



HEGNPG

Supporting our Community

Hunsdon Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group

Channoeks Farm

Gilston

Nr Harlow

CM202RL

<https://hegnp.org.uk/>

Annual report to Sponsor Parish Councils

1 Introduction

We are pleased to present our annual report and in doing so to thank you as our sponsors for your support for our work, especially your ongoing financial support.

The last year has been an exceptionally busy year and I am grateful for the staggering amounts of time committed by the members of the NPG, including many who also hold Parish Council posts, and so wider community commitments.

2 Financial

The NPG opened the financial year with a cash balance of **£24,115** and closed the year with a projected balance of: **£23,025**

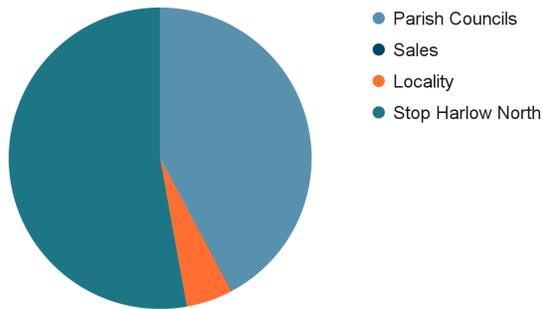
Total income for the year was £20,160

£8,500 was received as annual contributions from sponsor Parish Councils. £1,000 was given as a grant from Locality to further the Neighbourhood Plan. £10,650 was received from Stop Harlow North, which wound up this year.

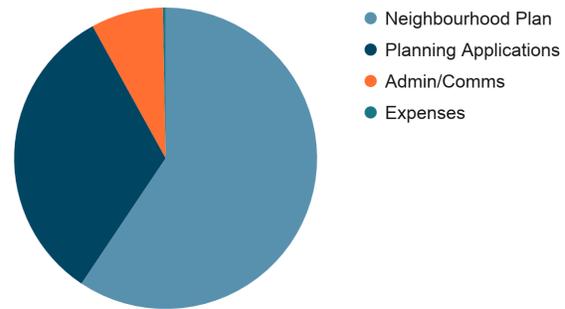
Total expenditure for the year was £29,120

The bulk of this expenditure, £17,300, was for our Neighbourhood Plan. Costs included consultancy, printing, and legal fees during the examination process. A further £9,500 was spent on consultancy to aid responses to planning applications from Places for People and Briggens Estate. An additional £2,245 was spent on administration and communications.

Income



Expenditure



3 Key activities and progress over the last year

3.1 Neighbourhood Plan - We have made enormous progress in the preparation of a joint neighbourhood plan having started out in February 2019 with an idea to in February this year having prepared a plan, with extensive public consultation, taken it through a formal Examination and now having received the Examiner's report. The Examiner has essentially endorsed our work subject to some recommendation and suggested modifications. We are making these modifications and, at the time of writing, are waiting for East Herts Council to endorse our Plan before taking to Referendum, hopefully, on 6th May 2021.

Putting our Plan in place is a major piece of work and while we have had fantastic support from our planning advisors, Urban Silence, we have also been reliant on the sheer hard work by two of our members who have committed vast amounts of time to the detailed negotiations and the public Examination process.

Assuming the plan is endorsed through the referendum, the next stage is to make sure that the Plan is used when determining all applications made within the Plan area. Your part, as the relevant Parish Councils, will remain key to this process.

3.2 Villages 1-6 & 7, Outline planning applications revisions - Having made their original applications we and many others had made representations recommending refusal. The applicants in turn made amendments/revisions to their applications. These revisions took the applicants much longer to prepare than anticipated and resulted in vast amounts of new data and documents. East Herts Council initially declined to allow us and so the Community any more than the four weeks to assimilate this information during the four weeks before Christmas on the Village 1-6 revisions; later extended to 8 weeks. We made a presentation of our thoughts on these revisions to our Community and had some 70 residents on line for nearly two hours. Subsequently we made a 35 page submission detailing our reasons for maintaining our objections and appreciated your support for the case we made. The Village 7 applicants made substantial in January and again we have been compressed into a short response time although that has been extended because the applicants have not submitted the correct information. We are working on our representations on the Village 7 application.

3.3 Landscape Master planning - Sadly, despite our work with the Developers and their aspiration to start work on the Landscape Master Plan last autumn this work has yet to start. This is an important consultation as it will define the buffers between the villages and open spaces which East Herts Local Plan sets out that they will be transferred to Local Community ownership. We hope that this consultation will commence very soon and include a proper dialogue with the community.

3.4 Stewardship - While we have also engaged on this there has been no significant progress to report. What discussions we have had have included work on early wins and we are hoping to see evidence of such projects starting shortly.

3.5 Other Consultations - We have reviewed and made consultation responses on the following policy documents:

- Gilston Area Community Engagement Strategy (East Herts Council - October 2020)
- Planning for the future (Government White Paper - October 2020)
- East Herts Sustainability strategy
- Sustainable and Healthy Living in the Garden Town (Harlow and Gilston Garden Town - December 2020)
- South East Central Growth and Transport Plan (Hertfordshire County Council - January 2021)

3.6 Stakeholder engagement - With your respective Chairmen we continue to represent to key stakeholders the views of the NPG alongside our request for additional funding for our work in recognition of the complexities of the issues and multiplicity of authorities involved. Sadly our requests for further funding have, to date, been declined.

4 Looking forward

The following key activities we anticipate will require our attention:-

Issue	Comment	Likely timescale
Neighbourhood Plan - Referendum	Monitoring and encouraging voters to vote	April/May 21
Landscape Master Plan	Important strategy key to maintaining the original Developers promises of 7 villages separated by landscape buffers and the open areas to the North West	Outstanding/From March 21
Stewardship	To develop a structure for the long	Outstanding

	term management of the areas not being developed which are due to be passed to the Community as well as the stewardship of community assets within the village areas	
Section 106 Planning obligations	To comment on the proposed formal obligations by the developers on the provision of infrastructure and the trigger points by which needed infrastructure must be delivered	Outstanding
Funding	To continue to seek a broad range of funding to continue the Group's work	Ongoing
Building and resourcing the NPG team	Reviewing our effectiveness and encouraging residents to participate	Ongoing

**Anthony Bickmore, Chairman, HEGNPG
March 2021**