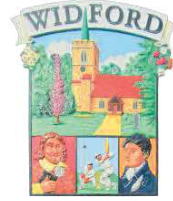


UNAPPROVED DRAFT1

Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm in Widford Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Mike Allen (MA) Chair; Cllr Mark Rome (MR); Cllr Josh Warren (JW)
Cllr Andy Djemal (following co-option)

Three members of the public, Cllr Eric Buckmaster, PCSO Leon De Bruyn

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

ACTION

24.085 To receive and approve apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Ian Collins (away)
2. Others: Gilda Geterding

24.086 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. Interests

Noted. Cllr Mike Allen: An interest in Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Noted: Cllr Ian Collins has a DPI because his wife has the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

2. Dispensation requests:

None

24.087 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2024 are a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes

Clerk/MA

24.088 Co-option to fill the casual vacancy

The Council considered a co-option application from Andy Djemal. The Clerk confirmed that he is qualified to hold the office and it was **RESOLVED that Andy Djemal be co-opted to the Parish Council.** He signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

Clerk

24.089 Police report

PCSO Leon De Bruyn gave an overview of some current policing matters. For the next 5-6 months the police will be looking out for hare coursing. He asked that anyone seeing strangers with dogs on fields report to the police immediately. Hare coursing is organised crime that the police take very seriously. He also explained that Herts Connected is a new initiative that has replaced the OWL system. The intention is to grow a network of parishioners through social media signing up to share all matters of interest to the police. Priority meetings are being arranged to identify priorities for the police to focus on for the ensuing period. PCSO De Bruyn noted that Sgt Dave Miller has now taken over as the principal Neighbourhood Police Team officer.

PCSO De Bruyn also submitted the following written Crime Report for August 2024

ANSTEY: No reported crimes

HORMEAD: No crimes reported

BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN: No crimes reported

STOCKING PELHAM: No crimes reported

FURNEUX PELHAM: No crimes reported

ALBURY: No crimes reported

LITTLE HADHAM: No crimes reported

MUCH HADHAM: No crimes reported

HUNSDON

- THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE – Unknown Offenders have committed 2 x thefts of number plates from vehicles parked in Tanners Way in Hunsdon.
- ARSON – Unknown Offenders have set light to a container at a location on Hunsdon Airfield.

WIDFORD

- THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE – Hunsdon Road – a vehicle has been stolen from outside a residential property at the location.
- THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE – Pegs Lane – a vehicle was stolen overnight from outside a residential property at the location.
- THEFT – Medcalf Hill – unknown Offenders have entered a site at the location and removed an item from within, which has not yet been identified.

WARESIDE

- THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE – Fanhams Hall Road – a van has been broken into at a venue at the location and tools have been removed from within
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE – FanhamS hall Road - a vehicle has been damaged by unknown Offenders when attempting to gain entry to the vehicle at the location.

EASTWICK & GILSTON: No crimes reported

BRAUGHING

- RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY – Hare Street – Offenders have broken into a residential property and stolen a vehicle from outside the address at the location.
- THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE – Hare Street – Offenders have attended the location and stolen a vehicle off the driveway at the location.

STANDON & PUCKERIDGE

- THEFT – Eikorn Drive PUCKERIDGE – Unknown Offenders have stolen a solar light from outside the front of a residential property at the location.
- THEFT – Northfields PUCKERIDGE – Unknown Offenders have stolen items of furniture from outside the residential property at the location.

Other news and updates:

Herts Connected has now been Live for 4 months with numbers gradually increasing. We are encouraging residents to scan the QR code attached to this email to receive Police alerts. Would it be possible to include this to your local community magazine please? Thank you.

Pcso Supervisor Leon De Bruyn is working on a project to help invite more residents from our communities to join Herts Connected through the Parish Council over the next few months.

The new Policing Priorities for Sept – Dec 2024 have been decided for the East Herts Rural area's following the meeting held last month.

BUNTINGFORD – ASB – Norfolk Road Bike Pump Track.

Monday – Sunday between 15:00pm – 18:00pm

EH RURAL – HARECOURSING – Wellpond Green and nearby rural areas.

Monday – Friday 17:00pm – 22:00pm

Saturday – Sunday 08:00am – 16:00pm

Thefts involving motor vehicles appear to have increased and there has been a reduction in Burglaries over the past month.

Please continue to ensure your property secure and valuables are not left easily in view or accessible.

Document serial numbers and use property markers.

Photograph tools and valuables that may be kept in vehicles overnight if you are unable to remove them. Please consider improved external lighting at residential properties, CCTV and dash cams in vehicles.

On most makes of vehicle, keyless entry can be disabled.

To reduce the risk of theft, ensure car keys (particularly any spare keys) are secured in a secured location using a signal blocking/Faraday pouch when not in use. Hiding the keys in a

metal tin can also restrict the signal from vehicle keys.

Your local policing teams are continuing regular patrols in hotspot areas at key times.

Please continue to report suspicious vehicles that may be seen driving around in your area. If you are able to record the MAKE, COLOUR and REGISTRATION number of the vehicle, that would be very helpful.

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

24.090 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman made the following comments: Activity over the summer has been quite quiet, although there have been a few issues involving vehicles and vigilance is being maintained.

MA

An event has been organised for the weekend of 13th-15th September with a view to launching a project that will secure the future of the village church. This will be the biggest church project for over 150 years and will involve modernising part of the church building.

The churchyard seat that provides a spectacular view overlooking the valley has been repaired. It was questioned whether there was a £500 fund for maintaining it, but the Clerk said he was not aware of a ringfenced fund for that purpose.

The new chairman of the Village Hall has applied for funding to take plans forward.

24.091 Reports by County and District Councillors

No report received from District Cllr David Andrews.

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster's August/September report is included as Appendix A at the end of these Minutes. A parishioner asked Cllr Buckmaster if he could support concerns raised over speeding in Bell Lane and the High Street, possibly with the introduction of speed humps? If this is not possible, something needs to be done because the narrowing of Bell Lane has made it very dangerous for pedestrians.

24.092 Planning

1. New Applications:

3/24/1356/LBC: Ashbourne Manor. Alterations to property. **RESOLVED: No comments**

2. Decision Notices. For information only, the following were noted:

3/24/0773/LBC: 2 Hillside. Demolish 1.2m wide single storey projection; fenestration alterations at rear.

GRANTED

3/24/0711/FUL: 15 Benningfield Rd. 1 detached building and 1 rear extension to existing.

Awaited

3/24/0926/FUL: Adams Barn, Hunsdon Road. Change of use, agricultural to residential.

Awaited

3/24/1031/HH: Ashbourne Manor. Extension to single storey garage.

Awaited

3/23/2283/OUT: Land south of Levenage Lane: Outline for 4 dwellings: **APPEALED**

Awaited

3/19/1045/OUT Land North of the Stort Valley & A414, Gilston: Outline planning.

Awaited

3. Other planning matters, including items received too late for the agenda: None received

24.093 Finance

1. Report of the Council's accounts to 31st July 2024

	£
Opening cashbook balance 31 st May	37,158.35
Plus: income to 31 st July	0.00
Minus: expenditure to 31 st July	2,255.92
Balance available to Council at 31st July (cashbook balance)	34,902.43
Plus unrepresented cheques/payments	0.00
Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 31st July	34,902.43

RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 31st July 2024 be approved.

2. Bank reconciliation 31st July 2024

Cashbook balance £34,902.43 Unity Bank balance £34,902.43

RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented

3. Performance vs budget at year-end 31st May 2024

The Clerk's detailed report on the performance vs budget to 31st July was received.

Income: Budget £17,145 Performance to 31st July £8,304 Forecast £17,199

Expenditure: Budget £28,605 Performance to 31st July £7,072 Forecast £27,655

The income/expenditure surplus to date is £1,231 against -£11,460 deficit budgeted.

The income/expenditure deficit forecast is -£10,456 against -£11,460 deficit budgeted.

RESOLVED: The performance report to 31st July be accepted as presented.

4. List of payments.

RESOLVED: to approve the list of payments as presented by the Clerk

Clerk

All expenditure made under the General Power of Competence.

		Gross	VAT incl
		60.98	0.00
Sharon Collins	Closed Churchyard 4 of 4	310.00	0.00
Mrs J English	Litterpicking August 5 of 12	150.00	0.00
Clerk	Salary August	462.65	0.00
HMRC	PAYE August	115.80	0.00
Mrs J English	Litterpicking September 6 of 12	150.00	0.00
Clerk	Expenses August/September	18.65	0.00
Clerk	Salary September	462.65	0.00
HMRC	PAYE September	115.80	0.00
D Volschenk	Allotments grass cutting annual pay	250.00	0.00
Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly service charge	18.00	0.00
Recoverable VAT included			£0.00

5. AGAR 2023/24

The Clerk reported that Exercise of Public Rights concluded on 12th July and that no issues were raised with the external auditor.

Clerk

24.094 Correspondence: The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- Rev Mark Dunstan: complaints regarding churchyard (24.096.3.1)
- Dinah Findley (PCC): Invitation to Plans to Secure the Future of Widford Church 13th – 15th September (24.096.3.2)
- PCSO Leon De Bruyn: Herts Connected interactive messaging service for community groups
- HCC: EV charging infrastructure funded initiative
- HCC: Invitation to participate in Growth & Environment session engagement event on Thursday 26 September 2024

24.095 Village Reports

1. Village Hall

No update report was received.

2. Playing Field

The Chairman reported that the grass cutting contract has been secured at a good price and a reliable service is anticipated.

MA

3. Allotments

1. It was reported that there are no issues and all is under control.

4. Closed Churchyard.

1. No outstanding issues were reported. The improvements to the entrance footpath are on hold until the proposed church changes have been implemented.

24.096 Highways, Footpaths and byways

1. Footpaths and PRoW.

- 1. FP1 Notices, stile and trimming vegetation: Completed
- 2. FP18/Lillie Bridge update: Hedge trimming completed and waymarkers replaced.
- 3. FP17 Repair of collapsed steps: The necessary repairs have been done.
- 4. Nether Street kissing gate: repairs to the rotted post, step and rail are in hand with Nicholas Maddex.

2. Highways and footways

- 1. Update on general clean-up of verges, gutters and overgrown footways: The Chairman said he has spoken to a contractor to get a quote. To be followed up in November. MA
- 2. Abbotts Lane blocked gully: Cllr Eric Buckmaster is following this up.
- 3. Update on Enforcement issues by Greenacres: The Chairman and Cllr Eric Buckmaster following up with EHC etc. MA

3. Other parish matters and concerns

- 1. Complaints of overgrown vegetation at the open churchyard: The Rector’s written response to the complaint was noted and that further complaints regarding the open churchyard should be referred to the PCC, whilst matters concerning the closed churchyard may be addressed by the Parish Council as appropriate.

24.097 Benningfield Green

- 1. No current issues noted.
- 2. Licence renewal. **RESOLVED to apply a 3.1% increase to the annual licence fee for 2024/25 as per the licence agreement.** The Clerk to send the renewal and invoice. Clerk

24.098 Village Archive

No report received.

24.099 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda:

None received.

It was noted that the Clerk’s personal landline phone number has been changed due to a scam and will not be replaced. Should the Parish Council wish to have a dedicated line, this would be by having a dedicated mobile phone. No decision was made to pursue this at this time.

The meeting was not suspended for further public comments.

24.100 Items for future agendas

- 1. Draft Budget and Precept for 2025/26: November meeting Clerk

24.101 Date of next Parish Council Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday November 5th 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.52pm.

Signed.....Dated.....

APPENDIX A

E Buckmaster County Councillor Report August/Sept 2024

Local Nature Recovery Strategy update

This month the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership has been running engagement events to hear from residents about how and where they think nature recovery action is needed. The team spoke to lots of people and noted much enthusiasm for helping nature to recover in Hertfordshire. Over 200 surveys have been completed so far and more are coming in every day. [Visit the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership website for the latest updates on delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.](#)

Hertfordshire Tree Fund launched

We recently launched the Hertfordshire Tree Fund, an opportunity for residents and businesses to make donations that will enable tree planting projects that will directly benefit Hertfordshire's communities and climate. So far, we have had £130 in donations, which will go towards planting an additional 130 trees in Hertfordshire this winter. [Find out more about the fund and share it with your residents.](#)

Air Quality Strategy refresh and public engagement

The council's [existing Air Quality Strategy](#) is under review, and we will soon be seeking resident's views in a public engagement exercise. The engagement process will start on Monday 9 September, and will last six weeks. If you are aware of any local events during this period where the Cleaner Air team can speak to residents about air quality, please let the team know via email at cleaner.air@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership produces building retrofit guide
The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) has unveiled the "Retrofitting your house: For a cosier, greener home" guide, detailing cost, energy and carbon savings for seven typical categories of home in the county. The guide covers both low-cost measures like smart meters and thermal curtains, and more significant upgrades such as insulation, heat pumps, and renewable energy solutions. [Share the guide with your residents who are looking to make sustainable upgrades to their homes.](#)

Climate award for England's first net zero school in Buntingford
Buntingford First School has been awarded the Climate Action award from Constructing Excellence for its sustainability credentials meaning it's England's first net zero carbon school in both operation and construction.

The Hertfordshire primary school and nursery is designed to Passivhaus standards and opened its doors in September 2023. The school was developed by Hertfordshire County Council as a pilot to achieve the first fully net zero carbon school in the county and, once certified, will be Hertfordshire's first Passivhaus school.

The 300-pupil school hosts ten classrooms and includes a nursery with a rooftop outdoor classroom and several playgrounds. Social areas, like its dining halls and common rooms, are south facing, with teaching spaces designed to face north, minimising over-heating. Over 300 solar panels, triple-glazing windows, and air-source heat pumps power the school and keep it insulated.

Three award-winning facts include:

- Net zero carbon in both construction and operation – the first wholly NZC in England
- Beats the embodied carbon target of 600kg of CO₂ per square metre – set by the Low Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) – by 50%.
- Surpassing an airtightness target of 0.6 ach (0.25 ach)

The project brief emphasised reducing the embodied carbon of construction materials. The design incorporates a cross-laminated timber (CLT) frame, while Ground Granulated Blast-furnace Slag (GGBS) has been utilised for concrete piles and foundations. Innovative trackers enable the site team to collect as-built embodied carbon data, which is then compared with the initial project targets. The project aims for an embodied carbon target of 292 kg/CO₂/m², aligning with LETI's 2030 goal.

Early-stage consultation with main contractor Morgan Sindall and architects Holmes Miller enabled the project team to plan effectively. The resulting solutions now serve as a blueprint for other schools aiming to meet ambitious emissions-saving targets.

Green award adds to hat-trick of wins for Hertfordshire SEND school

Sustainability is at the heart of all new builds in Hertfordshire, like at The Valley School in Stevenage, and the County Council can now add a fourth award to its hat-trick of wins. The Valley School in Stevenage has been awarded 'Best Project Delivering Sustainable Outcomes' by Pagabo thanks to its green credentials and is Hertfordshire County Council's first net zero carbon in operation (NZCiO) new build school project.

The County Council appointed Ashe Construction to oversee the build of the school and its other awards include:

- Constructing Excellence Awards 2024 (Herts & Beds) – 'Building Project of the Year'
- Hertfordshire Building Control Awards 2024 for 'Best Non-Residential New Build'
- Education Business Awards for 'School Building Award'

But it's the leading sustainability credentials that clinched this win for the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) school. This includes energy and heating demand well below Department for Education targets, biodiverse green roofs that help the site achieve the council's ambition of 20% biodiversity net gain for new projects and the generation of 57% of its own electricity from onsite solar panels.

Timber offcuts from the build have also been used by the Design Technology department for the young people to build bird boxes and bug hotels which have been installed onsite to help enhance biodiversity at the site.

The new development is part of Hertfordshire County Council's £91m capital investment in the county's special school provision, which is delivering 1000 additional special school places in Hertfordshire by 2026.

Nearly 7,000 more Hertfordshire residents to benefit from broadband rollout. Thousands more residents and businesses in Hertfordshire are set to receive major internet speed upgrades as part of the [UK Government's initiative](#) to modernise broadband infrastructure in rural areas.

This effort aims to bridge the digital divide and enhance connectivity across the region.

With up to £800 million in government investment, the project will provide lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband to around 312,000 homes and businesses across Great Britain. In Hertfordshire alone, nearly 7,000 premises will benefit from this upgrade, enabling residents to enjoy seamless online experiences such as streaming films, video calling, and downloading large files without the frustration of buffering.

The landmark deal with telecoms provider Openreach is a significant milestone in the rollout of Project Gigabit. This initiative targets areas that are too expensive for providers to reach in their commercial builds, ensuring that no community is left behind with poor digital infrastructure. By delivering reliable connectivity, the project will stimulate local economies, reduce regional disparities, and attract new businesses to Hertfordshire.

Virtual school supports children in care to exam success In August young people up and down the country received their GCSE results, having faced challenges along the way, including the disruption to their learning that the pandemic caused.

We know that children and young people who are in the care of local authorities often face additional disruption to their learning, which is why our Hertfordshire Virtual School champions the needs of the 1,100 children and young people in our care.

The Hertfordshire Virtual School employs a range of advisers, support workers and professional partners who work with children and young people, schools and other education settings, Social Care teams, carers and adopters, ensuring that young people get the best possible education and a chance to realise their potential.

Over the last seven years, the Hertfordshire Virtual School has seen improvements in outcomes in English and Maths GCSE's through offering dedicated education support to individuals and to schools via education advisers. For children and young people, this support includes:

- Support with studies
- Educational resources including IT equipment
- Access to Education Support Workers to help overcome barriers to learning
- Out of school hours activities
- Study skills and booster classes
- Recognition of achievement – HERTS Awards

- Advice and guidance on future pathways
- Work experience opportunities

Update For Information: District Plan Evidence Base - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
 The Council is updating its evidence on open space, sport and recreation provision in the district and has commissioned specialist consultancy Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to deliver the project. The project will be part of the evidence base that informs the review of East Herts District Plan. The study will assess the quantity and quality of open space and sports provision in East Herts and identify future needs and priorities in accordance with Sport England guidelines. All facilities, whether managed within the public, private or voluntary sector will be involved.

Representatives from KKP will be undertaking site visits over the next few months and engaging with key local stakeholders, including national governing bodies, community groups, sports clubs and town and parish councils. Consultation with local clubs is underway and KKP will be sending a survey to parish and town councils to understand local issues and priorities. The study will be finalised in August 2025 and shared with Councillors before it is published as a District Plan evidence base document.

Arts in East Herts

The programme for Arts in East Herts, the exciting arts showcase which we are running across the district through September and October, is now live on our website:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/arts-and-culture-east-herts/arts-east-herts> There will be opportunities in every corner of East Herts for residents to try something new and most activities will be free of charge.

A social media campaign to promote this fantastic new initiative is now underway.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - Public Engagement

ENGAGEMENT PERIOD EXTENDED TO 20 SEPTEMBER

Due to the huge level of interest in the East Herts LCWIP, the engagement period has been extended until Friday 20 September to allow further comments to be made.

The LCWIP public engagement hub can be accessed here:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/EasthertsLCWIP

Arts Council funding secured to celebrate 100 years of libraries in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council are delighted to announce that their bid for an arts council grant has been accepted. The grant, which amounts to nearly £100,000 will go towards a year-long celebration of Hertfordshire Libraries, which turns 100 on 28th February 2025.

The celebration will begin with the launch of an exhibition of the library service showcasing how it has developed over the last 100 years and how our libraries continue to be a free resource for Hertfordshire residents at every stage of life offering a welcoming, accessible, and safe space to local communities.

Beginning in March there are plans for a ‘festival of creativity and reading’ to kick off across the county’s libraries, with authors, illustrators, digital experts, artists, and poets expected to attend a series of free and low cost workshops and events.

There are many more plans to reach out to all residents who use our libraries but also those that don’t currently know the range of activities and resources on offer there. Before the celebrations begin, an important project will start to understand what kind of programme of events and activities residents would like to see taking place in Hertfordshire.

Regular library users and others across the county who don’t know what the library service offers are encouraged to fill in this survey to give their views:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LibrariesCentenary

Coffee pod recycling is introduced at Hertfordshire Recycling Centres

Coffee lovers in Harpenden, Rickmansworth and Ware will be able to recycle their coffee pods at their local recycling centres from Monday 2 September. Hertfordshire County Council’s trial scheme will help reduce the amount they throw in their residual waste, ensuring they can enjoy their favourite hot drinks in a way that is better for the planet.

Used coffee, tea and hot chocolate pods can be collected and stored at home until residents are ready to take them to their local Recycling Centre, where they should be emptied loose into the appropriate aluminium or plastic Podback container. The Podback containers will be

clearly signed. Bags and other packaging must not be included.

Plastic and aluminium pods need to be collected separately, as they are recycled at different facilities. All the pods collected by Podback are recycled in the UK^[1]. They are shredded to remove the coffee, then the plastic and aluminium are used to create new products, including packaging, car components and building products. The coffee grounds will be treated by anaerobic digestion to create renewable energy (biogas) and soil improver.^[2]

The scheme will initially roll out at the Harpenden, Rickmansworth and Ware Recycling Centres as part of a trial, with a view to rolling the service out across the rest of the Hertfordshire Recycling Centre network in the near future. (Podback is a not-for-profit recycling service, created and funded by the UK's leading coffee pod systems - NESCAFE Dolce Gusto, Tassimo and Nespresso, and over 25 coffee pod brands and national retailers.)

Nearly 20% more people travelling by bus in Hertfordshire thanks to Bus Service Improvement Plan

Hertfordshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan [BSIP] has resulted in an 18% increase year on year of residents ditching the car and travelling by bus since 2022.

The £29.7million Department for Transport fund has led to significant improvements across Hertfordshire's local bus network including new services, more frequent buses as well as the launch of new schemes such as our uber-style on demand bus service HertsLynx, which currently operates in north and east Hertfordshire and Dacorum.

The latest offer in this package of measures, is the launch of a new bus ticket type, 'Intalink Connect'. This scheme can reduce the cost of travelling by bus around our county compared to buying individual tickets for each part of a passenger's journey.

Intalink Connect tickets can be bought from as little as £2.50 a day and £9.50 a week if bought in conjunction with a Hertfordshire SaverCard, or from £5 a day and £19 a week without.

In addition, the Adult SaverCard has now had a discount offer increase from 15% to 50% and this is available to anyone between the ages of 26 and 59. This now matches the discount available with a Young Person's SaverCard (ages 11 to 25) and Senior SaverCard (age 60+).

Full terms and conditions and details of the bus tickets can be found on the Intalink website:

- [Adult SaverCard - Increase to discount for Adult SaverCard - Intalink](#)
- [Intalink Connect - New and improved ticket scheme to replace Explorer and BUSnet - Intalink](#)
- Hertfordshire secondary school applications for September 2025 now open
- The new school year may just be about to start but it's already time for parents and carers in Hertfordshire to start planning for next year as the application process for transfer to secondary schools opens today (Monday 2 September).
- If your child starts secondary or upper school next year, or wants to apply for a place at a university technical college, make sure you apply for a place in good time.
- The easiest way to apply for a school place for September 2025 is to visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and complete the online application form.
- If you apply online you can access your school offer before allocation letters are received and accept your school allocation online.
- Last year over 99% of parents applied in this way and found the system quick, easy and secure.

Winter Self Help scheme for this year is now open and will run until the 31st of October 2024. Please forward any request you might receive, from Residents and community groups, to the winterselfhelp@hertfordshire.gov.uk

"Resident associations, resident groups (with a constitution or agreed terms of reference) and community groups can request between 1 – 34 x 20kg bags of salt per group to grit the public highway in their area".

[Winter self-help \(gritting your own road\) | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Cllr Eric Buckmaster, September 2024

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