

Lead Member Reports 14/07/2026

Report from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Leader's Report to Council

As I write this report, I am preparing to attend the Annual Local Government Conference in Bournemouth, and we await both the appointment of a new Prime Minister and England's continued progress in the World Cup.

We also continue to await clarity - amid various rumours - on the future of Three Rivers and the wider Local Government Reform agenda. While I cannot comment on the latter two issues, I hope the Conference will provide further insight on LGR, and I will update Council on 14 July.

National context: safety, standards and public life

Last month marked a deeply significant milestone: the 10th anniversary of the tragic murder of Jo Cox MP. Five years later, we lost Sir David Amess MP. Before that, the attack on Nigel Jones MP cost Cllr Andrew Pennington his life.

Sadly, the situation has worsened over the last decade, with a growing level of abuse and threats — in person, but especially online. As the Chair rightly reminded us at Annual Council, it requires all of us to set an example and uphold the highest standards. The Speaker of the House of Commons has had to remind MPs of the same, and not to misuse individuals or groups for political gain.

Community Asset Transfers

I chaired the regular meeting with Parish Councils last week. Taking on board the issues raised, I said that this Council will invite, receive, sift and consider Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from parish and community councils for the potential transfer of suitable assets, in line with Government guidance (July 2025) and TRDC's existing 2016 Community Asset Transfer Framework.

Officers will need to set up a process. It may also require additional resources or re-prioritisation of activities.

This is a process - not an automatic transfer of assets - and while other councils in Hertfordshire are undertaking similar work, the Government requirements are clear: the Council must achieve **Best Value** and must not fetter a future Unitary Council. Nonetheless, it is right to consider any requests properly.

Chorleywood Neighbourhood Plan

A recent request to formally change the Chorleywood Neighbourhood Plan to classify Chorleywood as a "Town" was received. We were not able to progress this immediately due to work relating to the Local Plan, following the Minister's Direction that imposed

seven additional sites on Three Rivers.

However, I can confirm that I - and I suspect other members of Council - fully support the classification of Chorleywood, and indeed other areas, as “Towns” for planning purposes, as does our emerging Local Plan (subject to the Minister’s Direction).

Despite other work I am pleased that Marko Kalik and his team have now been able at my request to bring the report direct to Full Council on the 14th for approval. I thank them for fitting this in.

Local Plan: Regulation 19 Consultation

I have discussed with officers the upcoming Regulation 19 consultation on the Government’s newly imposed Local Plan for Three Rivers. The statutory consultation period is six weeks. However, due to the Minister’s Direction requiring it to start on **31 July**, during a key holiday period, following discussion, officers have confirmed that the consultation can run for **eight weeks**, until **25 September**.

This will enable key interest groups to submit what they need to, and ensure they have the opportunity to be heard at the Public Inquiry that will follow.

Housing numbers and national petition

Regarding the Local Plan and housing numbers, I urge all councillors and residents to sign the **Home of Commons Petition: “Pause housebuilding targets imposed on councils, review and identify local need.”**

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/762214>

If it receives **100,000 signatures**, there must be a House of Commons debate. If so, I hope our MP will stand up in the House and back the Council’s **27 January** position. So far, he has declined to meet with me or discuss the matter, and has supported the Minister’s intervention in blocking the plan.

Development sites

I continue to speak to and meet groups opposing development sites across Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Sarratt and Carpenders Park.

Woodland Walk & Aquadrome – Clarification of the Council’s Position

It is regrettable that some continue to present a misleading picture to residents regarding my statements on the Woodland Walk and the Aquadrome. The council’s position has been set out clearly and consistently.

The **16 March press release** stated:

“In the light of the recent hydrology report and the ongoing long-term plans for the

Aquadrome, including the feasibility of the boardwalk, I have asked officers to undertake a full review of the Woodland Walk to reassess the feasibility of reopening all or part of it, on an interim basis, and any remedial measures that may be required to enable this to occur including likely costs and assessments on health and safety.”

However, the **3 June press release** made the position absolutely clear:

“The Woodland Walk at the Rickmansworth Aquadrome will remain closed following the discovery of high-risk asbestos near the path. Three Rivers District Council is currently taking action to further secure the Woodland Walk so that this area is safely contained. The council continues to work with the National Lottery Heritage Fund on long-term improvements, including a new raised walkway. The Woodland Walk was originally closed due to the erosion impacts seasonal flooding has at this location. Due to the discovery of high-risk asbestos, residents and visitors are reminded to continue to observe the closure.”

I stated:

“The council is committed to public health and safety but, at the same time, recognises that the Woodland Walk is well liked and enjoyed by residents. That is why the council remains committed to working with multiple partners on plans for long-term improvements so that the walkway is resilient to future and significant seasonal flooding. I remain committed to reviewing the continued closure.”

Taken together, these statements make the council’s position **unambiguous**:

The path cannot be reopened until the high-risk asbestos is fully dealt with and all associated health and safety risks are resolved. Once the high-risk asbestos is addressed, as I have promised, the matter will be reviewed and further assessments will be carried out.

Officers are working with our contractors on the measures required to secure the high-risk asbestos at the Woodland Walk and to address some medium-risk areas nearby. Group Leaders, including myself, have asked detailed questions about the proposed works and costs. Once these matters are resolved, an urgent action decision is likely.

Policing and community safety

I have communicated with our local Chief Inspector, who has agreed to attend the October Abbots Langley Area Forum and the Watford Rural Area Forum to update residents on policing activity and crime prevention measures following recent changes in parading. He has assured me that officers are fully deployed in these areas.

At a recent Council meeting, a councillor suggested there had been a “seven-fold increase” in crime around Station Road/Shannon House in Kings Langley. I requested clarification from the Chief Inspector, who provided the following information regarding Shannon House. The reply is printed verbatim:

“I’ve looked at June – December 2025 compared to January – June 2026:

June 25 – end Dec 25 = 27

Jan 26 – end June 26 = 14

As you can see there has been a decrease in the last 6 months compared to the 6 months prior.”

Tribute to Kimberley

Finally, I want to pay tribute to a senior officer who has served this Council exceptionally well, has risen to meet great challenges, and is someone I and many others will miss. That is **Kimberley Grout**.

Kimberley is not moving to another council, but to Spain! We can all be jealous — and it may mean one fewer Kimberley for me to send the wrong email to -she will be missed.

Let's all give her a big thank you on the 14th.

Stephen

PS: For those who saw myself and Kevin Raeburn on TV — and in the highlights of the Scotland v Haiti match — it really was a once-in-a-million moment to be filmed right in front of the cameras in Gillette Stadium just as Scotland scored. With odds of around **65,000 to 1**, it was pure chance... and utterly surreal!

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

Finance Updates

The Budget Outturn shows final outturn expenditure was £13.860M compared to the latest budget of £13.979M or the original budget plus carry forwards of £15.108M. We are currently preparing the first monitoring report for 2026/27.

The Peer Review Report taken to Policy and Resources in May reported that:

“Three Rivers District Council enters this CPC [Corporate Peer Challenge] from a position of strength. The council is widely regarded – by officers, councillors, partners and residents alike – as a well-run and financially stable organisation. Staff consistently describe feeling proud to work for the council, pointing to close working relationships and a loyal, long serving workforce that delivers successfully”

“TRDC benefits from strong financial leadership supported by robust budget monitoring, comprehensive financial reporting and effective risk management arrangements, providing confidence in the council’s financial control environment. The council’s medium term financial planning is well embedded, and its disciplined financial culture has positioned it effectively for the demands and opportunities associated with a future unitary arrangement. This shared understanding of the council’s financial position – anchored by clear oversight from the Section 151 Officer and the Audit Committee – creates a firm foundation on which to guide decisions during a period of sector uncertainty.”

“The council has demonstrated creative, effective approaches to housing delivery, including significant investment through the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) and successful collaboration with Watford Community Housing. The redevelopment of garage sites into brownfield homes shows a thoughtful and resource sensitive approach to managing local constraints, particularly the protection of the Green Belt”

The Draft Statement of Accounts has been published in line with the statutory deadline of the end of June and officers continue to work in a positive relationship with our new auditors Azets to audit the accounts in line with statutory deadlines and build back full assurance of the accounts following national issues with the audit of local authority accounts.

Projects and Property Updates

Local Authority Housing Fund

The Council continues to make strong progress across the Local Authority Housing Fund programme. Following the successful completion of LAHF2, work under LAHF1 is moving into the delivery phase, with the construction of six new apartments at Queens Drive and two further developments at Pollards, Maple Cross. All three sites expected to be completed by Winter 2027.

Under LAHF3, nine homes have already been acquired, with further purchases progressing. The programme remains on track to deliver 12 properties, providing both temporary accommodation and homes for Afghan families through the resettlement scheme.

Building on this momentum, the Council has secured £997,750 through LAHF4 to purchase a further four homes. These acquisitions will help meet local housing needs and are expected to be completed by March 2027.

Three Rivers House – Ground Floor Letting

Planning permission has now been approved for key external improvements, including new entrance doors, extractor vents, signage and a bin store. Good progress has been made on site, with the bin store completed, vents installed, and new paving and an access ramp laid in preparation for the entrance doors. Internal fit-out works are now nearing completion, and Harrow Health is aiming to welcome its first staff into the building by the end of July.

Barton Way Building, Croxley Green

Planning permission for the redevelopment of the former Red Cross Building was approved in February 2026, marking a significant milestone for the project. The development will deliver eight affordable homes alongside new offices and community space for Croxley Green Parish Council, creating a valuable community hub for local residents.

Progress continues behind the scenes, with the District and Parish Councils working towards finalising lease arrangements and exploring ways to streamline delivery, reduce costs and support earlier occupation. The scheme will benefit from £1 million of Section 106 affordable housing funding, and work is also progressing on related lease and parking arrangements to enable development to move forward. With key legal and commercial discussions advancing, preparations for the delivery programme and site redevelopment are now underway.

The former Pavilion PH, South Oxhey

Following a recent condition survey of the Pavilion, a programme of improvement works has been identified to address maintenance issues and significantly enhance the building's appearance. These improvements will form an important part of the Pavilion's future development and long-term upkeep.

The Council has also reviewed proposals from the tenant to transform the Pavilion into a wedding venue and restaurant. While proposals for additional office and residential accommodation will not be supported, discussions are continuing on the remaining elements of the scheme. Should the project proceed, approval will be linked to the completion of the necessary repair and improvement works, helping to secure a high-quality future for this well-known local asset.

Thank you to officers for their assistance in compiling this report

Report from the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow

Waste Services

- Aware of supply chain issues from Garden Waste. Officers have been in regular contact with Supplier and are working to inform those affected.

April Animal Inspection and Licensing

- GPSCE Committee unanimously agreed Primate Licensing at June's Meeting

Environmental Enforcement

- EEO attended court for fly tipping cases – both pleaded guilty and were convicted in March.

Bereavement Services

- Public Health Funeral report was supported by Members at March's Committee Meeting.

Parking

- An On Street Parking Consolidation update (essentially a review and consolidation of existing restrictions) took place in May and the TRO has now been formally adopted.
- Chorleywood parking scheme scheduled to be implemented late July
- Gosforth Lane parking scheme is scheduled to be implemented late July
- Rickmansworth West Review – consultation results are being reviewed with a further consultation due later in the year
- Rickmansworth Carpark review – the council reviewing data from carpark surveys to make further recommendations
- Rickmansworth Controlled Parking Zone review – Initial plans have been drafted and will be reviewed once carpark data is received
- Silk Mill Road Area – A detailed design for consultation is in development
- Various Schemes – Officers are currently preparing the consultation documents for this now that Silk Mill Road has been removed as a separate project.
- Community Way Car Park – officers are investigating survey options to present to Councillors
- Barnhurst Path Verge Hardening – this work to create additional parking bays has been completed.
 - Work has begun on two new schemes which were added to the programme Bedmond and Kindersley Way
 - A Parking Management Policy is being prepared for presenting to committee.

Wider Transport

- High Elms Lane – Consultation took place during March and April with scheme implementation expected during the summer holidays. £250,000 of S106 monies from HCC have been confirmed for these works.
- Ebury Way Improvements – officers are investigating plans for path improvements at the Rickmansworth end
- LEVI – the County Council are progressing on-road EV chargepoints around the District in consultation with the district council. Initial site designs are being reviewed by officers and Ward Councillors have been asked for views
- Beryl Bikes – officers are reviewing the results of the recent consultation for proposed Beryl bike locations with a view to implementation.

Report from the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change, Councillor Aidan Bentley

Foreword

It is a real privilege to serve as the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change in Three Rivers. There are many challenges ahead, as well as exciting opportunities to try and meet these challenges.

The Climate and Nature crisis continues to negatively impact the district and the UK as a whole. We are increasingly living through erratic weather patterns, with heat waves and flood events becoming all too commonplace.

Three Rivers has strong 'eco-credentials', something I glad to see reflected in the Peer Challenge review. The following points were noted in the review as areas of strength:

- Climate Emergency & Sustainability Strategy
- ecological expertise
- the Aquadrome project's great potential for environmental enhancement
- retrofit of Council assets
- sustainability embedded within the Council Plan
- partnerships (eg GUCE)

Despite these achievements, there is still a visible need to further progress our efforts with respect to climate change, sustainability and nature restoration. The recent heat wave, which saw temperatures reach 36 degrees Celsius in the district, is a testament to the urgency of this work.

Site Visits

It has been very interesting to visit a number of special locations around the District in my first couple of months as lead member.

River Chess

The bank reinforcement work and other restoration work at the river Chess at Scotsbridge was a fantastic site to visit.

The bank reinforcement is helping to protect against flooding of the nearby cricket pitches. The addition of large logs and other features to the river helps create varying water speeds, which facilitates to growth of different aquatic plants, and provides conditions for spawning and hiding spots for fish, amphibians and invertebrates. Some parts of the chalk stream now visibly have five distinct water speeds, which is very encouraging to see.

The council has also undertaken some hedge laying here. Hedges create fantastic habitats which mature quickly to support an array of life. I aim to explore further areas in the District with officers where hedge laying may be possible.

Rickmansworth Aquadrome

The aquadrome project is flagship project for the council with great potential for our residents and nature enhancement in the District.

It was valuable to see the Woodland Walk, and I appreciate the frustration at this path's closure due to the dangerous asbestos present.

It was also a pleasure and very insightful to meet residents who live beside the Mill Stream, fed by the Bury Weir. Residents understandably have concerns about the weir's removal as part of the river restoration works, and potential impacts on the Mill Stream.

The council's modelling does not indicate that there will be impacts on the Mill Stream from the weir's removal at present, and I will continue to work with ward Councillors, residents and other stakeholders wherever possible to protect the Mill Stream's ecological and historical value for the community.

The Withey Beds

A special feature of our District, with flooded woodland, a flooding meadow, and the iconic reedbeds coming together to form a kaleidoscope of habitat.

The site remains difficult to access due to a lack of parking. However, the lack of human presence may have in fact benefited the nature of the site. For example, whilst on my short visit, I saw two grass snakes and a slow worm (two of only seven native reptile species in the UK).

AR18 – Kings Langley

It was fantastic to visit AR18's new site, opposite Kings Langley train station. This workshop embodies a fantastic ethos. They have clearly prioritised sustainability and nature in the design of the factory – which is heated with offcuts from their work, benefits for cutting edge insulation and is planting to enhance the plot which is next to the river Gade.

It was also fantastic to hear of their apprenticeships and trainee schemes, which will benefit local young people. At a time when over one million 18-24 year olds are NEET, this is particularly important.

GUCE

I met with a GUCE representative, primarily to discuss the Bedmond data centre and the potential for a heat network. Whilst the data centre is clearly an example of inappropriate development, the potential heat network carries massive potential for our resident's energy supply, sustainability and security.

If any Members would like to walk a certain site in their ward with them, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Air Quality

It is positive news that we are in a position to revoke the NO2 and PM10 AQMAs at junction 18 of M25.

This is only possible as the pollution levels in the are AQMA have remained below the 10% margin of error consistently (for over 3 years) (36ug/m3 for NO2).

The decision to revoking the AQMA was unanimous and will free up some resource which can be reinvested into further advancing our air quality standards. For example, by planting trees such as hawthorns or aspen which have high UTAQ scores.

I have asked officers to look at pushing our air quality enhancements even further. It would be a great achievement to push for WHO air quality levels, which are significantly more stringent than the UK's own targets and represent science-based air quality standards.

Warm Homes Local Grant (2025-2028):

This scheme is funded by central government and delivered by Watford Borough Council in partnership with Three Rivers District Council. It aims to improve the energy efficiency of lower-income households living in properties with EPC ratings D-G. Eligible households can get fully funded energy efficiency improvements worth up to £30,000 per eligible home.

55 live applications from Three Rivers residents to date and these are progressing through the customer journey.

The capital budget doubles in year 2 of the scheme (current year) and so we will have to work hard to achieve full spend. Watford currently has seven properties proceeding to installation, while Three Rivers has one, however we have two close to batching, and another eight awaiting survey/quote.

The principal current risk is delivering the spend, while also keeping the costs caps balanced as we are only allowed to spend an average of £15,000 per home for low carbon heating, and an average of £15,000 per home for energy efficiency measures, by scheme end.

Environmental Champions Award:

A new award scheme was introduced this year aiming to recognise and celebrate local individuals, organisations, and groups that have demonstrated outstanding environmental action and leadership within the district. There were 24 valid applications to the Awards in total. Finalists were chosen by an external panel of judges.

The awards ceremony took place on 6:30-7:30pm on 4th June 2026 and was followed by a screening of the film 'Finding Harmony: A King's Vision'. My thanks to Councillor Ranger and Councillor Giles-Medhurst for hosting the event so well. It was a successful evening and the council has received a considerable amount of public praise and positive feedback on the awards.

Grand Union Community Energy contracts:

Sustainable Streets

Sustainable Streets is an award-winning programme (based on Transition Streets) that aims to help households live more sustainably and save money on their bills. TRDC trialled the programme in 2025, and had 3 groups of neighbours from Moor Park, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth take part. The council subsequently commissioned Grand Union Community Energy – our local community energy group – to deliver Sustainable Streets to more residents until November 2026.

Under Sustainable Streets, small groups of neighbours meet in each other's homes (or other venue) over a few months to complete a programme of seven short, home-based workshops covering key topics to save money and cut carbon emissions: energy, food, travel, water, resource use, and nature.

Two Chorleywood-based Sustainable Streets groups are live and are progressing through the modules (one is an online group, one is in-person). Another Sarratt-based group has formed and completed their third session. GUCE are in discussions with Chime Housing (local social housing provider) to explore if Sustainable Streets workshops can be delivered to their tenants.

Retrofit Events:

GUCE have been contracted to run local events that promote domestic retrofit, primarily to “able to pay” households i.e. those who are not eligible for grant funding, until October 2026.

GUCE have completed two successful “open home” events (one in Croxley Green and one in Chorleywood) where residents who have retrofitted their homes have opened their homes to residents to showcase their retrofit and answer questions. Feedback from these events has been very positive and each event was fully booked.

There are further such “open home” events planned for around autumn time this year, taking place across the District.

GUCE completed their first “Renewables Roadshow” on 25 April 2026, where three local solar and heat pump installers, a St Albans-based retrofit advocate, GUCE, and a representative from TRDC gave presentations on retrofit measures and funding, etc. Installers had stalls to allow residents to ask questions, book surveys or request quotes.

These events can help residents overcome confidence and knowledge barriers to retrofit and helps local installers gain exposure and potential work. Feedback from this event has also been positive.

Plans to hold another “Renewables Roadshow” event in Autumn 2026, with possible support from Hertfordshire Futures (local enterprise partnership).

Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy

Ellie Nathan will be representing TRDC on the Hertfordshire Retrofit Steering Group.

The East Herts DC has recruited a Retrofit Strategy Coordinator role. Working groups to agree the details of how the priority actions should be delivered have been established.

Priority actions identified:

1. Countywide brand, website and core information materials
2. Procurement for a group buying scheme e.g. Solar Together
3. A clear pathway for households whose boiler/heating system breaks
4. A coherent countywide Retrofit Advice service

Determine viability of Air Source Heat Pump and Solar Canopy on the Car Park for William Penn Leisure Centre through pre-market engagement

Background

William Penn Leisure Centre is a the most significant user of energy in our building estate, accounting for 31% of total electricity consumption and 46% of total gas consumption. This project would save 325 tonnes CO₂e per annum.

The boilers are due to be replaced in 2028, and we are trying to determine if there is a financially viable option to decarbonise the building. Since 2024 we have undertaken several externally funded studies to determine the optimal technical and financial solution. However, in 2025 the government withdrew capital grant support for these types of projects and viability diminished.

Roof Top Solar on council buildings:

Background

William Penn Leisure Centre had a large solar array installed in 2024, and large arrays have just been completed on Three Rivers House and South Oxhey Leisure Centre. An installation at Batchworth depot commences May 26th. Since the installation at Three Rivers House (April 2026), the array has saved £1,989.47 and 1.89tCO₂e (as of EOD 15/06/2026).

Local Area Energy Plan:

Background

A Local Area Energy Plan is a strategic framework that helps towns, cities, and regions support national clean energy and net zero policies by planning how local energy systems will transition over time.

It looks at electricity, heating, transport, and buildings to understand what changes are needed as more homes, vehicles, and businesses switch to electric power.

The plan helps councils, energy companies, and communities prepare the grid for

electrification by identifying where network upgrades, renewable energy, storage, and EV charging will be needed.

Its goal is to create a more reliable, affordable, and low-carbon energy system that supports future demand

This is a large undertaking for officers, a complex document. The final draft is close to completion and will be completed by the end of June / start of July, whereby consultations will be requested from internal and external stakeholders (UKPN and major energy users in the district). The plan will be presented to the Climate Change and Leisure Committee in the Autumn.

Three Rivers Environmental Network

The Three Rivers Environmental Network (TREN) exists to improve the quality of the environment, support the climate and nature recovery agenda, and help create a healthier, more sustainable future for everyone in Three Rivers.

It brings together community voices, environmental interests, and local knowledge to:

- **Connect** people, ideas, and initiatives
- **Inspire** behaviour change and collective action
- **Educate** with expert insight and lived experience
- **Influence** Council decision-making through community-led input

TREN is not a decision-making body or formal Council committee.

Next Meeting: 7th July 2026 chaired Cllr Lloyd who is Vice Chair

Where: Education Centre, Batchworth Lock Canal Centre, 99 Church Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1JJ

The theme is food growing and biodiversity in gardens with a strong push to horticultural societies, allotment groups, Friends Of groups Dig Deep, community Garden groups etc. The event will include a tour of S3R community Gardens and talk from Sarratt Community Garden. This event will be run by Rory Shenton

Proposed Data Centre and Heat Network

The 96MW data centre approved for development in Abbots Langley presents a huge opportunity to decarbonise building heating, by using the waste heat emitted by the data centre by creating a heat network which takes the waste heat and delivers it through a network of pipes to users of heat.

A feasibility study has been completed which identifies that a network is viable. The network would involve 48km of pipes, would start in Abbots Langley and finish at the new Watford Hospital. It would save over 2m tonnes of carbon £154m on heating bills over 40 years.

However, it is an extremely large and complex infrastructure project and will be a huge challenge for all to deliver.

Community and Business Grants

We provide community grants up to £1650 to community groups who are either trying to improve the sustainability of their group or improve sustainability in the district.

In addition, we provide £3,000 grant to businesses to encourage the uptake of solar panels.

The community grant is popular and is allocated fully each year.

Solar and Heat Pump campaigns

We are running a marketing campaign linked to the Sustainable Streets programme and Retrofit Events described above, using waste vehicles and social media to encourage the uptake of solar panels and air source heat pumps in the district.

Council to improve the energy efficiency of lower-income households living in properties with EPC ratings D-G. Eligible households can get fully funded energy efficiency improvements worth up to £30,000 per eligible home.

Lead Member report from the Lead Member for Leisure, Councillor Chris Lloyd

Watersmeet

Panto:

- Peter Pan the 2026 panto is on sale with just under 5428 tickets on reserve and 584 sold.
- Panto civic night date Friday 5 December – invites sent after May elections.

Box office/Marketing:

- The membership scheme has 161 members.

Capital works:

- Electrical Works Contractor - Govier Electrical has been appointed with works taking place around events. There will be a generator onsite for duration of the works during August with works estimated to be finished in September.
- Door replacement and refurbishment works are currently being carried out by Global HSE with works due to be completed in September.
 - Replace 29 doors
 - Repair 26 doors
- Capital investment that will need to be considered in the next 2 years include:
 - Replacement of auditorium air conditioning
 - Replacement of motorised theatre access equipment
 - Replacement of theatre sound system, speakers and subs
 - Replacement of auditorium and foyer carpets
 - Replacement of stage winch and hemp flying system

Staffing :

- Judy Simpson – Marketing & Campaigns Manager is taking early retirement with her last day being 9 July 2026. She has been working 50% on communications and 50% on Watersmeet and has worked for Three Rivers for 17 years. Some of you will remember her husband Mike who worked in the committee team.

- A new Theatre Manager has been appointed, subject to references and background checks, and is anticipated to be in post by August.
- The Building and Technical Manager position was filled in June. Welcome to Alex Slack.

Leisure

I have attended

- I heard Sophie Rowarth at event on Monday June 8th organized by Chorleywood Bookshop on new book “Running on Air”.
- Watford and Three Rivers Sports Partnership – Annual Awards at Watersmeet on Monday 15th June
- I have attended several Parkruns
- I will be attending the Herts Sports Partnership Annual Partner event on Friday 10th July.

Management Plans for 2026/2027

- Scotsbridge – Following the briefing document consultation which yielded 26 responses; in partnership with CMS the management plan draft is in production. It will go to Climate Change and Leisure Committee later this year.

The Glade Bridge (Aquadrome)

- The EA initially objected to the planning application but granted permission of the FRAP.
- The EA have reversed the decision to object to the planning application. The Planning application was approved to Planning Committee on the 18 June 2026. Officers are looking at a new proposed timetable for the project, as well as updated costs. I am keen to see the bridge replaced with something which will last beyond our life-time. The next steps include: developing the detailed design, procuring the work and applying for funding, with the aim of securing this by March 2027.

Cattle Grazing

- Cattle grazing for 2026:
- Cattle arrived on Monday 11 May at Leavesden Horses Field - 12 Sussex cattle to be grazed until beginning of September (exact timings of removal of cattle will be flexible)
- Cattle arrived on Monday 11 May at Chorleywood House Estate - 17 Sussex and Angus Cross cattle to be grazed until mid-September (exact timings of removal of cattle will be flexible)

- Cattle arrived on Monday 1 June 2026 at Croxley Common Moor - 25 Sussex and Angus cross cattle
- Date for Cattle to arrive at The Withey Beds – TBC

Leisure Management Contract with Everyone Active (SLM)

- They presented to the June Committee of Climate Change and Leisure their Annual Report.
- Golfpod at Rickmansworth Golf Course - anticipated construction works to take 8-12 weeks with groundworks anticipated to commence 13th July 2026 assuming legal agreements signed.
- The SOLC EV chargers are fully commissioned and live, as are most of the chargepoints in William Penn Leisure Centre carpark and KGV carpark. Two of the chargepoints in the KGV carpark require further works which is currently being worked on by the contractor which will be completed by the end of the year.
- Beryl Bikes are being considered for South Oxley Leisure Centre, alongside other locations. Anticipated to be introduced later this year pending the review of the consultation held.
- Options on 1hr limited parking on the pavement directly in front of SOLC. The parking bays are proposed to be half on pavement, and half in road parking, with the pavement opposite the centre becoming permit only parking. This is anticipated to be introduced in the next few months.
- Free Gym and Swim at William Penn
 - o U19 (School Holidays only) Swim - 15 in April
 - o U19 (School Holidays only) – Gym – 29 in April
 - o Over 60's Swim – 3 in April , 6 in May
- Free Gym and Swim at South Oxley
 - o U19 (School Holidays only) Swim - 22 in April
 - o U19 (School Holidays only) – Gym – 0 in April
 - o Over 60's Swim – 13 in April , 4 in May

Artistsmeet

The exhibition will cover July-Sept with September being Herts Open Studios Month. Alison Imren 'Scenes of Summer' will be the artist featured. Meet the artist event date 9th July.

Active Parks

Our Active Parks programme started on Monday 8th June, with sessions to continue throughout the summer months. This includes Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Tennis, Beginners running, Stroller strength, Mum and baby yoga, Zumba, Nordic Walking, Circuits, SK8 Jam, Playday and summer Activity Trails.

Leavesden Country Park football pitch and pavilion

Evergreen FC have agreed the five-year lease term. This will allow them time to secure planning permission and obtain funding. If they can't get the required planning permission or funding, they are not obligated to enter the 25-year lease. Awaiting Legal to send them the paperwork to sign.

Scotsbridge Football Facility

Croxley FC were the only club to submit an expression of interest. Officers have reviewed the submission and submitted several questions back to the club for follow up.

Wellies in the Woods at the Aquadrome

The Wellies in the Woods session on Thursday 28th May (a trial activity for the Aquadrome programme) was a success! This taster session partnered with Groundwork East was planned around the children's story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". Six families (7 children) attended the session. Emily from Groundwork East prepared paper butterfly masks with sticky tape for children to stick nature objects on and complete a nature colour bingo!

Play Rangers at the Aquadrome

The Play Rangers session on Thursday 28th May (a trial activity for the Aquadrome programme) was a success. Out of 16 booked, we had 7 attend which is probably because it was 30 degrees! We had children supported by the Intensive Family Support Team (IFST), children who are members of our ACE scheme, and a few friends of our ACE scheme children. Our Play Ranger hosted a range of activities, such as a rope swing, kite making, wooden crafts, a water fight, and catapults. All the children got engaged in all the activities and

seemed to have a thoroughly good time! One child said, “I made a new friend today!”

Bloom Education at the Aquadrome

On Monday 8th June TRDC partnered with Bloom Education to host two workshops at the Aquadrome for primary schools as a trial activity session for the Aquadrome programme. Bloom Education specialise in hosting nature focused workshops to children with SEND. The first workshop was 10am-12pm with Yorke Mead Primary School Year 3s and the second workshop was 1-3pm with St Johns Primary School Year 5s. The Bloom Education workshop leaders had an open discussion with children about aspects of nature they may not normally have considered. They branched similarities between nature with patterns and symmetry by showing children the different types of symmetry present in nature objects, such as apples, pinecones, and roses. Children then had the chance to create their own mandala on the ground using nature objects. The children seemed to thoroughly enjoy the workshop and were engaged throughout.

Watercolour class in the Aquadrome

On Saturday 13th June, the 2-hour watercolour painting class in the Aquadrome (a trial activity for the Aquadrome programme) was a success and well received by participants! Out of 15 booked, all attended welcoming a variety of abilities. The artists who hosted the session, Frances Black and Gillian Blair, introduced the session giving a small demonstration on how to achieve certain watercolour painting techniques. Participants were given the option to paint from scenes at hand or previously taken pictures of the Aquadrome. Some beautiful paintings were done celebrating the beauty of the Aquadrome. Participants gave only positive feedback, with a large emphasis on attendees thoroughly enjoying the class being held outdoors in the lovely weather.

Summer Playscheme

Summer playscheme will run from Monday 27 July – Friday 21 August with 96% of places booked already – only a few days remain.

We have successfully been awarded a grant of £12,000 from HSP again this year to host HAPpy at our Playscheme. This funding will provide 20 spaces a day for children in receipt of free school meals, with a total of 400 places across the summer holidays.

National Play Day event

This year's National Playday will take place on Wednesday 5th August. The event will be hosted at King George V Playing Fields between 12pm to 3pm. This is a FREE drop-in event where families and children are welcome to visit different stalls hosted by organisations such as Families First, Otley Way Family Centre, Home Start and more. These stalls will have an activity for children to engage in and relevant advice for parents. TRDC have organised a few additional free activities for children, such as face painting, a bouncy castle, Play Rangers, and Mr Marvel. Last year's event was held at South Oxhey Play Fields.

Parkrun

Three Rivers have offered a contribution towards the new storage unit required at the Aquadrome. When not running Marathons or half marathons I have been volunteering at the two Junior Parkruns in Three Rivers. 2K event for ages 4

Aquadrome Programme

NLHF main application- WWW bid

- o Development Phase (£787,315.40). This phase will be completed in the coming months and the Delivery Phase bid submitted in November 2026 for approximately £5m. If successful, this funding will be confirmed for a start date of March 2027 to April 2030.
- o Following successful public engagement for RIBA Stage 2, RSK have now produced RIBA Stage 3 designs for the site, including key areas of change e.g. the Welcome Hub, the Meadow, Woodland path and Dog Enrichment. A full RIBA stage 3 report will be shared summarising changes from RIBA 2 through to RIBA 3 in due course.
- o
- o The Activity Plan has been redrafted following feedback from the National Lottery and it now reflects targeted groups such as: Pupil Premium children as opposed to a more generic children's group.
- o A Walking Audit has been conducted by Age Concern to assess the site from an elderly perspective. This audit will give us a greater understanding of the changes required.

Ebury Play Area

- Work progressing well with weekly updates on the website.
- The play area will be open before Full Council.

Weir

- I will be joining other cllrs on a site visit later this week.

Woodland Path

- Verbal update at the meeting or written after the meeting.

Parking Issues on The Green in Croxley Green

- Verbal update at the meeting or written after the meeting.

Skate Jam , Baldwins Lane

Skate Jam will be Sunday 30 August more info to follow.

New Road GP Surgery Secures Active Practice Status

The New Road GP Surgery has become the latest GP Surgery in Hertfordshire to be accredited through the Active Practice Charter, a national initiative supporting GPs to embed physical activity advice and guidance into everyday practice for staff and patients.

HSP's Active Connections team, responsible for driving the uptake of the initiative across Hertfordshire, delivered key workshops at a recent staff Protected Learning Time session, allowing staff to develop how the practice can continue to embed movement across general practice to improve patient outcomes.

Active Connections is a free-to-use service, providing simple and effective ways for general practice surgeries to embed physical activity into their routine practice.

Lead Member report for the Lead Member for Community Engagement, Public Safety and Housing, Councillor Steve Drury.

