

CLERK'S REPORT OCTOBER 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

18/ 9/2026 North Herts District Council

Local Plan - Contents and Evidence Consultation

We are holding a public consultation of our Contents and Evidence document, and its supporting information, between 13 October - 24 November 2026.

You can view the document and supporting information online or hard copies will be available, for reference only, at libraries and our Council offices at Gernon Road from 7th October.

You will be able to comment on the consultation from 13th October on our online platform.

Come along to one of our informal drop-in sessions, taking place throughout North Herts, to find out more, speak with members of the Strategic Planning Team and share your views.

Kimpton Memorial Hall, 12 October, 3pm - 6pm

Cockernhoe Memorial Hall, 13 October, 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Knebworth Village Hall, 19 October, 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Royston Town Hall, 20 October, 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Ashwell Village Hall, 26 October, 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Graveley Village Hall, 27 October, 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Other venues in Baldock, Hitchin and Letchworth Garden City are to be confirmed for November - we will notify you in advance of these dates through our next newsletter.

There is no need to book. Simply drop in at any time during the session.

We look forward to seeing you then!

Call for Sites

As part of our early work to prepare our new Local Plan, we carried out a Call for Sites, giving landowners and promoters the opportunity to send us sites that they want us to consider for allocation through the plan-making process.

We are publishing all of those sites for you to look at and comment on. We have started our own process of assessing the sites but we also want your opinions on the sites that we have received too, so that we can form a fully rounded view of sites before moving to the next step.

This is not a map of allocated sites; it is a map of the sites that we have received and need to assess for their suitability for various forms of development including open space and biodiversity.

View sites submitted to us:

https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/call-sites?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#site-submissions-2025-and-current-local-plan-allocations-map

Our 'Call for Sites' that has been open since May 2025 hasn't produced enough smaller or brownfield sites.

Using brownfield land can help make effective use of land that has already been developed and can reduce pressure to develop elsewhere.

The NPPF 2026 requires us to allocate over our 11 year plan period:

at least 10% (c. 1,100) of our housing requirement on sites less than one hectare

a further 10% (c. 1,100) of our housing requirement on sites between one and 2.5 hectares

To help address this, we have opened a further 'Call for Sites' where smaller sites can be sent to us.

18/09/2026 Network Rail:

Work will take place overnight on the railway on 23, 24 & 25 September. Noise will be kept to a minimum.

23/09/2026 WHBC:

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has published the Regulation 19 version of its new Local Plan, along with accompanying evidence base, for consultation and we are inviting responses to this. This

consultation is carried out under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The consultation will run from 23 September 2026 until 05 November 2026. All responses must be received by 6.00pm on 05 November 2026.

27/09/2026 Resident:

I'm writing to report a safety issue I've just noticed at Woolmer Green Village Hall playground. One of the swings has a loose mount, and it feels unstable. For safety, could this be inspected as soon as possible? I thought it best to flag it right away to help prevent any accidents. Thank you.

29/09/2026 Resident:

Just thinking Pickleball is a real craze in the UK now, would the Parish Councillors consider converting the tennis court into two Pickleball courts - it only takes tape and another net?

This video shows how - just a thought to get more use out of the court....

[https://www.google.com/search?q=how+do+you+turn+a+tennis+course+into+a+pickleball+court&rlz=1C1CHBD_en-](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+do+you+turn+a+tennis+course+into+a+pickleball+court&rlz=1C1CHBD_en-GBGB712GB712&oq=how+do+you+turn+a+tennis+course+into+a+pickleball+court&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAQABgNGB4yDQgCEAAyhqMYgAQYigUyBwgDEAAy7wUyCggEEAAYogQYiQUyCggFEAAyYgAQYogTSAQoxNDQ2N2owajE1qAIIIsAIB8QV30XIm0lDUwQ&sourceid=chrome&source=chrome.rb&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:2af10730,vid:zYT_cKAcRg0,st:0)

[GBGB712GB712&oq=how+do+you+turn+a+tennis+course+into+a+pickleball+court&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAQABgNGB4yDQgCEAAyhqMYgAQYigUyBwgDEAAy7wUyCggEEAAYogQYiQUyCggFEAAyYgAQYogTSAQoxNDQ2N2owajE1qAIIIsAIB8QV30XIm0lDUwQ&sourceid=chrome&source=chrome.rb&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:2af10730,vid:zYT_cKAcRg0,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+do+you+turn+a+tennis+course+into+a+pickleball+court&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAQABgNGB4yDQgCEAAyhqMYgAQYigUyBwgDEAAy7wUyCggEEAAYogQYiQUyCggFEAAyYgAQYogTSAQoxNDQ2N2owajE1qAIIIsAIB8QV30XIm0lDUwQ&sourceid=chrome&source=chrome.rb&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:2af10730,vid:zYT_cKAcRg0,st:0)

05/10/2026 Resident:

I would like to have a moan about the parking on mardlebury road on a Sunday morning Church parrisioners are parking all the way down from the church including parking on double yellow lines to birch road and also parking on the opposite side after cavers Croft

When cars are coming from the lights towards datchworth if any cars come in the opposite direction it's start to get dangerous, and this Sunday someone had parked on yellow lines opposite the school, whilst I know apart from the parking on yellow lines none of it is illegal it is becoming a problem

I don't like moaning and I am glad to see the church well used but I just wanted to let you know Many thanks for hearing me out.

08/10/2026 Resident:

A few things have cropped up over the year and I felt, after today, I do need to mention this.

My First Aid courses are qualifications for businesses and schools, so any lengthy disturbance can be distracting, plus there is an Assessment at the end of each session where people need to be focussed. This year I have had :

- garden maintenance mowing (giant mowers) outside the room near the tennis court - this went on for a while
- someone doing maintenance on the smaller room next door, knocking / banging / drilling
- a massive orchestra turning up to the main Hall and about 10 individuals trying to come through the outside door, or walking into the room - if I had known, I would have put notices on both doors
- today home-schooling. There was sadly a very troubled child who screamed continuously for over an hour in the main hall. It was so piercing we all thought someone had a whistle. This continued when we were having our break - it was really distressing, it was very sad to hear and when we were in our room it was very distracting.

For the first two situations above, if I had been pre-warned I would have booked elsewhere. It's not fair to expect my clients to tolerate this when they are concentrating and I shouldn't have to talk louder to compensate for the outside noise. This takes me back to the lady doing her personal training outside our door - nothing was really done about this as she was a 'regular'. After a few weeks of me hiring the Committee Room she eventually moved on - not sure if she was asked!

So the bottom line is, please warn me if there is going to be potential noise disturbance, give me a chance to either put signs on the doors or book somewhere quieter that day.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION ENF/2026/0120

Alleged Breach: Erection of outbuilding. At: 46 New Road Woolmer Green SG3 6LB

From WHBC: I write regarding the above investigation relating to a garden building at the above address. I can advise you that, following a site visit, it is concluded that the building in question was

previously investigated and determined to be permitted development. As there has been no change in circumstances, this case too has been closed.

PLAYGROUNDS

GARDEN ROAD PLAYGROUND	
Rocker – 1. replace footholds 2. replace tyre dampeners	replacements received. council decided not to replace tyre.
Roundabout – raise floor level to between 60mm to 110mm.	
Swings – remove swing seats.	completed
HALL PLAYGROUND	
Benches – 1. remove 1 rotten bench. 2. cut bench seats to remove rotten timber. 3. replace 4 slats on 1 picnic bench. 4. on 2 nd picnic bench make protruding screws safe.	completed completed
Rocker – replace missing bolt.	
Bridge - replace blue cap.	part received, to be fitted
Wobble Board – oil parts.	completed

REPLACEMENT BENCHES

Quote from TJ & TC Tyler £180 per bench.

FOOTBALL PITCH HIRE

Knebworth PC: £8,494.50. (2024/25 reduced temporarily by £882.)

Knebworth has 2 adult + 4 youth pitches.

Northaw & Cuffley PC: Seniors £45 per match. Juniors £25 per match.

Wheathampstead PC: Artificial pitch £44 per hour. Grass pitch £25 per hour.

Barkway PC: £50 per game.

St. Stephens PC: Adult pitch 30 games £1,480. Junior pitch 30 games £703.

NB Season is 1 September-31 May, 38 weeks.

School Hire: <https://schoolhire.co.uk/browse-facilities/football/south-east/hertfordshire>

UK BRIDE/WHITESPACE PUBLISHING ISSUE

UK Bride/Whitespace Publishing did not pay the court fee by the deadline therefore the case has been struck off by the court.