
Connecting Three Rivers **(formerly Local Strategic Partnership and Community Safety Board)** **MINUTES**

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Thursday, 11 December 2025 from 10.00 am - 11.23 am.

Present: Councillors

Sarah Nelmes (Chair)
Steve Drury

TRDC officers in attendance:

Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
Rebecca Young, Head of Strategy & Partnerships
Shivani Davé, Partnerships & Inclusion Manager
Michelle Wright, Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager, Prevent Lead
Anita Hibbs, Committee Officer

External in attendance:

Councillor Tim Williams, Hertfordshire County Council
Peta Mettam, Citizens Advice Service Three Rivers
Ben Harper, Hertfordshire Constabulary
Michael Nadasdy, County Community Safety Unit (CCSU)
Eleanor Makoni, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Enoch Kanagaraj, One Vision
Jim Moran, Herts Fire & Rescue Services
Bob Jones, Watford & Three Rivers Trust
Saffron Johnson, Watford & Three Rivers Trust
Danielle Levy, Herts MIND Network
Brad Hughes, SW Herts Secondary Schools
Mika Saha, Home Group
Paul Richmond, Thrive Homes
Caoimhe Walker, Watford FC
Peter Cogan, Watford Community Housing

29 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Paraic McKenna, Elizabeth Borg, Hannah Marsh, Rob Smith, Iris Bangs, Shirish Chauhan.

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and new members Mika Saha, Eleanor Makoni and Caoimhe Walker were introduced.

Bob Jones informed the group that he will be retiring and Saffron Johnson will be taking over at Watford & Three Rivers Trust.

30 MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS CONNECTING THREE RIVERS MEETING

The minutes of the Connecting Three Rivers meeting, held on 25 September 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

31 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Head of Strategy & Partnerships delivered a presentation on the current status of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Hertfordshire. The formal submission of the proposal was completed on 28 November. The next phase involves awaiting government review and consultation expected in the spring, with a decision anticipated in the summer.

The Partnerships & Inclusion Manager delivered a presentation on community empowerment with a focus on strengthening local communities. Key points include community development, reducing health inequalities, encouraging collaboration between businesses and the voluntary sector.

A board member raised concerns about NHS warnings related to integrated care and emphasised the need to avoid duplication of efforts while enhancing collaboration with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and local partners. In response, officers highlighted the Council's current involvement with the integrated neighbourhood team and the uncertainty around future unitary models, noting that health and wellbeing priorities remain central to their strategic objectives.

The conversation also addressed areas lacking town and parish councils, neighbourhood committees, and the topic of Devolution; aiming to establish a single strategic mayor for the county. This change would impact various services; including the fire service and police. There was an emphasis on the importance of timing the devolution with structural changes to avoid inefficiencies, such as transferring services multiple times. The timeline for these changes is tentatively set around April 2028.

Action – Rebecca Young, more information on Devolution to be included in the next update.

32 HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

The Station Commander at Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service provided an update on fire incidents in Three Rivers from April to November. Key points include; increase in deliberate fires and primary fires and recent concerns about fire attendance times falling below targets, but the actual shortfall has been only by seconds in most cases.

A question was raised regarding deliberate vehicle fires in Chorleywood and Sarratt areas. The Station Commander explained that while there is an increase in such incidents, the overall numbers are not as severe as in some other areas.

33 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN

The Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager delivered a presentation highlighting the strategic priorities and collaborative efforts undertaken by the DSE and its partners to address civic crimes in Three Rivers.

A question was raised regarding a police initiative involving cadets conducting vehicle security checks, specifically on unlocked cars. It was confirmed that approximately, 200 vehicles were checked and 10-15% of them were unlocked.

Caoimhe Walker informed the group about a newly funded programme, aimed at secondary school age boys, addressing violence, with football sessions and educational content focused on consent, healthy relationships and confidence.

34 CONNECTING THREE RIVERS FUND

The Partnerships & Inclusion Manager provided an update.

Key funded initiatives include Mission Employable, New Hope, and Rennie Grove Hospice's projects.

There were two proposed amendments related to the community and health projects; firstly, the GUCE application, which requires an additional £841. The proposal is to seek the board's approval to cover this gap in the funding from the remaining Connecting Three Rivers budget. Secondly, the current 4 bi-weekly sessions are proposed to be adjusted to a 12-month delivery period.

The board agreed both amendments by general assent.

Action – Shivani Davé to promote C3R funding.

35 PARTNER UPDATES

Mika Saha from Home Group mentioned an event called Community Engagement Days on 9 April in Oxhey, and invited attendees to join the event.

Enoch Kanagaraj from One Vision mentioned the launch of Herts Together on 10 February, and offered to share further details of the event.

Michael Nadasdy from CCSU provided an update highlighting a report on violence against women and girls is expected to be published on 10 December. This report will soon be distributed to community safety managers alongside with a refreshed strategic document.

36 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

37 NEXT MEETING DATES

18 March 2026
18 June 2026
16 September 2026
10 December 2026
18 March 2027

CHAIR