



# Pre-submission



*Prepared by:*  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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## Foreword

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Hertford Heath, which includes the Little Amwell Conservation Area, is a village in East Hertfordshire located between the towns of Hertford, Ware and Hoddesdon. As in most areas of the South East of England Hertford Heath has grown considerably over recent decades and is set to grow by at least the planned number of houses between now and 2033, in line with the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Localism Act, which came into being in November 2011, devolves greater powers to Councils and neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood development plans come out of the Government's determination to ensure that local communities are closely involved in the decisions that affect them. The Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan (HHNP) has been developed to establish a vision for the whole Parish and to help deliver the local community's wishes and needs for the plan period 2017 – 2033. The HHNP is a statutory document that will be incorporated into the District Planning Framework and must be used by East Herts Council to determine planning applications.

The Neighbourhood Plan process enables residents to have a real say in local decision-making and in shaping their community, including determining how development takes place and influencing the type, quality and location of that development, ensuring that changes result in local benefit. It aims to make Hertford Heath a better place to live, now and for future generations.

Our plan has been produced by local residents, with the support of the Parish Council, incorporating the views of the residents. The HHNP Steering Group has consulted and listened to the community and local organisations on a wide range of issues that will influence the wellbeing, sustainability, and long-term preservation of our rural community. Every effort has been made to ensure that the views and policies contained in our Neighbourhood Plan reflect those of the majority of the Hertford Heath residents.

We have not limited this development plan to shaping only new housing development. The vision and objectives set out in this document broaden the plan to include social, economic, and environmental issues.

By consulting with East Herts Council, our Parish Council, the community, and other key stakeholders, we have ensured that the Neighbourhood Plan conforms to the objectives of the Localism Act 2011. When adopted, this in turn will sit alongside East Herts Council's own District Plan.



**Robert Frost**

*Chair of Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan Group*



# 1 Introduction

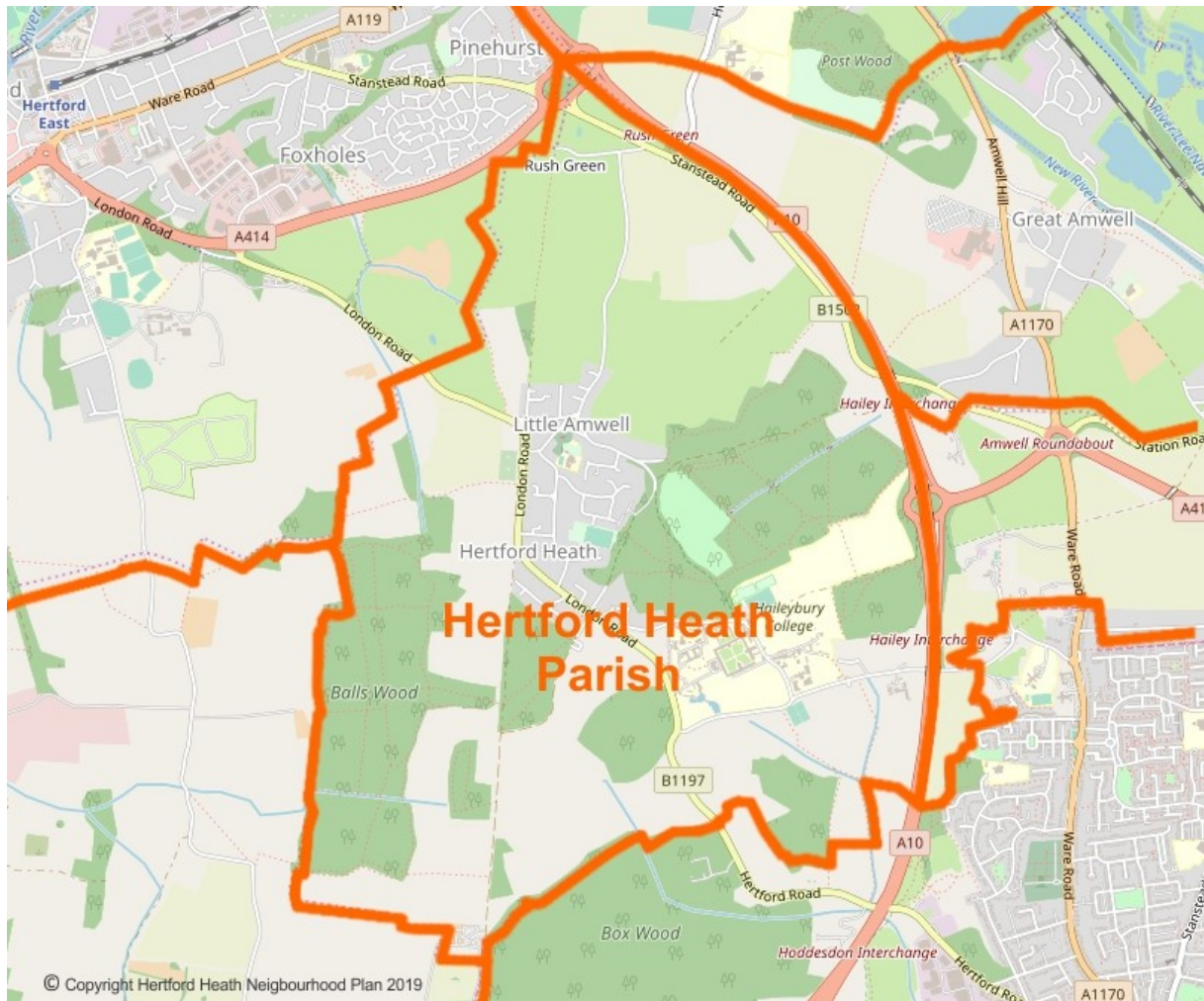
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## The Purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1 The Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan (the “Neighbourhood Plan”) will, once adopted, be part of the statutory Development Plan which is formed of the Local Plan (The East Herts District Plan), the Minerals and Waste Local Plans for Hertfordshire, and any adopted Neighbourhood Plans. The Neighbourhood Plan will be used to govern the direction of development in the designated area up to 2033.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a vision for the future, objectives, planning policies and a set of actions, which aim to ensure that Hertford Heath will grow sustainably and thrive over time. This means that the Neighbourhood Plan provides for new housing and prevents development that would have a negative impact on the area, while seeking to protect the environment and to provide facilities that cater for the wellbeing of the community.
- 1.3 The Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (as amended) set out the provisions for communities to produce plans that have statutory weight. Taking part in this plan making process is an opportunity for communities to have a say about the future growth in their area. The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan will be used in determining planning applications, will provide guidance for developers and will inspire local residents to enjoy and improve their area.
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan and in accordance with the strategic policies of the East Herts District Plan, prepared by East Herts District Council (EHDC). The East Herts District Plan (EHDP) was adopted on 23rd October 2018 and will be in force until 2033. The current planning documents that make up the statutory Development Plan can be found on EHDC’s website and Hertfordshire County Council’s (HCC) website.
- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 and current Planning Practice Guidance. According to paragraph 29 of the NPPF the Neighbourhood Plan cannot propose less development than set out in strategic policies.

## Qualifying Body & Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Hertford Heath Parish Council, through thoroughly researching the topics of interest and issues raised by the community and consultation with residents and other stakeholders in Hertford Heath.
- 1.7 The qualifying body for the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan is Hertford Heath Parish Council. On 2nd September 2013, Hertford Heath Parish Council applied to EHDC, for the designation of Hertford Heath Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. East Herts District Council approved the area designation on 4th February 2014. The Neighbourhood Plan area is represented in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1:** Map of the Designated area of Hertford Heath.

## Legislation

- 1.8 While reflecting the aspirations of local communities, Neighbourhood Plans must comply with local, national and European policies and legislation and meet the prescribed legal requirements, termed the 'Basic Conditions'. A separate document has been prepared to demonstrate how the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan meets these Basic Conditions.

## Process of Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan

### Phase 1: The Initial Idea

- 1.9 The decision to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Hertford Heath Parish was taken at Hertford Heath Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13 May 2013. This followed a presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2013 at which a planning consultant working with CPRE Hertfordshire had been invited to speak on neighbourhood planning.

### Phase 2: Early Stages

- 1.10 Pending the progression of the Draft District Plan, no further public meetings were held on neighbourhood planning until 22 March 2017 when the planning consultant (now independent) was invited back to address a meeting of the village.

### Phase 3: Launch and Objective Setting

- 1.11 A dedicated website was launched on 22 April 2017 with clear branding. The next open meeting was on the 24 May 2017 followed by a training event for volunteers on 22 June 2017 and a workshop on objective setting for each of the themed groups on 4 July 2017.

### Phase 4: Consultation Events and Activities

- 1.12 Over the following six months, views and opinions were collected from residents through a stall at the village fete and the launch of a comprehensive village survey. Views were also gathered through social media and through the dedicated website.
- 1.13 Subsequently two consultation events were held: a consultation meeting on 16 April 2018 and a public exhibition on 22 September 2018. A follow-up focus group specifically to discuss the proposed housing site allocations was held on 4 April 2019 and on 23 April 2019 draft policies were displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting. In order to gather public opinion on possible Section 106 benefits that might be derived from housing development, a stall was set up at the Summer Fayre 13th July 2019.

### Phase 5: Regulation 14 Consultation

- 1.14 This document is the Regulation 14 Consultation Draft of the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan. The results of the Regulation 14 Consultation will be published in the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement.

## Community Engagement

- 1.15 As set out above, the content of the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan was prepared through a continuous process of gathering the views of local people, using a variety of consultation approaches including:
- surveys
  - exhibitions
  - public meetings
  - Working Group and Steering Group meetings
- 1.16 A separate document called the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement explains the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, describes the engagement techniques used, events held and the results of the public consultations. It also contains a list of consultees.

## 2 Hertford Heath Parish

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### Basic statistics (Based on 2011 Census)

- There were **2,672** residents.
- The average age was 37.
- There were **934** household spaces.
- **90%** of households had 1 or more cars or vans available to them.
- The male to female ratio was approximately **50/50**.

Ref: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E04004735>

- 2.1 In 2011, of the 913 households disclosing the tenure of their accommodation, 70.3% were owner occupied, 14.1 % social rented, 8.8% private rented and 6.8% living free.
- 2.2 In 2011, there was a fairly even mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced (including end-terrace). Only 9.6% of the housing stock were flats.
- 2.3 Car availability was 1.63 cars per household in 2011 compared to 1.52 for East Herts as a whole. National trends indicate that car availability will have risen since then. In 2011 46.5 % of households had 2 or more cars available to them.
- 2.4 In 2011, 65.8% of residents aged between 16 and 74 were economically active and 12.6% were retired. 21% of the economically active were employed in education; a figure skewed by the existence of the large public school (Haileybury) within the Parish.

## Location and Main Features

- 2.5 Located in the District of East Hertfordshire, Hertford Heath Parish covers approximately 45 hectares and lies between the towns of Hertford, Ware and Hoddesdon. It was comprised of Little Amwell and Great Amwell until 1969. It is now solely Little Amwell (and is known as Hertford Heath). It has always been a rural area, which hopefully will continue.
- 2.6 It is located above the River Lea valley, on its south side, and most of the village is about 90m (300 ft) above sea level.
- 2.7 The area around the Village Green is a Conservation Area which includes Holy Trinity Church, The Goat Public House, and properties with many original features.
- 2.8 The village is surrounded by countryside. The Hertford Heath nature reserve and Balls Wood nature reserve cover nearly 80 hectares of surrounding countryside and woodland. Hertford Heath itself is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and both sites are managed by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.
- 2.9 Ermine Street, the former Roman Road from London to York, runs from the rear of Hertford Heath Motors to Goose Green near Hoddesdon and onwards to London (it is now a bridleway to the South). The former route across the village through what is now Hogsdel Lane, on to Rush Green, has been bisected by the main route through Hertford Heath (B1197) and the development of housing across the village.

## The History of Hertford Heath

- 2.10 Hertford Heath was just a wild wooded wasteland, mainly used as common pasture, with the Roundings known as the Great Heath and the area around the village green the Lesser Heath. In Hertfordshire, the word "*Bushes*" was often used for sparse woodland with few large trees, and perhaps this is where the nick name for Hertford Heath "*The Bush*" came from.
- 2.11 The village of Hertford Heath only came into being with the arrival of the East India College at Haileybury in 1806 with its need for staff, and the associated accommodation for the families. But the settlement has a long history going back to the bronze age, as evidenced by axes discovered in Priors Woods.



- 2.12 In 1588 the Spanish Armada threatened England. Beacons twenty to thirty feet high made of timber, metal and pitch were built on high grounds from the south coast northwards, to be lit as signals when the invasion occurred. One of these beacons was built in Little Amwell (Hertford Heath) and outlasted the other three built in Hertfordshire.
- 2.13 The village was self-sufficient in the late 1900's with shops and businesses providing the needs of the villagers, including a blacksmith, coal merchant, hardware store, butchers and many grocery shops. Many women of the village were employed doing the washing for the Bluecoats School in Hertford and other large premises in the town. They were called the "Washer Women of Hertford Heath". In later years many people worked for the Addis Brushworks in Hertford.
- 2.14 There used to be an abundance of public houses in the village starting with the College Arms at the South end of London Road, with three more stretching along London Road, and the Goat Public house near the village green. There were two more in Downfield Road, formerly called The Street, making seven in total.



*Figure 2: The Village Green and The Goat Public House*

- 2.15 The village has its own primary school in Woodland Road which is rated Good by Ofsted. There is a nursery school attached to it and the school had 219 pupils from 3-11 in 2017. The old school was in Mount Pleasant and was founded in 1837 as a National School for boys and girls and remained such until 1947. It was also used as a church until the Holy Trinity church was built in 1863.



**Figure 3** Hertford Heath Schools & School House

- 2.16 Holy Trinity Church situated on Church Hill was built in Early English neo-Gothic style. There have been fourteen vicars up to the present day. The Rev. Charles Barclay and his wife Florence were the first to occupy the vicarage and were famous for their contribution to the village with arranging water to be pumped up from their garden to the village green for the use of the villagers. Florence the vicar's wife was a very famous author of novels.
- 2.17 Hertford Heath had a Chapel built in the village in 1900. It was formerly called the Reynold's Memorial Church. Unfortunately, it closed down in 1991 and has subsequently been demolished.

## Hertford Heath Today

- 2.18 Hertford Heath is a vibrant, diverse village that both cherishes its history and enjoys an expanding modern community spirit. Residents have access to a range of local facilities and the proximity of some 80 hectares of surrounding countryside presents opportunities for environmental and healthy pursuits.
- 2.19 Perhaps the landmark of the village is Holy Trinity Church located by the Village Green. In addition to representing the religious focal point for residents its attractive position makes it a popular venue for Wedding and Baptism services for non-residents.
- 2.20 The village is served by one general store and three public houses, The College Arms, the Silver Fox and The Goat. All the public houses are popular meeting and eating venues for both residents and visitors to the village, indeed all have been used for HHNP events. Other local outlets are the farm in Downfield Road which provides raw Jersey milk, eggs and ice cream and the garage in London Road which provides the full range of motor servicing.



- 2.21 The Village Hall, built in 1935 from public donations is used by many organisations ranging from toddler groups to adult exercise classes, hosts village fund raising events and is hired for parties and other activities. The more petite Mission Room is widely used by smaller groups such as the Parish Council and The Women’s Institute. The Rev. Charles Barclay and his wife Florence were responsible for having the Mission Room built in Vicarage Causeway in 1882. The Village Hall and the Mission Room were both used for HHNP events depending on the scale of presentations and attendance. The local Scout Group has a dedicated hut located in the woods off Mount Pleasant.
- 2.22 Outdoor recreation facilities include the playing field, situated in the centre of the village, which has a football pitch used enthusiastically by the HH Football Club, a children’s play park and a scenic picnic area. The Village Green, located within the Conservation Area, is popular for youngsters’ sporting pursuits and is used for social events such as the Summer Fayre, The Big Picnic and Fireworks Night. It also has a Petanque pitch. Residents can also make use of the sports facilities at Haileybury.
- 2.23 Hertford Heath Primary and Nursery School provides education for our youngest residents whilst secondary students attend schools in Hertford and Ware. A private coach service is available for those who attend Presdales School in Ware.
- 2.24 Hertford Heath has good transport links. Railway stations at Hertford, Ware, Stansted Abbots, and Broxbourne are readily accessible and the proximity of major roads make it a popular location for commuters. The village is served by a bus service which runs hourly except on Sundays.



**Figure 4:** Green in front of Haileybury

### 3 Vision and objectives

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#### Our vision

**Our Neighbourhood Plan will determine the development of Hertford Heath by recognising and meeting the objectives of residents and businesses.**

We will preserve its historic character as a distinct village within the Green Belt ensuring that development is sustainable, protects green spaces and promotes community spirit within a healthy environment.

The Neighbourhood Plan will thereby ensure that Hertford Heath develops as a vibrant community and is an attractive place to live, work or visit.

- 3.1 By 2033 Hertford Heath will have developed sustainably in sympathy with its identity as an attractive, self-contained village community surrounded by Green Belt. The village will be seen as an inclusive place to live by offering facilities and amenities for all ages.
- 3.2 The village will expand by at least 84 residential properties, to be built in sympathy with the current village character. This will give the opportunity to improve existing facilities and provide new ones identified by the community and reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan policies.
- 3.3 New development will not adversely impact on the existing green spaces comprising the SSSI, woodland, village green, wildlife meadow and recreation area. It will provide additional publicly accessible green space and environmental improvements.
- 3.4 Existing community and social venues, the Church, Village Hall, Mission Room and Public Houses, will continue to play an important part of village life. The improvement of community facilities will be sought through S106 and in-kind contributions as a result of housing development in the village.
- 3.5 New development should be supported by improved infrastructure including traffic management measures, improved footways and dedicated cycleways connecting to local towns. These measures will encourage healthier travel and reduce traffic through and within the village.
- 3.6 Emphasis will be given to developing business activity in the village including those businesses run from home and the self-employed. Support will be provided by ensuring excellent communications, broadband and mobile telephone, and by improving access to their services via the village website with appropriate links.
- 3.7 The Neighbourhood Plan will thereby ensure that Hertford Heath develops as a vibrant and healthy community and an attractive place to live, work or visit.

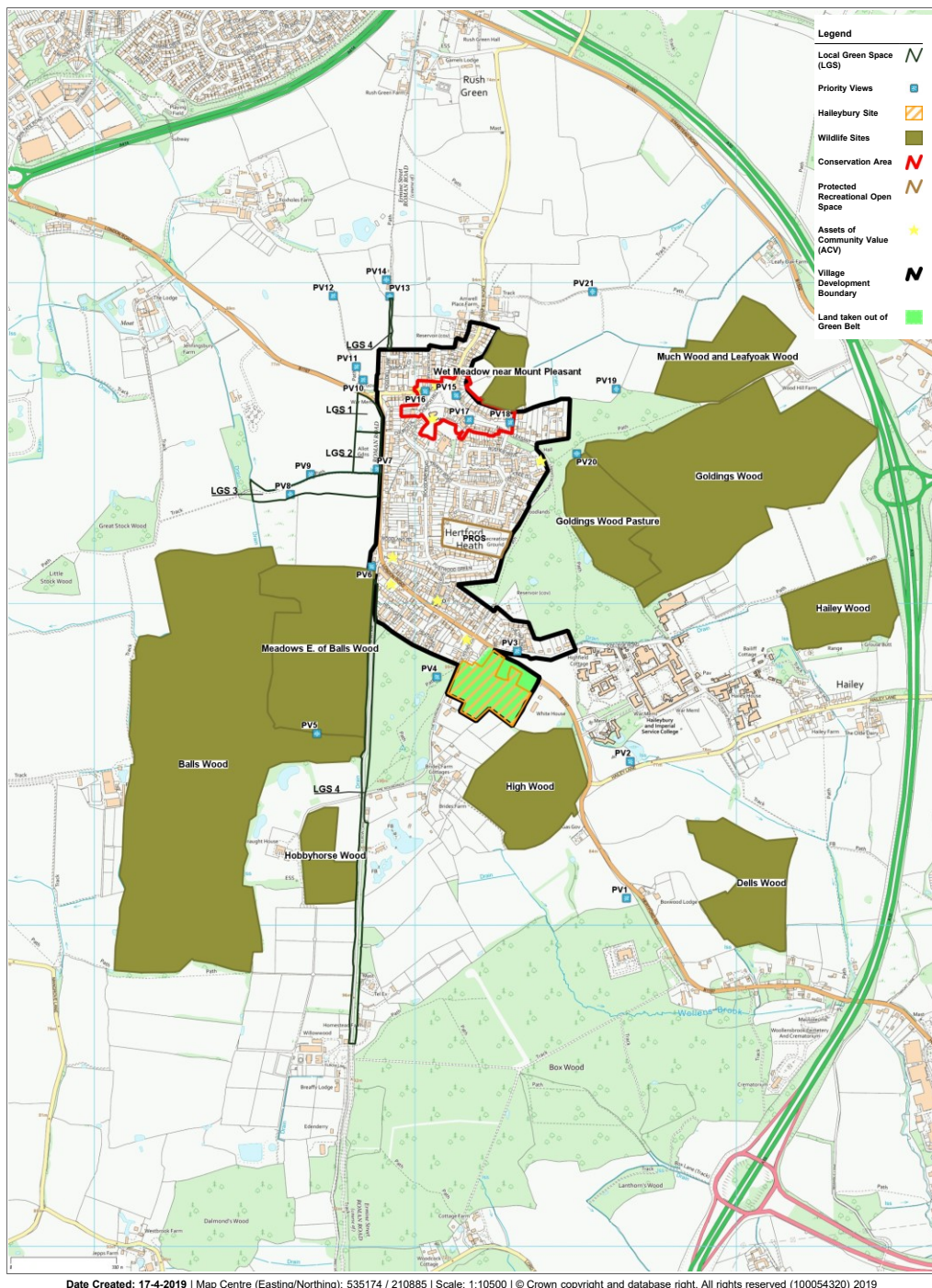
## Objectives

- 3.8 The objectives focused in on specific parts of the vision statement and provided the context for the development of the planning policies. They were mapped against the strategic objectives and policies in East Herts District Plan to ensure conformity. The objectives are as follows:
- A.** To ensure that all new development is sustainable and in sympathy with Hertford Heath's identity as an attractive, self-contained village
  - B.** To identify housing sites to achieve a total of at least 84 new homes required in the East Herts District Plan by 2033
  - C.** To maximise funding opportunities to maintain and provide better facilities for residents, such as a community café, better medical services or space for recreation and educational pursuits including through the development of land for housing
  - D.** To achieve a list of infrastructure improvements including traffic management and better footpath and cycle links to connecting towns through negotiation and planning agreements
  - E.** Protect and enhance green spaces and biodiversity in order to improve Hertford Heath's environment
  - F.** Preserve and cherish the unique character of the village by prioritising this over any future developments.
  - G.** Reduce all forms of pollution and explore opportunities for Green Energy proposals in order to ensure that Hertford Heath is sustainable
  - H.** Promote the health of the village through the use of green spaces and improved cycle/footpath routes for public health and wellbeing
  - I.** Improve and maintain Hertford Heath's connectivity, through providing better mobile coverage, reliable parish wide broadband and business services e.g. postal service/parcel delivery, to attract new businesses and help existing businesses flourish.
  - J.** Encourage and promote local farm diversification proposals including conversion of existing buildings, in order to help establish local businesses.
  - K.** Ensure that all new service provision and amenities are inclusive and easily accessible to the public.
  - L.** Foster a thriving, healthy community by improving health and wellbeing, facilitating volunteering, encouraging sports activity and increasing opportunities for learning, through partnerships with Haileybury.



## 4 Neighbourhood plan policies

- 4.1 This chapter sets out the planning policies for Hertford Heath for the period 2017-2033; these policies are in line with the end plan period for the East Herts District plan. The planning policies and the justification for them are set out below. These policies reflect the main issues that were identified in consultations and provide the processes by which objectives A-L will be achieved. **Appendix B** sets out how policy options were mapped to objectives.
- 4.2 The Policies Map is an essential part of any neighbourhood plan as it visually locates the land use policies in the following chapter. A larger version of the Policies Map can be found in **Appendix A**.



**Figure 5: Policies Map**



## Housing & Infrastructure

### Housing Strategy & Village Boundary

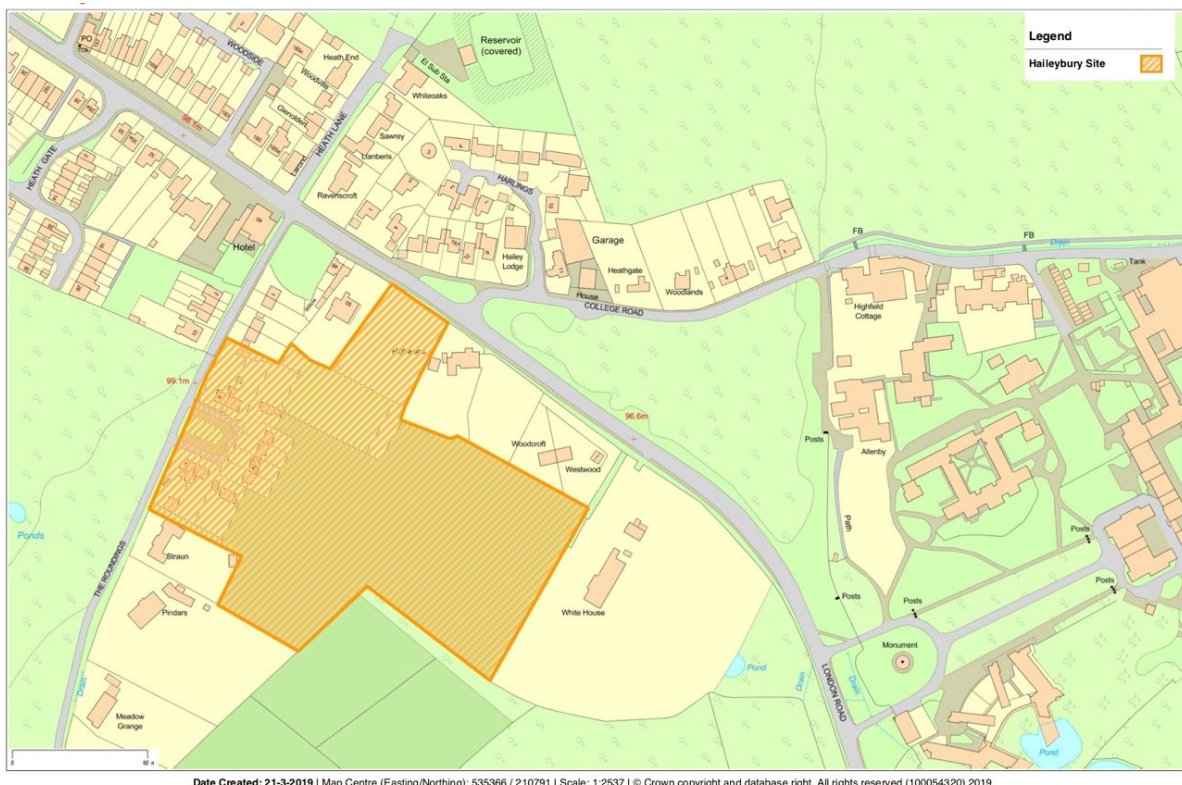
- 4.3 Hertford Heath is committed to meeting the housing requirement as set out in Policy VILL1 of the East Herts District Plan. Under this policy, Hertford Heath is categorised as a Group 1 village and needs to increase its housing stock by 10% during the sixteen-year period between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2033. The figure quoted in the District Plan for Hertford Heath is 84 homes.
- 4.4 Hertford Heath is one of three Group 1 villages in East Hertfordshire which are inset from the Green Belt. These villages have been encouraged by East Herts Council to consider accommodating additional development, above the 10% requirement, in their Neighbourhood Plans, especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits.
- 4.5 East Herts District Plan Policy VILL1 (III.) accepts that there may be a need for a change to the Green Belt boundary, in order to accommodate an extension of the village to achieve the housing target required in the policy. National policy (the NPPF) has since confirmed that where a need for changes to Green Belt boundaries has been established through strategic policies, in this case District Plan Policy VILL1, detailed amendments to those boundaries may be made through non-strategic policies, including neighbourhood plans.
- 4.6 Paragraph 137 of the NPPF advises that in order to conclude that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, all other reasonable options for meeting housing need should have been examined fully. This includes making sure that as much use as possible has been made of suitable brownfield sites and underutilised land and optimises the density of development. Both of these requirements were an integral part of the site assessment process carried out in the course of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.7 Consideration of the sensitivity of the Green Belt around Hertford Heath was of concern to residents and particularly to village children. The childrens' survey (**See Appendix 12 of the Consultation Statement**) revealed that 52 children thought that it was important to keep a large green space between Hertford Heath and Hertford. In addition, 99% of those responding to the general residents' survey rated the importance of maintaining a green space between Hertford Heath and neighbourhood towns and villages 5 and above with 55% giving a score of 10 (the highest score).
- 4.8 The East Herts Green Belt Review (2015) shows the Land West of London Road in Green Belt 'parcel 26' and the Haileybury Site in 'parcel 27'. The area of Green Belt around Hertford Heath was not looked at in detail in the report. Overall, both Green Belt parcels were considered to be '*Land fundamental to Green Belt*'.
- 4.9 However, parcel 26 was considered to be slightly less suitable for development in terms of Green Belt purpose 1 '*To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas*'. Development in parcel 26 was assessed as having the potential to lead to a reduction in the separation of Hertford Heath with Hertford. In particular the description of the parcel said that it has a strong rural character and is almost entirely free of development.

- 4.10 In addition, East Herts SLAA (Strategic Land Availability Assessment 2015) included the Land West of London Road 25/001 and part of the Haileybury site 25/003. The SLAA said the following:
- 25/001** *“This large greenfield site is located within the Green Belt and its development would be totally out scale with the village. It would also involve an unacceptable intrusion into open countryside on the opposite side of the main road to the village. It would be an isolated development and an intrusion into land, which forms part of a swathe of agricultural land and is part of the open setting of the village.”*
- 25/003** *“This part greenfield/brownfield site is located in the Green Belt outside of the village boundary. Whilst the site has some existing dwellings on it, further intensification would impact on the openness of the Green Belt in this location.”*
- 4.11 Neither sites were considered to be suitable without a change to the Green Belt boundary. Since the Green Belt Review and SLAA were published, Hertford Heath was asked to accommodate additional dwellings in the village or on the boundary of the village. We have used all the information available to us in terms of a Green Belt locations to choose the best of the available sites.
- 4.12 The AECOM report noted on page 16 that from the junction of the London Road and Elbow Lane towards the north, “houses are only located on the eastern side of the road. Whilst perhaps not unique this is a significant and attractive feature of the village where the green belt comes right up to the edge of London Road.” One of the potential housing sites was located in this space to the west of the London Road and counted strongly against amending the Green Belt boundary in this location to accommodate a housing development.
- 4.13 The alternative Green Belt site that was considered does not suffer from the same constraints as it is contained on two sides by existing residential development. However, the site lies adjacent to an SSSI. Development proposals on this site must take into account the sensitivity of Hertford Heath SSSI.
- 4.14 The two objectives that influenced the decision on the preferred Green Belt site release were:
- A** To ensure that all new development is sustainable and in sympathy with Hertford Heath’s identity as an attractive, self-contained village
  - F** Preserve and cherish the unique character of the village by prioritising this over any future developments.
- 4.15 This Neighbourhood Plan therefore amends the Green Belt boundary to extend the village development envelope of Hertford Heath in a single location south of London Road and east of The Roundings, to accommodate a housing allocation for 74 additional homes. This Green Belt boundary amendment provides sufficient land to meet almost all of the minimum requirement. It is drawn deliberately tightly around the site proposed by the owners, excluding the large detached properties Woodcroft, Westwood and Highwood. This will help to ensure that the rural character of the entrance to the village along London Road from the south east is maintained.
- 4.16 The remainder of the housing requirement will be satisfied through a combination of homes built since 1 April 2017, the identification of two brownfield sites where owners have expressed a wish to develop and ‘windfall development’ of a further 8 homes which already have planning permission or are under construction.



## POLICY HH-H-1: Housing Numbers

- I. In accordance with the housing strategy laid out in the District Plan to deliver sustainable development, Hertford Heath will accommodate a minimum of 84 new homes between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2033. These will be achieved through a combination of the following:
  - Site Allocation Policy HH-H-3 Land to West of London Road Opposite Haileybury identifies a site for 84 homes which includes the demolition of 10 existing homes representing a net gain of 74 homes.
  - Completion of 3 homes within the time period
  - Windfall Brownfield Policy HH-H-4 identifies two sites with potential for 3 homes
  - Windfall completions of a further 8 homes which have planning permission or are under construction.
- II. In the context of paragraph 14 b) of the NPPF (February 2019) neighbourhood plans can meet their housing requirements through allocated sites and a policy for windfall. It is extremely likely that the existing sites with planning permission will all be completed for occupation before 31st March 2033 and that proposals will come forward for the two sites identified in Policy HH-H-4. In order to meet the District Council housing target of 84 new homes, this policy includes a small element of windfall development and anticipates that the housing target will be exceeded.



**Figure 6:** Extract of Policies Map

## POLICY HH-H-2: Village and Green Belt Boundary

District Plan Policy VILL1 allows a Group 1 village preparing a neighbourhood plan to review and redraw its boundaries to accommodate additional housing development.

The designated Hertford Heath Village Development Boundary separates the village from the Green Belt. Paragraph 136 of the NPPF allows neighbourhood plans to make changes to the Green Belt boundary established in the strategic policies, where needed.

The Green Belt Boundary is amended in order to extend the Village Development Boundary to include the Housing Site Allocation Land West of London Road opposite Haileybury, Policy HH-H-3 (as shown on the Policies Map).

## Housing Site Allocation

- 4.17 The most desirable way for villages to grow is through cumulative growth that reflects the existing density and layout of homes, complements building styles and materials and respects the overall feel and character of the parish. It is important for Hertford Heath that growth does not diminish its unique character and therefore there needs to be a symbiotic relationship between achieving the supply of new homes and retaining its distinctive features and historic significance.
- 4.18 In addition to complying with District Plan Policy VILL1, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group deemed important that the housing needs and preferences of local residents were sought. It was established from the residents' survey that 135 people wanted any housing sites to be located within the village boundary only and a further 84 people indicated that sites could be within or adjacent to the village boundary in the Green Belt. This preference precipitated an in-depth assessment of all possible sites within the village that might be suitable for housing. This process is described in detail in **Appendix C**.
- 4.19 The assessment of sites was carried out over a period of 15 months and included the creation of an assessment methodology. A minimum size of 0.04ha was imposed on the site list and then a set of 19 assessment criteria, including Green Belt impact, accessibility and level of commitment from the landowner, were applied to those sites of at least 0.04ha. The scores that were derived from the assessment indicated the level of sustainability, suitability and deliverability of the site for development.
- 4.20 As part of the assessment process, and in order to estimate how many homes each site could accommodate, a survey of the housing areas within the village was carried out. This revealed that dwelling densities varied throughout the village between 17 and 32 Dwellings Per Hectare (dph).
- 4.21 Using local knowledge, information from the East Herts SLAA and a local Call for Sites, a total of 69 sites or plots of land were identified for assessment. As a result of the assessment process only 14 plots of land were judged to be potentially viable development sites.

- 4.22 A process of negotiation with landowners was initiated including the requirement to agree in writing that their sites could be displayed for comment at the public consultation event in September 2018 and that there were available either in the short-term or longer term. At this point the number of deliverable sites dropped to just five.
- 4.23 The public response to the sites displayed was as follows (figures show the net result taking 'Yes' and 'No' comments into account. The full results can be found in **Appendix 17 of the Consultation Statement**:

<b>Site 1</b>	Opposite 39-53 Mt Pleasant –	<b>51</b> No
<b>Site 2</b>	London Road –Opposite. Woodland Road –	<b>53</b> No
<b>Site 3</b>	London Road – Opposite Haileybury –	<b>31</b> Yes
<b>Site 4</b>	Behind Haileybury site –	<b>36</b> Yes
<b>Site 5</b>	Land Behind HH motors -	<b>31</b> Yes

Reasons for the lack of popularity of sites 1 and 2 included issues of congestion created in the centre of the village, loss of woodland and impact on the Green Belt and detrimental impact on views into and from the village.

- 4.24 From this point onwards only sites 3, 4, and 5 were pursued further. Extensive discussions commenced with Haileybury to establish the capacity of the two sites in their ownership and their commitment to developing them. As discussions progressed the Steering Group together with the landowner decided to treat the two sites (Site 3 and Site 4) as a single site to be delivered as a comprehensive development. This site was able to offer almost all of the number of homes required by District Plan policy VILL1.
- 4.25 A single site allocation for the land west of London Road (opposite Haileybury) is included in the Neighbourhood Plan. This site can accommodate 84 homes, although 10 homes will be demolished as part of the development and therefore the development represents a net gain of 74 homes.
- 4.26 A number of criteria to guide the design of the development of the site are set out in Policy HH H-3 below. This policy provides the primary policy provisions for the site but other policies in this plan may also be relevant.

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### POLICY HH-H-3:

#### Land to West of London Road Opposite Haileybury

Location:	To west of London Road opposite Haileybury and east of The Roundings
Plot Size:	3.11 hectares
Existing Use:	Mixed use (housing, gardens and meadow)
Development Capacity:	A draft scheme indicates the provision of 84 homes (including the demolition of 10 existing homes on the site)

The development of this site will be supported provided that it fulfils the general policy requirements in the plan, and it meets all the following criteria:

- a) Design of homes have regard to the sensitivity of the village's character (outlined in Hertford Heath Heritage and Character Assessment AECOM February 2019)
- b) Scale and height of homes reflects the character of surrounding properties
- c) Satisfactory vehicular access from London Road, is available and achievable
- d) Non-vehicular access is provided both directly to the London Road and to The Roundings
- e) Number of new homes provided makes the most efficient use of land, suitable to the size and constraints of the site, having particular regard to the character of Hertford Heath (outlined in the AECOM report)
- f) Visitor parking to be aggregated/shared to maximise the efficient use of land
- g) Street lighting to be post or floor mounted, low level and kept to a minimum to reduce light pollution
- h) Layout ensures that any views (e.g. PV3 or PV4 see Policy HH-EN-1) and habitats (including the adjacent SSSI) are not impacted significantly and measures to mitigate any impacts are conditioned in the planning application
- i) For any SUDs scheme required, the use of the attenuation basin for ecological enhancements as well as for recreation, should be explored
- j) Existing hedges on the site boundary are retained (with the exception of the minimum hedge removal required for the vehicular access visibility splays) and additional planting is provided on the new green belt boundary to maintain the distinction between the village and the rural landscape
- k) Heritage Impact Assessment includes measures to minimise the impact on designated heritage assets Rose Cottage, etc... and non-designated heritage assets, 2-8 The Roundings
- l) Financial and/or in-kind contributions through S106 (or other funding mechanism) are subject to consultation with Hertford Heath Parish Council prior to permission being granted. Such contributions should include funding sustainable travel initiatives to improve access to nearby towns such as Hertford, Ware and Hoddesdon.

## Brownfield Sites

- 4.27 Brownfield sites refer to any previously developed land that is underused or not currently in use. Paragraph 117 of the NPPF calls for the effective use of previously developed or brownfield land and other under-utilised sites.
- 4.28 There are many advantages of developing on brownfield sites, including the improvement of the overall environment. They also represent a sustainable option, particularly for a village surrounded by Green Belt like Hertford Heath.

- 4.29 Through the site assessment process, land at Hertford Heath Motors (Elbow Lane) was supported as a possible development site within the village boundary. This could accommodate two new homes. A small site in the same vicinity, also on Elbow Lane, currently occupied by a barn like structure could be converted or re-built to provide one new home.

## POLICY HH-H-4: Brownfield Sites

Proposals that include the redevelopment of brownfield sites will be supported and encouraged. The following sites have been identified as possible brownfield sites that could accommodate additional homes as follows:

- Land to the West of Elbow Lane (Hertford Heath Motors) - The site which is used in connection with Hertford Heath Motors extends to approximately 657 m2. It could accommodate two new homes.
- Land to the West of Elbow Lane (Opposite Orchard Cottage) - A relatively modern barn currently occupies the site which extends to approximately 575 m2. It could accommodate a single home through the conversion or re-building of the barn and scored.

## Housing Design

- 4.30 Section 12 of the NPPF addresses achieving well-designed places and notes that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development (paragraph 124). Paragraph 125 of the NPPF says that neighbourhood plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of their area and explain how this should be reflected in new development.
- 4.31 Although not a design guide as such, the AECOM Heritage and Characterisation Study of Hertford Heath was commissioned to identify the qualities and characteristics of the village. This report is an important reference document for architects/planners putting together planning proposals. Of particular note were the following features (p17) which should be reflected in the design of new development:
- Houses are set back from the road with front gardens, some with trees, and are separated from the street with brick walls, picket fences, shrubs and hedgerows.
  - Flower beds and lines of trees such as pollarded Limes, Ash trees and Silver Birch trees which are particularly common in private gardens and along residential streets.
  - Houses are typically up to two storeys in height, and a mixture of detached, semi-detached and terraces
  - Scale and grain of development is generally consistent,
  - The most popular building materials are red or yellow stock brick, but there is a broad range of architecture and finishes, such as hanging tile, timber cladding and muted colour render.
  - In the northern part of the village a small number of historic buildings distributed around the central green create a distinctive townscape

- Architectural features such as red brick banded with blue brick, and decorative red tile on roof such as those seen on Holy Trinity Church are common
- Outside the village, the buildings tend to be detached houses that incorporate a range of contemporary architectural finishes and details including red brick with timber frame and painted render finish.

## POLICY HH-H-5: Design of Housing

I. The design of all new buildings and extensions should fit in with their surroundings. The AECOM Village Character Assessment should be used as a reference guide. In particular, proposals that incorporate the criteria below are encouraged and will be supported:

- Make a contribution to local distinctiveness and respect the historic nature of the Parish
  - Be in proportion in terms of appropriate size, height and scale, to surrounding buildings especially in terms of principal elevations
  - Respect neighbouring roof heights, profiles and pitches, the characteristic spaces between dwellings, the historic building lines, and the overall density of development in the village
  - Give the appearance of being no more than two storeys above ground level, i.e. a third floor can only be achieved by reducing the ground level, building a basement or inserting additional rooms in the roof space.
  - Incorporate detailing in line with traditional design features
  - Materials of the highest, long-lasting quality
  - Off road car park areas (including garage / car port, hard standing) provided for all homes in accordance with East Herts current parking standards
  - Density of development respects the character areas of Hertford Heath village
  - Ensure that high environmental standards and good design principles are incorporated in all developments to ensure maximum energy efficiency.
  - All homes should, where possible, have their own private amenity space.
  - Sustainable urban drainage principles are incorporated in all development to manage surface water to avoid localised flooding.
  - Reflect the rural setting by minimising light pollution caused by street lighting.
  - Provide adequate enclosures for, and access to, domestic waste bins for every home.
- II. The following photographs illustrate successful examples of some of the design features mentioned above:





*Figure 7 Small terraced and semi-detached homes*



*Figure 8 One and a half and two and a half storey homes*

## Tenure and Size of Homes

- 4.32 According to the 2011 census, 70.3% of households are owned, 14.1% are socially rented, 8.8% are privately rented, 6.8% are living rent-free and there are no households which have shared ownerships. Views of residents responding to the survey included 129 respondents thought there was a need for more homes for open market sale, 85 respondents through that Housing Association shared ownership homes were needed, and a further 69 respondents saw a need for Housing Association rented properties. East Herts housing policies will guide the mix of housing tenures in new developments.
- 4.33 When asked what types of homes are needed in the village, by far the most popular response was 3-bed semi-detached houses, followed by 3-bed terraced houses and then 2-bed apartments or flats. Interestingly young people answering the childrens' survey thought the greatest need was for bungalows. These aspirations should be provided for where at all possible.

## POLICY HH-H-6: Size of Homes

- I. There will be a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes in accordance with the needs of current and future generations and the outcomes of housing market assessments
- II. Proposals that include the following will be welcomed:
  - Starter homes and smaller dwellings for private purchases
  - Smaller units for those who want to downsize
  - Affordable housing for rent or shared ownership for residents of the Parish, provided through a Community Land Trust or similar mechanism.

## Sustainable Transport

- 4.34 The ever-increasing amount of traffic flowing through the village, especially at peak times, was mentioned again and again in surveys and at consultation events. It was cited as one of the reasons why smaller developments of 10 or less homes were favoured over larger developments. Almost 80% of residents responding to the survey believed that additional traffic calming measures are needed in Hertford Heath. A number of road safety proposals are already in hand and further projects to improve safety in the village can be found in the Action Plan (see Appendix L). This includes lobbying for an alternative off-road route into Hertford.
- 4.35 The requirement for a proportional Transport assessment is not meant to deter developers but will encourage them to consider appropriate mitigation measure that can be put in place to minimise the impact of their development.

## POLICY HH-H-7: Traffic Calming and Sustainable Transport

- I. All proposals for residential and commercial developments will be accompanied by a Transportation Assessment, proportionate to the size of the development, showing how the village road system will be affected, how congestion will be reduced, how vehicle parking will be provided, and safety for pedestrians and cyclists enhanced.
- II. Proposals that reduce through traffic or contribute to increased road safety will be encouraged and supported as long they conform to other policies in the plan.
- III. Development proposals will be encouraged to include the installation and maintenance of new public footpaths and cycleways.

## Utilities

- 4.36 Utility infrastructure will be welcomed in the village, provided that it is integral to new development and designed to be in sympathy with the character of the part of the village in which it is to be installed.

## POLICY HH-H-8: Communications and Utility Infrastructure

- I. Proposals for the installation of new infrastructures including high speed broadband and mobile networks are supported.
- II. Utility infrastructure should be designed as an integral part of housing developments from the outset (or should be fully integrated into the design of future development proposals).
- III. Utility structures including built enclosures, aerial towers, poles, cabinets should be discrete and sympathetic to the character of their surroundings.



## Environment

### Views and Vistas

- 4.37 The Environment Group took inspiration from public comments such as “A great deal of physical and mental health benefit is accrued from views.” The list of views and vistas identified in this plan were compiled from residents’ ideas collected through the survey and from published documents including the new Conservation Area Appraisal and the AECOM Village Character Assessment (AECOM Report). Residents were consulted on the proposed Priority Views and Vistas policy at an open day. One hundred percent approval was given to the views and vistas identified.
- 4.38 The AECOM Report identified two of the key characteristics of Hertford Heath as:
- Glimpsed views of the countryside from the centre of the village
  - Open views across the rolling landscape from the edge of the village
- 4.39 In section 4.2.6 of the AECOM Report it was noted that ‘there are glimpses of the countryside from a few streets within the village such as London Road, Church Hill and Woodland Road’ and “Large amounts of space in the Conservation Area allow short distance views towards the local landmarks, such as the spire of Holy Trinity Church and The Goat Inn.” (p24). It was also noted in section 5.4 that the key views identified in the Conservation Area Appraisal should be preserved and wherever possible enhanced (p27).
- 4.40 Particular attention is drawn to the fact that “Long picturesque views are evident along Vicarage Causeway and Mount Pleasant across the greens that display the rural and semi-rural character and sylvan charm of the Conservation Area.” In addition, a selection of views is shown on the Character Analysis Map on page 30 of the Conservation Area Appraisal. They are represented by views PV15 – PV18 inclusive in Policy HH EN-1.
- 4.41 In the southern part of the parish, there are characteristic views towards Haileybury College. Near the southern entrance to the village there are clear views across the countryside and the Haileybury school grounds (AECOM report, p24).

- 4.42 The outcome of the residents' survey reaffirmed the findings of the AECOM report, 247 people most valued the view of the village green and the second most popular view of the village was the green space in front of Haileybury, as 218 people supported this view. At the consultation event in September 2018, all 21 of the views and vistas received resident's approval.
- 4.43 Each of the 21 views is listed in the policy below. This policy should be read in conjunction with **Appendix D** which describes each view and the reason for their selection.

## POLICY HH-EN-1: Priority Views and Vistas

- I. Twenty-one important views and vistas are identified on the Policies Map (**Appendix A**), detailed in **Appendix D** and listed below:

- PV1 London Rd North West to High Wood
- PV2 Hailey Lane North East to Haileybury chapel dome
- PV3 London Rd/College Rd across common land to Haileybury
- PV4 The Roundings into Hertford Heath SSSI
- PV5 North through fields between Balls Wood and Elbow Ln
- PV6 London Rd junction with Elbow Ln across to village hall
- PV7 London Rd gate to Long Meadow South West to tree line
- PV8 East from bottom of Long Meadow towards London Road
- PV9 North boundary of Long Meadow looking North West
- PV10 War Memorial
- PV11 North West from footpath across fields to Foxholes Farm
- PV12 Footpath at parish boundary South East to Ermine Street
- PV13 Ermine Street looking South to Hogsdel Lane
- PV14 Ermine Street North of village looking North
- PV15 South West to church across Village Green
- PV16 The Goat public house
- PV17 South East along Mount Pleasant
- PV18 Eastern end of Mount Pleasant West to village green
- PV19 Northern tip of Golding's Wood West to Downfield Road
- PV20 Northern point of Golding's Wood pasture looking South
- PV21 Downfield Rd footpath looking towards Great Amwell

- II. Any development proposal in the Parish should include an assessment of the impact of the development on the key views and vistas. Proposals where a harmful impact is identified will only be permitted where appropriate mitigation measures can be delivered.

## Conservation Area and Heritage Assets

- 4.44 Although slightly confusingly now called Little Amwell Conservation Area, the centre of Hertford Heath village has been a conservation area since May 1991 and the first review of the designation was undertaken in 2018. Following the review, a revised area and new character appraisal, including management proposals, was adopted on 25 July 2018. The Conservation Area Appraisal includes historic maps, a Character Analysis Map, details of listed and non-listed heritage assets, and distinctive features such as important open spaces.
- 4.45 The appraisal also highlights issues within the conservation area. These include threats to the openness of the green and road verges, a need to preserve the lack of signage, the loss of timber windows and doors and the demand for excessive extensions to heritage buildings. The neutral quality of new housing has diluted the character and appearance of the area and future development should be of high-quality design and use materials that reinforce local character.
- 4.46 Three particular items of note within the conservation area are the site of an Elizabethan beacon (to warn of the approach of the Spanish Armada in 1588), The Goat, a 16th century house which has been a pub since the 19th century, and Holy Trinity Church. The drinking fountain on the green is also listed, as is the Coleman Tomb in Holy Trinity Churchyard. Descriptions of listed buildings in Hertford Heath are available from Historic England's website.
- 4.47 The Conservation Area Appraisal also identifies many non-listed heritage assets including houses, the village sign, the Mission Room, The Old School, and a K6 telephone box. These are listed in **Appendix E**. The treatment of property boundaries with low brick walls and picket fencing or railings is noted as creating an open feel to the centre of the village.
- 4.48 Mentioned in the Conservation Area Appraisal are other historical features outside the conservation area such as Ermine Street Roman road, Amwell Place Farm, the War Memorial which lies on common land, and the Iron Age cemetery which is a Scheduled Monument. The area around the cemetery is shown in East Herts District Plan as an Area of Archaeological Significance.
- 4.49 The Hertford Heath Heritage and Character Assessment AECOM February 2019 is part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, that provides an up to date summary of the history and character of the whole of Hertford Heath including Haileybury. In particular it identifies those buildings or structures that might be included in a 'Local List' of local architectural or historic interest as follows: 2-8 The Roundings, 1-2, 3-4, Woodlands and Heathgate on College Road, and the war memorial on the corner of London Road and Vicarage Causeway.



## POLICY HH-EN-2: Conservation Area and Heritage Assets

- I. In accordance with policies at District level and the guidance in the Hertford Heath Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposal 2018 or any updated similar document, the character or appearance of the Hertford Heath Conservation Area and its setting will be preserved and where possible enhanced.
- II. Proposals for development which affect designated heritage assets in the Parish, including listed buildings and the Iron Age Cemetery Scheduled Monument in Trinity Road, and non-designated heritage assets listed in Appendix E should take account of the historic fabric, the significance of the asset and the contribution of its setting to that significance. Proposals should conserve or where appropriate enhance the asset and its setting.

## Protected Recreational Open Space

- 4.50 Access to high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of local communities. The NPPF paragraph 97 says that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless the space is surplus to requirements or replaced by something better.
- 4.51 There is one particularly important open space used for recreation in Hertford Heath; the recreational play area and football pitch between Woodland Road and Trinity Road. The land is allocated as Open Space, for Sport and Recreation in East Herts District Plan (Policy CFLR1).
- 4.52 This space is also identified in the AECOM Report as the fourth node of movement and connectivity in the village where many children, families and adults meet for various recreational activities (p17). It has a direct path into the adjacent woodland (Hertford Heath SSSI). The recreation ground was bequeathed by deed dated 30 March 1955. Clause 3a of that deed states that the Local Authority (Hertford Heath Parish Council) covenants with the County Council "At all times to maintain the said land for the purposes set out in Clause 2". Clause 2 says that the Local Authority will not use the land without the consent in writing of the County Council for any purpose other than for Playing Fields and for purposes necessarily incidental thereto.

## POLICY HH-EN-3: Protected Recreational Open Space

- I. The recreational play area and football pitch (recreation ground) between Woodland Road and Trinity Road as shown on the Policies Map (**Appendix A**) is allocated as Protected Recreational Open Space.
- II. Development that would result in the loss of all or part of this space will not be permitted in accordance with the terms of the original bequest.





**Figure 9:** Recreation Ground

## Green Spaces and Biodiversity

- 4.53 Using the information from Herts Environmental Records Centre (HERC), HERC Hertfordshire Ecological Network Mapping, Magic Map (Natural England) and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT), green areas were categorised under official classifications, SSSI, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Common Land, Green Belt, S41 or with S41 potential and recreational space. The Neighbourhood Plan has a policy specifically for nature conservation, Policy HH EN-4 and another for Local Green Spaces, Policy HH EN-5.
- 4.54 According to national planning guidance, policies to protect and enhance valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity relative to their statutory status or identified quality should be included in development plans. National planning practice guidance says that plans should be concerned not only with designated areas, but also with other areas and sites of conservation value identified by local partnerships such as the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.
- 4.55 The NPPF states that, to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife rich habitats, including locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, e.g. local wildlife sites, and wildlife corridors. Policies should also promote their conservation, restoration and enhancement.

- 4.56 The importance of conserving all wildlife habitats in order to genuinely enhance biodiversity is recognised in East Herts District Plan, which includes policies for local and non-designated sites (policies NE1, NE2, and NE3). From the survey, residents were asked about protecting the environment and minimising the impact of development. They were particularly concerned about protecting trees and woodland and noted them as being of the highest importance. Children from the village school in Year 3 and above were asked where they would like to encourage more wildlife. Their responses identified that 91% wanted to encourage wildlife in the woods and 87% in the nature reserve. In addition, a website poll asking for views on whether protecting wildlife was important received 44 votes of which 73% of voters strongly agreed and 11 voters agreed.
- 4.57 Hertford Heath itself is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of lowland heath on the pebble gravels of South Hertfordshire. It is a HMWT nature reserve, one of very few patches of surviving heathland in Hertfordshire, which supports a special mix of wildlife. The nature reserve is divided into two parts, which are:
- **The Roundings** – a rare Hertfordshire open heathland with ponds, providing an important habitat for a range of reptiles and amphibians.
  - **Goldingtons** – an area of mixed secondary woodland and is home to hornbeam coppice and oak and birch woodland
- 4.58 In addition to the SSSI owned by Haileybury and managed by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, there are 10 Local Wildlife Sites in the parish. They are listed in Policy HH EN-4 below and details are provided in **Appendix F**.

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## POLICY HH-EN-4: Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity

Development should conserve and enhance biodiversity and deliver net gains to biodiversity. Wildlife and significant habitats including Hertford Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) sites and numerous local wildlife sites will be protected from any harmful impacts of development. In particular, the following designated local wildlife sites, as shown on the Policies Map (**Appendix A**) and described in an inventory in **Appendix F**, will be protected and managed:

- Balls Wood
- Hobbyhorse Wood
- Goldings Wood
- High Wood
- Dells Wood
- Much Wood and Leafy Oak Wood
- Meadows east of Balls Wood
- Goldings Wood Pasture
- Wet meadow near Mount Pleasant
- Hailey Wood





*Figure 10: Entrance to Balls Wood*

## Local Green Space

- 4.59 Repeated comments throughout the consultation process highlighted the importance that the community places on the open spaces around the village. To reflect this shared value the Environment Group objective is “to enhance all green spaces (including the SSSI)”. Children from the village school were asked which green spaces they wanted to protect from development. The most popular green spaces to protect were the village green and the woods, closely followed by the school playing fields. The consultation event in September 2018 included a question about the chosen Local Green Spaces. All four spaces protected by Policy HH EN-4 received 100% approval.
- 4.60 The NPPF allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them through designating land as Local Green Space (LGS) in neighbourhood plans. They must be local in character; close to the community they serve and hold a special and particular local significance. Local significance can be determined based on beauty, history, recreational value, tranquillity, or richness in wildlife.
- 4.61 LGS are protected from development in accordance with the national policy for Green Belts. They should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. East Herts District Plan identifies LGS in the form of ‘green fingers’ in Hertford and Bishops Stortford but has allowed local communities to identify the green spaces that mean the most to them through neighbourhood plans.

- 4.62 The following criteria, based on NPPF guidelines, were used to initially assess potential areas of Hertford Heath for designation as Local Green Space namely, they must be:
- local in character;
  - close to the community they serve;
  - hold a special and particular local significance such as beauty, historical significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness in wildlife.
- 4.63 Hertford Heath village, whilst not unique, is surrounded by green belt land on all sides. In addition, it has sites within its parish boundary that are covered by SSSI designation and further areas that are owned and actively managed by HMWT with Nature Reserve status. Areas with official designation of SSI, Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site, Common Land and Recreational space were discounted from the process as they were considered to be adequately covered against development by these designations or other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.64 The 4 sites that were settled on as the final sites each matched the original selection criteria. To ensure the process of selection was robust, evidence of specialness was compiled in a spreadsheet. The initial list of 7 sites and the full set of criteria on which the assessment was carried out can be found in **Appendix G**. Photographs of each LGS, accompanied by a short description are provided in **Appendix H**.
- 4.65 Long Meadow LGS 3 particularly stands out. It is currently within the green belt but is immediately adjacent to a set of fields that have been promoted by its owner and a developer as a potential development site. It was thought that the designation of Local Green Space, in addition to Green Belt status would better protect this invaluable, publicly accessible asset against any future potential re-designation of green belt boundaries.

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## POLICY HH-EN-5: Local Green Space

Four areas within Hertford Heath, detailed in **Appendix G** and shown on the Policies Map (**Appendix A**) have been designated as Local Green Spaces. These are:

- LGS 1 The Mary Bourne Wildflower Meadow (adjacent to the allotments)
- LGS 2: The allotments on London Road
- LGS 3: Long Meadow, a meadow running from London Road with an existing public footpath
- LGS 4: Ermine Street, the old Roman road that runs south to north through the entire parish

New development will only be allowed in designated Local Green Spaces where it is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and policy CFLR2 of the East Herts District Plan.





## Economy

### Supporting Businesses & Farm Diversification

- 4.66 Objectives for Hertford Heath's economy seek to attract new businesses and help existing businesses to flourish. The residents' survey asked about the types of new businesses which would be used, to rate the importance of the services they used, and if residents would use a local business directory.
- 4.67 From the childrens' survey carried out at the village school it was clear that young people supported there being more shops in the village. The most popular addition supported by 87 children was for a café followed by a chemist supported by 75 children, whilst the survey of residents indicated that another general store would be welcomed with 316 responses, twice as many as any other option.
- 4.68 The services identified as most important from the residents' survey were mobile phone reception, the postal service and broadband. Practical experience of using mobile phones and broadband in the village meant that these services needed to be improved.
- 4.69 The introduction of a local business directory was very popular with 82% of respondents saying they would use one. Recognising that this would be beneficial to both the community and to businesses; the parish council actioned this immediately.
- 4.70 In order to find out more about businesses operating in the parish, a business survey was conducted to identify how the neighbourhood planning process could help to sustain them. Further details and the results of the Business Survey can be found in the accompanying Consultation Statement.
- 4.71 In the absence of a local business directory at the time, collating a list of businesses to send the survey to, was achieved by recording local businesses known personally and recently used, the sighting of liveried vehicles parked within the village, internet business listing databases (Yell etc.) and online maps of Hertford Heath, where addresses, email addresses and contact phone numbers were obtained.
- 4.72 Despite collecting contact details for 70 businesses, only 13 responses were returned. On balance, this was a reasonable result for a business survey and all respondents confirmed that their business was located in the village. The majority of businesses employed local staff, with two thirds of businesses being operated from home and three quarters of businesses operating for 6 years or more. Poor mobile coverage and broadband services were identified as the biggest issue.

### POLICY HH-EC-1: Supporting Business

Establishment of infrastructure, such as broadband, improved mobile networks and green energy installations, to service existing and new businesses will be supported provided that the infrastructure is fully integrated into the design of future development proposals (see also Policy HH-H-8)

- 4.73 Businesses operating from farm complexes including College Farm, Amwell Place Farm and Elbow Lane Farm, contribute to the rural economy. Dawlicious Ice Cream also sells directly to the public and brings trade into the village. Supporting appropriate diversification of farming enterprises is in line with both local and national planning guidance. The NPPF encourages planning policies that enable the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses (paragraph 83).

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## POLICY HH-EC-2: Farm diversification

Proposals that enable local farm diversification, similar to those already operating at College Farm and Elbow Lane Farm, in particular, proposals that include the conversion of existing buildings to provide further local employment and economic benefit to the local community will be supported provided:

- The development supports the viability of the existing farm holding or
- The development is ancillary to the agricultural business.



## Community

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### Community Facilities & Wellbeing

- 4.74 The Localism Act 2011 gave local people the opportunity to identify buildings and land that they felt was of particular value to their local community. The parish council has nominated those assets that were identified and supported through the Neighbourhood Plan engagement process. The result of nominations made to East Herts District Council are still awaited. These will be listed as assets if they further the social wellbeing (by facilitating social interaction) or social interests (cultural, recreational or sporting interests) of the local community. Once listed as an asset, the community have the opportunity to buy or acquire an interest in the asset if it were to be sold.
- 4.75 Following extensive community consultation, through the residents' survey and subsequent consultation events, and discussion at parish council meetings, a final list of eight community facilities that were thought worthy of listing as Assets of Community Value was agreed. This list includes all three village pubs. The pubs were seen as fulfilling a number of roles including providing a community meeting place (the most popular answer in the residents' survey).
- 4.76 Residents were asked how they valued the Mission Room, village hall and the village pubs. All received similarly high levels of support. At the consultation in September 2018 residents were asked to indicate whether they supported designation of seven community assets as Assets of Community Value. These included the church but not the scout hut. Four people suggested the scout hut should be added to the list. It was subsequently decided that the village church was not at risk and so this was excluded from the final application for listing but still recognised as an important community facility and the scout hut was added to the list.

## POLICY HH-C-1: Community Facilities

- I. Existing community and recreation facilities must be protected and where possible enhanced. The following facilities have been identified as valued by the community:
  - Food and Wine
  - Village Hall
  - Mission Room
  - The Goat Public House
  - The Silver Fox Public House
  - The College Arms Public House
  - The Scout Hut
- II. All the facilities identified as community facilities above, will be retained in community use and their loss will not be permitted unless they are no longer needed, no longer viable or to be replaced by equivalent or better facilities as part of a development proposal.
- III. Applications for listing these assets as Asset of Community Value (ACVs) have been made to East Herts District Council. If any assets that are listed as ACVs are offered for sale, consideration will be given to purchasing them through community funding.

- 4.77 The use of community facilities as well as access to the countryside, improves health and wellbeing. In addition to the retention of existing facilities, proposals that improve facilities for the community as a whole are encouraged and will be supported.

## POLICY HH-C-2: Health and Wellbeing

Proposals to improve specialist care and services for the elderly, mental health services, services for those with physical and learning difficulties, and the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the local community in general, will be encouraged and supported.

## 5 Implementation

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- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan will primarily be implemented through the determination of planning applications by East Herts Council, in accordance with the Development Plan, including this Neighbourhood Plan. Proposals for housing development will be delivered by landowners. The most significant landowner for the delivery of Hertford Heath's housing target is Haileybury.
- 5.2 Whilst under current legislation East Herts Council will be responsible for development management, the parish council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to evidence its responses to planning applications. This may change within the plan period, if Localism is extended to allow local communities to make planning decisions in their area. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide these decisions.
- 5.3 Hertford Heath Parish Council will work closely with East Herts Council to monitor the progress of developments coming forward through involvement in pre-application meetings with prospective developers and by monitoring the discharge of conditions and planning agreements. This will provide confidence that the housing site allocation included in the Neighbourhood Plan will be delivered in a timely manner and in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan policies.
- 5.4 A number of non-land use proposals have emerged during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, through responses to surveys and suggestions made at consultation events, by the local community. Planning conditions and Section 106 Planning Obligations, a future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other private and public sector investment will help to deliver the projects and proposals contained in the Action Plan (**see Appendix L**), which has been endorsed by the parish council. Great care has been taken to ensure that the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan are relevant and appropriate to the local area, and that they are achievable.
- 5.5 East Herts Council will review the District Plan within the next five years. The parish council will consider whether a review of the Neighbourhood Plan is necessary at that time.

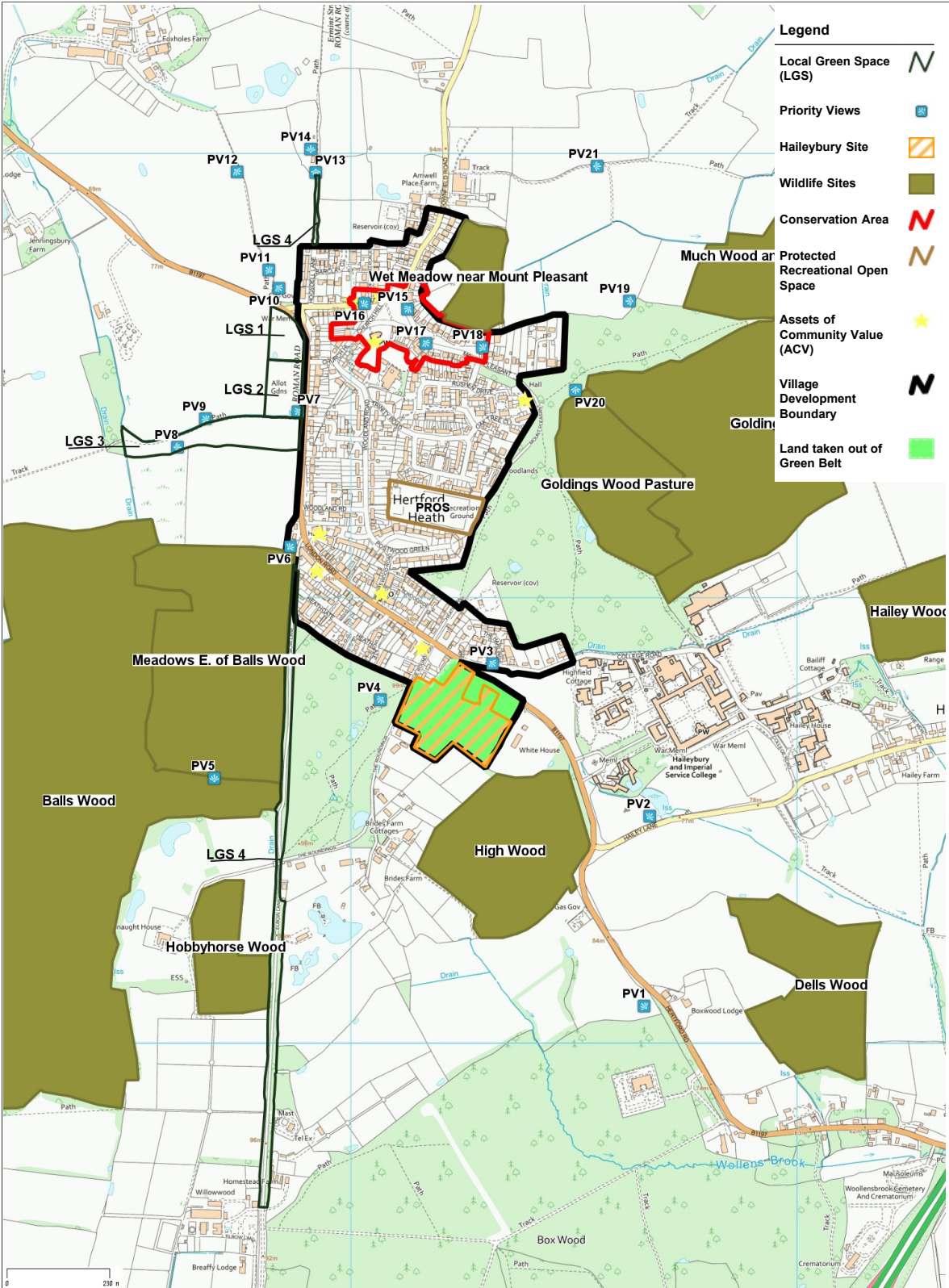
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### Policy HH-IM-1: Spending Priorities

The spending priorities identified in the Plan will be used to identify projects and proposals to receive direct funding from New Homes Bonus, S106 or any future funding streams.



## Appendix A - Policy Map



**Date Created: 18-4-2019** | Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 535277 / 210890 | Scale: 1:11194 | © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100054320) 2019

## Appendix B – Objectives Mapped to Policies

Ref	Key Objective	Policies that achieve the Key Objectives (policies prefixed by HH)
<b>A</b>	To ensure that all new development is sustainable and in sympathy with Hertford Heath's identity as an attractive, self-contained village	<b>H-3</b> Land West of London Road <b>H-4</b> Brownfield Sites <b>H-5</b> Design of Housing <b>EN-2</b> Conservation & Heritage Assets <b>EN-4</b> Conserve & Enhance Biodiversity
<b>B</b>	To identify housing sites to achieve a total of at least 84 new homes required in the East Herts District Plan by 2033	<b>H-1</b> Housing Numbers <b>H-2</b> Village/Green Belt Boundary <b>H-3</b> Land West of London Road <b>H-4</b> Brownfield Sites
<b>C</b>	To maximise funding opportunities to maintain and provide better facilities for residents, such as a community café, better medical services or space for recreation and educational pursuits including through the development of land for housing	<b>H-3</b> Land West of London Road <b>C-1</b> Community Facilities <b>IM-1</b> Implementation
<b>D</b>	To achieve a list of infrastructure improvements including traffic management and better footpath and cycle links to connecting towns through negotiation and planning agreements	<b>H-7</b> Traffic Calming and Sustainable Transport <b>H-8</b> Comms & Utility Infrastructure <b>IM-1</b> Implementation
<b>E</b>	Protect and enhance green spaces and biodiversity in order to improve Hertford Heath's environment	<b>EN-3</b> Protected Rec. Open Space <b>EN-4</b> Conserve & Enhance Biodiversity <b>EN-5</b> Local Green Space
<b>F</b>	Preserve and cherish the unique character of the village by prioritising this over any future developments.	<b>H-5</b> Design of Housing <b>EN-1</b> Priority Views and Vistas <b>EN-2</b> Cons. Area & Heritage Assets <b>EN-5</b> Local Green Space
<b>G</b>	Reduce all forms of pollution and explore opportunities for Green Energy proposals in order to ensure that Hertford Heath is sustainable	<b>H-5</b> Design of Housing <b>EC-1</b> Supporting Business
<b>H</b>	Promote the health of the village through the use of green spaces and improved cycle/footpath routes for public health and wellbeing	<b>H-7</b> Traffic Calming and Sustainable Transport
<b>I</b>	Improve and maintain Hertford Heath's connectivity, through providing better mobile coverage, reliable parish wide broadband and business services e.g. postal service/parcel delivery, to attract new businesses and help existing businesses flourish.	<b>H-8</b> Comms and Utility Infrastructure <b>EC-1</b> Supporting Business
<b>J</b>	Encourage and promote local farm diversification proposals including conversion of existing buildings, in order to help establish local businesses.	<b>EC-2</b> Farm Diversification
<b>K</b>	Ensure that all new service provision and amenities are inclusive and easily accessible to the public.	Action Plan
<b>L</b>	Foster a thriving, healthy community by improving health and wellbeing, facilitating volunteering, encouraging sports activity and increasing opportunities for learning, through partnerships with Haileybury.	<b>C-2</b> Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

## Appendix C- Site Assessment Process

### 1. Purpose, Scope and Audience

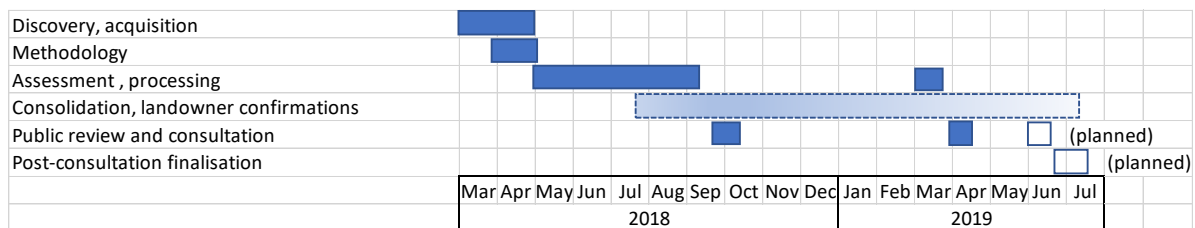
- 1.1 This document describes how the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Group (HHNPIG) fulfilled the requirement to identify sites for at least 84 new dwellings to be built in Hertford Heath between April 2017 and 2033– the number required by the East Herts District Plan Policy VILL1.

### 2. Method Overview

The process can be divided into 5 main logical activities, each of these are described in detail:

- 2.1 Discovery, acquisition of plots of land
- 2.2 Creation of assessment methodology
- 2.3 Assessment
- 2.4 Landowner permission and site list consolidation
- 2.5 Public consultation, review and feedback

#### Timeline of events:



### 2.1 Site Discovery and Acquisition

- 2.1.1 For survey purposes, the village was divided into 5 areas, each allocated to a member of the IS team responsible for discovery and nomination of sites in that area



- 2.1.2 The discovery of plots of land identified by members of the HHNPIG was achieved through a “walk round” using publicly accessible village paths and roadways and looking at aerial photographs and maps. Any plot which looked large enough to support even a single dwelling with accessibility – back gardens, brownfield, green field plots – within and around the village green belt boundary – was listed, the objective being to collect as many potential sites as possible without pre-judgement of suitability at this stage.
- 2.1.3 The plots of land were identified using the areas 1- 5 and a subscript separated by period or hyphen; i.e. 1.1 or 1-1. Use of period in Excel caused some issues with data – type processing so the hyphen was used instead.
- 2.1.4 To achieve the greatest capture of suitable plots, a request for landowners to put forward land for development – adverts in local media (Hertford Mercury), website and in the public village consultation which was held September 2018. Please see:

<https://www.hhnp.co.uk/resources/download/letter-to-landowners/download>

## 2.2 Creation of Assessment Methodology – criteria and scoring

- 2.2.1 A method to evaluate the merits of each plot of land as objectively as possible was required, hence a total of 20 criteria were developed to judge the suitability of each using a basic scoring method. The first criterion was considered a critical criterion. Any site smaller than 0.4 Ha was discounted and this criterion was not scored. Sites were assessed to ensure that they complied with the strategic policies in East Herts District Plan – the second criteria, and a score of 0 meant that the site was inconsistent with East Herts strategic policies and was discounted. In addition, sites scoring 0 on the third criteria were also discounted i.e. sites in Green Belt and not in or adjacent to the village.
- 2.2.2 A set of 17 further assessment criteria were created by the HHNPIG – initially inherited from a previous accredited NP, based on the criteria East Herts used to assess SLAA sites, and supplemented by the criteria in East Herts District Plan Policy VILL1. Policy VILL1 subparagraph VII states that all development in Group 1 villages should meet a list of criteria a) to g). These cover location, layout and scale, design in keeping with the character of the village, retaining open space and green gaps to preserve the setting of the village, avoiding ribbon development, not blocking views or detracting from the openness of the countryside and residential amenity of existing occupiers.
- 2.2.3 These criteria were then reviewed and revised by the group to reflect the values of Hertford Heath as captured in the NP survey results, character assessments, NP Vision and Objectives.
- 2.2.4 The 20 criteria are to be seen in Table 1 and cover a range of important parameters relating to position, green belt, environmental and ecological factors, plus suitability for building on – drainage, accessibility and level of commitment from the landowner. Critical criteria are shown in red.
- 2.2.5 It was decided to score each plot of land using one of 5 levels, 0 to 4 with– 0 being the lowest and 4 the highest merit. Consideration was given to weight the criteria, but this was rejected by the group. A simple average of the 19 scores was then calculated for each site and used as an overall figure of merit to allow a relative gauging of suitability.



## 2.3 Assessment process

- 2.3.1 In the period May 2018 to September 2018, the HHNPIG spent more than 140 person-hours assessing and scoring the sites, meeting as a group and progressively qualifying plots of land using the assessment criteria. Some 69 plots of land which looked qualitatively suitable were captured as “raw” candidate sites on a spreadsheet list, together with an indexing number and physical address or position label. A sample of the spreadsheet can be found at the end of this report.
- 2.3.2 From this process, by August 2018, **14 plots** only had been judged as potentially viable development “sites”.
- 2.3.3 Some plots of land were discovered to already be the subject of planning applications of proposals. Two large Green Belt sites were put forward by landowners – area 3-3 is the same as the “London Road” development and the two sites 5-1 and 5-2 equated to what has become known as the “Haileybury Development”.
- 2.3.4 A density assessment of various areas of the village was carried out to aid the calculation of the capacity of sites to accommodate dwellings. That assessment showed Dwellings Per Hectare (DPH) density of between 17 and 32 dph across the village.

## 2.4 Landowner permission and site list consolidation

- 2.4.1 In order to provide site information in the Neighbourhood Plan, and in any public consultation or exhibition (one was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018) and to signify commitment to develop a site, it was necessary to approach landowners to request that commitment. Also, permission to publicise, unless sites were the subject of a planning application and therefore already in the public domain. Hence a letter was drafted and delivered to the affected owners. (See Consultation Statement)

## 2.5 Public Consultation, Review and feedback

- 2.5.1 Following the assessment process and site consolidation described above, a public exhibition was held on 22 September 2018 in the village hall, where a total of 5 sites from the list were prominently displayed and community feedback sought.

See here for the exhibition material and results digest:

<https://www.hhnp.co.uk/resources/download/consultation-presentation/download>

<https://www.hhnp.co.uk/resources/download/consultation-feedback-form-september-2018/download>

In summary				Also referred to as Haileybury.	
	1.1	3.3	4.1	5.1	5.2
	Mount Pleasant	London Road site	Behind HH Motors	W. of London Rd South	W. of London Rd. North
	Not supported	Not supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Av score across all criteria	<b>1.58</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>2.84</b>	Joint score for both sites combined <b>2.42</b>	

The supported sites were progressed; other sites were not actively pursued further for the NP.

- 2.5.2 During the period September 2018 to March 2019 there was further activity to consolidate the list. Haileybury School continued to develop their proposal to the extent that the HHNP areas 5.1 and 5.2 became known as the “Haileybury Site”.
- 2.5.3 A further Focus Group consultation was held 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to review the Haileybury Site. The results of this session are summarised in the Consultation Statement.

### 3 Note on documentation practices

- 3.1 To facilitate the capture, indexing and management of sites by the HHNPIG a Microsoft Excel workbook was created which became the central reference and record for the site sorting work and “database”. The workbook was baselined in May 2018 progressively expanded, updated with baseline and updates all archived. It is currently a 74 x 33 worksheet with the site evaluation data / criteria scores, linked to a multipage workbook.
- 3.2 Online mapping and satellite imagery was used (Google Earth Pro) which offered accessibility, relatively current topographical information, a tool suite for labelling and indexing and for making area measurements. The initial Earth Pro database (Google’s xml based .kml) was set up in May 2018. This was then progressively expanded over the following months. Baseline and work-in-progress updates were successively archived in .kml format.
- 3.3 Other working documents were variously created in MS Word, JPEG and PowerPoint and Adobe PDF. All documents were archived with back-ups and later uploaded to the HHNP document storage area.
- 3.4 Later, qualified sites were mapped using Parish-Online which is a recognised and a preferred planner’s tool.

### 4. Tables

- 4.1. **Table 1** shows the Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix with 4 as the best score and 0 as the worst score. Red wording shows the initial two critical criteria.
- 4.2. **Table 2** shows the Housing Site Allocation Scores Extract of the final 4 sites.

**Table 1: Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix**

No	Criteria/Score	4	3	2	1	0
1	Minimum Site Size must = 0.4 Ha					
2	Compliance with strategic policies in EHDC plan.	Consistent with EHDC District Plan policies				Inconsistent with EHDC District Plan policies
3	Impact on green belt / village boundary	No development in green belt. Entirely within current village boundary.	Site straddles village boundary and is partly in green belt	Site in green belt but is adjacent, at least along most of its perimeter, to current village boundary.	Site in green belt, with part of its perimeter adjacent to village boundary	Site in green belt, not adjacent to current village boundary, i.e. would alter village shape significantly.
4	Recycling of land	Redevelop derelict brownfield land.	Redevelop brownfield currently in use.	Undeveloped land such as gardens and open spaces	Greenfield including agricultural land and allotments.	Greenbelt and green communal and recreational spaces.
5	Impact on village boundary	Village boundary remains unchanged	Increases northern, southern or eastern village boundary by less than 2-3%	Increases overall boundary by 5% extending it beyond London Road	Increases overall boundary by 8%	Significant increase in boundary >10% / trends to join the village with H with other developments
6	Impact on surrounding area and views	To scale and in keep with surrounding area providing a positive impact	To scale and in keep with no impact on surrounding area	Largely to scale and in keep with surrounding area with only minor impact	Not to scale and not in keep with surrounding area with adverse impact	Disproportionate and not in keep with surrounding area causing major adverse impact
7	Impact on housing density	Maintains the dph in surrounding area	Increases dph by 20% in surrounding area	Increases dph by 50% in surrounding area	Increases dph by 70% in surrounding area	Increases dph by 80% in surrounding area

No	Criteria/Score	4	3	2	1	0
8	Effect on village traffic-flows	Immediate access to London Road or Downfield Road causing no increase to traffic flows.	Set back from the London Road or Downfield Road causing additional traffic at village edge.	Not expected to cause much additional traffic through the village regardless of location.	Located in centre causing some increase in traffic through the village.	Located at the centre of the village causing a significant increase in traffic through the village.
9	Impact on the natural setting (including SSSL, woods, green spaces, or other natural features)	No encroachment on the natural setting which remains intact and undisturbed.	Only minor losses to the natural setting with features remaining largely intact.	Visible impact on the natural setting so that features and views are somewhat impaired.	Detrimental impact on natural setting causing noticeable impairment of features and views.	Major detrimental impact on surrounding natural setting causing obvious irreversible loss of features and views.
10	Impact on natural environment (including trees, hedgerows, plants and animals)	No environmental constraints affecting the site.	Minor loss and impairment to natural environment and wildlife habitat.	Moderate loss and impairment to natural environment and wildlife habitat.	Noticeable loss and impairment to natural environment and wildlife habitat.	Major loss and impairment to natural environment and wildlife habitat.
11	Parking congestion	Self-contained off-road parking providing additional off-road capacity to absorb parking from elsewhere.	Self-contained off-road parking providing no additional off-road capacity to absorb parking from elsewhere.	Self-contained off-road parking capable of absorbing temporary overflows without creating or adding to congestion elsewhere.	Self-contained off-road parking not capable of absorbing temporary overflows exacerbating existing parking issues.	Likely to add to existing parking issues as site provides NO self-contained off-road parking.
12	Flood risk (caused by ground saturation, surface and fluvial)	No flood risk from any source	No obvious flood risk but may suffer from consequences of poor drainage in torrential downpours	Suspected risk of flooding as consequence of poor drainage	Some degree of flood risk persists due to poor soil drainage and easily saturated surroundings	Persistent flood risk caused by inadequate drainage
13	Preservation of village heritage	Enhances and conserves village heritage including historic buildings	No detrimental impact on village heritage and/or historic buildings	Some adverse impact on historic buildings and village heritage	Visible adverse impact on historic buildings - increased risk to village heritage	Major adverse changes to historic buildings and village heritage



No	Criteria/Score	4	3	2	1	0
14	Risk to local archaeology	No archaeological significance	No suspected archaeological significance	Minor archaeological significance	Major archaeological significance	Irreversible damage to known archaeology
15	Public Rights of Way	There are no legal rights of way across the site or its access	Suspected legal rights of way across the site or its access	Suspected legal rights of way across the site or access but likely re-direction alternative	Existing rights of way on site or access, will need legal issues to be investigated	Major rights of way on site or its access, will need legal issues to be investigated
16	Access to local amenities and public transport ( <i>bus stops, shop, school, recreation ground, church &amp; hall</i> )	Situated within walking distance of all amenities and transport	Situated within walking distance of most amenities and transport	Situated within walking distance of some amenities and transport	Situated within walking distance of a few amenities and transport	Not situated within walking distance of any amenities and transport
17	Landowner's commitment to development	Architect's site plans already completed in anticipation of seeking planning permission	Owner has confirmed the nature of preferred development by 2022	Owner has confirmed the nature of preferred development by 2033	No work done; owner has simply agreed site may be put forward for consideration in NP	Landowner still to confirm site may be developed within the plan period
18	Connection to services, drainage and site access	Adjacent to maintained public roads and to services and drainage	Near to maintained public roads, services and mains drainage and therefore requires no work	Minor works are required to establish site connection to services, drainage and road	Works are required to establish site connection to services, drainage and road	Major works and upgrades are required to establish site connection to services, drainage and road
19	Construction access	Easily accessible for construction traffic with little or no anticipated disruptions to peace of the village	Accessible for construction traffic with manageable disruptions to peace of the village anticipated	Accessible for construction traffic only through central parts of the village expected to cause significant disruption to its peace	Accessible with some difficulty through the central part of the village and as a result significant disruption are anticipated	Accessible only with difficulty and as a result major disruption to village peace anticipated
20	Site topography suitability for building works	Ground is mostly level and well suited to building activity	Ground slopes in the range 5-15 degrees	Elements of 1 and 3 but stable	Ground slope exceeds 15 degrees / unstable	Requires a great deal of landscaping / levelling / complex construction

**Table 2:** Housing Site Allocation Scores Extract

Criterion Number			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Site location number	Site location name	Overall Site Score AVG unweighted	Compliance with EHD plan	Adjacent to boundary	Land recycling	Boundary Impact	Area and views	Housing density in area	Village traffic flows	Natural setting	Natural environment	Parking congestion	Flood risk	Preserve village heritage	Local archaeology	Rights of Way	Access to local amenities	Landowner's commitment	Connection to services	Access for constr.	Site topo suitability
5-1	To rear High Wood /Westwood Ldn Rd See SLAA3	2.53	4	2	2	0	2	0	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	4
5-2	To rear of Pindars / Struan, the Roundings	2.32	4	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	4
5-1 & 5-2	"Haileybury" development 5-1 and 5-2 combined	2.42	4	2	2	0	1.5	0	1	2	1.5	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	4
4-1	Land to the West of Elbow Lane (Hertford Heath Motors)	2.84	4	2	3	3	2	0	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	1	4	4
4-19	Land to the West of Elbow Lane (Opposite Orchard Cottage)	2.84	4	2	3	3	2	0	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	1	4	4
3-3	To west of London Rd, opp Woodland Road =SLAA1	2.16	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	4	3	3	3	4	4	1	4	4	4

## Appendix D - Priority Views and Vistas

Each of the priority views and vistas is described here and illustrated in the following pages:

PV	Short Description
PV1	A view of High Wood that frames the entrance to the village taken from the road from Hoddesdon. High Wood is a privately-owned wood without public access but is viewed as an amenity by the villagers due to its mature trees that offer a picturesque backdrop to this particular village approach. Any sort of development of this area of woodland that removed or thinned the existing boundary of trees and understorey that make up this view would have an immediate and detrimental effect on the current position.
PV2	A view of Haileybury taken from Hailey Lane. The dome of the 1877 Chapel designed by Sir Arthur Bloomfield is a feature that can be seen from various angles but towering over the trees as in this view shows it off magnificently. Haileybury sits in magnificent grounds and supports an existing tree scape that would be adversely affected by any developments that required their removal.
PV3	College Green taken from College Road, a view that is much cherished. The green is a piece of common land on which grow numerous mature oaks and are shown off to good effect against the mown grass understorey. The very nature of this view would be destroyed by any development. It is difficult to envisage a building enhancing the current vista.
PV4	Taken from a public footpath in the SSSI this view looks over the historic brick ponds and across the heathland towards the entrance to Balls Wood. This is a SSSI site and as such has an environment that would not sustain any development.
PV5	Looking back from the edge of Balls Wood across the strips of privately-owned fields that edge Ermine Street. A view that has changed very little since the roman road was first built. These fields have sat in the green belt and run alongside the roman road for millennia. The open landscape would be adversely affected by any development.
PV6	Hertford Heath village hall sits adjacent to London Road and is a much used and useful meeting space for a wide range of social groups and all age exercise classes. The mature trees lining the roadside offer a very attractive entrance to this public area. This is a less sensitive view, and it is envisaged that limited development of the existing building sympathetic to its surroundings could be considered.
PV7	Long Meadow is one of the Local Green Spaces and is a much loved and much used public footpath. A quiet, secluded important link path draws walkers to the village and leads away from the village. The very nature of this view would be destroyed by any development. It is difficult to envisage a building enhancing the current vista.
PV8	A view from Long Meadow back up the footpath looking towards London Road. Walkers approach the village from this direction are shielded from the busy road until the last minute as they pass. The very nature of this view would be destroyed by any development. It is difficult to envisage a building enhancing the current vista. through the kissing gate immediately onto the roadside.
PV9	The view from the allotments looking across the as yet undeveloped golf course, a view that glows in the late evening sunshine. The current view looks out over a green landscape, limited development of golf course related buildings has taken place within a lower part of the site below the current sight lines. Any structure built to a level above that sight line would impair this view.
PV10	The war memorial situated on its own island frames the entrance to Hertford Heath when travelling from Hertford. The building in the background is the recently built private house that has been built on the site of the Townsend Arms. The house has design echoes from the original public house which and offers a reminder of what was once there. This is an area inappropriate for development.

<b>PV11</b>	Looking out over London Road from the public footpath that sets off from near the war memorial and works its way down to Foxholes Farm. Whilst the larger, taller vehicles peek over the hedge most of the domestic cars remain hidden from sight to the walker and the inhabitants of Hogsdel Lane. Any development of this field and its immediate neighbours would dramatically and adversely affect this view. This is one of the views that demonstrates that Hertford Heath exists on a green belt island with a pronounced gap between itself and Hertford.
<b>PV12</b>	The current limited development of Barclay Close is rapidly disappearing from the skyline as trees mature and mask the existing gables. Any further development of the field in the foreground would drastically alter this view.
<b>PV13</b>	Looking south along the roman road Ermine Street back towards Hogsdel Lane. A rural scene unsuitable for development and the route of an historic roman road.
<b>PV14</b>	Looking north from near the end of Hogsdel Lane along the roman road Ermine Street towards the roundabout at Rush Green but appears to the middle of a field. A rural scene unsuitable for development and the route of an historic roman road.
<b>PV15</b>	A view across the green, which at one stage was a village pond, towards Holy Trinity church. The church is partially secluded by a screening of trees of various varieties with their different shapes but its wooden shingled spire peers out above the tallest tree. This part of the Little Amwell Conservation area, the green is used for regular public events and would not be able to support further development without a huge detrimental effect.
<b>PV16</b>	Vicarage Causeway links London Road with the village green and The Goat looking out over the green is on the left. A village sign has been installed on the green and captures some of the elements of the village in the design including Haileybury. The water fountain is a listed monument and whilst no longer working is much treasured. This part of the Little Amwell Conservation area, the green is used for regular public events and would not be able to support further development without a huge detrimental effect.
<b>PV17</b>	The Little Amwell conservation area fits within the Hertford Heath village, this picture shows the wide verge that runs alongside Mount Pleasant. This part of the Little Amwell Conservation area, the green is used for regular public events and would not be able to support further development without a huge detrimental effect.
<b>PV18</b>	Looking back along Mount Pleasant towards the village green shows another cherished view of the conservation area and some of the houses that feature within that designation. This part of the Little Amwell Conservation area, the green is used for regular public events and would not be able to support further development without a huge detrimental effect.
<b>PV19</b>	Hertford Heath sits on top of a hill and this view shows this aspect off, the open countryside surrounding the village is shown here with a view from the edge of Much Wood looking towards Downfield Farm. Any development of this field and its immediate neighbours would dramatically and adversely affect this view. This is one of the views that demonstrates that Hertford Heath exists on a green belt island with a pronounced gap between itself and Ware.
<b>PV20</b>	Surrounded by trees this pasture opens out at the end of Mount Pleasant at the top of Goldings Wood. Whilst secluded from the rest of the village this pasture opens up the wooded views and gives a clear view across its entire length. It is difficult to envisage how any development would enhance this view.
<b>PV21</b>	The town of Ware is a near neighbour, this view looks out from the footpath that goes from Downfield Farm to Leafy Oak nursery. The Jersey cows that form the milking herd at Downfield Farm graze in the open fields. Any development of this field and its immediate neighbours would dramatically and adversely affect this view. This is one of the views that demonstrates that Hertford Heath exists on a green belt island with a pronounced gap between itself and Ware.





**Figure 11:** PV1 London Rd North West to High Wood



**Figure 12:** PV2 Hailey Lane North East to Haileybury chapel dome





**Figure 13:** PV3 London Rd/College Rd across common land to Haileybury



**Figure 14:** PV4 The Roundings from Hertford Heath SSSI



**Figure 15:** PV5 North through fields between Balls Wood and Elbow Lane





**Figure 16:** PV6 London Rd junction with Elbow Lane across to village hall



**Figure 17:** PV7 London Rd gate to Long Meadow South West to tree line





*Figure 18: PV8 East from bottom of Long Meadow towards London Road*



*Figure 19: PV9 North boundary of Long Meadow looking North West*





*Figure 20: PV10 War Memorial*



*Figure 21: PV11 North West from footpath across fields to Foxholes Farm*





*Figure 22: PV12 Footpath at parish boundary South East to Ermine Street*



*Figure 23: PV13 Ermine Street looking South to Hogsdel Lane*





*Figure 24: PV14 Ermine Street North of village looking North*



*Figure 25: PV15 South West to church across Village Green*





*Figure 26: PV16 The Goat PH*



*Figure 27: PV17 South East along Mount Pleasant*





*Figure 28: PV18 Eastern end of Mount Pleasant West to village green*



*Figure 29: PV19 Northern tip of Golding's Wood West to Downfield Road*





*Figure 30: PV20 Northern point of Golding' Wood pasture looking South*



*Figure 31: PV21 Downfield Rd footpath looking towards Great Amwell*

## Appendix E – Non-designated Heritage Assets

### **Vicarage Causeway**

War Memorial  
Village Sign  
22 Vicarage Causeway  
Mission Room  
South outshut to The Goat PH  
23 Vicarage Causeway

18 & 20 Mount Pleasant  
24 Mount Pleasant  
26 & 28 Mount Pleasant  
30 & 32 Mount Pleasant  
40 & 42 Mount Pleasant  
1 – 9 The Old School Mount Pleasant

### **Downfield Road**

4-12 Downfield Road

### **Church Hill**

K6 Telephone box  
7 – 13 Church Hill

### **Mount Pleasant**

1 & 3 Mount Pleasant  
11 & 12 Mount Pleasant  
15 Mount Pleasant  
17 Mount Pleasant  
19 Mount Pleasant  
27 – 31 Mount Pleasant  
10 & 12 Mount Pleasant

### **The Roundings**

2– 9 The Roundings

### **College Road**

1–2 College Road  
3–4 College Road  
Woodlands  
Heathgate

## Appendix F- Inventory of Local Wildlife Sites

(Extract from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Inventory for Hertford Heath Parish 03/04/2018)

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Area within Parish (ha)	Ratified	Description
59/008	Balls Wood	TL343104	55.01	55.01	1997	Ancient semi-natural Woodland with Pedunculate Oak/Hornbeam. Habitats within the wood include damp wide rides, many ditches and ponds. The ponds support a diverse range of aquatic flora and fauna including Great Crested Newt. Hazel Dormice have also been recorded from the wood and the woodland rides are important for butterflies supporting a number of local and uncommon species. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve
59/043	Hobbyhorse Wood	TL347101	3.79	3.79	1997	Ancient semi-natural Woodland with Pedunculate Oak/Hornbeam coppice-with-standards. A remnant old laid Hornbeam hedge and ditch is present along most of the margin. The ditch broadens out into a small pond which supports a good diversity of aquatic flora and fauna. Shown on Bryant's map (1822). HMWT Nature Reserve
59/044	Meadows E. of Balls Wood	TL347108	15.68	15.68	1997	Complex of fields supporting semi-improved to unimproved neutral grassland with a good range of herbs and grasses recorded. One of the fields is seasonally damp in part and another supports some invading scrub. Surrounding hedgerows add further habitat diversity.
60/017	Golding's Wood (Hertford Heath)	TL359113	30.34	30.34	1997	Ancient Woodland with Pedunculate Oak/Hornbeam coppice-with-standards with some Ash and Silver Birch. The ground flora supports ancient woodland indicators with much Bluebell plus ferns. The wood is mostly bordered by old wood banks with layered Hornbeam hedge remnants. Wide rides and a partly deeply incised woodland stream add habitat diversity.



File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Area within Parish (ha)	Ratified	Description
60/018	High Wood (near Haileybury College)	TL353104	9.57	9.57	1997	Ancient semi-natural Woodland with Pedunculate Oak/ Hornbeam composed of mostly coppiced Hornbeam with a few scattered mature Pedunculate Oak and Hornbeam standards. A boundary bank with a ditch is present along much of the margin and small excavated ponds in the south-west corner plus open areas add to the habitat diversity.
60/019	Hailey Wood	TL363109	6.83	6.83	1997	Ancient semi-natural Woodland with Pedunculate Oak /Hornbeam. Damp areas and boundary hedges add habitat diversity. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site; woodland indicators.
60/020	Much Wood and Leafy Oak Wood	TL359117	7.74	7.74	1997	Ancient semi-natural Woodland with Pedunculate Oak/Hornbeam coppice woodland comprising Much Wood in the west and Leafy Oak Wood in the east. Marginal ditches and internal and boundary banks are present with remnant laid Hornbeam hedges.
60/027	Dell's Wood	TL361100	8.45	8.45	1997	Ancient semi-natural woodland with stand types of Pedunculate Oak Hornbeam and Ash/Field Maple/Hazel plus Small-leaved Elm. A wide ride and a small pond add to the habitat diversity. Shown on Bryant's map (1822); woodland indicators.
60/047	Golding's Wood Pasture	TL355112	6.94	6.94	1997	Semi-improved neutral grassland with a reasonable diversity of grasses and herbs. The grassland is damp along the north-east side. An old boundary bank with trees crosses the field. Wildlife Site criteria: Grassland indicators.
60/049	Wet Meadow near Mount Pleasant	TL352117	2.66	2.66	1997	Fields supporting semi-improved neutral to somewhat acidic grassland with wet areas, ponds and some scrub. The fields are bordered by hedges with Pedunculate Oak standards. There are several old willows present in the hedges and the southern field.
71/002	Ermine Street N. of Lord Street	TL348100	4.85	1.83	1997	This site has been left as a result of removing SSSIs from Wildlife Sites. It will be reviewed once survey data and a site assessment have been carried out. Wildlife Site criteria: Buffers an SSSI.

## Appendix G- Local Green Space

The table below describes each Local Green Space and provides evidence of its specialness with photographs of each green space on the following pages:

Evidence of Specialness			
Site	Description	Wildlife	Proposed designation
Mary Bourne Wild Flower Meadow	An Attractive wildlife meadow, nature pond and fruit trees offer a family friendly picnic and nature ramble area. The meadow commemorates local artist Mary Bourne	Wild pond and wildflower meadow specifically to attract and support wildlife	Local Green Space
London Road Allotments	Well worked and long-established allotment garden area. High usage with vegetables and flower produce. Long established Horticultural Soc shows	Biodiversity of flowering plants and vegetables cultivated on predominately organic basis supports flying insects (good and bad)	Local Green Space
Long Meadow	Attractive meadow with hedgerow and line of mature oaks along brook fed from springs higher in village. Very popular footpath amongst ramblers and dog walkers	Open meadow supports small rodents and attracts raptors including buzzards and red kites	Local Green Space
Ermine Street (Roman Road)	Linear track well used by walkers and adjoining stables/small holdings. Part of major Roman road in England that ran from London (Londinium) to Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) and York (Eboracum).	Hedgerows either side of track form a green corridor linking various separate habitats	Local Green Space

The following proposed sites were dropped from formal designation as Local Green Spaces as it was clear that their current designations afforded them sufficient environmental protection.			Current designation
Balls Wood	Balls Wood is one of Hertfordshire's characteristic oak-hornbeam woodlands. It has a fantastic array of wildlife and over 200 plant species, double the number found in most woods in Hertfordshire.	The woods abound with butterflies; in spring they are full of birdsong and wildflowers. Breeding birds include great spotted woodpecker and sparrow hawk.	Herts and Middlesex Nature Reserve Existing S41 NERC Act habitat
Hobby Horse Wood	Hobbyhorse Wood is a mixed woodland – ancient woodland has been replanted with mixed species, mainly beech, hornbeam and oak with some conifers.	A pond supports a range of aquatic flora and fauna including common frogs. Swathes of wood anemones early in the year, and butterflies such as peacock and ringlet.	Herts and Middlesex Nature Reserve Existing S41 NERC Act habitat
High Wood	Labelled as nature Reserve, this secluded woodland area has no public access but forms a beautiful entrance the village	This is an ancient semi-natural Pedunculate Oak and Hornbeam woodland composed of mostly coppiced Hornbeam with a few scattered mature Pedunculate Oak and Hornbeam standards and is classified as an Ancient Woodland Inventory Site: woodland indicators	Herts and Middlesex Nature Reserve Existing S41 NERC Act habitat





*Figure 32: LGS1 Mary Bourne Wildflower Meadow*



*Figure 33: LGS2 London Road Allotments*





**Figure 34:** LGS3 Long Meadow



**Figure 35:** LGS4 Ermine Street



## Appendix H - Assets of Community Value



### The Village Hall

The Village Hall is one of the key social hobs in the village and is easily accessible on London Road.

It is very popular and used by a variety of groups and clubs.



### The Mission Room

The Mission Room is located on Church Hill.

It provides a space for community social activities.



### The Goat Public House

The Goat is a historic pub located on Vicarage Causeway.

It provides a space for community social activities and meetings and facilitates events for the wider community.





### The Silver Fox

The Silver Fox Public House is located in the heart of the village on London Road.

The pub is family oriented and has a homely feel.



### The College Arms

The College Arms public house was closed in 2008 and reopened in 2012.

Since then, it has been operating as a gastropub and is a prominent feature of the village.



### Food & Wine

This is the only shop in the village and stocks essential provisions for everyone in the community.



### The Scout Hut

The hut continues to serve the children of the village and surrounding area as it has done for generations.

It provides opportunities for children to socialise.

## Appendix I - Glossary of Terms

### Affordable Housing

Housing made available, based on the evidence of need, to people who are unable to afford housing at market prices, including Social Housing available to rent,

### Ancient Woodland

Woodland known to have existed continuously since 1600 or before.

### Assets of Community Value

A right for Communities to nominate certain local and public or privately-owned buildings or land as an Asset of Community Value.

### Brownfield Site

Land that has been previously developed.

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

A planning charge used as a tool by local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support development in their area.

### Conservation Area

An area designated under Section 69 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as being of 'special architectural or historical interest', the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance.

### Construction Management Plan

A plan detailing how construction will be managed to ensure effects of construction on residents and businesses are kept to a minimum.

### DEFRA

Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs.

### Developer Contributions (or S106 Contributions)

Contributions required under a Section 106 agreement from developers to be set aside for future works and services directly related to the development and focused on site-specific mitigation of the impact of development.

### Development Plan

Statutory Plans, including Local or District Plans and Neighbourhood Development Plans which are used to determine planning applications.

### Green Belt

This term describes land around certain cities and built-up areas. The intention is to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped. The purposes of the green belt is to:

- check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas

- prevent neighbouring towns from merging • safeguard the countryside from encroachment
- preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
- assist urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land

### Green Corridor

A wildlife corridor, habitat corridor, or green corridor is an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures (such as roads, development or logging).

### Green Energy

Green energy comes from natural sources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, plants, algae and geothermal heat. These energy resources are renewable, meaning they're naturally replenished. In contrast, fossil fuels are a finite resource that take millions of years to develop and will continue to diminish as we use them.

### Green Infrastructure

A network of green spaces and other features, such as parks, open spaces, woodlands, playing fields, allotments and gardens providing a range of quality-of-life benefits for the local community.

### Historic Environment

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

### Historical Feature

The oldest obvious historical feature in Hertford Heath is the route of the Roman road, Ermine Street, which crosses the Heath and continues from Hertford Heath Motors on London Road and on to the War Memorial. Along this route, significant archaeological discoveries have been made of our ancestors' activities over 2000 years ago.

### Housing Associations

Independent, not-for-profit organisations that work with councils to offer flats and houses to local people on the Housing Register.

### Infrastructure

Basic services necessary for development to take place, for example roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities.

**Local Green Space (LGS)**

A green space that is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.

**Light Pollution**

Light pollution is defined as *“any adverse (or bad) effect as a result of man-made lights.”* Usually, this means too much light. Several species, including plants and humans, are badly affected by light pollution.

**Listed Building**

A building or structure is listed when it is of special architectural or historic interest considered to be of national importance and therefore worth protecting. It is included in the list of 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest' as defined in the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Listed buildings come in three categories of 'significance' but most listed building owners are likely to live in a Grade II building as these make up 92% of all listed buildings.

- Grade I for buildings of the highest significance
- Grade II\* and
- Grade II

**Local Referendum**

A vote for electors in the Neighbourhood Area to accept or reject the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Mitigation**

Measures taken to lessen the force or intensity of the effects of a development.

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Sets out national policy and how this is expected to be applied.

**Neighbourhood Area**

Area to which the Neighbourhood Plan relates

**Neighbourhood Plan**

A neighbourhood plan is a community-led plan for guiding the future development, regeneration, and conservation of an area.

**Noise Pollution**

Noise pollution or noise disturbance is the disturbing or excessive noise that may harm the activity or balance of human or animal life. The source of most outdoor noise is mainly caused by machines and transport systems eg: motor vehicles engines, aircraft, and trains.

**Non-designated Heritage Assets**

Buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets or listed buildings

**NPPG**

National Planning Practice Guidance

**Objective**

An aim or a goal to assist in achieving the overall vision for the area.

**Open Space**

All open space of public value including land, river, canals, and lakes, public landscaped areas, playing fields, parks and play areas, which can offer opportunities for sport and recreation or can act as a visual amenity and a haven for wildlife.

**SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)**

A site identified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features (basically, plants, animals, and natural features relating to the Earth's structure).

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

Ensures that the plan is environmentally sustainable

**Sustainable**

Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Views and Vistas**

A vista is a distant view seen through an opening or a place where a distant view is best seen etc.

**Vision**

Description of how the community would like their area to be in the future.



## Appendix J – References and Acknowledgements

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### Acknowledgements

The Steering Group would like to thank all those that have been involved directly with and those who have supported the work in bringing the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan to its current position.

From Spring 2017, a large group of local residents have volunteered their time to bring the plan to completion. They researched a wide range of topics impacting the Parish; they ran events; manned stalls, and interviewed fellow residents, local authorities and other local and national bodies in order to compile the huge amount of information they used to write this plan.

The Plan could not have come together without help from the volunteers who delivered leaflets, undertook local research and data collection, lent equipment for events and helped at them amongst other tasks. Local schools, shops, pubs and other businesses were also generous with help in allowing information about the evolving plan to be shared through their facilities.

## Appendix L - Action Plan

Projects/Tasks in this plan have been identified through consultation with residents during the preparation of the Hertford Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Project/Task	Timetable	Project Lead	Cost Estimate	Funding source	Outcome Sought
Facilities & Services					
Adult education	Yet to start	TBD	Volunteer time	TBD	Provide learning opportunities for local people Establish and develop partnerships with Haileybury
Creation and coordination of volunteering activities, such as younger children visiting the elderly are encouraged and supported.	<b>'2 Gather</b> 'event held Feb 2020	Parish Council lead working alongside voluntary organisations	Volunteer time	TBD	A stronger, closer knit and more inclusive society
Recreation ground facilities for older children/teenagers	Yet to start will build on recent improvements for younger children	TBD	TBD	Potential Section 106 & other grant funding	Purpose designed and built hub for teenagers to offer a focal meeting point and encourage more engagement in the outdoors
Community café	Yet to start	TBD	TBD	Potential Section 106	Community led facility for all ages to meet and socialise during the day and early evening
Community cinema within the village hall	Yet to start	TBD	TBD <£15k estimate	Potential Section 106	A community run facility capable of providing entertainment for all age groups with reduced Travelling, shared experiences not for profit charge scheme

Village green improvements	Yet to start	Summer Fayre organising committee	TBD <£10k estimate	Potential Section 106	Power points to facilitate annual village green events & minimise use of fossil fuel generators. Purpose built drop kerb to facilitate disabled access and egress to the green.
Refurbishment of public meeting spaces	TBD	TBD	TBD	Potential Section 106	Upgrade and improve décor/facilities in Mission Room, Village Hall, recreation ground sports pavilion and cub hut.
Environment					
More planting of trees and planters	Three-phase scheme proposed. Phase 1 Nov 2019, 20+ trees planted	Sustainable Hertford Heath	TBD	TBD	Improved visual impact, improved air quality and screening more screening
Better footpaths to neighbouring towns	On Going	Sustainable Hertford Heath	<£5k estimate	TBD	Improved non-vehicular options to travel to neighbouring towns, Hertford in particular
Community renewable energy schemes	Yet to start	Sustainable Hertford Heath	TBD	TBD	Improved air quality through reduced use of fossil fuels Greater energy sustainability and self-reliance
Less car journeys through better public and community-based transport and increased cycling and walking	Yet to start	Sustainable Hertford Heath	TBD	TBD	Reduced reliance on private transport, improved health and fitness of participants. Less air pollution
Establish volunteer community repair facilities	Established Dec 2018	Sustainable Hertford Heath	£0 Volunteers self- funding through donations	Equipment and consumables provided by volunteers/ donations made	Reduction of waste through local repair of broken “stuff”.



Monthly Litter picks and recycling of waste	Established April 2018	Sustainable Hertford Heath	£0 Volunteer effort	Equipment and consumables provided by East Herts Council	Community involvement in ensuring litter free roads and reduced waste
Health and Well Being					
Outdoor health facilities		TBD	TBD	Potential Section 106	
Community lead health activities for all age groups (build on various activities currently existing within the village)	Outside exercise class established on village green Autumn 2019	Various	Subscription by attendees	Potential Section 106	A coordinated set of healthy exercise activities spread throughout the age groups and mixed ages where appropriate Improved sense of community Improved health and fitness
Communications					
Establish a publicly accessible business directory where business can advertise and interact with other business.	First phase completed July 2019 <a href="https://hertfordheath.life">https://hertfordheath.life</a>	Consult.PW (Local business)	TBD <£2k estimate	TBD	Creates a platform for businesses to become well known throughout the village.
Broadband and mobile phone signal improvements	Formal approach to providers	TBD but preferably Parish Council	TBD but seen as service provider cost	TBD	Promote and sustain ease of running home-based businesses within the village.
Creation and management of a local website for village organisations	First phase completed July 2019 <a href="https://hertfordheath.life">https://hertfordheath.life</a>	Consult.PW (Local business)	To be formalised	To be formalised	A neutral purpose-built platform that will support local organisations in promoting and managing their events and news

