Bishop's Stortford
Town Council
The Old Monastery, Windhill
Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2ND

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AMENITIES COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Environment and Public Amenities Committee Meeting of the Town Council will be held at The Council Chambers, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2ND on:

MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2026 at 7.00pm

***** PLEASE NOTE NEW START TIME *****

for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the Agenda below and you are hereby summoned to attend.



Huw Jones
Chief Executive Officer
11th November 2026

PLEASE NOTE:
This meeting is open to the Press and Public (Items 1 to 13).

MEMBERS

Cllr Stephen Skinner (Chair)
Cllr Miriam Swainston (Vice Chair)
Cllr Martin Adams
Cllr Richard Townsend
Cllr Holly Drake
Cllr Matthew Bird
Cllr Yvonne Estop

Equality Act 2010

The public sector equality duty places an obligation on a wide range of public bodies (including Town and Parish Councils) in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Sexual Orientation

Recording of Council Meetings

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 allows both the public and press to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media).

This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public.

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

At the time of Agenda despatch, apologies were received from Cllr Yvonne Estop (Other Business) (Cllr David Jacobs substituting).

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

To receive Members' Declarations of *disclosable pecuniary interests* (as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012) where these disclosable pecuniary interests:

a. have not already been entered into the register and
b. relate to a matter to be considered

To NOTE that interests so declared must be formally notified to The Chief Executive Officer of Bishop's Stortford Town Council and the monitoring officer at East Hertfordshire District Council within 28 days.

To receive Members' Declarations of *other registrable interests* (as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct adopted on 11th May 2026) where these relate to a matter to be considered.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive representation from members of the public concerning items included on the Agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2026 - *APPENDIX 1 (Pages 7-16)*

To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026.

5. S.106 REPORT FROM EHDC – *APPENDIX 2 (Separate Cover)*

To receive and consider EHDC s.106 November 2026 Report

6. CHAIR'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

To consider items proposed for discussion at this meeting by the Committee Chair which have broader interest of an environmental nature but which do not fall directly within the terms of reference of the Committee or are not the direct responsibility of the Town Council:

(i) White bridge – propose TC cleans 1 p.a.
(ii) More parking enforcement in the evening
(iii) Side entrance to Jackson Sq.
(iv) Goods Yard - lack of progress on Hotel or Transport Interchange

7. THAMES WATER - *APPENDIX 3 (17-18)*

To review:

- Letter from Jake Morley, Local Engagement Manager, Home Counties – Public Affairs, Thames Water.
- The meeting of the East Herts District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee where Thames Water and the Environment Agency attended. https://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=515&MId=5756&Ver=4&J=4

8. PROJECTS UPDATE REPORT– *APPENDIX 4 (Pages 19-24)*

To receive and consider the Projects Update report and to consider any recommendations/items requiring a decision.

9. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE – *APPENDIX 5 (Pages 25-28)*

To receive update report from Cllr Stephen Skinner (Sub-Committee Chair) and notes of the meeting of 18th September 2026.

10. WATERSIDE STORTFORD - *APPENDIX 6 (Pages 29-32)*

To receive the notes of the Waterside Stortford meeting of Monday 14th September 2026.

11. BID UPDATE

To receive a written update report from Cllr Richard Townsend (BSTC Representative on Outside Bodies) at the next meeting on Monday 22nd February 2027.

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

To propose any items for future meetings. At the time of agenda writing, the list includes (non-exhaustive):

- Events Feedback
- Market Improvements

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

To close the meeting and note that the next Environment and Public Amenities Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 22nd February 2027 at 7.00pm.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AMENITIES COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.00PM

*	Cllr Stephen Skinner (Chair)	*	Cllr Yvonne Estop
*	Cllr Martin Adams	*	Cllr Richard Townsend
*	Cllr Matthew Bird	*	Cllr Miriam Swainston
	Cllr Holly Drake		

* denotes attendance

In attendance:
Karen Burton (BID) [EPA16 – 19]
Madeleine Lees (BID) [EPA16 – 19]
Paul Dean (Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation) [EPA16 – 19]
Dave Webber (Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association) [EPA16 – 19]
Alister Barclay (HCC Strategy & Programme Manager, Implementation) [EPA16 – 19]
Ian Richardson (HCC Team Leader, Community Design Team) [EPA16 – 19]
Matthew Bendell (HCC Strategy & Programme Manager, Strategy) [EPA16 – 19]
David Burt (HCC Group Manager, Implementation) [EPA16 – 19]
One Member of the Press [EPA16 – 22]
Cllr Richard Bower
Dale Phillips - Chief Operations Officer (BSTC)
Huw Jones - Chief Executive Officer (BSTC)

EPA16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved as follows:

Member	Reason
Cllr Holly Drake	Family Commitments

EPA17. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

EPA17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Member of the Public sought to address the Committee at this meeting.

EPA18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th JULY 2026

Cllr Yvonne Estop raised a point of accuracy relating to the previous Minutes and two matters arising. The CEO advised that the points raised were not matters which could properly be considered at the meeting under the Council's Standing Orders. It was noted that, should Cllr Estop wish to set out her concerns in writing following the meeting, the CEO would seek to respond within five working days.

It was RESOLVED that:

the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026 be approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

EPA19. NORTH STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Committee received a presentation from Hertfordshire County Council Officers on the proposed North Street Improvement Project.

Members were advised that the proposed scheme was intended to support local businesses and help the town centre to thrive, whilst also addressing a range of existing issues including anti-social behaviour, parking pressures and unnecessary through-traffic. It was anticipated that the proposals would create greater opportunities for businesses, markets, events and wider community activity and would complement work associated with Purple Flag accreditation. It was also noted that the BID's objectives for North Street aligned closely with the Town Council's Strategic Plan 2023–2027.

The initial proposal was to introduce an experimental scheme in order to test how the arrangements operated in practice, with the intention that, subject to the outcome of the trial and subsequent evaluation, the improvements could ultimately form part of a permanent public realm scheme.

HCC Officers explained that a key consideration would be whether the proposals functioned effectively from a traffic and access perspective whilst also creating a more attractive and active street environment. Examples of comparable schemes elsewhere in Hertfordshire, including George Street, St Albans and Fore Street, Hertford, were cited as demonstrating the potential benefits of such an approach.

The emerging design would broadly involve North Street operating on a one-way basis, with provision for an informal cycle contra-flow.

Members noted that servicing and loading arrangements would need to be carefully considered, including the practical difficulties associated with larger vehicles, particularly vehicles of approximately 7.5 tonnes, turning into Water Lane.

It was noted that basic traffic modelling had been undertaken and that a formal road safety audit would also be required before implementation. The experimental period itself would provide an opportunity to assess the operation of the scheme in practice. In response to a Member query, HCC Officers advised that an experimental traffic arrangement could operate for a period of up to 18 months.

Members also discussed consultation arrangements. It was explained that the process would be informal in nature and that the experimental scheme would itself form an important part of the consultation process by allowing a live trial before any decision was taken on whether to make the arrangements permanent. A communications plan would be developed to accompany the trial.

HCC Officers advised that a possible commencement date could fall between Autumn 2026 and Spring 2027. The BID representatives and Town Council Members expressed a preference for the scheme to commence at the earlier end of that period in order to maintain momentum.

Cllr Yvonne Estop asked whether HCC would assess the potential effect of the proposals on Bells Hill, which she considered was already under pressure and subject to incidents of road rage. Cllr Miriam Swainston advised, in her capacity as an HCC Member, that she would co-ordinate any further questions arising from the meeting with HCC Officers.

The CEO confirmed that the Town Council would do all reasonably within its power to deliver the terms of the draft Memorandum of Understanding, which related principally to the opening and closing of the proposed access gate. The CEO also suggested that, subject to agreement with HCC, the Town Council might be able to provide higher-quality planters than those used at some other HCC locations.

The longer-term objective remained to develop the proposals beyond a temporary traffic arrangement into a more comprehensive and permanent public realm improvement scheme for North Street.

It was noted that further joint meetings between HCC Officers, the Town Council and other relevant stakeholders would take place as the scheme progressed, and that Members would be kept informed of developments.

EPA20. BID UPDATE

Cllr Richard Townsend provided a comprehensive update on recent BID activity, covering:

- Shop Safe alerts;
- town centre trees and Christmas lights;
- enforcement charges at the Waitrose car park;
- health and safety training courses provided through SEEDL; and
- the Summer 2026 BID Business Meet-Up held in July at Thirst Youth Café.

Members noted that the Business Meet-Up had been well attended and had provided an opportunity for local businesses to network, share information and explore potential collaboration. The positive engagement of the local business community was welcomed, particularly given the challenging trading environment.

The contribution of Thirst Youth Café in hosting the event was also noted, together with the wider work undertaken by the organisation within the community and local schools.

EPA21. S.106 REPORT FROM EHDC

The Committee received and noted the August 2026 s.106 Report prepared by East Herts District Council.

It was agreed that EHDC be advised that the Committee considered it would be appropriate for the District Council to establish its own forum or meeting at which s.106 matters could be considered in greater detail, noting that there was currently no equivalent forum within that Authority for consideration of the type of report produced by the s.106 Officer for the Town Council.

EPA22. PROJECTS UPDATE REPORT

The CEO reported on progress with a number of current projects.

<u>Walking and Cycle Route North</u>

Members received an update on the Walking and Cycle Route North, noting that the planning application was expected to have been submitted by the date of the meeting. The application had been delayed slightly whilst information was awaited in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, principally concerning the River Report.

It was noted that the application had proceeded on the basis of a segregated route following advice from the Walk, Wheel and Cycle Trust, as this would preserve the option of future shared use whilst also allowing for potential upgrading should additional funding become available through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Members also noted that WWCT had been asked to provide a fee proposal for assistance with preparing separate tender documents for the bridge works and the route and track works, subject to planning permission being obtained.

The revised route was considered capable of being accommodated through modest reductions to pitch sizes and associated repainting works. The need to protect the mature oak tree at the southern end of the route was also noted. Subject to the planning process progressing satisfactorily, a Summer 2027 construction start remained achievable.

BMX Track and Multi-Use Sports Facility

Members noted that trial holes had been completed to establish the position of underground water infrastructure and that Affinity Water was considering the resulting information and Ground Penetrating Radar documentation in order to design the required diversion.

The cost of the diversion works was currently estimated at approximately £80,000, with the overall project anticipated to be delayed by approximately five to six months. Ground works were currently expected to commence in January 2027, with completion targeted for Spring/Summer 2027.

It was noted that Biodiversity Net Gain and other environmental matters had been addressed through the planning process.

Members also considered proposals for a formal launch event on completion of the facility.

It was RESOLVED that:

a provisional budget of £10,000 be included in the 2027/28 Draft Budget (subject to Council approval) for a formal launch event for the BMX Track and Multi-Use Sports Facility, to be included within the Council's 2027 events programme.

Environment Day 2027

Members noted that, following the success of the 2026 event, a further Environment Day was planned for Market Square on Wednesday 21st April 2027, following a similar format with information and educational stalls, activities and displays.

Bench Replacement Programme

The Committee noted the programme for the replacement of five benches during the following six weeks at Lindsay Road, Hadham Road, Parsonage Lane, Bells Hill and Dunmow Road/Parsonage Lane. A further three benches at Southmill Road/London Road, Rye Street/Stane Close and Barrells Down Road were proposed for replacement during 2027, subject to budget provision.

EPA23. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the update report from Cllr Stephen Skinner and the Notes of the meetings held on 26th June and 24th July 2026.

EPA24. ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Notes of the Allotments Sub-Committee meeting held on Friday 31st July 2026.

EPA25. FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

The Committee received the Notes of the Friends of the Cemetery meeting held on Friday 17th July 2026.

EPA26. WATERSIDE STORTFORD

Cllr Stephen Skinner reminded the Committee of the potential grant request from the Canal & River Trust towards towpath resurfacing works.

Members suggested that the Canal & River Trust should also consider whether s.106 funding might be available as a potential source of support for the works, subject to eligibility.

EPA27. ITEMS REQUESTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY MEMBERS

Cannons Close Play Area

Members considered the request for Town Council support in relation to Cannons Close Play Area.

It was agreed that the matter should be referred to East Herts District Council as the responsible authority for the site.

Members who had inspected the play area considered that the existing provision was sufficient and, whilst improvements could always be considered, the condition of the site was not regarded as being as poor as that of some other play areas.

The Committee agreed that, going forward, the Town Council should focus its attention and resources on play areas for which it had direct responsibility.

It was further noted that the Town Council's previous grant contribution towards improvements at Waytemore Park should not be regarded as establishing a precedent for Town Council funding of play areas owned and managed by East Herts District Council.

EPA28. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Some Members proposed a number of items for consideration at future meetings, including:

- Update on development plans for Coopers;
- Proposed opening of the Bridge Street entrance to Jackson Square;
- Millennium Bridge;
- Bishop's Stortford Conservation Order; and
- Woodland adjacent to the play area near Sworders Field.

The CEO advised that a number of these matters fell outside the Terms of Reference of the Committee and, in some cases, outside the direct remit of the Town Council. Their suitability for inclusion on a future agenda would therefore be considered further before any item was added.

It was agreed that Events Feedback and Market Improvements be included as items for a future meeting.

EPA29. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

It was noted that the next Environment and Public Amenities Committee meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 16th November 2026 at 7.00pm.

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From: Jake Morley
Sent: 25 September 2026 16:14
To: Huw Jones
Subject: RE: Invitation to attend Environment & Public Amenities Committee – 16 November 2026

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your invitation to meet regarding the recent fish kill incident. Apologies, I thought I had sent this on to your email but I may not have.

We fully understand the concerns that this has caused within the local community and appreciate the Town Council's interest in the matter.

For context, we had a spill from our discharge point during a planned isolation on Friday 4th Sep at Bishops Stortford SPS which did not go to plan due to a critical valve failing. We of course had storm tanks on site but were overfilled quickly due to large heavy flows coming in which our tankers based at the terminal Sewage Pump Station was also unable to keep up with. This caused the storm tanks based at the SPS to eventually start spilling at the water course. We were made aware of 30 confirmed dead fish, 100m downstream and ammonia readings were high.

We then switched the flows that were coming in onto a bypass valve which then stopped any further pollution to the watercourse, and we also immobilised aeration units. We then asked our sampling contractor OHES to take readings. We self-reported this incident to the EA

At present, we have already provided an update to the local MP and are awaiting the outcome of the Environment Agency's investigation, which will help establish any lessons learned and any remedial measures that may be required. Until that process is complete, there is unfortunately very little additional information that we can share beyond what has already been communicated.

We have committed to learn from this incident by;

- Utilising other routes in the network to send flow through when we isolate part of our network during future inspections.
- Agree for tankering standby while undertake these types of activity as a contingency
- We will also educate the team on this incident, so we don't have a repeat

Given the current demands on our operational teams, we are trying to focus our resources on supporting the ongoing investigation and day-to-day operations. For that reason, we are unable to commit to this meeting currently.

However, we are very happy to keep the Town Council informed by email and can ensure any significant updates, including the findings of the Environment Agency's report and any resulting actions, are shared as soon as they become available.

We greatly value transparency and we are happy to keep a dialogue open on our activities and appreciate your understanding. Should there be a need for a wider discussion once the investigation has concluded, we would be pleased to review that position. I understand that Town Councillors and residents are keen to find out more so please, if there is a list of key questions at this stage please do forward them to me, I can compile the answers in a report for the council

Kind regards,

Jake Morley

Local Engagement Manager, Home Counties – Public Affairs

Thames Water, Vastern Road, Reading, RG1 8DB



APPENDIX 4

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Monday 16th November 2026

PROJECTS UPDATE REPORT

North Street Experimental Road Closure
Members are asked to receive a verbal update from the CEO.

Under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Town Council is responsible for operating the gate closures forming part of the experimental road closure scheme.

Walking and Cycling Route North
The planning application was published on the EHDC Planning Portal in October 2026. Supportive representations have been received, or are anticipated, from a number of partner organisations, including:

- Cycle Stortford
- Bishop's Stortford and District Walking and Rambling Association
- Parkrun
- HCC Health Walks
- Bishop's Stortford Climate Group
- Friends of Castle Park
- Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation

The Town Council has appointed Walk Wheel Cycle Trust to assist with the preparation of the tender documentation, working in conjunction with the Council. It is anticipated that the tender opportunities will be published on the Town Council's website and Contracts Finder by the time of the EPA meeting.

It is proposed to issue two separate tenders: one covering the works associated with the two bridges and the other covering the construction of the tracks. This reflects the different nature of the works, although it is recognised that a limited number of contractors may have the capacity to undertake both elements simultaneously.

The tender documentation has been prepared to allow flexibility in the eventual specification, including the potential for either shared or segregated pathways, and to ensure that any contract award remains subject to the necessary planning approval. This approach has been recommended to enable the Council to progress procurement at the earliest opportunity and maximise the prospects of meeting the project delivery target of October 2027.

The Chair and CEO met with EHDC Officers on 22 October 2026, making progress towards agreeing the MoU necessary to establish the Town Council formally as Project Lead and to enable its appointed contractors to undertake works on site.

Following that meeting, EHDC advised of the indicative insurance requirements being considered:

"£10m Public Liability, £10m Employers' Liability and £5m Professional Indemnity as indicative figures, subject to confirmation. Legal have also advised that any indemnity protecting East Herts should ideally remain uncapped, as this is separate from the insurance requirements."

The CEO will provide a further verbal update to Members on progress, including the MoU and procurement arrangements.

The need to appoint environmental and archaeological advisors is also noted as part of the pre-construction stage.

HCC have been asked to provide assurances of adoptability based on the current designs as submitted with the Planning Application. It is anticipated the application will be determined by February 2027 – which provides a small window of opportunity to carry out tree works prior to nesting season.

Jenkins Lane Community Woodland

The Town Council is working in partnership with the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group to organise a further community tree-planting day at Jenkins Lane Community Woodland on Saturday 12th December 2026.

Following the planting of approximately 1,500 native trees in January 2025, a further 500 trees are planned for planting this December. This will include replacement planting for trees lost following the drought, helping to consolidate and strengthen the developing woodland.

The original project, supported by an £18,545 Forestry Commission grant, transformed approximately one hectare of Town Council-owned land at Jenkins Lane into a community woodland, incorporating public access, pathways and interpretation boards.

The woodland is intended to deliver a range of environmental and community benefits, including carbon absorption, improved biodiversity, wildlife habitats, surface water management and the provision of an accessible green space for recreation and wellbeing.

The original planting included native Black Poplars, an increasingly rare species in the UK. The continued inclusion of native species, including Black Poplar, will help support local biodiversity and the conservation of declining tree species.

Black Poplars are dioecious, meaning that individual trees are either male or female. The presence of both sexes is therefore important to the longer-term conservation and natural regeneration of the species. With only approximately 7,000 Black Poplar trees remaining in the UK, particular attention will be given to providing the trees planted at Jenkins Lane with the best possible opportunity to establish and thrive.

Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) – Old Cemetery

Members are asked to receive a verbal update from the Chief Operations Officer on progress in implementing the actions identified within the Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for the Old Cemetery.

For ease of reference, a copy of the GAP is available on the Town Council's website. A number of hard copies will be available to view at the meeting.

BMX Track

Following addition trial holes being done on site in October, Affinity Water has accepted the application to re-direct the existing water pipe, in accordance with the Water Industry Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003.

They are now creating a detailed design and costing, in line with the information provided from AKN Engineering and SB Civils. This will be issued to us on or before 7th December 2026. The original cost quoted by Affinity Water was £83,500 and is now estimated to be £160,000 approx.

We will also be factoring in dates for the felling of trees and clearing of shrub for the BMX Track for January/February which is before nesting season.

COSTS BREAKDOWN – Payments Made to Date		
Contractor	**Works**	**Costs paid to date (excluding VAT)**
Velosolutions	Consultation and Design	£9,067.68
Affinity Water	Diversion Application and Design Fees	£2,161.10
AKN Engineering	Utility Survey	£2,670.00
SB Civils	Trail Holes	£17,586.51
	Total Paid to Date	**£31,485.29**

COSTS BREAKDOWN – Future Payments		
Contractor	**Works**	**Future Costs (excluding VAT)**
Affinity Water	Re-Direction of Water Pipe	£160,000 approx
Velosolutions	BMX Track Build Contamination Remedial Works	£270,000 £4,331.70
BSTC Events	Launch Event	£10,000
	Total	**£444,331.70**

Benches

Five benches have been replaced at Lindsey Road, BSRFC, Parsonage Lane x 2 and Bells Hill. There are another 10 benches to replace fully for 2027.

Playgrounds

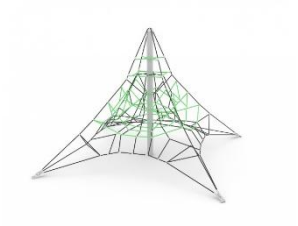
In the Children's Play Area we will be installing a fully inclusive large piece of equipment at approx. 8-10m sq. The equipment will have a small wheelchair ramp, two slides, sensory panels and a climbing rope. The project is at the tender stage, and we hope to have this installed this in January/February.

Waytemore Park installation has started and will be complete by the end of November. In addition to the new equipment, the rocket is being fully refurbished, and the springers will be moved. East Herts have also agreed to install some additional benches.

The following equipment is being installed:







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NOTES OF THE MEETING COMBINED WITH POST MEETING ACTION/INFORMATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 10.00AM – 11.00AM "BRIEFING REPORT"

*	Cllr Stephen Skinner (Chair)	*	Graham Oxborrow (Cycle Stortford) (co-opted)
	Cllr Martin Adams	*	Dave Webber (Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association) (co-opted)
	Cllr Yvonne Estop		
In attendance: Cllr Tim Hoskins, Hilary Mitchell (BSTC). Apologies: Huw Jones, Cllr Yvonne Estop, Cllr Miriam Swainston, Cllr Mark Pope.			

ACTION SHEET OF 24 JULY 2026 – APPENDIX 1 The Action Sheet was received. Members note the following: • Grant funding for secure cycle Enclosure at H&E School – passed to CH. • Bishop's Stortford South (signage) – SS and MS in discussion. • Beating the Boundaries – SS was happy to discuss 2027's event. • Car Share Scheme – JH to present at next meeting. • LCWIP – On agenda for future work of the ST Sub-Committee.	
CYCLE ROUTE NORTH – APPENDIX 2 Members perused the notes of the Teams meeting with WWCT, held on 16 July 2026 and 20 August 2026. SS informed members that WWCT had submitted the planning application (28 August 2026), however, as of yesterday, it had not yet been validated. The Town Council would issue tender requests in October 2026 but this was dependent on the planning application being live. Two tenders were envisaged – one for two bridges and the other for the cycle route. Currently, the lead time on the bridges was 7 months. Public Consultation would take place by the end of October. The Sub-Committee should be prepared for comments by members of the public who may have alternative or added suggestions. The Indie would be reporting on developments. TH mentioned that the weir at Grange Paddocks had been removed (HCC and the Environment Agency) in an effort to restore the River Stort to a natural chalk stream. The weir slowed the flow of water, trapped silt and degraded upstream habitat - its removal had reduced the water level, which, in turn meant that bridge height and clearance may not now be an issue. An second weir was still in-situ.	

CYCLE PARKS IN THE TOWN **Bridge Street** Members agreed that Bridge Street was a suitable site for the installation of cycle parks. In addition, they made the following comments: GO – The cycle parks by the kebab shop in Market Square were heavily used. The pedestrianisation project in North Street might present further potential areas for cycle parks. SS – He had used the railing on the west side of the Market Square. DW – there were plenty of cycle parks around the town, including outside of Nockolds. To be discussed further.	
BISHOP'S STORTFORD SOUTH – SIGNAGE, AND THE SPINNEY, ETC SS informed members that no progress had been made with HCC, although Vistry was keen to go ahead with the signage.	
FOOTPATHS DW stated there was little to report since the last meeting. He appraised members of a few points for information: • A new bridge had been installed in the Southern Country Park. • Two footpaths (001 and 003) under closure in Bishop's Stortford South leading to Obrey Way whilst development work continued. • Shared use of footpaths in Bishop's Stortford North - In the case of the developers cycling on footpaths was permitted, and in this instance the developer had erected dual use signage. Members noted that, if a footpath crossed an estate, it would be adopted by HCC, however if someone cycled across a bridleway on farmers land, it was a civil matter. • Beating the Boundaries 2027 – Bournbrook path was now open, which would enable a walking BTB event next year. SS mentioned that the footpath under the bypass, going west by Tesco (which was the only way to get across the bypass), had been closed with large barriers. DW confirmed that the footpath was now clear. Cllr Miriam Swainston would be notified of any problems.	
TOWN BUS MAP In the absence of YE, this matter was deferred until the next meeting. Members made the following comments: Work on the proposed hotel in Station Road, scheduled to commence summer 2026 had been postponed. It was thought that the transport interchange outside the hotel was not allowed to be installed until the hotel was built.	

DW mentioned that at the Station interchange there was often a row of six buses parked or waiting along the road and he questioned that if a development took place, where would the buses go then? DW stated that the 511 Arriva bus which connected Bishop's Stortford to Ware, followed an orbital route around the town (St James' Park, Thorley Park, Bishop's Stortford Fields) - it took 1.5 hours to complete and ran every half an hour. DW had travelled on one occasion when the bus was almost empty and on making enquiries with driver was told that not many people used the service. DW mentioned that taxis and cars often used the bus lanes. He had recently witnessed an incident where a taxi had to reverse to allow a bus to drive along the bus lane. Once the way was clear, the taxi driver pulled straight back into the bus lane to resume his journey. TH replied that drivers in Hertford frequently ignore these restrictions. While enforcement operations target the issue periodically, motorists simply return to the bus lanes as soon as the monitoring ends. Each time he mentions sustainable transport he is told that there is not enough public transport. He asked members whether this was a viewpoint the Sustainable Transport Sub-Committee could look into? DW questioned whether the Town Council's Tourist Information Centre could become a travel information hub. Perhaps a bus user group could be formed.TH suggested that Interlink be requested to speak at a future meeting of the Sustainable Transport Sub-Committee. He suggested they be specifically questioned about the links between train arrivals and connecting buses.	
COMMUNITY DRIVESAFE SCHEME – SPEED GUN SS informed members that no progress to report at this meeting.	
HOCKERILL AIR QUALITY CONTROL INITIATIVE - TH TH stated that an inaugural meeting of the East Herts Air Quality Action Plan would take place on 28 September 2026. Hockerill junction was one of three areas in East Herts which did not meeting national clean air standards. It could be that conditions elsewhere in the town may have an impact on the air quality at Hockerill. The aim of the initiative was to get a scheme welded into the District Plan. TH had spoken to Mark Doran who had been very helpful. Members noted that local schools were not adhering to their Travel Plans and emphasised the importance of visiting schools to encourage implementation. GO mentioned that schools in Bishop's Stortford were populated with students from all over the area - the Avanti school admitted pupils from Takeley. DW pointed out the problem caused by lack of careful planning – for example, the supermarket at the back of the station which added to the traffic backing up along Hockerill. GO mentioned that The Bid had done an excellent job on the weekend pedestrianisation project in North Street – a huge amount of consultation had taken place and the concerns of the local businesses had been taken into account. The next phase was an article in The Indie which would inform a wider audience of the scheme. TH confirmed that he would like to involve The Bid at a later stage in the process.	

To drive the initiative forward, a modeller and experienced personnel from HCC, EHDC and Town Council were required. Matt Bendall had a very positive outlook and was keen to progress this matter as quickly as possible.	
CASTLE PARK SIGNAGE SS informed members that there was little to report, despite correspondence with Emily Tickridge, EHDC. This matter was on-going.	
TOW PATH REFURBISHMENT – SS SS reported that a small section from the Station Road to the Millenium Bridge had already been resurfaced. Finances for this project were first to be approved by the Town Council's Finance Committee, which may recommend CRT to decide on final surfacing.	
FUTURE WORK OF SUB-COMMITTEE The following items would be considered for discussion at future meetings: • LCWIP • Ramp at the Station • Car Share Scheme (CEO) • Town Bus Map (YE) • Interlink	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING 22 October 2026, at 10am	
CLOSE OF MEETING 11:00 hrs	

NOTES OF THE

WATERSIDE STORTFORD MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026

ATTENDEES

Sim Richardson (Bishop's Stortford Town Council)
Cllr Stephen Skinner (Bishop's Stortford Town Council)
Cllr Murray White (Bishop's Stortford Town Council)
Howard Clark (Canal and River Trust)
Tony Pook (Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation)
Kate Towler (Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust)
Kallum Wright (Hertfordshire County Council)
George Cutting (IWA Lee & Stort Branch and Stort Boat Club)
Andy Gee (Whoosh Canoe Club)
Angela Aldam (Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club)

ACRONYMS	
BSTC	Bishop's Stortford Town Council
EHDC	East Herts District Council
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
CRT	Canal and River Trust
EA	Environment Agency
IWA	Inland Waterway Association
HMWT	Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
GGSS	Grow Green Spaces Stortford
SOS	Save Our Stort
TUBS	Tidy Up Bishop's Stortford
BSCG	Bishop's Stortford Climate Group
FCP	Friends of Castle Park
CMS	Countryside Management Services

1. NOTES FROM MEETING OF MONDAY 15th JUNE 2026

The notes were approved.

2. WATERSIDE STORTFORD UPDATES

BIODIVERSITY

Grange Paddocks Weir

More than 200 bags filled with concrete were removed from the River Stort as part of an ambitious restoration project. They formed the foundation of the Grange Paddocks weir, which has now been completely removed.

As the last of the structure was removed and water flowed freely for the first time in decades, engineers strung a silt net between the banks to stop sediment moving downstream.

Work to build a platform so residents can still enjoy the riverbank is now complete.

The project will create a healthier environment for wildlife that depends on clean, well-oxygenated water and varied river habitats. That includes introducing gravels to support fish spawning, creating areas of faster and slower flowing water, improving the riverbank for mammals like water voles and strengthening ecological resilience in the face of climate change.

Water Testing

The HMWT River Guardians are starting a new group on the Stort who will be collecting monthly samples at Castle Park and they will be testing several different variables as well as recording general information about river health and any changes to the site.

They will be testing:

- Phosphate
- Turbidity
- Nitrita and Nitrate
- Ammonia
- Conductivity
- Temperature

As I mentioned, the Environment Act 2021 obligates wastewater authorities to install continuous (at least every 15 minutes) water quality testing upstream and downstream of 25% of their assets by 2030. By 2030, they will need to be able to provide real-time data but for the moment they as only providing data from 28 days or more ago.

They will be monitoring:

- Dissolved oxygen
- Conductivity
- Temperature
- pH
- Turbidity
- Ammonium

As part of this project, monitors are already up and running on the Stort, at Little Hallingbury and at Rye Meads.

Invasive Species

HMWT are looking for new sites to remove invasive species. They must have 10m x 5m of Himalayan Balsam present in an area with no public access.

ACTION: Andy Gee to help with possible locations.

MAINTENANCE

Sewage

Sewage was discharged into the Stort Navigation in September 2026. This was caused by a Thames water unintentional spillage by a faulty valve during a scheduled operation.

Environment Agency teams are monitoring the water quality and assessing the impact on the river and its wildlife.

Hundreds of dead fish were found. This could have been due to the sewage and duckweed. CRT noted that they were looking to remove the duckweed.

Bishop's Stortford's MP Josh Dean called on the Government to nationalise Thames Water after raw sewage was discharged into the Stort navigation.

He told colleagues the Stort was a globally significant chalk stream and an important community resource, delivering enormous social, recreational and environmental benefits.

ACTION:
Environment Agency to consult with water sports organisations to let them know if they are able to use the river in these circumstances.
Sim Richardson to circulate the river boundaries and ownership to the group.
Sim Richardson to invite and EHDC Councillor and Thames Water to the next meeting.

Canal Towpath
Two quotes have been provided by CRT for the towpath repairs. They have been asked to request a grant from BSTC for the work.

The repairs are to include widening the towpath to 1.8m width and surfacing with a buff-coloured crushed aggregate surface dressing ("tar-spray and chip"), reusing the existing sublayer where possible, and replacing the sublayer where needed.

The towpath from the Goods Yard to London Road will be completed by the developers of the Goods Yard when it is completed.

Life Rings
It was suggested a life ring be installed on the towpath between Station Road Bridge and the Millenium Bridge.

ACTION:
Sim Richardson to ask CRT in writing and update information currently on the life rings including what3words.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Monday 14th December 2026 at 10am** at the Council Chambers, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2ND.