

Annual Report 2015/2016

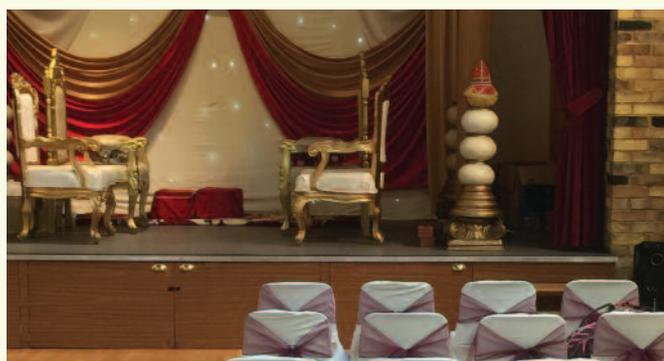


Mayor's Summary

Summing up at the Council meeting on 16 March 2016, the Town Mayor Cllr R Butler said "I have had a fantastic year as Mayor and am proud that my chosen charity (the Visually Impaired Club based at Maxwell Park Community Centre) managed to raise nearly £3,000. It was wonderful to present the Honorary Freeman awards this year to Bob Redman and Bill Davies and I hope you enjoyed the video of my year in office which highlighted some of the key moments [The Audience at the Annual Parish Meeting had watched a four minute long video compilation of the Mayoral Engagements and Council Events]. Good Luck to the new Mayor and thank you to all my colleagues and especially to Rebecca who accompanied me in my role!"

Community Services

Hall Bookings: Fairway Hall is available for regular and casual hire and provides a service much in demand by the community including dance, yoga, mindfulness classes, soccer practice for toddlers, children's workshops, private birthday parties, theatrical shows, wedding receptions, faith groups and public forums. Over 2,000 hours were booked in 2015/16. Wednesday evenings have been agreed as solely for Council use for public forums and Council meetings thus reducing the hire cost of other venues for the Council.



Planning and Consultations: The Council considered a total of 370 planning applications referred to it by Hertsmere Borough Council as a statutory consultee. Comments were made on 111 of these with concerns including issues of overdevelopment, adequacy of parking provision and the need for family sized dwellings in the area. Consultation responses were made on Site Allocations (SADM) and public rights of Way in the Aldenham area. The Environment and Planning Committee is responsible for considering Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) projects and bids to Hertsmere Borough Council. The Council agreed to initiate a Neighbourhood Plan for the Elstree and Borehamwood areas and to appoint an Officer for this purpose. Once agreed, the policies within such a document would form part of the Local Plan.



Allotments (Allum Road, Melrose Avenue and Stapleton Gardens): Plot occupancy was at 97% (144 tenants and 148 plots) with 50 new plots being opened in the North of Borehamwood (Stapleton Gardens) in the future. Potential applicants for the Stapleton Gardens site waiting list are encouraged to contact the Council (currently 21 names are on the list). Work to improve access to and security on the sites is ongoing.

Site and Street Maintenance: In partnership with local businesses, the Council maintains the film plaques in Borehamwood (with additional plaque opened to Jim Henson in 2015), 47 benches and 9 notice boards (with a new board at Elstree and Borehamwood train station). Both War Memorials, St Nicholas and All Saints Churchyard (and Church Clock) are maintained by the grounds team and the High Street planter cost is shared with Hertsmere Borough Council.



Grants: A total award of £3,250 was made in 2015/16: Elstree and Borehamwood Light Operatic Society (£250) for advertising the production of Oliver!, First Impressions (£1,000) for street scene improvements, Boreham Wood Football Club (£1,000) for advertising billboards and Twin Town Association (£1,000) towards running costs. The Council encourages local organisations to apply for Community Grants in 2016/17. The deadlines are 1st round 4 May 2016, 2nd round 20 October 2016 and 3rd round 4 January 2017. Application forms and procedures are available on the Council website (www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk/index.php/yourcouncil/community-grants).

Transport Forum: The Forum meeting frequency has increased from 3 to 4 per year (with option of a 5th) with meetings taking place on a Wednesday evening at Fairway Hall. In 2015/16 the Forum received a report from J Cartledge on urban footpaths (highlighting the need to protect these), responded to a consultation on strategic priorities for rail in Hertfordshire and held a themed meeting on considerate parking (with the aim of raising awareness with road users). Bus and train updates were provided at meetings with relevant information recorded in the minutes and Council website.

Events Forum: This group met three times in 2015/16 and was successful in providing suggestions for future event planning including the type of artistes at Families' Day and the Queen's Birthday celebrations. The proposals are submitted to the Entertainments Committee for consideration and approval.

Business Forum: This group, chaired by the Town Mayor, was initiated to strengthen community engagement, lobby on behalf of the local business community and to represent to the Town Council the views of businesses on matters of Government policy (e.g. grants, transport infrastructure and business support).



Teddy's Trails: The Council launched a collection of 18 documented walks (including information on local history) surrounding Borehamwood (published on the website). These are dedicated to a Fox Terrier owned by resident, Mr J Cartledge, who prepared and led the initial organised trails and who was responsible for compiling the contents.

Defibrillator Project: Local resident Mr L. Stack, with the support of Town Councillors, initiated a programme to install defibrillators at strategic locations throughout Elstree and Borehamwood. The project included training for users and fundraising activities (with many items being donated by businesses and the British Heart Foundation).



This defibrillator was installed for the benefit of the people of Elstree & Borehamwood in February 2016 thanks to the generosity of its sponsors.









Honorary Freeman: At the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 9 March 2016 the Town Council was proud to recognise two prominent residents who had gone beyond the call of duty in serving the community. For the first time in the Town Council's history it bestowed the very highest award that it could give to Bill Davies (the D Day veteran and chevalier de la Legion d'honneur) and Bob Redman (of First Impressions and Elstree Screen Heritage). The award is Honorary Freeman of Elstree and Borehamwood.

Leisure and Entertainment

Coach Trips: The 12 subsidised coach trips for the over 60s were sold out. New destinations for 2016 were agreed as Margate, Greenwich and Stratford Upon Avon. The Council agreed to support two trips to Christmas markets in December 2016.

Civic Festival: The Festival fortnight was hugely successful with a Buggy Malone themed Town Council lorry in the 22 float parade. The Classic Car show displayed over 20 vehicles with outdoor films of The Italian Job and Who Framed Roger Rabbit? (despite inclement weather). Families Day included over 50 community stalls with the addition of a Kinovan (showing historic footage of Borehamwood) organised by Elstree Screen Heritage. The headline artistes were Britain's Got Talent star John Evans (balancing act), falconry, high wire stunts, mountain bike displays, balloon models, table top circus and a showcase of local talent. Other events in the fortnight included an Allotment open day at Melrose Avenue, the Annual Festival Flower show, Primary School Performing Arts and the Royal Legion Festival Quiz. 'Elstree and Borehamwood's Got Talent' was held at the Ark Theatre for the final time (with the competition being relocated to Fairway Hall in 2016). The Pre-Festival event held in May each year continues to help with ticket sales and to highlight many of the attractions to come.





Fireworks Display: This was the 25th free entry fireworks display, choreographed this year to themes from the Musicals. Over 5,000 spectators enjoyed a safe and well organised show. The pyrotechnics were sponsored by Signia Homes with Taylor Wimpey sponsoring the 'Penny for the Guy' competition and music.



Musical Concerts: The BBC Band returned to Allum Hall for a Christmas concert in December recognising the 30 Years of East Enders landmark with a special rendition of the theme music. Borehamwood Brass held a concert as part of the Festival.



Christmas Switch On Display: The lights were switched on by celebrity Shona McGarty ('Whitney' from East Enders). New additions included a Christmas Tree at the train station with carol singing by the 5th Borehamwood Brownies and Girl Guides.

The Switch On event was embellished by the ever popular Santa's Grotto stall, ice rink, merry-go-round and Rolling Base activity bus. Cowley Hill, Kenilworth, Meryfield and Monksmead primary schools performed carols to a packed All Saints Church.

Children and Young People

School Swimming: The Council supported local schools in meeting the cost of travel to The Venue swimming pool for lessons (£33,000). This much appreciated service is applauded by Head teachers and students alike.

Youth Council: Achievements included environmental improvements (especially at Elstree and Borehamwood train station), raising funds for the Visually Impaired Group and bramble clearance at Woodcock Hill. The Youth Council is keen to welcome new members who want to make a difference and be a local voice for young people in the area (contact T Malton - Youth Council Secretary tel: 020 8207 1382).

Work Placements: The Council provided placements for local schools in the role of Grounds Maintenance Assistants in the Summer months.

Public Access Report and Communications

The report contents were approved by Full Council on 16 March 2016 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) and social media pages. 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		
Expenditure	£310,792	£294,755
Income	£401,209	£397,104
Net Expenditure	-£90,417	-£102,329
Environment and Planning		
Expenditure	£10,408	£24,580
Income	£6,558	£6,867
Net Expenditure	£3,849	£17,713
Leisure and Entertainment		
Expenditure	£89,670	£91,600
Income	£17,922	£10,050
Net Expenditure	£71,748	£81,550
Community Support		
Expenditure	£30,292	£46,940
Income	0	0
Net Expenditure	£30,292	£46,940
TOTALS		
Expenditure	£441,162	£457,895
Income	£425,689	£414,021
Net Expenditure	£15,473	£43,874

General Reserve Fund at Year End: £125,080

Earmarked Reserves at Year End: (Van: £3,451, Capital Projects: £218,810 and Allotments: £26,211)

Earmarked Reserve Expenditure in Year: (Elections: £23,174, Capital Projects: £1,190 and Allotments: £27,715)

Town Councillors

2015/16 Mayor: Cllr Richard Butler

2015/16 Deputy Mayor: Cllr Anne Mitchell

The new Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be appointed at the Annual Council meeting on 11 May 2016 along with Committee Chairmen and representatives on outside bodies.

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Elstree

Information on local groups is available at <http://www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk/index.php/yourtown/local-groups>

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.

4 May	Transport Forum	Main Hall	7pm
11 May	ANNUAL COUNCIL - MAYOR MAKING	Main Hall	7.30pm
24 May	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7pm
25 May	General Management	Meeting Room	7pm
7 June	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.30pm
15 June	Youth Council	Meeting Room	6.30pm
15 June	FULL COUNCIL	Main Hall	7.30pm
21 June	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7pm
6 July	Transport Forum	Main Hall	7pm
12 July	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.30pm
14 July	General Management	Meeting Room	7pm
19 July	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7pm

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

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