

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



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We use more than 40 venues for activities including: sport, fitness, education, art, children's activities, community meetings and dance. There are over one hundred heritage sites, including the Norman church of St. Leonard, many beautiful buildings on St. Andrew Street, and the view of the distinctive spire of St. Andrew's Church is one we all appreciate.

Sustainable development will maintain the area's vibrancy but will increase pressure on facilities. Our Policies confer protection on some facilities and heritage sites, encourage the improvement of others, and support the sustainable development of facilities to boost the local economy, and the future vitality of the area.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Development should not result in the loss of community facilities. In some other areas, allotment sites have been sold off, representing a real loss to those communities. In last year's Neighbourhood Plan survey, residents said that Watermill Lane Scout Hut was very important to them. Our two allotment sites, at either end of the Plan area, are well used, and we have a popular little theatre on Balfour Street. Registering these facilities as 'Assets of Community Value' will confer additional protection on them.



POLICY HBC1

PROTECTING EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

1. The following facilities have been identified as of value to the community: -
 - a) ACV1: Watermill Lane Scout Hut.
 - b) ACV2: Folly Island allotment site.
 - c) ACV3: Bengoe (Sacombe Road) allotment site.
 - d) ACV4: The Company of Players Theatre.
2. Applications will be made by Hertford Town Council to list appropriate facilities as Assets of Community Value (ACV) through the Community Right to Bid (in accordance with the Assets of Community Value (England) regulations 2012 (as amended)).
3. All Assets of Community Value listed by East Herts Council, or facilities identified as community assets in the Neighbourhood Plan, will be retained in community use unless they are:
 - a) no longer needed, or
 - b) to be replaced by equivalent or better facilities as part of a development proposal.
4. If the viability of a community asset is in question, the opportunity should be given to an alternative organisation to take over the running of the facility.
5. Development should not result in the loss or reduction of community facilities within the Plan area.
6. Contributions towards the cost of improving or enhancing community facilities could be made from S106 agreements.

ACV1: WATERMILL LANE SCOUT HUT

Plenty of support was shown in the Neighbourhood Plan survey for protecting this community hut. It's home to the 2nd Bengeo Scouts and has been used for Cub and Scout meetings for about 60 years. It's also a popular venue for community meetings and other social activities. A long-term lease has been secured and the Scouts hope to improve or replace the hut for continued community use. Including it on the register as an 'Asset of Community Value' adds weight to its importance to the community.



Let us know if you agree that Watermill Lane Hut should be registered as an 'Asset of Community Value'

ACV2:
FOLLY ISLAND
ALLOTMENT SITE
ACV3:
BENGEO (SACOMBE
ROAD) ALLOTMENT SITE

These allotment sites are very popular and fully occupied. Allotment gardening promotes healthy lifestyles, brings people together, enhances biodiversity, and gives people the space to grow their own food – even more important when gardens are shrinking. Both these sites are worthy of being on the East Herts 'Assets of Community Value' register.



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ACV4: Company of Players Theatre

This little theatre on Balfour Street was built in 1868 and was previously home to the Infants' School of Christ Church. The theatre seats 68 people and well attended productions are held by a vibrant and successful theatre group, who depend on the building as a rehearsal and performance space.



Let us know if you agree that this theatre should be registered
as an Asset of Community Value

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Housing development can put pressure on community services and facilities. Developers will be encouraged to contribute towards the cost of enhancing facilities, particularly when it improves access for all residents. Community Grants will also be explored as part of our Action Plan.

POLICY HBC2: ENHANCED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. Proposals to improve or enhance community facilities, including play and recreation areas, will be supported when they improve the range, quality, suitability and accessibility of facilities for all residents, and when the benefits of development outweigh any disadvantages. Successful proposals should include:
 - a) suitable and sufficient parking provision to avoid pressure on local roads.
 - b) community consultation to ensure new or enhanced provision meets recognised needs.



HERITAGE ASSETS

We have over 100 Listed buildings and structures including the old Hertford Library, St. Leonard's Church and the Old Verger's House, the oldest surviving domestic building in Hertford. Development close to heritage assets can impact on them and this Policy sets out the actions needed to protect them. St. Andrew Street and Old Cross are within the recently defined 'St. Andrew Quarter' of Hertford, an area with many attractive historic buildings. We're hoping to create a heritage trail to promote more awareness of these local assets.

POLICY HBC3: LISTED AND NON-LISTED BUILDINGS

1. Proposals for development that have an impact on listed buildings and structures should take account of the historic fabric, the significance of the asset, and the contribution of its setting to that significance. A statement setting out any adverse impacts on the asset and its setting, along with any proposed mitigation measures, will be required.
2. Proposals which affect designated and non-designated heritage assets, including Bengoe Water Tower, will be permitted provided they preserve or enhance the significance of the asset and its setting.



SUPPORTING NEW ARTS FACILITIES AND CULTURAL GROWTH

There are concept plans to convert parts of the McMullen building and the Old British School into high-quality public galleries, as part of the expansion of the Hertford Arts Hub. Re-development will promote the area as a thriving cultural centre and boost the local economy.

POLICY HBC4: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HERTFORD ARTS HUB

Development should preserve, protect and respect the heritage of existing buildings, be in keeping with the architecture, style and scale of nearby buildings, and use high quality, traditional materials. Development will be supported when it:

- a) respects the privacy of residents in the immediate vicinity of development sites;
- b) does not reduce or impact on existing resident parking;
- c) enhances and improve existing cultural facilities;
- d) ensures good access for disabled people;
- e) is consistent with Neighbourhood Plan policies HBT2: Encouraging more walking; HBT3: Encouraging more cycling and HBN3: Air Quality.

