



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust

Purpose:

The preservation of historic buildings in Hertfordshire

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Steven Watson

Update:

There were just two meetings this year, both of which I was unable to attend.

The Trust's financial position has improved, with the projected annual deficit reduced to around £94,000, approximately £160,000 better than the previous year. However, investments have fallen in value by £8,400, and directors are considering the sale of a property to improve finances.

The BEAMS consultancy reported ongoing work on Conservation Area Appraisals, plans to increase hourly rates, and a greater focus on marketing, including parish magazine advertising and improved online visibility.

Within the property portfolio, Forge Cottage at Much Hadham is to be marketed for sale. Cromer Windmill has been placed on Historic England's highest-risk (Category A) register, with major repairs estimated at £100,000 and grant funding opportunities being explored. Place House in Ware continues to perform well with strong bookings and growing wedding business, while a legal claim from former tenants is being dealt with at Castles Cottages in Hertford.

The Buildings at Risk report highlighted ongoing concerns across Hertfordshire. Key East Herts projects include restoration plans for features at Hertford Castle, the Panshanger Park Orangery, and the church tower at Thundridge. Other concerns include the deteriorating condition of Briggens House, repairs needed at Hertford East Station, and delays to approved works at St Andrew Street in Hertford. Across the county, a number of listed buildings remain at risk or await restoration, including Clay Barn in Broxbourne, Temple Dinsley in

North Herts, Starveacres in Radlett, Croxley Great Barn in Three Rivers, and several historic buildings in Watford.

Directors agreed to change the format of the 2026 AGM to reduce costs. The next meeting will take place on 22 September 2026. Overall, the meeting focused on improving the Trust's finances, organisational changes, the future of Cromer Windmill, and ongoing efforts to protect Hertfordshire's historic buildings.

Update provided by: Cllr Steven Watson

Date: 03/06/2026



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

The Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Health Scrutiny Committee is responsible for reviewing NHS services, mental health trusts, and public health policies to hold local health providers accountable and ensure they meet the needs of Hertfordshire residents

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Simon Marlow

Update:

The Committee focused its 2025/2026 work programme on evaluating regional NHS trust performance, local maternity changes, and mental health service capacity.

13 June 2025

- Appointment of Chair: Formally agreed that Councillor Dee Hart would continue to chair the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC).
- Maternity Services: Reviewed strategic updates and performance markers for the Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS).
- Forward Planning: Debated and agreed upon the overarching framework for the Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26.

19 September 2025

- Routine Minutes: Approved procedural records and evaluated active localized health items to carry forward into the autumn schedule.

10 November 2025

- Mental Health Services: Discussed regional learning disability and mental health services alongside the Chief Executive of the Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT).
- Bed Capacity: Agreed to issue an official letter to the Secretary of State addressing funding constraints for adult acute mental health beds.
- Work Programme Alterations: Refined themes for future 2026 meetings, which included prioritizing feedback on Integrated Care Board (ICB) variations, phlebotomy waiting times, gambling harms, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Early 2026 (March Review Cycles)

- Patient Experience: Evaluated the organizational transition of the local ICB and cross-referenced public patient complaints.
- Specialist Care Updates: Requested formal updates from the Integrated Care Board regarding wait times, service continuity, and long-term provisions at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.

Update provided by: Cllr Simon Marlow

Date: 12 July 2026



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Purpose:

Lea Valley Regional Park Authority is responsible for the 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park with its huge variety of award-winning green spaces, world class sports venues and ecologically vital wildlife havens.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllrs Steven Watson and George Williams

Update:

This was an interesting year for the authority with a new chair (Cllr Ross Houston) and vice-chair elected and several large projects either completed and beginning to bear fruit or in the pipeline.

For East Herts Council representation, Cllr George Williams joined the authority and was appointed to the audit committee, and Cllr Steven Watson moved to the regeneration and planning committee and was appointed to the executive committee.

Overall, I, Cllr Watson, attended 17 meetings. I believe there were at least 8 other meetings of committees or working groups that I am not on.

The Authority made strong progress on key capital and infrastructure projects during the year. The redevelopment of the Lee Valley Ice Centre is nearing completion and is expected to be delivered under its £30 million budget. A further £1.955 million was invested in essential maintenance works, including marina roof renewal, solar panel installation, bridge repairs, drainage improvements, and upgrades to footpaths and sports facilities. The acquisition of land at Glen Faba also expanded the Authority's open space provision.

Public access and recreational opportunities were enhanced through the completion of the St Paul's Field project, which delivered 2km of new footpaths and opened previously inaccessible parkland. Progress also continued at East India Dock Basin, while plans advanced for the expansion of Sewardstone Campsite.

The Authority also maintained its focus on environmental stewardship through ongoing investment in biodiversity, countryside management, and infrastructure. Long-term sustainability was strengthened through renewed angling leases and a new 25-year lease with Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust for Rye Meads Nature Reserve.

Update provided by: Cllr Steven Watson

Date: 03/06/2026



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Ware Charities

Purpose:

Relief of poverty in the parishes of Ware, Wareside and Thundridge. The charity can give individual grants for items such as white goods or furniture to people in need. The charity can also support other groups such as the Ware Foodbank and Citizens Advice who support people in financial difficulties.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Graeme Hill

Update:

I have only recently been assigned this group, and it has not held a meeting since then. I will report again for 2027

Update provided by: Cllr Graeme Hill

Date 04-Jun-2026



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Wodson Park Sport and Recreational Association Executive Committee

Purpose:

The running of Wodson Park leisure centre for the benefit of the community with a focus on health, sports and fostering community and social benefits.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllrs Steven Watson, Martin Butcher, Chris Hart and Graeme Hill.

Update:

A key update was that former Fanshawe gym members are now joining Wodson Park, partly due to changes in membership rates elsewhere and travel costs. Bookings for school events and weekend sports hall use remain strong, and new events are planned. There was a concern about café availability during a badminton tournament, but this was due to the organiser's choice. Efforts are underway to build a network of cover instructors to reduce class cancellations.

Financially, the centre reported a small profit for the first time since 2021, reflecting significant improvement. The Friends of Wodson Park group is focusing fundraising on three specific projects, with upcoming events planned to raise the centre's profile. The CEO's report highlighted progress in digital engagement, with increased views on social media and the website. The Board discussed the upcoming Ware2 development and agreed to form a group to review the planning application. Finally, concerns about the car park's condition were raised, with immediate repairs to potholes and repainting of sleepers prioritized.

Update provided by: Cllr Steven Watson

Date: 03/06/2026