



Friday 3rd June 2022

11am - 4pm

Eastbury Recreation Ground, Batchworth Lane, Northwood

Come along and celebrate the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee organised by
Eastbury Residents Association,
supported by
Batchworth Community Council



ERA Annual General Meeting

We welcome you to attend our AGM where we will be:

- Electing new committee members
- Receiving a report from ERFAG
- Engaging with community concerns

Please join us from 8:15pm to 9:30pm
Thursday 23rd June at Eastbury Farm School

Sign up with your details on our website for updates
www.eastburyresidents.com



Are you part of a local WhatsApp group? Contact us
Scan with the camera app on your phone



Want to click links?
This Newsletter is available on our website

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**Join the ERA
Free Membership
for 2022**

Eastbury has
1,300 residences

**Be part of your
community**

Register at:
eastburyresidents.com

A Note from our Chairman

Three Rivers Joint Residents Associations (3RJRA) (of which ERA are members) has continued to be active in trying to influence the Local Development Plan which is now in delay once again owing to the District Council recently voting for a revised programme. Final response figures on the consultation draft were around 2,000 people with over 20,000 individual points raised. So, I think we can safely say this is an indication that people were not at all happy with the draft. The Council say the new delay is that responses are required for each comment and the volume of comments is overwhelming their resources. The Local Plan is now way overdue.

This delay will allow more new development sites to be considered and old disregarded sites to be reconsidered. The public will not know where these sites are until after the District elections. Furthermore, the delay means it is likely that paragraph 14 of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) will be triggered. This provides a "tilted balance" **in favour of granting planning permission**, unless the proposal causes 'significant and demonstrable harm'. Note that the qualifying words are subjective, and we feel (based on current practices) that this really means most applications will get approved. This clearly presents an opportunity for developers and landowners to consider speculative applications.

Whilst agreeing that some (small) Green Belt encroachment may be acceptable, 3RJRA strongly believes that the standard government formula for establishing housing needs is inappropriate for Three Rivers. TRJRA has been getting councillors from the main political parties to address us and explain what their position is regarding housing targets and revisions to the Plan. So before casting your vote in the local elections we urge you to interrogate candidates to find out where they stand as individuals with regard to establishing housing needs and form your own views on local development requirements.

Meanwhile your **Neighbourhood Plan** Steering Group continues to make good progress on the Batchworth Neighbourhood Development Plan, and it looks increasing likely that the Neighbourhood Plan will go to referendum for approval before there is an agreed Local Plan in place. We have had an independent review undertaken of the latest draft and overall, this was favourable and has pointed us in the right direction to complete the last lap of our task.

The Eastbury Residents Flood Alleviation Group (**ERFAG**) eastburyfloodactiongroup@gmail.com continues to hold meetings with all the agencies involved with local drainage issues and the last section of pipework for which records were dubious (near the Batchworth Lane rail bridge) has now been surveyed. We hope to get the survey results at our next all-agency meeting. Please remember to make flood reports to the County on-line or on the Flood Incident Hotline which is **0800 807060**. *I have added a separate article about the part we can all play in limiting run-off water on the following page.*

We hope you will agree that ERA has made some tremendous progress in the past year and membership is increasing. However, this is because of a very small band of volunteers maintaining a level of enthusiasm which will be unsustainable unless we get some new people in to help us. The next ERA AGM is due to be held on 23rd June 2022 when the Committee has to stand down and a new Committee must be voted in. So, I appeal to you to please consider standing for election to the Committee to give something to your local community. Everyone has some skill that can be of use; whatever time you could manage, however small, would be helpful to us. Whether it would be for the role of an officer or as a general committee member, you would be welcomed with open arms. So, don't be shy to get in touch.



David Caiden

Council Tax Bill 2022/23

Batchworth Community Council (BCC) is funded by the precept levied on each household. BCC has not increased the precept rate (in fact it is down 0.1%).

Your TRDC bill indicates a charge for Special Expenses under the BCC breakdown which infers for example in Band G that BCC will receive £142.48 from each household which it will not. This is a confusing change of presentation that BCC will be taking up with TRDC.

‘Mummy, where does all the rain go?’

It sounds like a toddler’s question, but I have been asked by our Committee to write a little bit about this subject to enlighten everyone with regard to the increasing flooding we are seeing in Eastbury.

However, in this article I am only going to mention the part each of us can play to help prevent the flood risk situation worsening. I am talking here about house extensions, outhouses, home rebuilds, driveways, patios and other garden paving.

In most of the local housing stock the roof water goes to a soakaway (big gravel pit hidden somewhere in the garden). It is supposed to be retained there until it “soaks” into the surrounding ground or eventually evaporates. There are two problems with this. Firstly, in many cases (though not all) the surrounding local ground is impermeable clay. Secondly, soakaways silt-up over time and are generally considered to be ineffective after 50 years. That’s bad news for most of us! So, a lot of the roof water ends up wicking into the topsoil in your garden which could well be becoming boggy or, worse, it runs into the street adding to the flows in the road stormwater sewer. The street storm sewers were not designed to take water from our houses. They are there to drain the road.

Now, every time one of us increases our home’s roof area by adding a back or side extension we are usually taking away permeable top-soil (which soaks up rain) and adding more *impermeable roof* water. This has to go somewhere and with so many residents enlarging their properties and paving over their green areas it all adds up to a HUGE area-wide increase in the run-off trying to find its way into the street sewers, which get overloaded.

Water always runs downhill. Those neighbours in low spots get flooded. I suspect those of you in high spots are oblivious to the issue though you may well be part of the cause.

This is a *community issue* as well as a problem nationwide in suburbia. So, I would like to appeal to everyone who is extending, paving or rebuilding to please make sure your contractors/builders and designers have a sensible solution to handling the increased storm run-off caused by your work. It needs to be dealt with *on your own site* or becomes a contributory factor to our local problem. Sadly, this issue is not controlled by legislation nor policed by local, county or central government. Yes, our planning regs, in my view, are not fit for purpose in this regard.

So, if you are planning to have any of the above types of work undertaken, here are some suggestions I would like to make. Firstly, for modification work:

- Driveways and patios should only be done with permeable pavers (or loose gravel or resin-bound gravel) and pavers must be bedded on a permeable base. Bedding on regular concrete is an absolute no-no.
- In rear gardens (patios), you should not pave over more than one-quarter of the garden area.
- Rear extensions should not occupy more than one quarter of the existing garden area.
- Side extensions should not increase total roof area by more than one quarter of the original.
- On-site retention should be provided for extensions (50mm x additional roof area gives a sensible volume).

Secondly, here are my suggestions for re-builds on existing plots:

- Re-builds should be designed to minimize storm-water run-off rates by use of on-site retention/storage. Paved areas must be permeable with a minimum depth of permeable bedding material of 150mm. Slow-release barrels for roof drainage are encouraged. For retention tanks, initial runoff volume of at least 20mm of rainfall over the entire site area should be provided.

David Caiden (CEng)



Eastbury Residents Association present **Jubilee @ The Rec**

Celebrating HM, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Friday 3rd June 11am to 4pm

Eastbury Recreation Ground, Batchworth Lane



The event will feature funfair rides, bouncy castles, trampolining, bump-a-car along with a variety of games stalls. Although the focus group is kids under 11 years, there will be something of interest across all ages.

There will be various food vans selling mouth-watering delights to tantalise your taste buds with Indian Vegetarian Street food, Shawarmas, gourmet hotdogs, burgers, pizzas, salads, cakes and much more.

Many stalls featuring crafts like handmade prints, candles, plant pots, garden ornaments, will appeal to those who want to buy something for home.

Whether it is getting people geared up for summers with kaftans and cotton stoles or 15- minute massages to relax and soothe, the aim is to have something to suit all pockets.

Batchworth Council is organising a cake competition to mark the occasion and the Eastbury Church will have a face painting stall.

Apart from these, there will be a drinks stall serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, an ice-cream van and live DJ to set the mood for a fun-filled day for the community.

So, grab your picnic mats and walk to the Rec to spend a relaxing day with your neighbours!

Northwood & Northwood Hills Residents' Associations present

Jubilee in the Park

Celebrating HM, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thursday 2nd June 2pm to 6pm

Northwood Recreation Ground, Chestnut Avenue, HA6 1HR



Once again, the NRA and NHRA are joining forces to bring you a community afternoon of entertainment - remember *Music & Picnic in the Park* in 2016? This time we are planning a similar relaxed event with musical performances and a children's entertainer in a marquee in a separate area. Come along for the afternoon, enjoy the music and offerings from the food stalls, either sitting on the grass or you are welcome to bring your own chairs.

Our musical programme will have something for everyone including classic swing, retro vocal harmonies with the Polka Dots and well-known hits from the CJ Edwards Band.

For up-to-date news follow us on Face Book: www.facebook.com/NorthwoodPlatinumJubileeEvent

FREE admission. FREE off-road parking.



Northwood Residents' Association

Supporting Local Residents and Businesses

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

Ros Plume

secretary@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Move to Paperless Newsletter

The ERA is discussing moving our newsletter to a more environmentally friendly paperless model. We want to get your thoughts on how we as a community can **protect our environment**.

In line with this we are looking for interested active citizens who can give us feedback, help us understand what the community is looking for and regularly support us in our goals.

We are still looking for **more committee members** who want to make a difference, organise events, advocate for an issue close to them or simply want to get more involved in our community.

We will still post all **urgent information** and any interesting community titbits on **our WhatsApp Group**, so we welcome you to join (Pg1). If you have any information you want to share, please contact one of the committee members (Pg8)

Young Eastbury

We wanted to specifically appeal to younger members of the community and get their thoughts. Often, we represent an older demographic of homeowners, but we sometime overlook the teenagers and young adults who also live here.

I am 23 and have been on the committee for the past 2 years. I can unequivocally say this is a brilliant opportunity to have a strong local impact, by engaging with a range of institutions including central government, TRDC, the police, Batchworth Community Council and all our councillors. We also have great pride in being a keystone for events organised by and for the community

This your chance to shape the community you live in, to advocate for issues close to you. For example, do you care about the environment, do you have any ideas on how we can better protect it as a community? Are you willing and able to volunteer to do things from raising funds for charity, organising events, or pick litter?

We hope you can help bridge the generational divide and advocate for overlooked issues. This is also a notice to other communities in Eastbury who feel their concerns are overlooked, let us know how we can help and what issues matter to you.

Here's to an inclusive, tolerant and better connected Eastbury

Suchira Peiris

101 – Non-emergency
Report a crime/incident

111 – Non-emergency (NHS)

999 – All Emergency services

Mind – 0300 123 3393
Advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem

TRDC Domestic Abuse Support –
01923 727141

Samaritans – 116 123
Offers a safe place to talk about whatever's getting to you

NSPCC – 0800 1111
Help for children and young people

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000
Help for adults concerned about a child

Cruse Bereavement Care –
0808 808 1677

Refuge – 0808 2000 247
Support for women and children trying to escape domestic abuse

Alzheimer's Society – 0333 150 3456
support and advice on living with dementia

Please join our WhatsApp to get quick and relevant community information.

Get in touch if you are setting up a community event or helping a charity, we can broadcast it

Looking forward to supporting you better
See Pg1 for QR Code

Low Level Letter Boxes

We know many families are upgrading their homes and we were hoping you would be able to give a bit of thought to your posties. Having spoken to individuals who work with Royal Mail it has been made clear the detrimental impact low level letter boxes can have on these critical workers, both in hand and back injuries.

We wanted to draw attention to their plight and long-standing bills in government seeking to make low level letter boxes illegal. Therefore, to save yourself the potential hassle and to do the right thing we urge those renovating to choose doors with letter slots around waist height. Alternatively, you can install a lockable letter box on your porch.

Let's do our bit to be good neighbours and citizens.

Crime and Safety





Be Safe Be Seen

- **Rural Road Safety Campaign highlights benefits of wearing hi vis clothing.**
- **Runner, riders and cyclists urged to put safety ahead of style.**
- **Country Lanes highlighted as a danger area.**

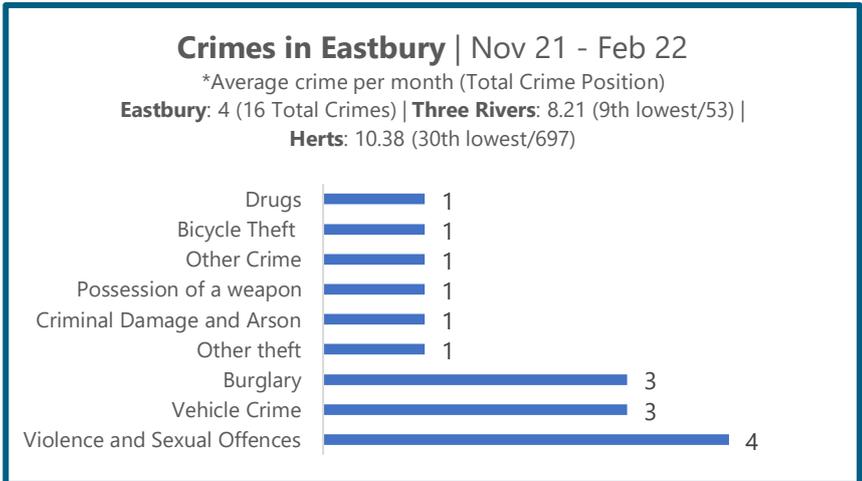
Police in Hertfordshire have shared the following advice on the benefits of hi-vis clothing. In fact, as part of their new Rural Road Safety Campaign, officers are appealing to those who walk, run or ride on the roads, to always wear high visibility clothing.

“Hi vis clothes, such as fluorescent or reflective items, should always be worn if you run, ride or walk on the roads, but at this time of year they are essential,” said Chief Inspector Alexandra Warwick.

“As the winter days get shorter and generally gloomier, it is harder for motorists to see pedestrians, cyclists or riders, particularly on narrow lanes where a person can just blend in with the hedging if they are wearing dark clothes. Quite often they are almost invisible until you get right up behind them.

“By wearing high visibility clothing, you are giving motorists more chance to react, slow down and pass you safely. If you are not keen to wear hi vis colours, then at least wear a hi vis backpack or have something fluorescent or reflective on your person that will help you to be seen. Horse riders should ideally wear hi vis clothing and have some hi vis accessory on their horse, in case the two become separated.

“It is easy to think that just because YOU have good visibility at the time, that the same will be true for car drivers, but the clarity from inside a car is very different. Please put safety over style when you head out on the roads.”



Hierarchy of Road Users

From 29 January 2022, The Highway Code has been updated to include new rules about “hierarchy of road users”. The hierarchy places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. It does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly.

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable, followed by cyclists, horse riders, motorcyclists and then motorists.

Updated guidance includes the following:

- When pedestrians are crossing or waiting to cross at a junction, other traffic should give way.
- When vehicles are passing people riding horses or driving horse-drawn vehicles, reduce speed to under 10mph and allow at least 2 metres (6.5 feet) of space
- Vehicles to allow at least 2 metres (6.5 feet) of space and keep to a low speed when passing people walking in the road (for example, where there’s no pavement)
- When overtaking cyclists, vehicles travelling at up to 30mph must leave at least 1.5 metres (5 feet) and giving cyclists more space when overtaking at higher speeds
- Vehicles must wait behind and do not overtake if it’s unsafe or not possible to meet the required clearances.
- Cyclists at night **MUST** have white front and red rear lights lit.

For more information see the [government website](#)

Ian Cristol



Drivers should give 5ft when overtaking cyclist

Batchworth Community Council Update



It has been a busy time for Batchworth Community Council (BCC) with great strides made since the elections of April 2021 when 50% of the councillors elected were new. In 2022 and beyond the council looks forward to continuing to support community events and enhancing the environment we live in.

BCC was delighted to support the first very successful ERA Winter Fair, which coincided with BCC's annual lighting of the Christmas tree on Eastbury Rec. The date also coincided with the turning on of the first night Chanukah lights and so a delightful addition involved many members of the local synagogue's congregation joining the festivities. It was a very cold day, but this did not seem to stop the community coming out in their numbers to enjoy both events.

BCC is pleased to report that we are at the final stages of an agreement with TRDC for the Outdoor Gym on Eastbury Rec. BCC also intends to work with TRDC on the upgrading of the Children's Play Area.

We are happy to announce the return of Rickmansworth's Monthly Market (in the High Street on the last Sunday of each month, from 11am-3pm, launch planned for Sunday, 24 April). We would love everyone living in BCC's wards to support this market, helping it grow over the coming months while enjoying its many activities for both children and adults.

Elsewhere BCC is engaged in the "20 Is Plenty" programme to slow traffic down in our streets and more detail will be shared in the near future. There will be an HCC public consultation to ascertain your views about this initiative.

Over the past 12 months, closer relationships have been developed with the new HCC Councillors and TRDC Councillors with joint ventures being planned to start in the coming months. BCC continues to look for a suitable location for a Community Hall to also include BCC offices.

Finally, BCC's Planning Committee remains very busy with planning applications. Each application is considered individually and, where appropriate, applications are "called in" for a full review by the TRDC Planning Committee. If you are undertaking any significant works, please speak to your neighbours because communication helps remove the potential for conflict. Also, please be our eyes and ears and if you suspect an approved planning consent is not being followed such as unapproved variations being incorporated; please bring these to the attention of your Planning Committee representatives.

Residents are welcome to attend our meetings. During the 'public participation' section you can speak on your topic for three minutes. Or you may prefer to contact one of your councillors directly via email (back page of this newsletter). To sit in or participate in any BCC meetings, the dates and times can be found on BCC's website along with the relevant papers.

Please sign up at <https://www.batchworth-ecg.gov.uk/> to receive regular updates.

[Community Infrastructure Levy](#)

Developments in MP&E have contributed to increasing CIL payments to BCC. This provides funding for community projects (such as the upcoming gym on the Rec).

If residents can think of other projects, they would like CIL money to help fund please let us or your councillors know.

BCC Council Meetings Location

As you know, Batchworth is comprised of two wards which are very different in character, namely Rickmansworth and Moor Park & Eastbury.

When BCC was formed in 2017 some meetings were held at Eastbury Farm School hall which were well attended by Eastbury residents.

However, for a considerable time now all meetings have been at Basing House in Rickmansworth Town.

Do you have views about this? If yes, please let your Councillors know so we can give this idea some traction.

WHO'S WHO?



Eastbury Residents Association's role

Our Residents Association plays an important and active role in contributing to the welfare of our neighbourhood. We are in regular contact with councillors from Three Rivers, Hertfordshire, and Batchworth Community Council

Please get in touch with us to share your thoughts on any aspect of the Eastbury Community



David Caiden
Chair



Derek Levy
Treasurer



Sameer Keshani



Kaksha Mehta



Suchira Peiris
Editor



Shikha Bhatia



Aanika Bhalla

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Hertfordshire County Council



Christopher Alley
(East of railway line)

christopher.alley@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Reena Ranger OBE
(West of railway line)

reena.ranger@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Roles & Responsibilities

- Policing, Fire and Rescue
 - Schools and education
 - Building control
 - Roads and highways
 - Social care
 - Street lighting
 - Verge tree planting & maintenance
 - Grass verge maintenance
- www.hertfordshire.gov.uk



Three Rivers District Council



Jo Clemens (Retiring May 2022)

jclemensmpe@gmail.com



Debbie Morris (Vice Chair of TRDC)

debbie.morris@threerivers.gov.uk



Reena Ranger

reena.ranger@threerivers.gov.uk

Roles & Responsibilities

- Refuse & recycling
 - Planning & environment
 - Maintaining & running leisure facilities: -
 - Watersmeet
 - The Aquadrome
 - Eastbury Rec
- www.threerivers.gov.uk



Batchworth Community Council Moor Park & Eastbury Representatives

Alan Moss

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Neelima Payne

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Francois Neckar

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Craige Coren

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For general queries please email

clerk@batchworth-ecc.gov.uk

Roles & Responsibilities

- Developing Neighbourhood Plan
- Monitoring Planning applications
- Community enhancement