

Lead Member Reports 09/12/2025

Leaders report to Council; December 2025

I continue to be heavily involved in **Local Government Reform (LGR)**, or rather one could say “abolition” as the government presses ahead with this rather than it seems devolution, as was originally promised. Devolution could see additional powers and monies transferred from Whitehall to the local area. The three LGR options for Hertfordshire have been submitted, and we wait to see what the government will consult on and then what it will impose.

It's clear from what has occurred in Surrey we may not get what residents want. One thing that is clear is the government wants to see less councilors and that even got a mention in the budget. Cutting democrat representation will save £250m the Chancellor said.

It is also clear that this reorganization is going to cost millions. I am told that each Herts Council might have to initially put aside £1m to work on this and the County £10m!!! And that I expect excludes the hundreds of hours of our officers' time and energy spent on this. They have done a great job so far and I thank them all.

The money that will be spent on LGR would in my view be better spent on local services. As at least one (several residents) said at the public forums I held “It an' t broken so let's not fix it” when referring to Three Rivers.

Related to this we have started two Community Governance reviews; one requested by Chorleywood Parish Council over its boundaries and the date of the next election and one covering the remaining parished area. I personally feel that under the new unitary council Parish Councils could play a much more vital role in having that ultra local voice.

The **Local Plan** is now nearing completion, and I expect the final Regulation 19 to be presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 26th January 2026 and then to the Special Council meeting on the 27th. If agreed this will then go out for the final statutory consultation (6 weeks) before officers submit it with any technical changes to the government for approval. I hope that it will in by April. As our expert stage 4 Green Belt review showed there are key areas of Three Rivers that the release of such land would “fundamentally undermine” the purpose of the Green Belt, if large scale development sites were included.

I would have liked the submission to have been earlier. However, the Council's ability to progress its Green Belt assessment work as quickly as I would have liked was also affected by the Government's month-long delay in issuing updated guidance on undertaking Green Belt reviews. This interruption introduced an unavoidable pause at a critical stage in the plan-making process, as it would have been premature to progress technical assessments without clarity on Green Belt status. This delay was unhelpful. However, officers have

worked tirelessly on this whilst understanding the difficulties we face in the nature our area.

Everyone is aware there are significant constraints on Three Rivers in meeting the Government's full housing requirement. Three Rivers is a predominantly semi-rural district, comprising a dispersed network of settlements. We have just one principal town (Rickmansworth population circa 20,000) the rest being "small towns" – affording more protection under Green Belt policies -villages, hamlets and some urban area on the outskirts of Watford and Northwood.

In much of the northwest of the district, that reaches into the Zone of Influence for the Chiltern Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation, is characterized by occasional hamlets linked by single track roads and no public transport.

As a result, our settlement pattern inherently limits opportunities for strategic growth. The supply of developable brownfield land is extremely restricted; most previously developed sites have already been utilised or are subject to significant constraints such as flooding. As a result, despite four call-for- sites we have only been able to identify limited brownfield availability enabling just over 600 dwellings on such sites.

It is, therefore, certain Three Rivers will submit numbers that are below the housing numbers required by both this and previous governments. I sincerely hope that all councillors might put aside party policies and petty insults and unite behind a plan that best supports the area.

In that regards I must thank the Three Rivers Joint Residents' Association for there continued helpful and positive input into the plan and their backing for our approach to this.

I am pleased that Three Rivers Council is hitting all the right buttons in tackling the **climate emergency**. From installing more electric vehicle charging points in car parks, helping restore a rare chalk stream, planting more trees, installing solar panels on its Lesure centers and building, requiring all developers must meet bio-diversity net gain targets, and now investigating the feasibility of solar canopies in some council owned car parks.

I am pleased we supported the free "Your Tree our Future " scheme for residents. So recently we were a 2025 award winner for our joint community energy work was so satisfying. Being recognized as a "trailblazing council". We have more to do but thus was good news.

I have continued to work with our **Parish Council's** and hosted another of the regular engagement events with them.

I also have a further informal meeting with some key **Rickmansworth traders** and had a video promoting the excellent local shops and venues we have not only in Rickmansworth but across the district.

The **Chief Constable** has briefed me on his operational changes in Three Rivers, the role of the new Chief Inspector covering both Three Rivers and Watford and the activity and deployment of both the neighbourhood team and the serving officers. He is clearly keen to see more officers out and about in the community. Likewise, I discussed and meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss policing issues including yet again misleading facts being spread about crimes.

I have to say I am sad that David Tobin has resigned as Chair and councillor from Croxley Green Parish Council. I had always found him understanding and willing to work cooperatively with TRDC and myself to help resolve issues not least as regards the **Barton Way** site. Those who undertake community work such as David has done for the benefit of their area, should never to be subject of vitriolic attacks and abuse. This now seems to be the norm when people disagree, to resort to personal attacks, innuendo if not downright lies. As a result, I believe, understandably less people want to serve or to put their heads about the parapet for fear of such attacks, especially through social media. As a result, we are all worse off.

However, this Council is following through on the Barton Way scheme and it's on the Council agenda seeking council financial input to support it. Whilst it still requires final planning permission it will, if agreed, be a new community facility, new parish offices and 8 affordable rent homes into the heart of Croxley Green and I am pleased to have helped to push this along and I know David is.

I want to wish all councillors the very best for this season as we end 2025 and enter 2026, I hope the spirit of goodwill and tolerance to all might just carry on through into 2026. We can disagree but without the personal spite.

But my final message is to pay a very big thank you to ALL of the Council's staff, from our barrow beat team our refuse operators, to our ground and leisure team, those that work to ensure our communities are safe, deal with housing issues and planning applications are just a few. But a special "thank you" to those who are front of the house at the reception in Three Rivers House. Our staff and officers are backbone of what we do. As Leader it's a delight that EVERYONE I have spoken to over the year have shown me how much they all care about delivering the very service no matter the constraints. Without them this council would not get its massively high satisfaction ranking (77%). Let us all thank the staff for the services they deliver.

So, Seasons Greetings to you all, come back in 2026 refreshed and willing to do better still.

Stephen

Lead Member Report Councillor Nelmes GPS December 2025

Waste Services

- We passed the Health and Safety Audit on 18th November
- Collection calendars are now online and will be publicised in all the usual ways, including in the Members Information Bulletin
- Welwyn and Hatfield working of publishing a Transparency Notice to facilitate the Direct Award of the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) Contract

Herts Waste Partnership

- Thomas Began has now started as the Head of HWP
- Compositional analysis scheduled for February 2026
- The next meeting is scheduled for 8 December

Fleet & Fleet Maintenance

- The vehicle maintenance contract is nearing completion

Grounds Maintenance

- The annual bulb and tree planting event took place on 8 November and was well received by those attending

Animal Inspection and Licensing

- We are still working to find a new kennel provider
- We continue to work with the various agencies involved with the property in Moor Lane

Environmental Enforcement

- We continue to work on a number of cases

Bereavement Services

- PlotBox (a new cemetery management system) is now live for officer use and the customer facing side of things eg for family searches, is the next stage
- Works at East Lane cemetery to clean the markers and fix back to plinths, is scheduled to commence 8 December

Parking

- High Elms Lane – parking scheme commenced with most parking restrictions now implemented.
- Primrose Hill – work continues to complete the line marking here to complete this parking scheme.
- Chorleywood – officers are further reviewing part of the parking scheme, following the consultation responses, prior to making their recommendation on progressing the scheme.
- Rickmansworth West Review – an initial consultation on the review of this parking scheme launched 1 December with the opportunity for all residents, businesses and visitors to provide feedback.

- Rickmansworth Parking review – the council has begun work on reviewing the parking restrictions in Rickmansworth including those which are in car parks and on-road.
- Gosforth Lane – this parking scheme has been consulted on, and officers are further reviewing part of the scheme prior to making their recommendation on progressing the scheme.
- Ferry Carpark – this scheme has been implemented.
- Various Schemes – plans are being drawn up to introduce additional No Waiting at Any Time restrictions (double yellow lines) across various roads in the district. This will be consulted on early in 2026.
- Community Way Carpark review – a meeting to progress this scheme is being held on 8 December with local Councillors.

Transport

- EV charging infrastructure – 6 sites have been delivered using ORCS and CIL funding. This project is nearing completion with 3 more to come
- Beryl Bikes – work is underway to investigate expansion into new areas including Rickmansworth, South Oxhey and Leavesden
- LCWIP - has been adopted by Hertfordshire County Council

Report from the Lead Member for Resources, Regeneration and Economic Development, Councillor Louise Price – December 2025

Finance Updates

Azets presented their Annual Audit Report to Audit Committee on 27th November 2025.

Their report on arrangements for VfM (Value for Money) concludes:

“We have not identified any significant weaknesses in the Council’s arrangements and so are satisfied that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.”

In commenting on the Council’s financial sustainability, Azets note:

“The MTFP (Mid-Term Financial Plan) assumes the savings targets will be achieved in full to avoid further reliance being placed on in-year use of general fund reserves over the period to 2027/28. The Council recognises there is an inflationary impact on utility costs and interest rates impacting the borrowing costs. The Council does not have additional borrowing needs for 2025/26, and the higher interest rates produce favourable returns for the Council through the investment of cash balances.

Notwithstanding the challenging financial pressures over the MTFP period, the Council’s arrangements for identifying its financial and economic risks and understanding its position are strong. The MTFP is well-thought-through and management is responsive to in-year changes to income and cost and their impact both in the current year and future MTFP plans. The Council’s financial management in-year has enabled it to reduce its draw on General Fund reserves compared to previous years. Risks associated with the assumptions in the MTFP are well-understood and well-articulated and the MTFP is a detailed, granular strategy with an in-depth level of consideration across all areas of funding, costs and risks.”

The Government’s Budget on 26th November 2025 contained proposals for the High Value Council Tax Surcharge, whilst Three Rivers District Council will be responsible for collecting this, the income will be transferred to Government. Key things for us are:

- The changes to salary sacrifice pension do not affect us as the local government pension scheme is an ‘opted in’ scheme.
- The increase to national living wage does not impact us as we have already incorporated the increase to Real Living Wage which is above this level.

- The removal of the two-child benefit cap may require changes to the CTSS scheme to reflect changes in income levels as a result as our CTSS scheme currently caps income disregard for children at 2.
- The bringing together of administration for pension credit and housing benefit will impact on Revenues and Benefits along with administration of the new council tax surcharge.

We also received the policy statement on Fair Funding. This confirmed the council tax referenda limit for districts at 2.99% or £5 and gave some more details on changes to the formulae and transitional arrangements. Our final position will not be confirmed until the Provisional Settlement which is expected the week beginning 15th December 2025.

Budget monitoring is underway and will form the base budget for Policy and Resources in January 2026.

Projects and Property Updates

South Oxhey Phase 3

Officers are obtaining quotes for an updated parking capacity survey to identify post-redevelopment parking pressures within the heart of South Oxhey. The findings from the report will be used to inform any required mitigation works & actions.

Local Authority Housing Fund – Rounds 1, 2 & 3

MHCLG is under ministerial pressure to close LAHF1 and LAHF2, with LAHF2 now complete, TRDC are pushing on with securing the substitute properties required whilst the garage sites are being developed. Officers have been in contact with local Registered Providers to ensure that there are sufficient available properties, once the resettlement flights resume.

With respect to LAHF3, of the 12no. properties to be secured, four properties are 'legal instructed', a further two have building survey reports which are being reviewed and a further 4no. properties have just had building surveys commissioned. There has been some, limited, negative social media opposition to Afghan family housing, and TRDC's ASB Team are continuing to monitor community tensions closely.

Three Rivers House – Ground Floor Letting

The draft lease is all but completed and ready for signature. The main focus of work now is to conclude the licence to alter with Harrow Health, and to obtain planning approval and signage proposals for their planned changes. Officers continue to work through practicalities such as bin storage, parking, and a refurbishment compound; service costs have been agreed, ensuring TRDC no longer funds occupation or business rates for the space.

Barton Way Building, Croxley Green

The planning application has been submitted and now awaits validation. Officers are pleased to report that the final layout and use of the space has been agreed with Parish Council. The only outstanding matter now is to agree the rent following an independent valuation; a joint press release will follow. As Members will be aware, a more detailed update is provided with the report to Council that is being considered today.

Sir James Altham & Oxhey Jets Football Club, South Oxhey

At the Oxhey Jets clubhouse, improvement works, continue as part of their successful CIL bid with a new heating system installed and further upgrades—to the windows, doors and roof works left to complete. With further works to include the construction of a new 4G pitch and stand improvements, which are planned for next summer.

Three Rivers Museum Trust – Basing House Lease

Officers continue working with the Museum Trust on finalising lease terms. TRMT have responded with some queries regarding practical matters, and we await their comments on the draft lease.

Bullsland Hall, Chorleywood – Lease Surrender

Chorleywood Parish Council have agreed terms with a potential tenant to operate a day care facility from the premises. In order to permit this change of use, the lease needs to be varied and a part-rent share agreement with TRDC needs to be concluded. TRDC's Legal Team have been instructed, and the Parish Council's solicitor has been asked to provide a copy of the draft underlease for review.

Thank you to officers for their assistance in compiling this report.

Lead Member Report for Leisure Councillor Lloyd

Watersmeet

Panto

- This year's panto Beauty and the Beast currently (as of 27/11/25) has 303 tickets reserved and 10,948 tickets sold. This is 900 tickets down on this time last year, but still 1,000 tickets up on 2023. Additional time is being spent on targeting specific groups to increase sales.
- The panto civic night is Friday 5 December @ 6pm. I have bought my tickets and will be attending with my wife and grandson. Eddy the Eagle Edwards (Competed in the Olympics in 1988) is starring as Professor Crackpot.
- Next year's panto is confirmed as Peter Pan and is on sale now.

Box office/Marketing

- The membership scheme has 129 members.

Capital works

- Electrical works contractor has been appointed – Govier Electrical with works taking place around events and expected to be completed by end of February 2026.
- Door replacement and repair contractor has been appointed – Global HSE with works expected to be completed by end of February 2026.
- The venue is working with the climate change and sustainability team to carry out cavity wall insulation. Climate Change & Sustainability team are leading this project and is booked in to be carried out during last week of January 2026.
- The venue's auditorium air conditioning has had a thorough service and inspection, and we are awaiting the report to determine if this will need replacement. If the report identifies that replacement is needed the council will need to decide if it is going to allocate capital budget to complete the works in future years.
- Capital bids are not being considered this year due to budget constraints. Therefore, no capital projects are planned for 2026/27 financial year. This is not expected to cause any issues for Watersmeet this year but will likely present significant challenges if repeated in future years. Capital investment that will need to be considered in the next 3 years include:
 - Auditorium air conditioning (subject to outcome of survey report)
 - Replacement of motorised theatre access equipment
 - Replacement of theatre sound system, speakers and subs
 - Replacement of stage winch and hemp flying system

Watersmeet Annual Review

Watersmeet annual review 2024-25 was presented to October Climate Change and Leisure committee.

Open Spaces

The Green at Croxley Green

Verbal update by Leader or Lead member at Full Council.

Management Plans for 2025/2026

- Prestwick Road Meadows – The second engagement is out for public consultation until 28 November 2025
- Stone's Orchard and The Green Management Plan – the consultation has now closed, and the site visit has taken place. This will be discussed at CCL on 14th January 2026.

The Glade Bridge

- Essential repairs are being carried.
- Options are being considered for the long term

Rickmansworth Aquadrome Vehicle Bridge:

- Following a recent structural survey some routine maintenance works were identified as needing to be done to the vehicle bridge. These works were done in the week of the 17 November.

Leisure Management Contract:

- Three Rivers District Council have arranged the install of EV chargers (via Blink) within South Oxhey Leisure Centre and William Penn Leisure Centre car parks. SOLC is complete and live, with WPLC due to be completed by the end of the year. -
- Working together with Geo Green Power to install solar panels on South Oxhey Leisure Centre roof. Installation works anticipated to be completed by March 2026.
- Golfpod driving range for Rickmansworth Golf Course nearing completion regarding legal work for sub leasing / license arrangements. Golfpod anticipates commencing construction works in the beginning months of 2026.
- William Penn Leisure Centre sports hall will have new pickleball lines completed on Friday 19th December.. .
- William Penn Leisure Centre / South Oxhey Leisure Centre - we continue to support U19s Free Gym Sessions & Free Swim (Only in School Holidays) and over 60's Free swims.

Leisure Development

Artistsmeet

- Oct – Nov exhibition: Romey Brough exhibiting from 3 October to 2 December.
- December has been reserved by Watersmeet for Panto. They will lead on the exhibition.
- Jan - Mar: Laura Santry (event TBC) <https://yellobelliart.bigcartel.com/about>

Play Rangers

Play Rangers term time sessions and school delivery continued until the end of November. The Play Ranger team are then on their winter break returning on Monday 28 February 2026.

Leavesden Country Park football pitch and pavilion

Evergreen FC have been sent draft heads of terms to review regarding the lease.

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Online consultation for residents around activity habits and participation will be online in Nov/Dec. This will feed into the update due to come to committee in 2026.

Halloween Ghost Trail – Stones Orchard

813 players took part in the Halloween trail at Stones Orchard; Croxley Green and 3,248,001 steps were walked on this trail. There will be two more locations for QR code trails at Christmas, Leavesden Country Park, and Rickmansworth Aquadrome for the duration of December.

Natural Infrastructure and Projects (There is crossover with Climate Change and General Public Services).

Aquadrome Programme

Aquadrome Steering Group – The October meeting was well supported by stakeholders and has resulted in positive feedback. The agenda included RSK introducing their initial thoughts of the Landscape and Environmental Design Brief. They ran a consultation workshop to look at the design development alongside Haley Sharpe and LinkyThinks, who looked at the softer elements of the project such as the nature and poetry trails.

The minutes and all presentations are hosted on the Councils website.

NLHF main application- WWW bid

- Development Phase bid for £787,315.40 was successful and will be completed by 31 August 2026
- RSK have been commissioned and are now focusing on generating the site wide plans with detailed infrastructure designs, and stakeholder engagement .
- The EA Flood Modelling has now been released and is being used to complete the Hydrological study of the site.
- Officers submitted the Q1 Progress Report to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This covered all aspects of the project for the first three months. It was well received. Officers continue to work towards submitting the Delivery Phase bid in November 2026 for approximately £4m. If successful, this funding will be confirmed for a start date of March 2027 and a project delivery period up to April 2030.

Comms

- The Lottery funded Community Engagement officer, Marcus Day, has begun a series of activities aimed to meet the public. Recent events include a stand at the Aquadrome during half term, Watersmeet Christmas Fair and the Seniors Forum.
Residents are invited to meet Marcus in most weathers on Tuesdays between 10am and 12pm outside the Café in the Park during December and on Wednesdays between 12pm and 2pm during January 2026.
- Educational signage is now in place at the Bird Viewing Platform explaining the local birds and appropriate feeding.

Activities

- The Autumn Nature Challenge booklet was well received, and children have enjoyed this exciting child focused self-guided activity booklet.

Scotsbridge

- Following issues in previous years with schools visiting and entering the river without consent and the council subsequently advertising that this is not permitted at Scotsbridge. Officers have recognised the main challenge raised by

schools is the need to collate and analyse data for geography field work. Therefore, officers have collected the raw data from Scotsbridge and will make this freely available for all students to use.

- Further to this, if further permission is sought and conditions met (risk assessments, insurances) schools may be able to visit the site and observe the river from the bank – not entering the water.

Capital Programme

Ebury Play Area

Officers continue to work with the contractor to produce a remediation and mobilisation plan to resolve the issue of Japanese Knotweed. Updates are on the website and signage on site for visitors. There have been site investigations with specialist contractors to assist with the remediation programme. Works have been undertaken and completed to treat and remove the invasive weeds including Japanese Knotweed that were present on the areas of land which TRDC have already taken back possession from the contractor. Officers will continue to update Councillors.

Barton Way Play Area refurbishment

Timetable for next steps are:

- Application for permitted development has been submitted - awaiting validation approval and decision from planning
- Subject to planning approval, works are scheduled to commence in February 2026 and to be complete by March 2026, weather permitting.
- Croxley Cllrs to be updated as the project progresses

Officers have received confirmation from Croxley Green Parish Council for £30,000 funding from their Neighbourhood CIL pot towards the project.

Lead Member Report for Sustainability and Climate Change, Councillor Jon Tankard

What the Sustainability and Bio Diversity Team have been and are doing.

- Highly Commended most supportive Local Authority for Community Energy.
- Councillor completes and graduates the UK 100 Climate Leadership Academy, vast array of contacts and potential partnering arrangements confirmed.
- Asset resilience thru sustainable measures currently exceeding performance expectations, Notes at the end of the report.

Carbon Offsetting Principles for Hertfordshire: Report updating senior leadership on the HCCSP carbon offsetting principles and asking for approval to create a document formalising the council's approach to carbon offsetting is aiming for CMT 9/12/25.

Warm Homes Local Grant (2025-2028):

18 live applications from Three Rivers residents so far - these are being assessed for eligibility, and once eligibility evidenced, homes will be surveyed, and installers will provide quotes for the work.

Social media posts (including paid advertising on Facebook/Instagram), mail-outs to EPC D properties with uninsulated cavity walls, and a feature in the Greener Living e-newsletter have been undertaken to market the scheme. Further marketing to be considered with the managing agent.

1 Three Rivers property completed, and a further 3 approved to proceed to installation. Quotes of surveyed properties coming through on an ongoing basis for approval.

Timelines from resident applying to the grant to receiving an installation are longer than expected due to the front-loaded paperwork needed to comply with DESNZ rules and the fact this is the first year of navigating the scheme. The project is still confident we will spend our first-year allocation, however it is likely to be to fewer homes (higher average spend on fewer homes).

Grand Union Community Energy contracts:

Sustainable Streets (formerly Transition Streets) launched 10th November 2025. A press release was published on 4/11/25:

<https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/news/sustainable-streets-2025>

Marketing of the scheme to follow.

The Community Energy services contract is currently being counter-signed by TRDC. This contract will seek to encourage domestic retrofit and adoption of heat pumps and renewable energy technologies, and support with community-funded retrofit of community buildings in the district where opportunities arise.

Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy

When & What is it: A countywide strategy to increase uptake of domestic retrofit across Hertfordshire. TRDC endorsed the Strategy, at HCCSP on 3rd July 2025.

What is being done: A priority action of the Retrofit Strategy is to seek to procure a countywide retrofit advice service for Hertfordshire residents.

TRDC were unsuccessful in securing Innovate UK Funding to enable the National Energy Foundation to refine and scale their One Stop Shop service. HCCSP are seeking alternative funding from MCS Foundation or the National Lottery. HCCSP have commenced the formation of a steering group comprising the different sectors, and Ellie has put herself forward.

Investment Readiness Service (IRS) Grant – Business Case Creation for the Solar Car Park Canopies

When: In March 2025 the council were awarded a £75k grant from the Greater South East Net Zero Hub as part of their Investment Readiness Service. The project will complete in March 2026. The business cases are expected – Rose Garden, SOLC and WPLC:

What are we doing: Engagement events are complete. The provisional business case for the Rose Garden has been submitted, and several points are being clarified before sharing further.

SOLC Roof Top Solar:

When: . Target for installation February 2026

What: What Are We Doing?

- Supplier Services contract signed
- DNO approved
- Draft power purchase agreement created
- Prior Planning Approval received.
- Leases variations and contract variations underway

Three Rivers House Roof Top Solar

When: Target for installation March '26

What are we doing?: .

Services contract completed, waiting signing

Prior Planning approval received.

DNO application submitted

Next Steps: RAMS for facilities to approve

Cavity Wall Insulation for Three Rivers House and Watersmeet

When: TRH Target February / March 2026 tbc with facilities

Watersmeet – 26-28th January

What are we doing: The insurers have approved the material – SupaFill 40.

Creating the contract with Carbon Rewind who won the tender for £64,000.

Ensuring the TRH roof top solar installation and this project, utilise the same scaffolding, and the two suppliers work together.

Funding: A mix of internal budgets are being used, and we are waiting to see if we have secured a grant from the Theatre Fund.

Batchworth Depot Solar Array Extension

When: TBC

What are we doing: Planning to install 18kWp solar array consisting of 36* 510w PV panels mounted on a ballast system. We are also considering a battery. It is estimated to cost approx. £15,000, will reduce the depot electricity bill by over £2000 and anticipated to payback in 8 years. We plan to use the sustainability Capital Fund. The system will reduce the 5t CO₂e generated at present to 3tCO₂e.

NB The depot has an existing 3.75 kWp array consisting of 10 * 375w panel, controlled by a 3.6kW Solis inverter.

What are we doing: Seeking tender from 3 local MCS registered suppliers

Energy Plan:

When: Currently and in the coming 6 months

What: Officers are developing an Energy Plan

What are we doing:

- Draft Plan is written, evidence base and presentation work underway.

Environmental Forum

When Wednesday 18th March – location and time TBC, likely Chorleywood at 7pm.

What are we doing? The report was recommended from JLT to go to CCLC 14th January.

Proposed Data Centre

We were unsuccessful in securing HNDU funding.

What are we doing:

GUCE's high level feasibility study will complete in April 2026. We are establishing what further studies and evidence will be required to have a sufficient information to apply to the Green Heat Network Fund. Once this is understood we can work out how to fund the work required.

We are introducing developers with proposed sites in the vicinity of the data centre to a potential heat network provider, so these developers can consider heat networks rather than ASHP.

Why: to ensure future developments could connect to a network

Business Solar and Battery Grant

When: February 2026

What: We propose to launch a grant for SME's to encourage the installation of solar and batteries.

The grant will be up to £3,000 and will require at least 75% match funding from the recipient. We will be targeting the industrial estates, and applicants will be required to complete our business energy survey to help contribute to the Three Rivers Energy Plan. Due diligence will be in place to prevent fraud.

We intend to spend £30,000 - £50,000 of the climate change budgets, including the new budget, depending on the demand. We have budgeted for £30,000 but if some of our other planned expenditure is delayed until next year, then we can increase to £50,000.

Why: enabling businesses to install renewable energy will improve their energy security, reduce their bills and improve their resilience to future price rises, save carbon, reduce pressure on the grid, and with the battery storage aid the utility companies in flexing the grid. In addition, it should unlock over £200,000 worth of investment in the district which will help support the local economy.

What we need: Take a report to SLT for approval.

Solar and Heat Pump campaigns

When: January 2026

What: Twin campaigns to promote solar and heat pump installations to residents and businesses, particularly in the able to pay group. We are looking to commission campaign materials from an external designer, and assets will include waste vehicle banners, social media images, posters, logo etc which can be used across the District, and possibly with partners for a fee.

Tree Protection

- A new Tree Preservation Order (TPO 934) was served in July at 156 The Drive, Rickmansworth. The TPO was served in response to concerns from local

residents regarding protection of trees at the location, and to update an existing TPO covering the site. One objection to the TPO has been received, so confirmation (making permanent) of the TPO will be referred to planning committee. A legal challenge to the TPO has also been made by the owner, officers and legal have responded to this.

Following the presentation of an officer report to November planning committee, Members voted unanimously to Confirm TPO 934, and revoke TPO 173. The TPO will be sealed and copy sent to the tree owner and interested parties.

TRDC Tree management

- Ash Die Back – The annual inspection of high priority areas commenced during July 2025. Officers are currently considering the results of this year's inspections.
- Tree safety inspection of higher risk areas (for inspection on an 18-month cycle) – A local consultancy, Maydencroft, have been appointed to carry out these inspections, due for completion by Feb 2026. **No update.**
- Tree Officers will also be starting the inspection of trees for safety, on lower risk areas of TRDC land (inspected on 36-month cycle) this financial year. A third of areas will be inspected each year to complete the cycle. **No update**
- Pond Wood, South Oxhey – CMS, working in partnership with TRDC are developing a management plan for Pond Wood in South Oxhey. The public engagement session on-site on the 16th September had very little engagement but was generally supportive. A draft plan for the site has been received and is currently being reviewed by officers.
- Woodland management works – Officers are currently planning woodland management works for the winter. Projects include Sycamore thinning and hedge laying works at Leavesden Country Park; hedge laying and hedge restoration works at Carpenters Wood; Conifer thinning works at Oxhey Woods. Thinning works at Catamoles Wood, Chorleywood House Estate have begun and will be progressing through November and December. **No update**
- Standard tree planting for the season is currently being planned and trees should be planted during December 2025 and January 2026.

River Restoration and Management

Hydrological Study: *No update, work is progressing*

When: Estimated for completion late December/early January

Where: For Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

What it is: The hydrological study helps us understand the movement of water in, across and out of the site.

What it's doing: It will inform design of infrastructure interventions at the site.

Draft Management Plan for The Green & Stones Orchard

When: Will go to Climate Change & Leisure Committee on 14th January 2026.

Where: The Green & Stones Orchard, Croxley Green

What it is: New management plan for the Green & Stones Orchard, to guide how the site is managed over the next 5 years

What it's doing: Sets out how the sites will be managed over the coming 5 years with support from the Parish Council. Following the report being discussed at JLT earlier in November, the report will progress to be discussed a CCL in January.

Biodiversity Policy Update including Biodiversity Duty Reporting

When: Must be published before 26th March 2026; scheduled for discussion 26th January at P&R

Where: District Wide, the report will be discussed at P&R and then Full Council

What it is: An update to the Biodiversity Policy adopted in July 2024 Full Council including meeting a legislative obligation of the Environment Act to ensure local authorities have due regard for biodiversity.

What it's doing: This will include an updated Biodiversity Policy; acknowledgement of the Herts Local Nature Recovery Strategy; reporting on BNG within the District and how the council is considering biodiversity within several strategies/policies.

What we're doing about it: Officers have commenced work on the report, in anticipation for the end of the reporting period 31.12.2025. The Development Management team are assisting with collating BNG data. The report will be discussed in a draft form at JLT on 6th January 2026 ahead of P&R on 26th January 2026. A separate briefing for Cllrs Tankard and Mitchell will be arranged ahead of JLT as requested.

Air pollution and noise pollution

Noise Pollution – no update

Residential Environmental Health continue to see a significant amount of noise and smoke nuisance complaints made by residents to the council. This includes complaints from development/building sites within the district. Officers will always consider the use of formal enforcement powers, however, in the first instance, Officers will attempt to work with the parties involved to achieve an informal resolution.

It is important to note that whilst the upcoming colder months tend to see a reduction of smoke complaints from residential addresses, this period usually sees an increase in complaints of burning of building waste on constructions sites. Officers will attempt to prioritise these complaints over this period and try to take action quickly on this type of burning.

Future Reports	Committee	Date of Meeting
Environmental Forum Terms of Reference,	CCL	14/01/26
Batchworth Depot Solar Panel Extension	P&R	06/01/26
Key Meetings		Date of Meeting

William Penn Leisure Centre | Solar PV Performance Update | October 2025

Headlines

1. The solar PV system has been operational since the 28th of November 2024.
2. Since being switched-on it has generated the following benefits:

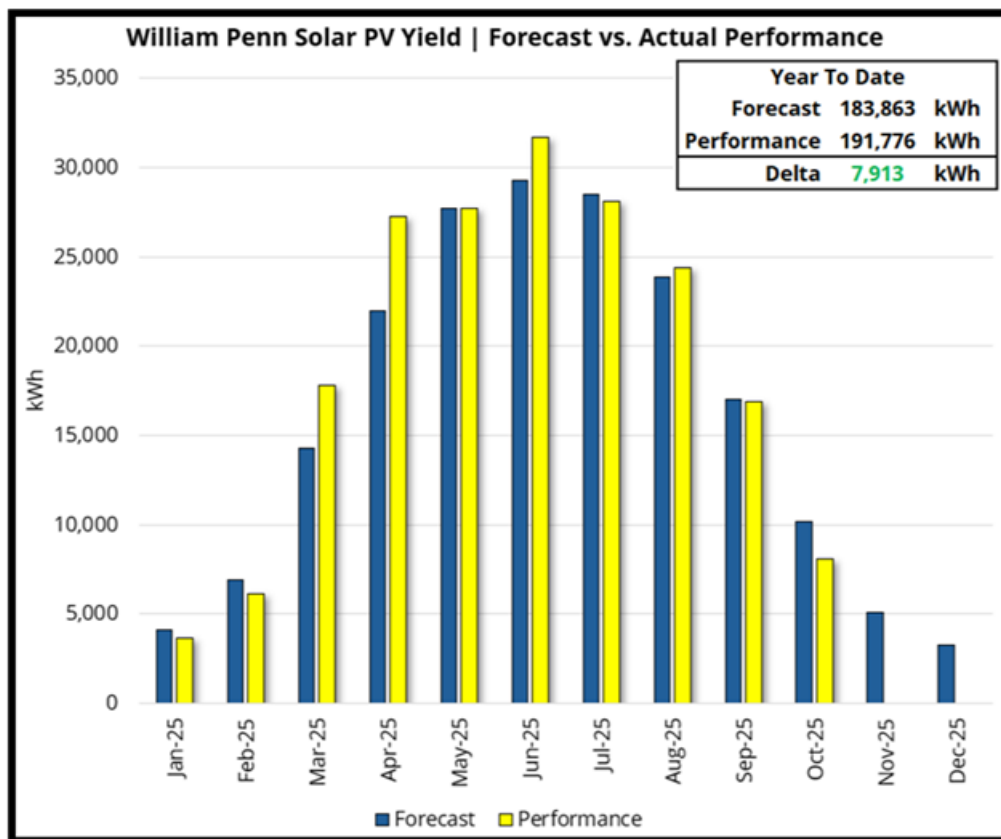
£31,020	
saved in electricity costs	
93.02	128
tonnes of carbon saved	equivalent trees planted
195.83	68
megawatt-hours of electricity generated	equivalent homes powered for a year

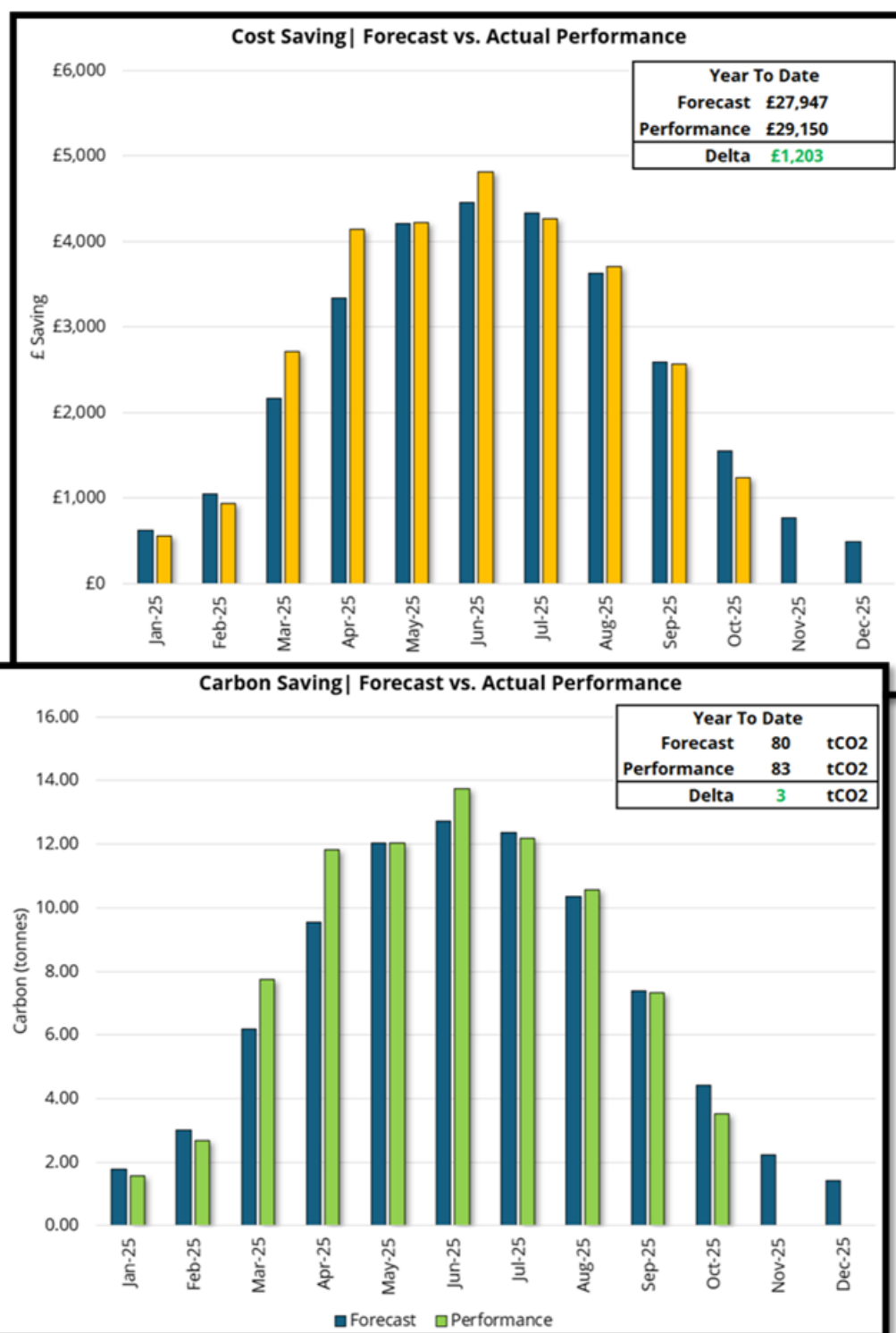
3. The solar PV system has an embodied carbon footprint of 130 tonnes and the current payback position is 72%.

Actual Performance vs. Forecast | 2025

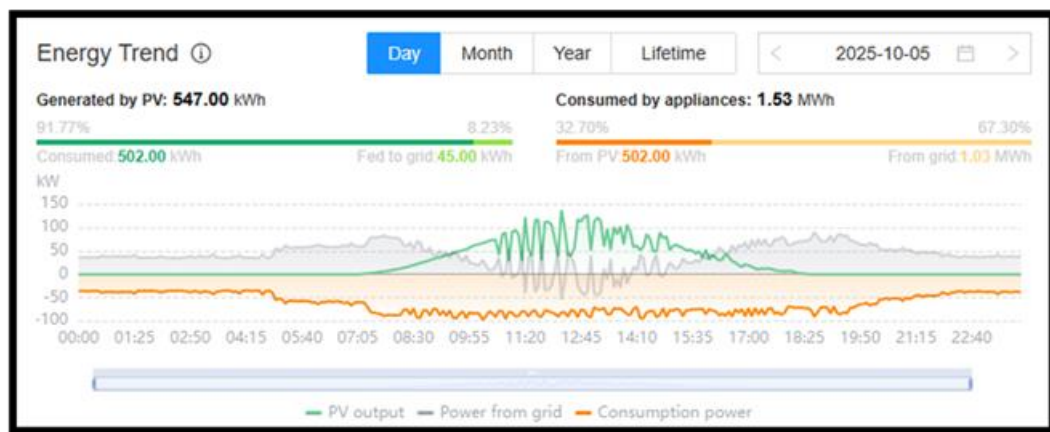
1. After underperforming by -1% in July, over performing by +2% in August and underperforming -1% in September the solar PV system

underperformed by -22% in October resulting in an overperformance of +4% for 2025 to date.





1. In October the solar PV system provided, on average, 15% of the leisure centres electricity consumption over a 24-hour period, compared with 30% in September.
2. On Sunday the 5th of October, the solar PV system generated 547 kilowatt-hours of electricity which represented 33% of the leisure centres electricity consumption over a 24-hour period.



Sunday 5th October 2025

Lead Member Report Councillor Steve Drury

Community engagement

Since last meeting, there have been 3 briefings on community engagement and safety.

There have been funding allocations to the tune of £15,500 agreed by the Connecting Three Rivers Board, and a carry over of £2885.81. W3RT have been working with officers to develop monitoring reports and grant agreements with the applicants.

Our Healthy Hubs will be closed over the holiday period, from 15th Dec until 5th Jan but there will still be support available via telephone or the website for those who need it.

There is an application in with HS2 for funding for the expansion of our very successful project and possible 2nd member of staff.

Capital Grants. At the moment we are looking at a number of sites across the district for Defibrillators including, West Hyde, Moneyhill Parade, Chandlers Cross, Belsize, Otley Way Family Centre and Eastbury playing field. We will be looking to go forward with this project in the New Year. My thanks to Councilors who responded to my call out at the last meeting.

There has been a campaign to encourage us older people to have our flu jabs this year; the NHS are expecting a heavy flu season with a number of mutations which would impact on our older residents. I've had mine and would expect you all to remind your friends and neighbors to do likewise.

Housing issues

At the time of writing we have 987 households on our register, 124 live homeless applications, 24 of which we owe a full housing duty. We also have 48 households in temporary accommodation, only 1 is out of district, due to safety reasons.

Some of you would be aware of the HMO issue brought up at the last full council meeting, the closure order granted to the police was appealed by the owner, so the police went back to court to oppose this, they were successful, so the closure order remains in place. From this, the owner withdrew the license application.

Last week, 1st Dec I attended the "topping out" ceremony for the new Grove Ct buildings in Croxley Green, along with ward Councilors Cheryl Stungo and Narinder Sian. 42 apartments, 15 for social rent and 27 for affordable rent. Built in conjunction with Howarth Homes, Thrive Homes secured funding from Homes England to support the scheme.

