

# CLERK'S REPORT MAY 2026

## CORRESPONDENCE

11/03/2026 HAPTC - Good Afternoon

As many of you will already know, Carina Helmn will be retiring at the end of March after 23 years leading the Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils. Carina's depth of knowledge and her passion for our sector have shaped HAPTC in countless ways. From her groundbreaking leadership through the turbulent years of the pandemic to her tireless national lobbying to ensure Hertfordshire's voice was heard, her impact has been profound. Many of us have also benefited from the high-quality training she delivered, where networks were built and clerks, councillors, and officers found a place to learn, grow, and thrive.

Carina leaves behind a remarkable legacy for the new HAPTC team, having supported so many of us with unwavering commitment. The shoes to fill are significant, and I am delighted to be stepping into the role of CEO and carrying forward the work of our organisation.

Sue Campbell will also be retiring this summer. As both Carina and Sue already have existing plans in their diaries, we have agreed—at their request—to defer their formal celebration.

The HAPTC Executive Team is exploring options to mark HAPTC's 80th birthday next year, with Carina and Sue as guests of honour. More details will follow in due course.

In the meantime, I know many of you will want to express thanks to Carina (there will be a separate opportunity for Sue when the time comes). I have arranged an e-card, and I would be grateful if you and your teams could use the link below to add your messages so that we can present her with a heartfelt token of our appreciation ahead of next year's formal celebration

[https://www.thankbox.com/app/thankbox/W8JRdBwc?utm\\_campaign=thankbox-created-confirmation&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=system-email](https://www.thankbox.com/app/thankbox/W8JRdBwc?utm_campaign=thankbox-created-confirmation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=system-email)

Many thanks & kind regards

Nikki Bugden

16/03/2026 Wallington Farms – Rent Review. £800 from 1 October 2026.

01/04/2026 Hertfordshire Pension Fund

We're pleased to confirm that Hertfordshire Pension Fund's (the Fund) new self-insurance approach is now live. The new approach came into effect automatically on 1 April 2026 and all employers in the Fund are now covered by self-insurance unless you opted-out.

The new self-insurance approach was introduced to enhance stability and management of ill-health retirement and death in service benefits within the Fund.

How does it benefit you?

This new approach provides greater security for employers by covering against unexpected costs arising from paying ill-health and death benefits. It also offers:

- Greater value for money
- Easier administration
- No change to risk covered
- Further information

If you'd like to find out more about the Fund's new self-insurance approach, visit our dedicated webpage <https://herts.self-insurance.co.uk> for more details on self-insurance, the benefits to you in detail, what's covered; and some commonly asked questions in the FAQs.

We'd like to thank you for your engagement throughout this process.

08/04/2026 Reply from Wallington Farms on allotment update by Cllr Hall.

Thank you very much for your update about the allotments. I am sorry it has taken so long to reply - I am stunned that two weeks have gone by already since your email!

Diana and I are really delighted that the allotments continue to be well used and appreciated by those who use them. It is also very reassuring to hear that the finances of the society are in good health.

19/04/2026

Resident has reported that dust from the development site is creating a lot of dust with is settling on her property and is a health hazard.

Reply from Planning:

Miller Homes have submitted an application to discharge condition 5 of the consent under ref: 6/2025/02513/COND. Condition 5 requires the submission of a Construction and Traffic Management Plan, including measures relating to dust control. The application is still being considered however, in respect of dust control, Miller Homes propose the following:

Measures to Control Emissions of Dust and Dirt During Construction

*Dust suppression has been assessed as per Miller Homes SHE Procedures. The measures will be undertaken as below. The measures are to be monitored by the Miller Homes Site Team on a daily basis and SHE team on a quarterly basis in line with contractors RAMs and HSE Guidance.*

*The measures to address the risk to neighbouring properties and site operatives are:-All masonry cutting will be water suppressed and operatives are to wear goggles at all times during operation;-Mechanical cut off saws will have dust collection or extraction systems. Operatives are to wear goggles at all times during operation;-Water for dampening down is to be taken from local fire hydrants via a stand pipe at all time through out the construction phase for 'dampening down' of dust from roads and earth works. The compound will also have a permanent source of water throughout the works. Dampening is to be carried out by a bowser as and when required during dry periods.-Roads are to be brushed twice a week to reduce the mobilisation of dust on/off site by sweeper on the on site forklift present at all times.*

*Offsite roads are to be swept in line with the above and made available for 6 hours a week and all day during muck shifts.-Site strip will be controlled through the Miller Pollution Prevention Plan to ensure no areas of topsoil are stripped until required by the programme of build to further reduce the chances of dust mobilisation.-All topsoil stripped is to be banded and sealed to reduce dust mobilisation.-Delivery activities, plant, stockpiled materials and /or any other activities liable to significant dust generation shall be located as far away as possible from the development site boundaries and neighbouring properties.-Stored materials liable to dust generation shall be dampened down, covered with tarpaulin or otherwise contained as far as reasonably possible.-Drop heights from conveyors, loading shovels, hoppers, and other loading or handling equipment shall be minimised and fine water sprays should be used on equipment where necessary.*

*Skips, chutes and conveyors shall be covered and if necessary enclosed to ensure that dust does not escape.*

*The above measures have been assessed in line with the Institute of Air Quality Management document "Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition & construction. With the above measures the risk from dust is considered low to the environment, operatives and neighbouring landowners.*

If there is any suggestion that any of the aforementioned measures are not being adhered to, our Planning Enforcement team can undertake an investigation and if necessary ensure that the developer adheres to the mitigation strategy set out.

28/04/2026 The National Allotment Society

Details of a nationwide survey of local authorities to establish a clear and up-to-date picture of allotment provision, demand, and management across England.

Passed to the Woolmer Green Allotment Association.

04/05/2026 Freshwater Habitats Trust.

Information on a survey of Hertfordshire ponds asking permission to test Woolmer Green pond for Great Crested Newts.

04/05/2026 Resident

I don't know if you are aware that there seems to be a problem with the Filter light (for turning right) with the traffic lights by cheguer's pub ,sometimes they work and other times it does not. I am concerned as I have witnessed first hand a couple of near misses with the Filter light not coming on and cars turning right into Mardlebury road ,and then the lights turn red and cars then coming out of mardlebury road turning right towards knebworth find there are car in there paths

I have contacted highways about this some while ago but it's still on going

## **HALL**

Curtain track quote, Uni Drape:

Supply & Install

Existing Curtains to be rehanged on ceiling mounted Silent Gliss 6840 track in White, with heavy duty roller gliders.

1 no. Curtain Track

All for the sum of £1,053.00

Full drawing curtains with double fullness and Pencil pleat headings, curtains to be Unlined and faced with Zanzibar FR Blackout fabric, colour to choice from range.

2 no. Pairs of Curtains (to be fitted within the same visit)

All for the sum of £2,426.00

VAT and Installation charges included.

Lead time – Approximately 4 weeks from order.

Can the curtains be repaired? Because the curtains you have are a pinch pleat, they don't have a curtain tape. They're made with a stiffened board inside and the pinch pleats are sewn in. This is what has fallen apart on the ones we can see on the right-hand side, and possibly there are others in a similar condition that we can't see because the curtains are currently inoperable. It's possible they could be repaired but the cost of getting this done, due to the size of them, would be high, and the age of the curtains would mean we couldn't guarantee it being successful as the linings are probably damaged from the sun. It also wouldn't be able to be done in the timeframe of having a tower up so would involve 2 visits.

Martyn's Law:

The Home Office has published its statutory guidance for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025>

Further updates and resources for the town, parish, and community sector will be shared in due course.

URisk

Suggesting works required - quotation £8,747.

## **WHITESPACE PUBLISHING/UK BRIDE ISSUE**

Mediation has not settled the issue.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

Report by Cllr Hall: theft of 2 rotovators and a strimmer taken on 2 separate occasions in January and February.

## **TRANSPORT**

Highways – crossings.

I'm not sure of the latest. I was attending meetings last year for information, even though this is a development management issue. The developer was unwilling to fulfil the puffin due to increasing costs and that the environment had now changed to a 30mph. There was talk of a raised zebra instead or a s106 contribution to HCC. The meetings seem to have stopped.

There were plans as consulted on to raise the existing zebra on a table, though the focus switched to delivering just the junction. We are launching a corridor long feasibility, though it's my hope that the priority for delivery phasing switches to some of the more difficult sections that might unlock benefit, i.e. Oaklands, Clock Roundabout, A1000 shared path and crossings