

Annual Report

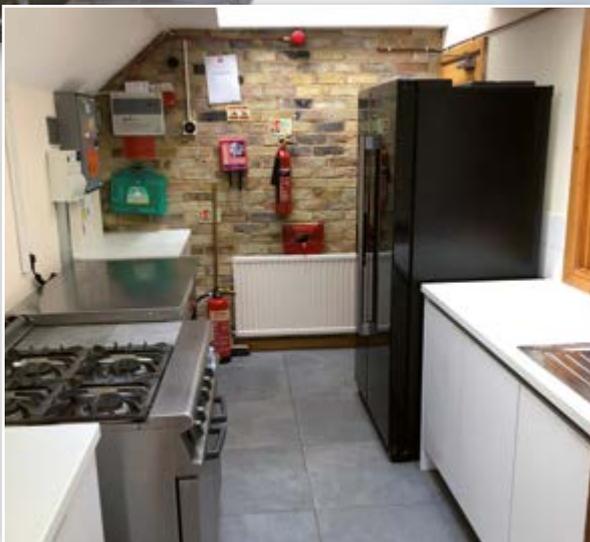
Mayor's summary

Summing up at the Council meeting on 11 March 2020, the Town Mayor Cllr Simon Rubner said "I wish to give my warm thanks to my fellow councillors, my wife Gina, the council staff and all the residents (especially the local volunteers) who have made my experience as mayor so rewarding. Being the Town Mayor is an opportunity to engage with a wide spectrum of organisations, schools, overseas communities and faith groups some of which, although I have lived in the town for many years, I met for the first time."

Community Services

Fairway Hall

A major refit of the hall kitchen was undertaken in the year together with other improvements to the facility, such as energy efficient LED lighting and a new boiler system. This has resulted in Fairway Hall being a much-desired venue for both regular and casual hirers alike.



Allotments

Site	Managed	Occupied	Occupancy
Allum Lane	47	45	95.7%
Melrose Avenue	99	99	100%
Stapleton Gardens	54	54	100%
Total	200	198	99%

Allum and Stapleton allotment sites have been enhanced and supported by a number of managed bee hives, and Melrose Avenue allotment is being prepared for the siting of several new hives. In addition, all sites now have new notice boards for essential information (including Covid-19 Government guidelines and National Allotment Society Covid-19 guidance).

Planning

The council considered a total of 263 planning applications referred to it by Hertsmere Borough Council as a statutory consultee. Comments were made on 47 of these with concerns including the need for family sized dwellings in the community and overdevelopment.

Site and Street Maintenance

In 2019/20 all Town Council maintained benches and public notice boards were rejuvenated and/or replaced (including installation of new items at much needed locations e.g. bench by Oak Farm bus stop and notice board at All Saint Cemetery). The project was funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies. As well as providing a fresh look to the town, the unified appearance of the furniture helps to promote the Elstree and Borehamwood community identity.

2019/20



The Council continues to maintain two war memorials (Elstree and Borehamwood), two cemetery sites and church clocks (All Saints and St Nicholas) and the film plaques on Shenley Road.

Grants

In 2019/20 the Town Council was proud to have assisted the following organisations with grant awards to contribute to the cost of local activities which are of benefit to the Community (or a section of it).

The total sum granted in Budgeted and Community grants was £5,870 as follows:

- BETTA (Twin Town Association) £1,000 for admin costs;
- Elstree and Borehamwood Unity Network £1,000 for event costs (Diversity Festival);
- Borehamwood Brass £2,000 for equipment repair and purchase;
- Elstree and Borehamwood Basket Ball Club £370 towards coaching;
- Friends of St Teresa's £1,500 for Hall fixtures and furnishings.

Transport Forum

The popular forum provided regular update reports by representatives of the bus and train services together with a traffic safety report by Hertsmere Constabulary. Of notable interest was a survey conducted by local Councillors on transport (and wider concerns) in the Leeming Road area for local businesses. The Forum also noted the Passenger Benefit Fund and potential improvements at the railway station.

Community Safety Meeting (CSM)

The Elstree and Borehamwood Community Safety Meeting has grown as a public forum with regular updates from representatives of Hertsmere Constabulary on local policing statistics and concerns and update reports by Neighborhood Watch. One of the primary aims of the meeting this year was to highlight the value of the OWL (Online

Watch Link) messaging service and residents were encouraged to take advantage of this facility (owl.co.uk). The meeting also discussed issues such as online scams and the need to protect vulnerable members of the community.

Leisure and Entertainment

The Civic Parade: The event took place Saturday 15 June 2019 (20 entries and two cancellations). The Town Council sourced and paid half the cost towards the Boreham Wood Football Club's open top bus for the parade (in recognition of the Club reaching Wembley).

Families Day: This was held on a glorious sunny day on Saturday 29 June 2019 with 51 Stalls (the greatest number since 2014). Residents enjoyed four circus shows (capacity 500 per show).

Fireworks Night: This was the 29th free entry fireworks display held on Tuesday 5 November 2019 with the theme of 'The Greatest Showman.' The event was enjoyed safely by over 5,000 spectators.

Christmas Lights "Switch On" Event: On Sunday 1 December 2019, the Mayor, Cllr Simon Rubner and actor Bob Barrett who plays Holby City character Dr Sasha Levy switched on the lights celebrating 20 years of much loved programme filmed at the BBC studios. The council provided a Santa's grotto, dry ice rink and other entertainments. Local schools performed in All Saints church. Additionally, on the following day a further event was held at Elstree and Borehamwood Railway station with musical performances and a second switch on of the lights by representatives of Boreham Wood Football Club.

Other entertainments

The Council hosted a BBC Christmas concert at Allum Hall, coach trips for senior citizens (12 in the Summer and two in the Winter) and published four editions of the Town Crier magazine.





Children and Young People

School Swimming

The council supported local schools in meeting the cost of travel to The Venue swimming pool for lessons (£32,000). This much appreciated service is applauded by Head teachers and students alike.

Youth Council

Youth Councillors have been active in several schemes including 'Make a Difference' Initiative (information provided on the Youth Council webpage and through the Town Crier) and invited all primary schools in the borough to take part. They hope to award grants up to £500 on projects that will make a difference to people living in Elstree & Borehamwood. They are working to increase Youth Council membership.

Public Access Report and Communications

The report contents were approved by Full Council on 11 March 2020 and the report is available for inspection by any elector in the Parish area by contacting the Town Council Offices or viewing on the council website (www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk). The report is published in the quarterly Town Crier publication distributed to every resident in Elstree and Borehamwood (16,000 copies). Copies are available at the Town and Borough councils and at Borehamwood Library.



Finances

The summary of Council finances at year end is as follows:

	Actual Year to Date	Current Annual Budget
General Management		
Income	512,557	512,387
Expenditure	355,356	378,950
To/(From) Gen Reserve	157,201	
Environment and Planning		
Income	8,736	7,689
Expenditure	14,384	20,800
To/(From) Gen Reserve	(5,648)	
Leisure and Entertainment		
Income	9,999	9,574
Expenditure	101,371	111,494
To/(From) Gen Reserve	(91,373)	
Community Support		
Income	0	0
Expenditure	101,371	111,494
To/(From) Gen Reserve	(91,373)	
TOTALS		
Income	531,292	529,650
Expenditure	505,640	558,844
Net Income Over Expenditure	25,652	(29,194)
To/(From) Gen Reserve	25,652	

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Meetings

Residents will be notified of virtual Council and Committee meetings open to the press and public by way of the Council website (www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk).

Town Councillors

2019/20 Mayor: Cllr Simon Rubner

2019/20 Deputy Mayor: Cllr Sandra Parnell

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For information on the Town Crier, contact the editor below or for FAQs and guidelines visit our website

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