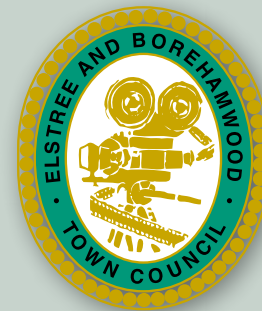


Annual Report 2020/21



Mayor's summary

Summing up at the council meeting on 4 May 2021, the Town Mayor Cllr Simon Rubner said "I particularly felt honoured to work with local charities providing essential services and supplies throughout lockdown – Gratitude and Goods for Good. It always amazes me how local volunteers step forward to meet the demands that are put on Elstree and Borehamwood. They work selflessly and their efforts should not go forgotten and unnoticed. I was also pleased to become a vaccination volunteer in various locations, including Allum Hall." The mayor also provided introductions to a number of virtual events including concerts as well as attending in person where possible (e.g. the opening of the cycle hub at the railway station).

Community services

Hall bookings: Fairway Hall remained closed for the period of the municipal year with works taking place to modernise the building; including the maple sprung flooring being re-laid (for the first time in 25 years). The hall and offices were also made Covid-19 compliant in line with government guidelines and a mandatory risk assessment was drawn up by the town council.

Council Offices: A skeleton caretaking staff continued to work at Fairway Hall whilst measures were put in place to facilitate the continuation of Council services and its democratic processes by home working and remote meetings on the Zoom platform.

Allotments:

Site	Managed	Occupied	Occupancy
Allum Lane	56	52	93%
Melrose Avenue	104	102	98%
Stapleton Gardens	55	54	98%
Total	215	208	96%

Recognising the increased demand in allotment plots from a growing waiting list, the council responded by increasing the number of plots at each site by reclaiming waste ground as follows:

- 9 new plots created at Allum Lane;
- 6 new plots created at Melrose Avenue;
- 1 new plot created at Stapleton Gardens.

To keep plot holders fully informed, a 40 page allotment handbook was prepared and issued together with a newsletter ("BEAN's talk" covering Covid-19 updates, plot inspections, site improvements and useful

contacts). The council pledged to use c.£25,000 of section 106 monies to install a locker shed and additional fencing at Stapleton Gardens.

Planning and Consultations: The council continued to consider planning applications referred to it by Hertsmere borough council as a statutory consultee. 168 were considered in total. Comments were made on 16 of these with concerns including issues of smaller unit developments failing to meet local needs for family sized homes and over the high levels of retrospective applications locally.

Site and street maintenance: In partnership with local businesses, the council maintains the film plaques in Borehamwood, 47 benches and ten notice boards. Both war memorials, St Nicholas and All Saints churchyards (and church clocks) are maintained by the grounds team.

Grants: In 2020/21 the town council was proud to have assisted the following organisations with grant awards (or CIL expenditure) to contribute to the cost of local activities which are of benefit to the community (or a section of it):

- Aldenham Renaissance - £5,000 (costs of Covid-19 and new "touchless" car park system);
- Penniwells Riding Centre - £500 (costs of Covid-19);
- Boreham Wood Football Club - £1,600 (stadium board);
- Borehamwood 2000 FC - £768 (towards costs of goal posts);
- The Chai Centre (Jewish Life Centre) - £5,000 (Hanukkah event);
- All Saints Church - £500 (lighting);
- St Michael and All Angels - £5,500 (building improvements).

Two tranches of special grants were made to ten local schools totalling £29,946 to pay for IT equipment (laptops and tablets) enabling students in need to continue their studies remotely.

Leisure and entertainment

Replacement events and activities were held to compensate for the reduction in entertainment services the council was able to host due to the pandemic. These included:

- A virtual talent show (young pianist taking the £75 prize and trophy);
- Two virtual flower festivals (entries displayed on noticeboards and online); and
- Virtual literary festival (with Writers in the Wood and Tony McHale co-creator of Holby City).

Christmas switch on display: The Christmas lights cheered up the community by lighting as usual on Shenley Road, Manor Way, Leeming Road and Elstree with a virtual switch on event conducted by the mayor and special celebrity guests from the BBC flagship show EastEnders; Lorraine Stanley (playing Karen Taylor) and Davood Ghadami (playing Kush Kazemi).

Flag completion: A competition was held to design the first ever town flag (representing the spirit of Elstree and Borehamwood). The winner, 11 year old Lily Saron, was announced in the Town Crier magazine and the flag will be flown throughout the parish area.



Town Crier: Despite the lockdown, four editions of the ever popular town magazine were published as usual and distributed to 16,000 residents and businesses. The publication was appreciated even more this year in lifting the spirits of the community and in providing useful information.

Teddy's Trails: The council published walking book and local history guide, Teddy's Trails, sold 197 copies in the year, proving popular as residents sought outdoor activities to pursue during the pandemic.

Coach trips: There were none (taking special account of the vulnerability of the target users of this service, i.e. senior citizens).

Remembrance Sunday: Because of restrictions, the Remembrance Service took place with limited numbers attending (the event was filmed and streamed online). To mark VE Day (75th anniversary) and VJ Day, the town council erected a commemorative bench near the Borehamwood war memorial.



Cllr Simon Rubner

Children and young people

School swimming: The council supported local schools in meeting the cost of travel to The Venue swimming pool for lessons when this was a permitted activity. Savings against this budget were deployed to support the initiative to provide IT support to schools during the pandemic.

Youth Council: In a true spirit of determination, the Youth Council continued to meet virtually throughout the year on the Zoom platform.

Public access report and communications

The report contents were approved by the council on 4 May 2021 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 council's offices and at Borehamwood library.

Finances

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

	Current annual budget	Actual year to date
General Management		
Income	£536,591	£510,258
Expenditure	£410,640	£365,208
Environment and Planning		
Income	£9,289	£10,232
Expenditure	£26,800	£13,942
Leisure and Entertainment		
Income	£9,744	£4,311
Expenditure	£121,260	£65,606
Community Support		
Income	Nil	Nil
Expenditure	£50,000	£43,835
TOTALS		
Income	£555,624	£525,801
Expenditure	£608,700	£488,591
Net Expenditure	(£53,076)	£37,210

General Reserve Fund at Year End: -£60,555 (plus 3 Savings vehicles £300,000).

Earmarked Reserves at Year End: (Van: £7,671, Capital Projects: £126,220, Election: £16,250 and Community Wellbeing: £32,375).

Town Councillors

2020/21 Mayor: Cllr S Rubner.

2020/21 Deputy Mayor: Cllr Mrs S Parnell.

The new mayor (Cllr Mrs F Turner) and deputy mayor (Cllr Mrs S Parnell) were appointed at the annual council meeting on 4 May 2021 along with committee chairmen and representatives on outside bodies.

Town Councillors

2021/22 Mayor: Cllr Farida Turner

2021/22 Deputy Mayor: Cllr Sandra Parnell

Borehamwood Hillside



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Elstree



Cllr Farida Turner (Con) Mayor
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Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council meetings

For a full list of our forthcoming meetings, please see the website.
All meetings now take place at Fairway Hall.

19 July	Environment & Planning	Main Hall	7.00pm
31 August	Entertainments	Main Hall	7.30pm
1 September	FULL COUNCIL	Main Hall	7.30pm
6 September	Environment & Planning	Main Hall	7.00pm
5 October	Entertainments	Main Hall	7.30pm
7 October	General Management	Main Hall	7.00pm
19 October	Environment & Planning	Main Hall	7.00pm
20 October	Transport Forum & Community Safety Forum	Main Hall	7.00pm
2 November	Entertainments	Main Hall	7.00pm

Note: Times and venues of meetings may be changed at short notice.
Meetings listed are open to the press and public.

Contacting the Council staff

Phone: 020 8207 1382 (all staff)

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Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood WD6 5BT

Website: www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

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

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Anne Nicodemus and Steve Hall - Council Wardens

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Hall Bookings

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