



HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL

CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

June 2020

Harpenden Town Council commits significant funding to community projects

Harpenden Town Council has agreed to allocate significant capital funding to many projects that will improve Harpenden. These projects are across several key themes including:

- Commons & Greens
- Community Buildings
- Sports Facilities
- Public Realm
- Sustainability
- Transport & Movement

Town Council ownership of Rothamsted Park

The projects under the Commons & Greens theme include significant improvements to parks and open spaces that the Town Council does not currently own, such as Rothamsted Park.

HTC is in active negotiations with St Albans City & District Council (SADC) about the transfer of ownership of Rothamsted Park, and the open spaces at Roundwood Lane, Wood End and Derwent Road.

If we can agree terms of the transfer with SADC, we will invest the following:

- £150k match funding for the Play Area in Rothamsted Park and a commitment to delivering the improvements in 12 months
- £160k to improve Roundwood Lane and Wood End play areas

In addition, we want to work in partnership with local sports clubs to deliver improvements that would include a new 3G football pitch, a new community pavilion and better standards of grass pitches.

We have an excellent track record of taking on ownership of SADC assets with Batford Springs Nature Reserve being a great example. Since taking ownership we have invested in over £250k of improvements.

HTC will only invest its funds into parks that it owns, therefore if we do not agree transfer terms with SADC then we will not make the above investment and will reallocate funds to other projects.

Plastic Free Harpenden

Sustainability is a key focus of the HTC business plan and we are working alongside other groups to make improvements on this theme across the Town.

As part of the Plastic Free Harpenden initiative we have already committed to working towards making the HTC operations free of single use plastics. This includes transforming the way in which we deal with plastic at our events.

To further support this initiative HTC has allocated £20k to install water refill stations in the Town Centre.

Tree planting and natural woodland cover

HTC has developed plans to carry out a tree planting and natural woodland cover programme in the next 2 years. This will see thousands of additional trees in Harpenden providing important carbon capture.

A total of £50k has been allocated to deliver the tree planting programme.

Supporting pedestrians and cyclists

We understand the importance of sustainable transport and will work in partnership to bring about improvements. One good example of this is the support provided to the Harpenden Hopper Community transport initiative where HTC purchased two new buses for their operation.

Making improvements to our land that benefit pedestrians and cyclists is also a priority of ours. We are exploring several options of how we do this, but we have already allocated the following:

- £100k to improve existing footpaths and adding new ones around Harpenden
- £15k to provide more secure cycle parking in the town centre.

Building Affordable Housing

HTC has been working in partnership with Catalyst Housing to build 24 dwellings on land we formerly owned. The work on the development has already started and is due to be complete in February 2022

As part of the partnership we sold the land through a procurement exercise that secured £2.65m in capital receipt for HTC.

This capital receipt has meant that we are able allocate funding to many projects.

For more information on the projects that have been allocated funding, please visit our website: www.harpenden.gov.uk/communityideas.