



ALDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

WE INVITE ALL RESIDENTS OF RADLETT,
LETCHEMERE HEATH AND ALDENHAM TO THE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WHICH WILL BE HELD ON

MONDAY 16th MAY 2022 AT 8pm

IN THE AUDITORIUM,

THE RADLETT CENTRE, ALDENHAM AVENUE,
RADLETT

ALL WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Inside, please find the agenda and the annual reports (2021—2022)
for the Annual Parish Meeting from the following:

The Chairman of Aldenhams Parish Council

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Planning Committee

Phillimore Recreation Improvement Working Party

Queen's Jubilee Working Party

Winter Fair Working Party

Access for All Working Party

Allotments Working Party

Radlett Youth Council



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 16th MAY AT 8pm IN THE AUDITORIUM,
THE RADLETT CENTRE, ALDENHAM AVENUE, RADLETT

THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED AT THIS MEETING WILL BE:

- 1. Welcome by Chair of the Council.**
- 2. Apologies for absence.**
- 3. To receive, and if so resolved, confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 14th March 2019.**
- 4. Annual Reports –**
 - a) Chairs' Annual Report.*
 - b) Finance and General Purposes Committee.*
 - c) Planning Committee.*
 - d) Phillimore Rec Improvement Working Party*
 - e) Queen's Jubilee Working Party*
 - f) Winter Fair Working Party*
 - g) Access for All Working Party*
- 5. 'Why the Open Spaces is so important' presentation from Paul Rabbitts MLA MPMA FRHistS FRSA FLI**
- 6. To receive the Accounts and Reports from Charities and Organisations who have received grants from Aldenhams Parish Council during the year.**
- 7. To receive reports from other Charities and Organisations within the Parish.**
- 8. To receive questions from electors.**

The meeting will finish at or before 9:30pm. We wish to make this event accessible to all. If you have any particular requirements, please get in touch with Peter Evans or Monika Duong on 01923856433 who will do their best to help you.

Councillors Jackie Lefton & Estelle Samuelson
Joint-Chairman
Aldenhams Parish Council

All residents of Aldenhams, Radlett, High Cross, Letchmore Heath and Round Bush only are encouraged/able to attend.



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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report is to bring you up-to-date with what has been happening at Aldenhams Parish Council (APC) over the last 12 months. Last year we were unable to hold an annual parish meeting due to the Covid pandemic. Fortunately, this year we are getting back to a more normal way of life and are delighted that we can welcome you once again at the Radlett Centre.

Although nearly all of our Council business has been carried out online over the last year, a lot has been going on. One major event was the passing of the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan (RNP), which was approved at referendum in May 2021. The plan involved a huge amount of work by members of the Steering Group and working parties, all of whom gave their time generously over the last 4 years to ensure that a cohesive plan was adopted to help preserve the verdant and special nature of Radlett.

One important benefit of adopting the RNP is that the Parish is now awarded 25% of any community infrastructure levy (CIL) paid by developers, which can be used for capital projects within the Radlett Plan area. All other areas of the Parish receive 15% of CIL funding. If you wish to apply to APC for CIL funding for a capital project, please get in touch with the APC office who can advise you on how to proceed.

Over the last year, CIL funding has been spent on

- New community garden at Aldenhams Memorial Hall
- Replacement drainage pump at Radlett Bowls Club
- New entrance door, accessibility slope to Scout Hut and associated works – 1st Radlett Scout Group
- Architect fees for drawing up plans for proposed café facility at Phillimore Rec

In addition, there are also general Grants available up to the value of £18,712 for local societies and organisations, should they need financial support.

Another plan which we have encountered this year was the publishing of the draft Hertsmere Local Plan which set out Hertsmere Borough Council's (HBC) blueprint for development over the next 15 years. Regrettably, in order to meet government housing requirements, HBC earmarked large areas of green belt in order to meet the housing target. The significant loss of green belt was robustly opposed by a record number of residents with the result that the current local plan has been put on hold. APC continues



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to lobby Oliver Dowden MP, to press for the housing requirement to be reduced so that it will not be necessary to use swathes of green belt.

This year APC in conjunction with 'Inspire All' were once again able to run the children's summer activities in August, which proved very popular. The activities were held at Phillimore Recreation Ground where plans are underway to build a café, following feedback from users that they would like somewhere more permanent than a coffee kiosk. We are delighted to announce that Phillimore Recreation Ground has been awarded Green Flag status. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Open Spaces Team, in particular, David Jenkins, who pushed this initiative forward.

Another activity popular with younger residents is the Winter Fair and Christmas lights switch-on. This year we ran a competition for younger children to design a logo to promote the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The prize, which was won by Ioannis from Fairfield School was to switch on the Christmas lights. We are thrilled with the winning design and you will see it on all of our literature in connection with the Platinum Jubilee.

Many of you may be unaware why the first hour of parking in Newberries car park is free. For many years APC has paid HBC a sum to offset the cost of the first hour's parking to encourage residents to use the shops on the High Street. This payment has been the same for many years but recently Hertsmere requested a significant increase. The Parish Council has negotiated a gradual increase as we do believe that residents would wish this first free hour to continue.

One significant event last year was the successful opposition of the application to build an approximately 130 hectare solar farm south of Radlett Village. In order to oppose the application, the parish council employed a consultant and along with local opposition were successful in persuading the Hertsmere Borough Councillors who sit on the planning committee to oppose the application. It is of note that the planning officer supported the application.

The coming year is likely to be an exciting one for us all. We are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, with a beacon lighting and street party. To mark this auspicious occasion, the parish council has been given 130 hazel whips to be planted in Salters Field as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. They will join an oak sapling that was planted in January, to mark 80 years since the formation of the Association of Jewish Refugees. The planting of the oak tree was attended by representatives of all faiths in the village along with the sponsor, who is a resident of Aldenham. It is encouraging to think that in years to come an area of grassland will become a copse with all the benefits that trees bring to the environment.

There have been a number of changes to the way the council functions over the last year. We have disbanded the Open Spaces Committee and the Community Development



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Committee, and set up designated working parties in their place. We are still legally required to have full council meetings, a planning committee and a finance and general purposes committee. We have set up a separate body to look after the maintenance of King George V playing fields, and working parties to address, among other things, improvements to Phillimore Recreation Ground, an Allotment Holders working party and an Access for All working party. In addition we have a very active working party to prepare for the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. If you would like to join one of them, we would love to hear from you!

This year has been a difficult one for staff, and for many months the office staff have worked from home. However, the Open Spaces team has continued to work throughout the pandemic, and we are very grateful to them.

Over the last 12 months, Wendy McClean, who was the officer for the Open Spaces team, retired. APC were delighted to welcome a new member of staff, Sarah Heighton as an Officer in January. I'm sure all the councillors will join us in thanking Peter Evans, our Council Manager and Monika Duong, his deputy, for all their continued hard work. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the office in another difficult year.

Lastly, at the time of writing this report in April, the situation in Ukraine continues to worsen and our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones in this terrible war.



Councillor Jackie Lefton and Councillor Estelle Samuelson
Co-chairs, Aldenhams Parish Council



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FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

The Finance and General Purposes Committee's terms of reference include responsibility to Aldenhams Parish Council (APC) for: budgetary control, risk management, insurance, health and safety, the council's policies, management of the council's properties, reserves and all staff matters.

APC reserves on 1 April 2021 stood at £1,367,955 of which £421,398 must be used only for capital projects, £67,102 has been earmarked for specific purposes such as Christmas Lights, trees & play equipment. We also held £373,811, which is Community Infrastructure Receipts (CIL) received from Hertsmere Borough Council for development in the parish (formerly Section106). The remaining money is held in a general reserve, which stands at a level deemed appropriate by APC and its auditors, bearing in mind our annual level of expenditure.

Although our reserves are healthy, APC has a number of capital projects planned such as improvements in Phillimore Recreation and King George V Playing Fields over the next few years to provide further community benefit. Please refer to our website and the Around Radlett magazine for updates. Furthermore, we continue to support the running costs of the Radlett Centre as one of our key community assets which is reviewed annually. We also have an allocation for grants to other local organisations, which are welcome to apply for grants towards capital projects.

For the 2022/23 financial year, Aldenhams Parish Council has increased its precept based on Band D households by 2.14% which is well below current inflation levels and means our budget is at a similar level to that in 2016/17. In 2021/22, there was a significant reduction of 7.4% due in part, to reorganisation of the office.

The Committees of the Council meet regularly and review the individual budgets for both running costs and capital expenditure. There is a thorough process of analysis of all cost and income headings before the level of precept is recommended to the Full Council. This year, we have made some difficult decisions to reduce running costs to reflect the more challenging economic situation.

Each year the Council strives to improve its services whilst at the same time offering value for money with greater efficiency. This is achieved through the hard work of a dedicated and experienced team. As always, we would like to thank Peter Evans (our Council Manager) and Monika Duong (our Deputy Clerk) as well as their office colleagues and open spaces team members for their continued hard work, commitment and professionalism.

Councillor Mark Cherry

Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee





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Annual Parish Meeting

Aldenhams Parish Council Accounts 2020-21

Aldenhams Parish Council ('the Council') is required by statute to publish its annual accounts for the previous financial year.

These accounts are audited both internally by IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd and externally by PFK Littlejohn LLP. These are the final audited accounts which were agreed by the external auditor who agreed with them and the governance review gave no concerns.

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2021

<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Income</u>		<u>2020-21</u>
670,486	Precept	<u>Note 1</u>	686,613
10,217	Bank interest		4,320
6,069	Grants	<u>Note 2</u>	2,401
15,584	Fees charged by Council	<u>Note 3</u>	7,559
3,444	Miscellaneous		5,552
27,105	Section 106	<u>Note 4</u>	-
160,671	Community Infrastructure Levy	<u>Note 4</u>	97,978
893,576	Total Income		804,423

<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>2020-21</u>
220,819	Council Administration	<u>Note 5</u>	195,621
164,404	Maintenance of Open Spaces	<u>Note 6</u>	156,646
	Grant and contribution to Radlett		
159,668	Centre costs	<u>Note 7</u>	138,716
49,658	Community Events and interaction	<u>Note 8</u>	61,492
	Grants awarded by the Council to		
20,915	outside bodies	<u>Note 2</u>	29,143
63,275	Earmarked Reserve Projects	<u>Note 9</u>	40,010
	Capital Infrastructure Levy		
5,000	spending	<u>Note 4</u>	20,739
10,000	Section 106	<u>Note 4</u>	-
693,739	Total Expenditure		642,367

1,006,062	Funds balance represented by: Balance brought forward as at 1st	1,205,899
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	April 2020	
	Excess of income over expenditure for the year	
199,837	Excess of income over expenditure for the year	162,056
<hr/>	Balance C/F as at 31st March 2021	<hr/>
1,205,899		1,367,955
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The reserves currently held by the Council are comprised as follows

	£
General Reserves	475,800
Earmarked Reserves (for certain Council projects)	97,771
Capital Reserves (which can only be used on capital projects)	420,573
Community Infrastructure Funds	373,811
Total	1,367,955

Note 1 - Precept -- this is the amount of your Council Tax that is allocated to Aldenhams Parish Council.

Note 2 – Grants – This includes monies received from Herts County Councillor C Clapper Locality Budget towards the provision of a new noticeboard in Letchmore Heath There was also a grant received for the Christmas Tree decorations at the Radlett Centre.

APC subsidises Newberries Car Park so the first hour of use is free, and grants were made to Citizens Advice Bureau so it could continue its work during the pandemic.

Note 3 – Fees charged by the Council -- Income derived from the hire of the allotments, leases with various local organisations which use APC land, plus the phone mast in Radlett Gardens.

Note 4 – Section 106 funds & Community Infrastructure Levy – These are funds that are paid to Hertsmere Borough Council by developers and passed on to APC, as a condition of certain planning permissions granted. There was no expenditure of Section 106 in 2020-21.

Although Community Infrastructure Levy is less limited than Section 106 on where the money can be spent, it must still be allocated to capital funding, rather than day to day maintenance. In 2020/21 funds were allocated as follows

- Painting of the street furniture in the High Street
- Grant to Radlett Bowls Club for improvements to the area around the green
- Initial surveys for the provision of a café in Phillimore Rec and architect's fees.
- Planning application fees for improvements at 1st Radlett Scout hut.



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Note 5 – Council Administration – These are the costs of managing the council offices at the Radlett Centre including accounts and general management.

Note 6 – Maintenance of Open Spaces -- These are the costs of maintaining the open spaces owned or leased by Aldenhams Parish Council, including Phillimore Rec (the allotments, children's play area, main field and Fir Spring Wood), Scrubbits Wood, Tykeside and Radlett Gardens, KGV Playing Fields, Aldenhams Green, Letchmore Heath (The Green, the pond and Children's Play area) and Pegmire Lane. This includes staffing, equipment maintenance, planting (including the hanging baskets on the High Street) and repairs.

Note 7 – Grant and contribution to Radlett Centre costs – This year APC continued to fund the centre as the theatre was closed for most of the year with no income from hiring possible.

Note 8 – Community Events and interaction -- all costs associated with engaging with the community such as website, administration and Around Radlett.

Note 9 – Earmarked Reserves Spending – Projects this year included tree works at Fir Spring Wood, replacement steps at Scrubbits Wood, surveys and plans for the allotment drive project and further IT upgrades to the website.

I hope you have found this summary useful. If you have any queries or wish to see the actual accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter Evans
Council Manager



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PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Over the last year, we continued with our regular planning meetings using Zoom, and since May 2021 face-to-face in the Radlett Centre. These meetings continue to allow residents to attend and voice their comments. Despite the Covid pandemic we have continued to see a steady flow of applications for residential extensions and new builds, including some larger apartment developments. Many of these new builds have continued the trend of demolishing existing homes to produce a new much larger property in established locations.

As I am sure most people know, Aldenhams Parish Council (APC) is a statutory consultee and not a decision making authority. Our responses to planning applications are passed to Hertsmeire Borough Council for consideration. Hertsmeire does not have to agree with our responses, but APC's responses can highlight issues with applications and help Hertsmeire planning officers understand the views of our residents.

In May 2021, the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) was adopted and has become part of the planning policy Hertsmeire Borough Council is now taking our RNP into consideration in its decision process.

This year has seen two major planning issues which have resulted in significant public outcry. The proposed solar plant on Green Belt land which was rejected by Hertsmeire and the Draft Local Plan which has been shelved, for the time being.

We would like to remind all parishioners that it would help the planning committee if you could copy your comments to Hertsmeire Borough Council planning department on applications that concern you, to us. This will make sure that APC will be in a position to consider your views when commenting on applications.

All local residents are welcome to attend out planning meetings on the first floor at The Radlett Centre. These meetings are generally held on the first and third Mondays of every month and the agenda is published beforehand on our website www.aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Once again, we would like to thank officers for all their help in supporting the planning committee, along with Graham Taylor, our specialist co-opted member and the committee members who spend considerable time in reviewing applications before the meetings.

Cllr. Mark Cherry

Chairman of the Planning Committee





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PHILLIMORE RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS WORKING PARTY REPORT 2021-22

Aldenham Parish Council (APC) is continuing to work on improving the Phillimore Recreation Ground through the Phillimore Rec Improvements working party.

The most major project for the working party is the building of café/tea room in the main field, just next to the depot. This will have inside and outside seating and will be positioned near to the children's playground.

We have designed it to be as ecologically friendly as possible using sustainable materials such as a timber structure and we are planning to have solar panels on the roof to help with heating and hot water. The immediate surrounding area will have planters and possibly new trees planted around it.

As well as a café/tea room we are also hoping to make improvements to other areas of the recreation ground. We would like to improve the gates into the park, provide a bike park, improve the notice boards and make pedestrian areas in the car park to improve pedestrian safety. We have already widened the path through the park but we are hoping to extend it around the whole park, making it easier for pushchairs, wheelchairs, etc.

We have already been out for public consultation and by the time you are reading this, we hope to have applied for planning permission.

If we obtain planning permission, we will be going out to tender to find an operator who would like to run the café, and will then commence building.

Aldenham Parish Councillor Catherine Kilhams
Chairman Phillimore Rec Improvements Working Party





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QUEEN'S JUBILEE WORKING PARTY REPORT

This year, Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her 70th year as our monarch, and there is a four-day bank holiday to mark the historic occasion, during which a series of national events will be held in celebration and commemoration.

Aldenham Parish Council (APC) decided it would like to host two events to coincide with the national events – the Beacon Lighting and The Big Jubilee Lunch. This working party was set up to work with our event organiser, Inspire All, to put on these events.

On **Thursday, 2nd June 5:00pm-10:00pm** APC will be hosting the Beacon Lighting Funfair and Barbeque, an event culminating in the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon at 9:45pm on Cobden Hill (KGV Playing Fields). We will have full size bumper cars, a skydancer, a giant inflatable slide and bouncy castle. These rides are aimed at older children, as feedback from previous events has said that this group felt there was little for them to do at such community events. The Tabard Rugby Club will be having a barbeque, and there will be a selection of other food stalls. A DJ will be providing music throughout, before a community choir sings the Commonwealth Song, a cornet player performs 'Majesty' and the Beacon is lit.

On **Sunday, 5th June, 12:00pm-5:00pm**, APC will be hosting Radlett Village Big Jubilee Lunch, part of a full day's event on our very own high street. We will have 100 tables along Newberries Parade that people can book in advance, allowing people to come together for a Jubilee Lunch. There will also be a funfair aimed at younger children, with a bungee jump, carousel, and bouncy castles. There will also be face painting, a Punch and Judy and a Circus Workshop to provide entertainment for children. Further entertainment will be provided on stage by Watford Brass and other acts. Community Stalls will be along the road, providing an opportunity for local societies to raise awareness.

Access for All has been a focus of this event, and as such we are providing disabled parking and priority access for rides at both events, along with a sensory space and priority tables near disabled parking at the Sunday lunch.

We have been very fortunate to have Debenhams Ottaway as our principal sponsor once again, and their ongoing support of community events in Radlett is much appreciated by the Chairs. Beaver Travel has also sponsored the work of the Access for All working party in making this event as accessible as possible, a real event for the whole community.

My thanks also to all the various residents who have joined the working party or taken on various roles such as Peter Glover, Stuart Nagler, Julie Caplan & Helen Lappert.



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We have also received a generous donation from Mr John Athorp CBE, for which we are very grateful.

In addition, we have received grants from Hertsmere Borough Councillors Lucy Selby, Caroline Clapper and David Lambert, as well as an additional grant from Caroline Clapper, from her locality budget as a Hertfordshire County Councillor. A further grant has come from the Hertsmere Jubilee Fund. APC has met all other costs, to ensure that the community has the chance to celebrate this historic event together. To have support from our councillors at all levels is wonderful and we give our thanks for their help.



Cllr Helen Jones

Chairman of Queen's Jubilee Working Party



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WINTER FAIR WORKING PARTY REPORT

We were so pleased to see the return of the Winter Festival last year, having had to cancel the year before due to the Covid pandemic. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to do a bit of Christmas shopping, ride the funfair rides or even meet Father Christmas!

To help make the event safer, we introduced a one-way system throughout the Radlett Centre and reduced the number of stalls to 13, although we still had space for some fantastic sellers, delicious cakes and face painting, as well as community groups such as the Women's Institute. The Radlett Youth Council also ran an impressive tombola raising money for their chosen charity.

This was the second event where APC could have its Access for All working party involved; looking at ways to make our events more accessible by way of fast track tickets, no queue system for rides, increased sign posting to dedicated disabled parking and considerations to other forms of access.

To entertain the crowds, we had wonderful performances by Denise Scott and music duo Helena & Charlie, singing live from the Radlett Centre balcony.

For the first time, we were able to bring bumper cars to the Winter Fair and these proved to be very popular, as was the bouncy castle, teacups and hook a duck. Father Christmas brought along his cosy cabin so that he could meet all the boys and girls safely outside, with Mrs Claus welcoming one and all.

The finale of the event was the switching on of the Christmas lights, by Ioannis Luchian, aged 9, from Fair Field Junior School, who was the winner of our schools' competition to design a logo for Aldenham for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. The lighting switch on was compered by the fabulous Dame Gertie (also known as Marc Kelly).

A special thanks to our Deputy Clerk at APC, Monika, who did so much work organising this event in difficult circumstances when everything seemed very uncertain. Thanks also to the rest of APC staff who helped make this event so successful.



Cllr Helen Jones

Chairman of Winter Fair Working Party



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ACCESS FOR ALL WORKING PARTY REPORT

Coinciding with the release of the Government's National Disability Strategy in 2021, Aldenhams Parish Council (APC) formed the Access for All working party.

The aim of this working party is to address the many aspects of our local environment, from high street walkways to parks and open spaces and community events, which could and should be more accessible for people of all ages with any level of disability – visible and otherwise.

APC's Access for All working party is committed to our community becoming a positive example of inclusion and equity. The growing group of participants, from differing political persuasions, is continually identifying how inclusion can be put at the heart of activity, environment and daily life and it has already made a start to change the way we plan and communicate. This has been done by focusing attention on accessibility through the whole journey of booking an event to attending (web site and comms design including phone numbers for whom digital remains an issue, disabled parking, fast passes for those that find queuing an issue, access to chairs for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee lunch, general event lay out and sensory area/s, for example). It is also being done as we consider rolling out consultations, social media communication, planning and design for the new café at Phillimore Recreation Ground, and even employment.

As well as making the changes above, the working party is committed to highlight disability/inclusion throughout the year and generate better awareness and understanding. This will be done through Neurodiversity Celebration Week (21 – 27 March), Autism Awareness/Acceptance throughout April, World Alzheimer's Month in the autumn and International Disability Awareness in December. We have devised a template for each of these 'moments' so we can signpost support services and charities as well as encourage ideas about how our community can be more accessible, welcoming and better prepared for those who fall into these and other categories.

The working party has written to all local schools to encourage bridge building, so each school community is aware we are here to help school families. We have also placed an article in My Radlett News (online now, in print April) and Around Radlett (May) to do more to generate publicity for this area of work. This is further highlighted as 'access and inclusion' being a sponsorship category for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, with Beaver Travel as a sponsor.

Local Charity, Disability Radlett, is soon to conduct a formal accessibility audit on behalf of the working party, dates TBC, but this will be undertaken by a group of people with varying 'disabilities', focusing on the high street in the first instance, and after that expanding to



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recreational areas. This report will tell us more of the challenges people face day to day, through a variety of lenses, so we can determine how we can make the most impact and in what time frame.

We are meeting the Youth Council and local volunteer services for the elderly (Lunch Club) as we grow the group and its objectives; seeking insight into what may be done for those of different generations.

Our message to the community is clear. “If you are disabled or have a medical condition, are a carer, or have someone in your family living with the challenges of disability or age-related issues such as dementia or want to drive equality in our community for any reason – the Access for All working party would love to hear from you. **You are not alone**”.



Cllr Clare Diskin

Chairman of Access for All Working Party



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RADLETT YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

I signed up for the Radlett Youth Council during the time of the pandemic in the hope to become more involved in the decisions made regarding what was happening in Radlett. Since then I have found this experience to be extremely rewarding. Having taken over the role of the chairperson, I have been given more responsibilities, not just directly related to the RYC, but also leadership opportunities, as well as having a say in decisions that the council have made.

Over the last year, the youth council has organised and run many events in order to raise money for our chosen charity, Herts Young Homeless. This includes running a Tombola stall in the 100-year celebration in Phillimore Recreation Ground, as well as our raging success in the annual Winter Fair. Both of these events required hard planning and preparation, organised and run by the members of the Youth Council, where we raised hundreds of pounds for charity.

My participation in the Radlett Youth Council has provided me with many beneficial skills and opportunities, which I otherwise may not have had. I have learnt how to plan and run events, how to lead meetings and how to communicate with other chair members in order to ensure full participation from the council. I would strongly encourage other young, eager members of Radlett to get involved in this organisation, as it is very beneficial in many ways, and has helped me develop my own personal skills, as well as my role as a member of Radlett Youth Council.

Maddie Teper

Chairman, Radlett Youth Council





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ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY REPORT

In May 2021 the Parish Council established an Allotment Working Party reporting into Full Council, with the remit to manage the running of the allotments. Prior to that the management of the allotments had been the responsibility of the Open Spaces Committee.

I agreed to chair the Working Party and was joined by Cllr David Lambert.

Following representation, three experienced allotment holders, Peter Hordern, Robin Crosher and Gary Walton were co-opted onto the Committee. The Committee discusses matters of concern to allotment holders including transition from existing to new users and ways of encouraging a good standard of maintenance.

A key focus of the working party has been to set a supportive regime within which allotment holders can request and receive help but in return must reach an appropriate standard of cultivation and maintenance. At the end of January a letter (copy attached) agreed by the working party was despatched to all allotment holders setting out the inspection procedure for 2022. Of note one of the working party Peter Hordern will be part of the inspection team along with staff from the Open Spaces team.

Setting out a firm but fair procedure has been welcomed by allotment holders who now understand what is expected from them. Members of the working party will offer help to any allotment holder who in the first instance does not meet the expected standard in June.

We look forward to the 2022 summer growing season with confidence.

Aldenhams Parish Cllr John Graham
Chairman Allotments Working Party





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Aldenham Parish Council



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Mr J Graham

By email

Date: 24th February 2022

Dear Allotment Holder,

Re: Allotment Inspections for 2022 at Phillimore Recreation Ground, off Gills Hill Lane, Radlett

I am writing to advise you of the system that Aldenham Parish Council will use this year to ensure that all allotments at least meet the basic standard of use, where it is shown that crops are being grown and the land is being worked. These are good allotments and we want to keep it that way for all users now and in the future.

Aldenham Parish Council has agreed to the introduction of an advisory group consisting of one or more Councillors and one or more long standing allotment tenants. The aim is to improve communication and advice for both allotment tenants, particularly those taking on a plot for the first time, and the Parish Councils' Admin Officer. The group has no other purpose than to provide helpful advice with the aim of maintaining a tidy yet productive site for all tenants. The members of the group and their contact details will be posted on the allotment notice board.

In May/June – a notice will be sent to all plot holders by email and placed on the noticeboard which will state the week of inspection. This period has been chosen, because by then allotments should be prepared for planting and in some cases plants actually in place.

The inspection will be carried out by two officers of Aldenham Parish Council, assisted by an existing allotment holder. All plot holders will get a letter/email advising them of the outcome of the inspection. Those plot holders who have failed the inspection will be contacted to see if there are ways in which the plot can be improved before a follow up inspection.

The follow up inspection will be four weeks later and if no improvement is seen, then a notice of termination will be issued.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Heighton
Administration Officer