



Chairman's Blog

September 2025



Cllr Helen Jones

Summer seems far away as Autumn is well and truly here and the schools go back. A lot has been happening behind the scenes over the summer so this blog is filled with updates on several ongoing matters.

Devolution

Back in March's blog I explained the recent Devolution bill that will see the dissolution of Hertfordshire County Council (HertsCC) and the ten district/borough councils (including Hertsmeare Borough Council), and to replace them with unitary authority(s), as is the case in other areas of the country such as Cornwall.

Few details are known, but what is certain is that Town & Parish Councils are staying put, and in some cases they have taken on more services locally such as libraries etc.

HertsCC and the ten Borough/District Councils are holding a series of meetings and presentations on the options for the make-up of the unitary(s) for Hertfordshire from 2028. Please can I encourage you to read the information on the HertsCC website and take the survey <https://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk/>. You can also find a link to this on our website.

Newberries Car Park



Aldenhams Parish Council put in a bid to purchase the Car Park back on 2nd June 2025. This bid was acknowledged but we have yet to receive any further updates, despite multiple requests.

To strengthen the protections for the Car Park we also applied at the same time for it to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. We have not received a response to this either.

APC are disappointed to have so little updates after 3 months and will keep pushing Hertsmeare on this matter.

Land South of Shenley Hill

This application came before Hertsmeare Planning Committee on 26th June 2025 and APC were delighted that the committee members listened to the concerns of local residents and turned the application down once again. However, the developer threatened Hertsmeare with legal action, saying that the constitution had not been followed. Hertsmeare will therefore rehear the application on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 6pm. If you wish to speak, the following link explains what you need to do, <https://www.hertsmeare.gov.uk/Speaking-at-Planning>. To avoid missing any of the discussions, please consider viewing the webcast of the Planning Committee meeting live on Hertsmeare's website <https://hertsmeare.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.



Coffee Morning for SEND parents/carers



Group discussion on everyday challenges

Informal help and support from local organisations

Which services can I have access to?

Want to speak to other parents of children with SEND?



Come and join us for a chat!

A safe space for families to be able to come together, share their experiences and concerns, and have the chance to seek support from professionals. If you would like to join us on **Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 11am in the Douglas Hicks Room, 1st Floor, The Radlett Centre, WD7 8HL.**

To register your place please call 01923 856433 or email admincomms@aldenhams-pc.gov.uk