



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD AT 7.15PM ON THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2024.**

**Present:** Councillors D. Wallace, S. Bull, S. Bowman, Mrs J. Danagher, P. Ricketts, M. Furness, Mrs P. Furness & K. Harrington (19:18)

**Officer Present:** J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer)

**Also Present:** East Herts Councillor Mrs S. Nicholls, County Councillor J. Jones & PCSO Dearman (19:34).  
9 members of the public.

The Chairman led prayers.

**237. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies from Councillors G. Waite, G. Bonner, J. Noades and L. Melton. East Herts Councillor Mrs V. Burt.

**238. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations.

**239. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024.**

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.**

K. Harrington entered the meeting (19:18)

**240. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN.**

The Chairman reported that on 3<sup>rd</sup> October the Clerk and Councillor Noades attended the funeral of ex Councillor Bob Dingley.

4<sup>th</sup> October the Deputy Mayor attended the Mayor of Broxbourne's fundraiser.

10<sup>th</sup> October the Chairman attended the AGM of Isabel Hospice at Welwyn Garden City.

16<sup>th</sup> October attended the AGM of the Chamber of Commerce at Attend to Health.

19<sup>th</sup> October the Deputy Mayor attended the Mayor of Sawbridgeworth's charity fundraising event.

25<sup>th</sup> October the Chairman attended Mayor of Hertford's Café Musique fundraiser at Hertford Caste.

28<sup>th</sup> October the Chairman formally opened Devran Shish, the Deputy Mayor also attended.

30<sup>th</sup> October the Chairman attended a County Hall event "Celebrating Black Narratives"

14<sup>th</sup> October the Chairman attended the U3A AGM which is thriving in Buntingford with over 480 members.

17<sup>th</sup> October attended the PCC scrutiny and accountability online event.

22<sup>nd</sup> October attended the Chatter Table lunch at The Woodman, organised by Councillor Mrs P. Furness.

29<sup>th</sup> October attended the Police story time at the Library.

**241. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.**

No Police were present, it was suggested this is because Halloween is a busy night for the police.

The report was previously circulated, it was noted that total crime is still down, however it was noted that the last week did see an increase in crime across East Herts.

The police are continuing to focus on anti-social behaviour.

It was noted that Buckland and Chipping had zero reported crimes and Aspenden had two reported.

- 242. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2024.**  
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was  
**RESOLVED**  
That the report of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 be adopted.
- 243. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024.**  
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was  
**RESOLVED**  
That the report of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be adopted.
- 244. TO RECEIVER AND CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AND 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.**  
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was  
**RESOLVED**  
That the reports of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be adopted.
- 245. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE OCTOBER 2024 AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORT.**  
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was  
**RESOLVED**  
That the report of payments made October 2024 be accepted (copy attached).

It was noted that Councillor G. Bonner has been working on the potential of upgrading Christmas lights for some time. It has proven to be very challenging due to legislation.  
It was asked what £100 on Town Council prizes was. It was noted that this was for the Freman prize giving event.

- 246. REPORT FROM A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS.**  
Councillor Mrs S. Nicholls read out a report.  
Report attached.  
PCSO Dearman entered the meeting (19:34)

Following the report questions were invited.

It was stated that it was not good news to hear about the planning implications. It was stated that in future the Town Council would appreciate being made aware of this news sooner.

It was mentioned that on the East Herts website it still states that the Council has a housing land supply of over five years. It was asked what has been done regarding the housing land supply and if it is not up to date it should be changed on the website.

It was stated that the main issue with the housing land supply was the lack of S106 agreements in place, this is something that it being worked on now.

County Councillor Jones stated that the main issue is the five year housing land supply, it was noted that in the Vistry appeal, it was the inspectors opinion that East Herts did not have a five year supply. It was suggested that in future appeals a different inspector may take a different view. It was asked what the District Councillors view is.

The District Councillor stated she would fight against the Taylor Wimpey planning application, however

other factors, mainly cost, will come into account.

**247. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS.**

It was reported that HCC are no longer selling the Technical Institute. Children's services are very interested in making the venue a day nursery which aims to be open in January 2025. Equipment will be funded with S106 money.

It was reported that HCC are in the process of purchasing a new Children's home in Buntingford. The offer has been accepted and this will provide three new beds. There will likely be three adults working in the home. A change of use planning application will be needed.

It was reported that the planting on ATF Phase one has been undertaken, this includes daffodil planting.

ATF Phase two is currently out for consultation, roughly 3670 postcards have been sent out to residents for the consultation. There have been multiple drop in sessions and the consultation has been well advertised. As of 18<sup>th</sup> October there had been 361 responses. The consultation has been extended until 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Questions were invited.

It was asked what the reasons were for removing the tree outside the Black Bull as part of the ATF scheme.

It was stated that the tree has to be relocated due to the installation of a pedestrian crossing, the crossing cannot be moved due to site lines. It was suggested that all consultation responses will be looked at and amendments may be made.

It was asked what the plan was for the High Street refurbishment.

It was noted that the High Street refurb is not part of the ATF scheme, but a separately funded scheme.

It was stated that this should be done by March 2025. Some furniture has already been painted. Further work, such as new planters and new paving slabs is to be done.

It was noted that the painting has been done first as there were concerns about painting metal when the temperature drops. It was also noted that some of these bollards are still due to be straightened.

It was also stated that the speed tables are in need of being re-set.

It was noted there are no plans to show for this work as there is no changes, only refurbishments.

There is another scheme for Church Street to come, this will involve narrowing the road with poles and hanging baskets to stop illegal turns in the road.

ATF phase two funding was questioned.

It was stated that this is funded by central government.

**248. TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE 2024 SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH UP TO £1,000 FROM NEW HOMES BONUS.**

It was stated this was just the Town Council's contribution and the Council are thankful for the County Councillor's Locality Budget contribution.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council approve funding for the 2024 Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch, up to £1,000 from New Homes Bonus.**

**249. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE ATF PHASE 2 CONSULTATION.**

It was asked what the Council's response will be.

It was stated that in principle the Council is not against the investment, however some aspects need further discussion or consideration.

It was asked if the Town Council could try to involve the Chamber of Commerce in future discussions. The Chairman briefly read through the points raised by the Town Council.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of seven in favour and one against it was

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council approve the response to the ATF Phase Two consultation. Copy attached.**

**250. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL, IN PRINCIPLE, TO TAKE OVER THE RUNNING OF THE HIGH STREET PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.**

It was noted that this subject has been discussed before.

It was noted that Buntingford is the only town that still has public conveniences run by the District Council. It was suggested that Buntingford is unlike other towns in the sense that it does not have any other options for public toilets.

It was noted that there is SPF money available to refurb the toilets, however they have had no real work done on them for some time. It was always the position of the Chairman that if the toilets are refurbished then the Town Council would consider and discuss taking them over.

The Chairman has now been advised that the toilets will be closing in April if the Town Council do not take them over.

Councillor Nicholls confirmed that the Urbaser contract is up for renewal and the current plan is to not include the Buntingford toilets in the next contract.

It was suggested that if the Town Council can afford to keep the toilets it should take over the toilets, however they need some sort of refurb first.

It was asked what the expected costs to run the toilets will be.

It was reported that East Herts were spending roughly £30,000 a year on the toilets.

The Clerk has been in discussion with Sawbridgeworth Town Council as the Town Council there run its own toilets. Sawbridgeworth were spending roughly £10,000 per year on a daily clean alone, but now do it themselves.

It was suggested a minimum of £5,000 per year would need to go into reserves for the toilets to account for future maintenance and refurbishment.

It was suggested that use of the toilets could come at a charge.

Options for refurbishment have been looked at, the cheapest of which is roughly £70,000 and the most expensive closer to £300,000. There is a further option that has not been explored to make use of only one singular toilet for all.

There was considerable concern for the logistics and upkeep of the toilets should the Town Council take them on.

It was suggested that residents should get some benefit to the town growing.

County Councillor Jones stated that he believes Buntingford tax payers should not have to pay more for an asset that they have lost from East Herts. It was noted that the residents have already lost the pool and if the toilets close as well, it was asked what East Herts would actually provide in Buntingford.

Councillor Jones stated that the funding for the toilets should come from S106 contributions.

It was noted that there is no S106 funding available for the toilets.

There were concerns that if nothing is done then the building will become an eyesore.

The Chairman invited comments from Chamber of Commerce representatives present.

It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce were against a payment scheme offered by EHDC some years ago to open up shop toilets, as at the time it would have meant the public toilets were closed. It was stated that it would be a huge shame if the toilets had to close.

It was suggested further dialogue is needed with East Herts. The toilets are still an East Herts asset and it was thought that East Herts should get the quotes and pay for the refurb, once this is done proper costings would be needed for the Town Council to consider taking them on. The Clerk agreed to write to East Herts explain what had been discussed at the meeting. Overall there was an appetite to take on the toilets but it needs further clarification and costings. It was suggested that the Town Council want to see a definitive itemised specification of refurbishment work. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was  
**RESOLVED**  
**That this Council write to East Herts Council with the comments and concerns discussed.**

**251. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS.**

It was asked if the new MP is coming to Buntingford for Remembrance Sunday. It was stated that he has been invited, however he is attending Letchworth this year. It was noted that following the service at the war memorial, the Church service will be at URC this year.

It was asked if Buntingford Town Council's response to the ATF Consultation carries more weight than responses from members of the public. It was suggested that the Council's response does not carry more weight, however it was noted that HCC did address concerns raised in the phase one consultation. County Councillor Jones stated that all comments carry the same weight as long as the points raised have some reasoning behind them.

It was stated that the planters on the railing have looked lovely all summer and it is nice to see winter plants have now been planted.

It was asked what the current work going on at the junction of Ermine Street and the A10 is for. The County Councillor had spoken with one of the workmen and was informed that the work is for levelling the ground so that the landowner can park farm vehicles on it. It was asked if anything can be done about the mud in the road. It was stated that the landowner has been getting a road sweeper to clear the road.

It was asked if the Town Council's response to the ATF consultation was on the Council website. It was stated that the response has only just been ratified, but it will be uploaded onto the website.

It was asked if there were any figures on usage of the ATF phase one path. It was suggested there may be no need for phase two. It was also stated that the consultation should have been for Buntingford residents only. It was stated that the path as part of phase one is heavily used and it was suggested that the scheme has succeeded in slowing down traffic. Councillor Jones also stated that the location of responders is taken into account when looking at the responses. The member of the public has concerns that there had been no study to see if phase one has made a difference to the town.

Meeting Closed: 21:12  
Next meeting of the Full Council 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## **District Councillor report to Buntingford Town Council – 31 October 2024**

### **London Road Appeal, Owles Lane (Wheatley Homes)**

- An Appeal has been lodged by Wheatley Homes relating to the proposed development for 68 homes which was refused by EHDC earlier in 2024. The application was refused following the publication of the March and April Housing Land Supply Position Statement in which case the Local Planning Authority considered it could demonstrate a deliverable supply of between 5.57 and 5.95 years supply of homes. It was refused on a non-tilted balance basis, as it was in conflict with the Development Plan which is the appropriate test set out in the Planning Act.
- The reasons for refusal were due to the adverse landscape impact and extension into the countryside outside the settlement boundary of the town, the development would result in an over-reliance on car travel and would be unsustainable in terms of the District Policy TRA1, the drainage strategy was unacceptable and the terms of a s106 agreement with planning obligations had not been entered into.
- The Appeal has been lodged following the recent Appeal Decision in August 2024 (for the development on land east of the A10, Buntingford) in which the Inspector determined that the Council could not demonstrate a deliverable supply of housing over 5 years. The Inspector determined the appeal on the 'Tilted Balance' which is the appropriate test in the NPPF which applies where the policies most relevant for determining the application area out of date (in this case - the housing policies in the District Plan and Neighbourhood Plan are out of date, as the Council is not delivering a sufficient supply of housing).
- The issues related to the Vistry appeal are relevant to the London Road Appeal as the first 2 reasons for refusal are identical to the reasons for refusal in the Land East of A10 Appeal. The Inspector was clear that these concerns on the A10 Appeal site were not enough to demonstrably and significantly outweigh the benefits of the development.
- The LPA is currently considering options on how to proceed with the Appeal and has taken advice from Counsel. Currently officers consider the grounds to challenge the appeal on the basis of the first 2 reasons of refusal are going to be very challenging to fight at Appeal. This is on the basis of how the Inspector weighed up the benefits and adverse impacts on the A10 Appeal, and noting the significant weight given to the provision of housing, affordable housing and how positive weight was afforded to the other benefits. The Inspector ultimately considered that, as one of the 5 main towns in the District, Buntingford is a sustainable location for housing development. Reasons 3 and 4 (of the London Road Appeal) are still not resolved and the LPA have advised that the Appellant will need to work with the Council and County Councils to overcome these technical shortcomings.
- Officers are yet to determine how to proceed but on a tilted balance, the LPA considers chances of success of winning this appeal are limited.
- Officers will be reviewing the position and will advise Ward Councillors in due course.  
Buntingford ward councillors have a meeting with planning officers tomorrow at Wallfields tomorrow.

### **Land North of Hare Street Road (Taylor Wimpey)**

- The Application was submitted in March 2024 following a pre-application process in which alternative layouts and designs were presented.
- The Application has been revised following consultation responses being received and following on from a Development Management Forum held in July 2024.
- There are no statutory objections to the proposals and objections from HCC (Highways), LLFA (Drainage) and the Environment Agency have been overcome.
- The applicant has provided further information in connection with the proposed Medical Centre and the processes which the Practice followed prior to settling on the development site which demonstrates there are no suitable or feasible sites in Buntingford to relocate to at the present time.
- The current lease of the existing centre is due to expire, and could be renewed. However, the proposed development would deliver an improved facility, in advance of the housing part of the wider site and therefore, officers have advised

that this would be afforded significant positive weight in the planning balance. Issues relating to the need for the centre, the location and space standards and design will be addressed in the officer report which will be published shortly.

- As per the London Road Appeal, officers must now have regard to the Tilted Balance which considers the range of benefits and disbenefits in weighing up whether the proposals can be supported.
- The fact that the development does not comply with the Development Plan policies relating to housing supply or settlement boundaries, no longer provides as strong a reason to reject the proposals. The development also provides Infrastructure (Medical Practice) which is a further significant benefit up front.
- The LPA advises that on the basis of the recent Appeal and by carrying out a tilted balance as required by the NPPF, the adverse impacts no longer significantly or demonstrably outweigh the benefits, which must be afforded significant weight (in terms of the delivery of 200 homes, 40% affordable homes, Custom/Self Build provision and the Medical Centre).
- The LPA is currently concluding its assessment, and a final recommendation will be published shortly.

### **Community Governance Review**

East Herts Council are undertaking a Community Governance Review and have now set up a Working Group who are looking at:

Creating, merging or abolishing parishes

Boundary alterations between existing parishes

The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes

The establishment of and electoral arrangements of parish councils including the ordinary year of election, council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding. I know that Buntingford Town Council have already expressed an interest in being involved in the review process.

Warding arrangements will be consulted on for Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford Town Councils. The working group felt it would be amiss of the CGR not to explore if a warding arrangement would be more practical and convenient for electors in both towns.

Public consultation will form part of the review process and final recommendations are due to be published in July next year.

### **Application Tree Protection Order for the tree outside the Black Bull**

I applied to the East Herts Tree Officer for a Tree Protection Order for the tree outside the Black Bull pub which has been earmarked for removal as part of ATF Part 2 proposal.

#### **Reasoning:**

“It would not be appropriate to use a TPO to seek the retention of a relatively small, ornamental street tree. I agree that it does make a small contribution to the character of that part of Buntingford but compared to the Lime trees further down on Market Hill it is not the sort of landscape feature which would be worthy of protection with a TPO.

I would however question the choice of exotic Magnolia and Liquidambar trees in that sensitive part of the Buntingford conservation area. I generally prefer to see native species used where possible as they provide a greater contribution to biodiversity. Fastigate selections of the native Field Maple would be a more appropriate contribution to the existing Lime and Sycamore on Market Hill and more in keeping with the character of that part of the Buntingford conservation area.”

I feel as a local councillor and knowing the strong feeling against the plans to remove the tree that this decision doesn't put enough emphasis on the community value that such trees hold for residents and this concern is something that I have raised with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.

I am aware that the process for applying for a TPO is not that easy for residents or councillors and have requested that the application process is made more transparent and that the relevant information and a link to the application form is made available on East Herts Council website.

Sue Nicholls 31 October 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Accounts paid:	Oct-24	Full Council Meeting:	31st October 2024				
2	Committee	Budget	Payee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.	Notes
3	Expenditure							
4	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries Sep	9494.52			
5	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC	2954.25			
6	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S Ann Sep	3120.59			
7	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries Oct	9466.68			
8	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC	2929.17			
9	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S Ann Oct	3108.85	195000.00	85957.64	
10	Resources	Software	Barclaycard	Team Viewer Subsc	430.80	2000.00	96.64	
11	Amenities	garden maintenance	Barclaycard	Water carrier	28.99	3000.00	416.02	
12	Amenities	cemetery	Barclaycard	Skip	265.00			
13	Amenities	cemetery	John O'Conner	prepare B011/A025	546.12			
14	Amenities	cemetery	RSH	cemetery maintenance	978.61	12000.00	2677.35	
15	Amenities	Playground Maintenance	Broadmead	Inspections	140.00			
16	Amenities	Playground Maintenance	Broadmead	safety fence	125.00	3500.00	1067.35	
17	Amenities	Trees	RSH	Ct back trees	140.00			
18	Amenities	Trees	Oakleaf	Trees LCG's	560.00			
19	Amenities	Trees	Oakleaf	Trees LCG's	420.00	6000.00	4070.00	
20	Amenities	Churchyard Maintenance	RSH	Churchyard maintenance	360.00	3500.00	-1006.10	Allocated reserves
21	Resources	Manor House Maintenance	R Ginn	Clear guttering	540.00	10000.00	5448.88	
22	Resources	postage	Pitney Bowes	Franking machine	43.77	490.00	201.56	
23	Amenities	MUGA Running	E-on	Electricity	195.36			From income
24	Amenities	Fuel	A Jones	Fuel	8.33	150.00	35.93	
25	Amenities	Pavilion	James Alexander	Yearly inspection elec's	165.00			
26	Amenities	Pavilion	RSH	Ramp to changing room	390.28			
27	Amenities	Pavilion	Pegasus	balance shutters	1896.58			
28	Amenities	MUGA Maintenance	replay	refurbish/maintain MUGA	4995.00			Allocated reserves
29	Amenities	Dog/Litter	JRB	Dispenser bags	133.70			
30	Amenities	Dog/Litter	County Supplies	Bin Bags	42.23			
31	Amenities	Dog/Litter	Barclaycard	dispenser bags/bin bags	270.49	3000.00	1615.45	
32	Resources	Senior's Xmas lunch	Wood man Inn	Lunch Xmas Seniors	1416.67			
33	Resources	Senior's Xmas lunch	Richmond's	Coach Xmas lunch	415.00			NHB/Grants
34	Resources	Manor House Renovations	L Pike	2 of 3 1st floor bathroom	8303.00			Allocated reserves
35	Amenities	Open areas	RSH	open areas maintenance	375.61	4511.00	1879.93	
36	Council	S106	HBS Electrical	25% floodlights	6121.35			S106
37	Council	S106	Tees Law	Client account - access	600.00			S106
38	Amenities	Equipment replacement	Gladson	Litter trolley	1166.79			Allocated reserves
39	Resources	newsletter/web site	Cuttlefish	Hosting/emails	505.00	3000.00	1245.00	
40	Amenities	water LCG's	Castle Water	Water LCG's	42.37	100.00	11.60	
41	Resources	BT	Communications	Broadband	65.46	750.00	291.78	
42	Resources	Oil	Certas	Oil	793.62	8500.00	6794.62	
43	Resources	Electricity	B Gas	Electricity MH	391.81	5500.00	3211.96	
44	Council	NHB	Attwaters	dep conveyancing LCG's	1600.00			NHB
45	Resources	manor House reserves	L Pike	3/3 1st floor BR & Pillars 1/2	9780.76			Allocated reserves
46	Amenities	repairs non specific	RSH	level grd benches	380.00	300.00	-248.32	Allocated reserves
47	Amenities	Allotments	RSH	reapir fence	200.00			
48	Amenities	Allotments	Barclaycard	Fencing	147.48			Allocated reserves
49	Resources	Stationery	Barclaycard	Stationery	7.07	300.00	177.46	
50	Resources	Mayoral allowance	Barclaycard	Tickets -Mayer	40.00	1250.00	654.00	
51	Council	S106	Barclaycard	Planning Cougars cg room	235.50			To be reimbursed
52	Resources	Contingency	Barclaycard	Chamber of Commerce subs	30.00	500.00	298.63	
53	Resources	Cleaning	Barclaycard	Cleaning materials	48.45			Allocated reserves
54								
55								
56								
57		03/09/2024	Jennings	MUGA	120.75	03/09/2024	AK Comms Rent	427.00
58		03/09/2024	Baxter	Rent	271.00	04/09/2024	Millbrow MUGA	105.00
59		05/09/2024	BTFC	MUGA	78.75	05/09/2024	Orbital Rent	653.00
60		05/09/2024	Shell Shk	Car Park	125.00	09/09/2024	Austin's Cemetery	1700.00
61		16/09/2024	Keshc	Rent	369.00	18/09/2024	HCC Grant	1400.00
62		19/09/2024	Zurich	insurance claim	6900.15	24/09/2024	Judkins rent	378.00
63		24/09/2024	Austin's	Cemetery	1700.00	27/09/2024	EHDc precept	162517.50
64		30/09/2024	Millbrow	MUGA	78.75	01/10/2024	Myddleton rent	615.00
65		01/10/2024	Ecoml	Rent	160.00	01/10/2024	Shell Shack Car P	100.00
66		01/10/2024	regency	Rent	119.00	02/10/2024	W Wolves MUGA	78.75
67		02/10/2024	AK Comms	Rent	427.00	02/10/2024	Orbital Rent	653.00
68		02/10/2024	Baxter	Rent	271.00	03/10/2024	HCC Grant	450.00
69		03/10/2024	Civic	Hire	19.50	04/10/2024	BTFC MUGA	94.50
70		04/10/2024	EHDc	S106 MUGA	31789.00	07/10/2024	Nutrition rent	290.00
71		07/10/2024	CABEH	Rent	3388.50	10/10/2024	Judkins rent	378.00
72		11/10/2024	HMRC	VAT refund	10070.55	14/10/2024	Jennings MUGA	78.75



## Buntingford ATF Phase 2.

Please accept this letter as the official response from Buntingford Town Council to the consultation for the ATF Phase 2 Scheme, Buntingford.

In principle, the Town Council welcomes potential investment in the town and the enhancement to the town centre environment. However, we do have concerns with the proposals in their current format which are outlined below. We ask that these concerns be subject to further debate and clarification before any final decision is made.

- The Council welcomes the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in this area of the Town. However, we are of the opinion that it would be beneficial to extend the 20mph zone to include Bowling Green lane, Freman Drive, Norfolk Road, Church Street, Wyddial Road and Vicarage Road, giving coverage to the whole town centre area.
- At present, large HGV's and trailered Farm vehicles travelling east or west on Baldock Road frequently cause congestion at the junction with the High Street and Baldock Road, especially if an equally large vehicle is travelling in the opposite direction. In fact, some of these vehicles already struggle to get around the bend at the end of the High Street. The proposed reduction in carriageway widths within the proposed scheme gives rise for concern that these large vehicles will cause even more congestion and a back log of traffic along Baldock Road and High Street/Station Road. The introduction of a 7.5 tonne weight limit (with access for delivery vehicles) from the Western end of Baldock Road (A10 roundabout) through the Town to Hare Street Road roundabout would go some way to mitigate this and the Town Council is of the opinion that this weight restriction will be necessary to significantly reduce the number of HGV's travelling through the Town. A weight limit would also prevent damage to the highway infrastructure (carriageway, footways, street furniture) and buildings, protect the character and environment of our Rural Town, reduce risks to vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and cyclists and reduce pollution. We are aware that enforcement agencies are unlikely to commit to any robust monitoring or action of the limit.
- The proposed scheme results in the loss of a significant number of parking spaces, this is one of the main objections from residents and is of serious concern to our Chamber of Commerce who see this as a significant negative impactive factor on their business viability. We would ask that the loss of 12 short stay parking bays along the East side is reviewed. A loading Bay is proposed outside of 10 and 8 High Street. - It would be preferable to not restrict this area to loading only at certain times and permit general short stay parking across the permitted time frame.
- There are currently two parking bays at the southern end of Market Hill next to the War Memorial. These bays are not marked on the plans, would it be possible to reinstate them.
- With regard to the proposed disabled parking outside of Attend to Health (27, High Street), which is currently general one hour parking. Would it be possible to leave these bays as general parking and make the two bays outside of the Chemist (29, High Street), one of which is currently disabled, to both disabled bays. As previously stated there is a significant loss of short stay parking within the scheme and as many permitted parking spaces as possible would be welcomed. It also has to be noted that Market Hill is closed on a Monday for the Charter Market, taking all of the parking on Market Hill away, leaving few alternatives.
- There has been much consternation amongst residents with regard to the loss of the tree outside of the Black Bull PH. Whilst we appreciate that there are plans to plant six new trees, which is welcomed, we ask if there is any possibility that the proposals could be amended to facilitate the retention of the existing tree. The loss of the tree is a key objection from the public and if a solution could be found this would go some way to addressing objections.
- It is requested that there is adequate drainage measures on the raised tables.
- It is requested that a directional sign indicating left to the High Street Car Park is placed just before the junction with Baldock Road.
- The area of carriage way outside of St Peter's Church is frequently used for funeral vehicles whilst a funeral is taking place at the church. The conversion of single line restrictions to double yellow line restrictions, except for loading at

certain times, will cause significant issues for these vehicles. Could arrangements be put in place to permit official funeral vehicles to park on this stretch of road when a funeral is taking place at St Peter's Church.

- The installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing diagonally at the junction of the High Street and Baldock Road is welcomed. This is a much used unofficial crossing point which will significantly enhance the safety of pedestrians in this area.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of the above points and we are very happy to further discuss these issues to seek compromise and sustainable solutions.

At present our members feel they cannot provide unreserved support for the proposals without further work on the areas highlighted, but remain committed to working with you should you deem it a viable path to progression.

Finally, we would ask that should the scheme be approved, to protect the High Street traders, disruption is kept to a minimum during construction and access to the High Street and Market Hill is maintained as much as possible.