth Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9SP Applicant Name: Mr D Burgess Burgess Properties Ltd Description: Erection of black metal railings and red brick piers following demolition of existing front boundary brick wall.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 12/01/2023
Application No: 22/03021/FPH	Location: 13 Royal Oak Lane Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3QT Applicant Name: Mr Tom Gammell Description: Erection of green house in rear garden.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/03048/FPH	Location: 83 Waterdell Lane St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7RA Applicant Name: Mr Ryan Butler Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing outbuilding, rendering and painting,, and alterations to openings	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023
Application No: 22/03095/FPH	Location: 48 Whitehill Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9HP Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs M Coulse Description: Pitched roof over existing garage and insertion of front ground floor window following removal of garage doors to facilitate garage conversion to study/utility. Alterations to fenestration on side elevation	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 16/01/2023

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3740

17 January 2023

Mini forest planted in Hitchin thanks to Rotary

2,000 trees were planted at Swinburne Recreational Ground by around 75 volunteers at the weekend (Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 January), thanks to the Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse.

Planned for over a year, the club wanted to create a mini forest in the town – a bit bigger than the size of a tennis court – which local people got involved with planting, to help raise environmental awareness and leave a lasting amenity. The small whip sized trees were planted by making a slit in the ground and adding a supporting cane tied to a biodegradable tree guard.

The dense fast-growing native woodland requires low management and maintenance after the first two years and no chemicals or fertilisers will be used. The rich biodiversity can attract a wider range of animal and plant species within its first three years. Restoring and improving biodiversity is our strongest natural defence against climate change.

Tim Ray, Rotary President, said: “It was a fabulous weekend and great to get it all done so quickly thanks to so many lovely and interesting people getting stuck in. And thanks to the council for their support and collaboration. Thankfully we didn't actually get too wet, just muddy!”

Sarah Kingsley, Place Director, added: “A massive thank you to the Rotary and all the volunteers, the mini forest looks great. The trees will store more and more carbon as they grow, and with the increased biodiversity, the area is another win for our fight against climate change.”

ENDS

Photos

Some photos attached from the day – please credit local photographer Simon Maddison. More are available: [Dream for Trees Planting | Flickr](#)

For more information please contact Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474403.

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3741

20 January 2023

St Mary's tree replaced

A new weeping willow has been planted (18 January) to replace the large tree which fell over in Hitchin's St Mary's churchyard last year.

The council provides grounds maintenance for the churchyard and has been working on a suitable replacement with the church and local people. Different options have been considered, including allowing the stump to re-shoot, but it was collectively decided that the best, safest and most practicable option was to completely remove the tree, and plant another in its place.

Sarah Kingsley, Place Director, said: "It was obviously sad to see such a prominent tree fall but we have done all we can to ensure that the new young specimen tree will be quick to establish and grow to a similar prominence.

"Part of the old trunk is already being used as a bench and reminder of such a prominent and attractive tree."

ENDS

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