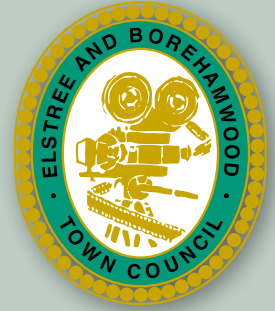


# Annual Report 2022/23



## Mayor's Summary

[Summing up at the Annual Council Meeting], the Town Mayor, Councillor Sandra Parnell said "I have had a very special Mayoral Year. Coming out of the pandemic restrictions, events were able to be held and the highlight of my mayoralty was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when we hosted visitors from France and Germany, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and other dignitaries at the celebrations, including a Beacon Lighting. International affairs continued with the signing of a twinning agreement with Shoham in Israel and the visit of their mayor. Also I visited Offenburg to celebrate 40 years of Town Twinning. Here in Borehamwood I was warmly welcomed by the Romanian community at their festivities and in the town we celebrated the success of our local football team and the centenary of the local bus service. I attended events at churches, synagogues and Bhaktivedanta Manor. My Mayoral Charity, the Borehamwood Foodbank, benefitted from a number of concerts, including the Elstree Mozart Players, Borehamwood Brass and BBC Concert Band. We had a wonderful programme of entertainment throughout the year culminating in the Twin Town visits and celebrations for the King's Coronation".

## Community services

**Hall bookings:** Fairway Hall was open for the entire Municipal Year with a total usage of 1,686 hours (income = £30,328.76).

### Allotments:

Site	Managed	Occupied	Occupancy
Allum Lane	52	52	100%
Melrose Avenue	103	103	100%
Stapleton Gardens	59	59	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Site Warden team was joined by an additional full time staff member in the summer which enabled us to increase our grass cutting schedule into the autumn months and carry out further hedge and tree works over the winter at all the allotment sites.

'BeansTalk', our biannual newsletter for all plot holders, was produced in April and September to give plotters information about different ways to cultivate their plots along with allotment advice and news.

**Grants:** In 2022/23 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):



Deputy Mayor of Fontenay-Aux-Roses Esteban Le Rouzes, Town Mayor Cllr Sandra Parnell & Lord Mayor of Offenburg Marco Steffens

Grant Award	Amount	Purpose
Letchmore Heath Village Trust	£500	Legal costs as part of COG
Sebby's Corner Charity	£500	Shelving for supplies
Hertsme MENCAP	£2,000	Hall Hire
The Chai Centre	£5,500	Chanuka Menorah Lighting

CIL Award	Amount	Purpose
Hertsme Borough	£20,000	Beryl Bikes Scheme
Boreham Wood Football Club	£125,000	Improvements
All Saints Churchyard	£35,000	Pathway improvement
Manor View Practice	£30,000 (paid in May 2023)	Surgery improvements

**Planning and Consultations:** The Council continued to consider planning applications referred to it by Hertsme Borough Council as a statutory consultee. 343 were considered in total. Comments were made on 49 of these with concerns including issues of smaller unit developments failing to meet local needs for family sized homes and concerns over the high levels of retrospective applications locally. Objections were made to developments on the Green Belt.

**Site and street maintenance:** The Council maintains the film plaques in Borehamwood, 57 benches and 11 notice boards. Both War



Commemorative bench in memory of Steve Simmons

Memorials, St Nicholas and All Saints Churchyard (and church clocks) are maintained by the grounds team. A commemorative bench was installed in memory of Steve Simmons (Sullivan Buses).

## Leisure and entertainment

With the pandemic behind us we returned to a full schedule of events, below is a list of some of them:

- Jubilee Beacon Lighting;
- 40th Anniversary of Town Twinning;
- Borehamwood Brass Anniversary Concert;
- Festival Quiz;
- Festival Park Run;
- Festival Chess Night;
- Teddy's Trail Guided Walk;
- Allotment Open Day;



Jubilee Beacon Lighting



Elstree & Borehamwood's Got Talent Show

- Two Day Families Weekend with free circus;
- Meadow Park Brass Band concerts;
- Elstree & Borehamwood's Got Talent;
- BBC Elstree Concert Band (George Gershwin & John Williams 100 Years of Film Music).

**Fireworks Night:** Fireworks Night returned to Meadow Park with a bang, celebrating the Best of British and the life of Queen Elizabeth II, attended in a safe environment by over 5,000 residents/visitors (the only free on entry display in the local area of this size).

**Christmas Lights:** Christmas Lights were switched on by the mayor



Fireworks Night

outside All Saints Church and the festive season started with the return of the free skating rink, teas and coffees, Santa's Grotto and live music.

**The Town Crier magazine:** Four editions of the popular magazine were published and distributed to 16,000 residents and businesses. The Town Crier is available online and in hard copy format at the railway station, library, museum and Communities 1st.

**Teddys Trails:** This walking book and local history guide, Teddy's Trails, continues to be popular with 290 sold to date.

**Coach trips:** A full programme of summer and winter trips resumed after two years:

Coast & Countryside 12 coaches - 519 tickets sold = £5,190;

Christmas Market 2 coaches - 84 tickets sold = £1,008;

In addition, the Council provided six free coach trips in the summer as a thank you to NHS staff.





Christmas Lights



Free NHS Coach Trips



Youth Council Question Time

## Children and young people

**School swimming:** The Council continued to support local schools in meeting the cost of travel to The Venue swimming pool for lessons.

**Youth Council:** The Youth Council continues to grow and contribute to Council decision making with representation on the Sustainable Transport Sub-Committee and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Members have developed a work programme and are now active members of the new community board at the Sky Studios. They are promoting public awareness to reduce local car travel by the "Walk Under A Mile" initiative and encourage cycling. A very successful Question Time event was held with local politicians and representatives have attended the Annual Parish Meeting and Twin Town Agreement Signing. The aim of the Youth Council is to promote civic awareness and pride.

## Public Access Report and Communications

The report contents were approved by Full Council on [15 May 2023] 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](http://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) and available at the railway station, library, etc.

## Finances

The summary of Council Finances at Year End (31 March 2023) is:

**General Reserve Fund at Year End:** (plus two savings vehicles)  
£378,673.00.

**Earmarked Reserves at Year End: Election:** £36,250.00.

**Top Sliced CIL Fund:** £299,235.89.

## Town councillors

All 13 councillors were elected in May this year and a Mayor and Deputy Mayor are chosen at the Annual Council Meeting for the municipal year 2023/24. For the 2022/23 municipal year the Mayor is Councillor Mrs Sandra Parnell and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Clive Butchins.