



Photograph by: Stephen Kitchener

THE MAYOR'S YEAR

Councillor Mike Hicks looks back on his year in office.

I felt honoured to be chosen to represent the people of Tring as Mayor during 2016/2017.

This has been a year of consolidation. The staff, volunteers and councillors of Tring Town Council have worked together as a team to continue the projects started in previous years. I would like to thank them all for their dedication and diligence in all their duties.

The hot topic of last year was the proposed traveller site on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty abutting the LA5 development. We successfully opposed the plan and the Government Inspector concluded that this was not an appropriate site.

The designation of 40% affordable housing in LA5 is most welcome. I urge all of those eligible to put their name down on the housing list.

Cllr. Mike Hicks
Town Mayor



I would love those houses to be filled with local people.

I'd like to convey my heartfelt thanks to all of Tring's able and enthusiastic volunteers – and to the wonderful people at Tring Together. Please take part in their survey on the future uses of the Nora Grace Hall.

Tring Carnival was a great success. It was lovely walking to Pound Meadow with the school children, the vintage cars and the rest of the parade.

We had fine weather for the Apple Fayre. The children and Morris groups were marvellous, and I so enjoyed my ride in a horse-drawn carriage.

The Christmas Festival went very well; the elf and safety gremlins stopping the fitting of lights on a few lamp posts but not enough to detract from the wonderful atmosphere.

The Justice and Peace carol service was excellent: Pastor Andrew Openshaw stepped in as MC at the very last minute and did a great Job.

I was amazed by the attendance and lovely singing at the Lions' Christmas Eve Carol service in the car park. The smiles on the children's faces when Father Christmas arrived were something to see.

I must mention the well-organised memorial services that filled St Peter & St Paul Church. 100 years ago the brave volunteers expected to be home for Christmas; we must never forget their sacrifice.

I also attended the 50th anniversary of the founding of Tring ATC which has helped so many young people into great futures.

The event that pleased me most this year was the opening of the new council houses in Queen Street. We will continue to strive for more affordable housing and good infrastructure to support our population.

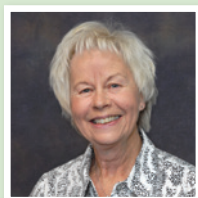


Annual Town Meeting

On **Monday 24th April at 8pm** in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street.
Open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Future Development

LA5 and the Single Local Plan



Cllr. Penny Hearn

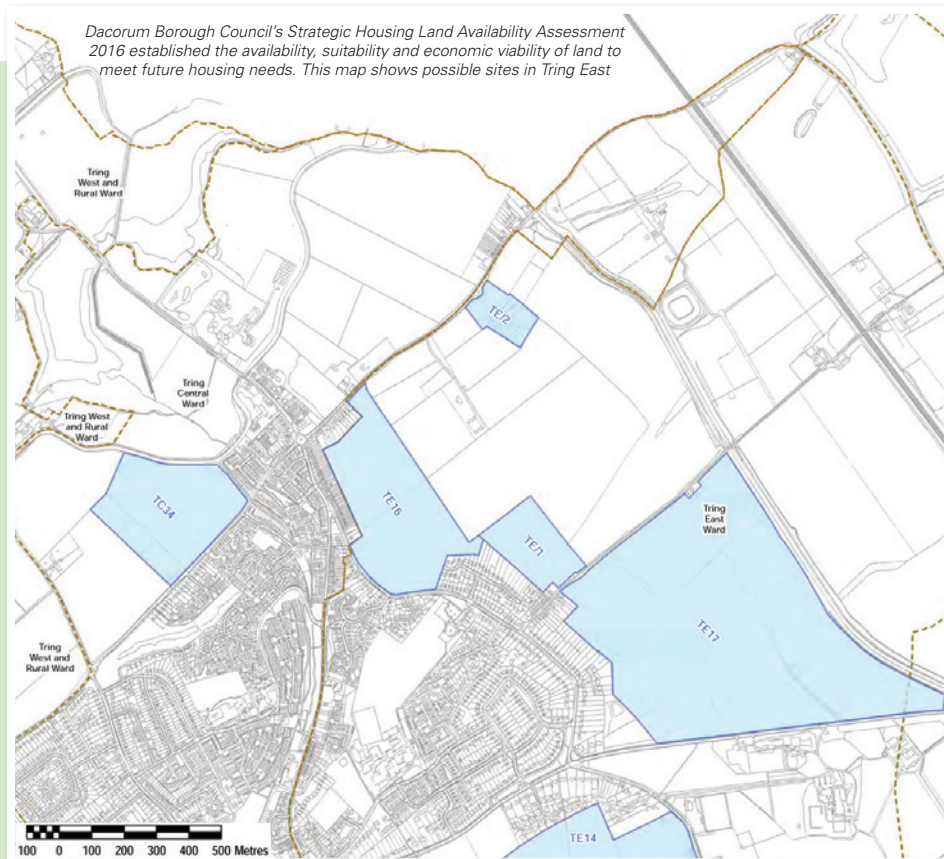
Councillor Penny Hearn looks at key decisions affecting Tring

Many of you are now well aware of the LA5 site which has been allocated for major housing development at the western end of the town on the land beyond the cemetery and the Icknield Way Industrial area.

Initial plans for the site included a five pitch gypsy and travellers' site which the Town Council and the local community objected to strongly. The proposed site was within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and at the gateway to Tring, which is of course of great importance to the town. In November 2016, after the public examination of Dacorum Borough Council's site allocations development plan, the government Planning Inspector found the inclusion of a gypsy and travellers site on LA5 was not sound because of the impact upon the AONB. She recommended its removal from the local allocation and Dacorum Borough Council accepted her decision.

The Town Council was relieved to hear of this outcome. In the previous year's town budget we had allocated a sum of money to enable us to employ the services of legal representatives which proved to be a wise decision.

The team representing us at the enquiry was headed by barrister Trevor Standen and, together with our allies from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the Chilterns



Management Board, the result speaks for itself. I attended the enquiry along with the Mayor, Mike Hicks, Cllr Olive Conway, Stephen Hearn and our Town Clerk, Michael Curry, who, I might add, was there throughout the entire proceedings. The enquiry itself often proved to be frustrating, since we were only able to observe, not express an opinion.

There are several planning stages to complete before the publication of the Inspector's final report which will detail changes to be incorporated into the site allocation. The revised document should be formally adopted by the Borough Council in the Spring of 2017.

At present the Borough Council is developing a new planning strategy for the entire Borough through a document called the 'New Single Local Plan'. A new housing needs assessment will be looking into the next 20 years' requirements and no doubt Tring will have to take on more residential development in future. The government is in the process of formulating a review which will outline its opinion with regard to the use of the Green Belt for housing, but as yet no decisions have been made. In future negotiations Tring must ensure that there are adequate public services to support an ever-growing population. We need to accept some development,

but only that which is correct for our town.

Housing development in the area means many more vehicles will put our town's car parks under even greater pressure. The Town Council is looking into the possibility of using the Market Place (owned by Tring Town Council) as a car park. This should ease the current parking problems in the town and help towards maintaining a vibrant High Street, which is so important to the wellbeing of Tring.

The Council and Tring Together are working together to support shop keepers and businesses. We hope that the business rate revision will not damage too many prospects.

The Town Council welcomes the inclusion within the LA5 housing development of 40% affordable housing. This will help some of the younger members of our town to find a home without having to move away. The Town Council's planning committee has formed a working party to observe, comment and react to all planning matters under consideration for Tring. Becoming involved at an early stage will enable the Town Council to have regular contact with the Borough Council, its planning team and officers over the future of our town.

We'll keep you informed!

Road and Home Safety



Councillor Henry Grace maps progress on paths and roads



Cllr. Henry Grace

Last spring the Road & Home Safety working party undertook an audit of the town. Some damp and dark hours were spent trudging around the roads and footpaths to compile a map annotated with all the issues that needed addressing by our County Council.



The map was marked up with pot holes; worn road markings; broken, missing or obscured road signs; blocked drains; blown street lamps and anything else that would be a potential hazard to motorists or pedestrians around the town. The map was finalised by the Clerk and used to lobby the County Council so that all our issues could be addressed in one hit and prioritised for repair.



We have had some successes, mainly with the pot holes and street lights. A notable win was getting the hedge beside the crossing point between Pound Meadow and Tesco cut right back, so visibility and therefore safety for motorists and pedestrians is greatly improved at a relatively low cost. There remains plenty to do, so we have created a forum through which we can apply pressure to the County. Still high on our list are things like the cycle path to the station and repainting worn road markings at most of the junctions.



You can also help by reporting any faults in our roads and pavements to Herts County Council at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highway/faults

TRING WORDSEARCH

All the words listed on the right-hand side are in the grid somewhere!



N	A	X	U	R	T	S	N	U	B	R	V	L
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	K	K	I	A
A	R	T	N	E	R	S	S	U	R	Y	L	I
L	A	O	P	S	C	L	R	E	A	O	R	R
L	D	A	Y	C	A	I	L	R	P	R	T	O
O	U	A	E	A	V	C	T	R	R	I	U	M
T	N	B	T	E	M	A	R	Y	A	C	C	E
M	S	L	R	C	K	N	W	I	C	N	H	M
E	L	I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N
N	E	Y	T	S	N	R	E	T	L	I	H	C
T	Y	M	A	S	X	T	M	L	L	K	M	U
S	H	C	R	U	H	C	T	E	L	H	S	M
S	O	G	N	I	N	N	A	L	P	L	L	W

- RIVER
- CAR PARK
- INFORMATION
- WALKS
- PLANNING
- CLERK
- MAYOR
- DUNSLEY
- CHURCH
- BUNSTRUX
- CHRISTMAS
- CHILTERNS
- MEMORIAL
- ALLOTMENTS

Walk this way for a scenic treat



Cllr. Stephen Hearn

The long-term project to reclaim this area of land which extends to over two acres and adjoins the stream is well underway.

The jungle of brambles, scrub and trees had to be cleared and this proved a difficult and time-consuming task. We engaged a local farm contractor to carry out work and, after having completed and removed the first clearance, more difficult work included repeated heavy cultivation and removing trailer loads of roots, bricks and general rubbish to finally allow a suitable seed bed to be established. A lot of the work was carried out by machine but picking and clearing by hand was a necessity. Not all the bricks and remnants of building work were disposed of, as much of it will be used to construct small mammal refuges on the site which will be turfed to blend in with the meadow. The next task was to establish a seed bed suitable for the sowing of a meadow grass/wild flower mixture. This is growing and appears to be successful. Hopefully we will have a sympathetic spring to allow this to establish and it will be very interesting to see if the wild flower seeding has

Councillor Stephen Hearn reviews the “Footpath 41 Project”



germinated. Wildlife friendly native trees and shrubs will then be planted. Whilst working on the land it was very satisfying to see the blue flash of a kingfisher moving upstream, to see coots and moorhens on the cleared land and one particularly large family of two adult mallards and twelve ducklings on the stream.

The stream is going to take a little longer to deal with than first expected. The Canal and River Trust have indicated that they would prefer the silt in the stream to remain undisturbed until further contamination tests have been carried out, but if the results allow, the stream will be cleared and together with the banks, replanted to blend in with the meadow.

It's quite clear that patience is needed when carrying out a project of this type; nature has to take its course, but in the end it will form an important part of the green corridor which extends from the Wendover Arm through to the centre of our town. We would ask everyone to respect the work that is being carried out and not to use it as a general dump for unwanted rubbish. Believe it or not, since the site clearance numerous articles have had to be removed.

There are other projects of a similar nature

which have to be carried out in the town, and if any readers are prepared to offer a little of their time to help as volunteers please inform the Town Clerk (clerk@tring.gov.uk).



Cultivate, conserve, improve...

Councillor Gerald Wilkins reviews a fruitful year

Duckmore Lane allotments go from strength to strength with few plots vacant. Last year, four plots which were heavily overgrown were cleared and soon re-let. Walking amongst the plots makes you realise how much time and effort the allotment holders put in to achieve the excellent results. A windsock was installed last year to show the direction and strength of the wind to assist with the management of bonfires.

The new fence on the corner of Duckmore Lane has now had a beech hedge planted along its length. The Allotment Association elected a new Chairman, Ian Brownell, and he and his team are doing a great job. One of their new ideas was to hold a fruit and vegetable show. This was a real success, especially the children's class.

Tring in Transition are in the process of creating a Community Garden in the corner of the allotments. They are changing the site by planting flowers and fruit trees. They have also built three raised vegetable gardens. If you would like to lend a helping hand, they are always looking for volunteers.

The field adjacent to the allotments was ploughed and re-seeded with a high quality grass with some wild flowers. Once the grass becomes established, the field can be rented out. In order to make the field stock proof, a new fence will be erected.

The Millennium Wood, close to the south-west of the allotments, is a wonderful example of natural planted woodland. Friends of Millennium Wood have a project in hand to carry out that work and hope to involve schools and other groups in the town to come along and give a helping hand.

Tring Town Council regularly has a Tree Audit of all the trees owned by the Council. Dacorum's Tree Officer carried out the audit and explained what work should be done to look after the trees well. The necessary work will be carried out in the near future. As you've probably noticed while walking past Church Square, the dead trees have been removed. The raised garden is planted every year with an assortment of flowers and is well maintained by our Town Warden. For the past two years, Christmas Tree Place (Berkhamsted) has generously donated Tring's Christmas tree.

Once again our thanks go to DBC's Parks & Recreation Ground Officer and team for the upkeep of the Memorial Garden and the planting at the entrance which is always a glorious display of bulbs and flowers. The gardens themselves seem to improve every year – a fantastic place to visit for a stroll or to sit in the tranquil surroundings.

For more information on the allotments and the two projects mentioned above please contact Dawn Slade, Deputy Clerk to the Council, at the council offices.



Cllr. Gerald Wilkins





Destination Tring

Tring Walks by Ray Flanigan, Information Officer

Once you've completed the Tring Heritage Trail, there's plenty more walking to do around Tring. The Heritage Trail app includes walks around Tring Park and 'Tring by the Water', along with longer trails that take in some of the breathtaking views available from points along the Ridgeway National Trail. But there's a whole range of shorter walks available, either from the centre of Tring (Stubbings Wood, Tring Common, a trundle around the Tring Triangle), or from a convenient car park just out of town – for example the '*Ashridge Drovers Walk*', starting from the quintessentially English village of Aldbury, or the '*Black Poplar Walk*', starting from the centre of the equally charming village of Wilstone. There are many options for circular walks around the Tring Reservoirs, the Grand Union Canal and its two local 'arms' – the Wendover Arm (navigable to Little Tring, but being renovated beyond, towards Wendover) and the Aylesbury Arm (navigable all the way from Marsworth to Aylesbury).

One of my personal favourites is the walk down the flight of canal locks, starting at Bulbourne and gradually walking downhill to Marsworth. In addition to the possibility, at any time of the year, of seeing boats going up or down through the locks (it's the 'main line' between Birmingham and London!), the landscape just opens out in front of you – agricultural land to the right and, magnificently, the Tring Reservoirs to your left, and the line of the Chiltern Hills beyond. The scenery is superb, and so too is the birdlife. But there's more, much more – call in to the Tring Information Centre for a range of free maps and self-guided walk leaflets.



Photograph by: Jean Petticrew

Tring Destination Plan by Peter Coneron, Tring Together

In March 2015 Tring Town Council facilitated a meeting between tourism consultants Black Spiral and a group of local stakeholders. Black Spiral was appointed by Dacorum Borough Council to work on the wider Dacorum tourism strategy. Prior to the meeting Black Spiral undertook a marketing audit and mystery visit to the town. Resulting from the meeting Black Spiral produced a Tring Destination Plan defining four key priorities: **(1) Showcase a consistent identity. (2) More coordinated approach. (3) Raised awareness and profile as a destination. (4) Maintain and develop the experience.** Below is a brief summary of progress to date by the Tring Tourism Steering Group supported by Tring Town Council.



Located in the Chiltern Hills, Tring is surrounded by countryside and in particular beech trees which grow in Tring Park – set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The name Tring is believed to derive from the Anglo-Saxon 'Tredunga' or 'Trehangr'. 'Tre' meaning 'tree' and with the suffix 'ing' implying 'a slope where trees grow'.

The logo design incorporates a beech leaf attached to the horizontal stroke of the 'T' of Tring. The horizontal stroke curves to reflect the sloping hills in Tring Park and links back to the meaning of the name Tring.

The script typeface creates a gentle, flowing and relaxed feel to the logotype and represents a unique signature that identifies Tring as being traditional yet forward thinking, diverse in its offering to visitors, tourists, and warm and welcoming. It is to be used on every touchpoint relating to Tring tourism creating a strong, recognisable brand for Tring.

'Visit Tring' website



Aims to: **(1) Provide a familiar and visitor focused online resource for residents and potential visitors to the region. (2) To present the widest option of attractions, events, accommodation, food and drink. (3) To further engage residents and visitors in all that the region has to offer.** With input from local stakeholders a brand new **VisitTring** website hosted on the VisitChilterns platform has been launched. For more information search **www.visittring.co.uk** – Social Media strategy and Events Calendar are currently work in progress.

Tring Heritage Trail App



Tring Heritage Trail describes the heritage and history of the many interesting places to visit in Tring. For each location there is an easy to follow commentary (also available in audio), photos of the location past and present and a special section for children – follow our zebra. The App also includes a historic guide to the town and a fascinating description of the connection with the Rothschild family. The Walking and Cycling Trails provide a fully interactive map and a guide with pictures of all the main turning points. Download the App now – simply search *Tring Heritage Trail* in either the App Store or Google Play.



Shop Local



2016 was a very successful year for the *I Love Tring Retail* group. Backing from Tring Town Council, a group of enthusiastic retailers and Tring Together's support has enabled us to promote the retail community and the importance of a vibrant High Street using networking and workshop events, a newsletter designed to help encourage engagement between retailers and High Street businesses and a new Twitter account and clear branding message to engage with Tring residents. The year culminated in a very successful *Tring's own shop local day*; there was significant participation by retailers and residents alike, with really positive feedback from all.

The Tring Job Show returns!



After last year's fantastic feedback, the Tring Job Show returns on Saturday, 6th May from 10am until 3pm at the Victoria Hall and aims to showcase the best employment opportunities, advice and information from a range of local companies. Useful workshops will be held on topics such as Interview Skills or Returning to Work after a Career Break. A CV Clinic will offer professional advice to all who bring their CV along on the day. The Tring Job Show is organised by Tring Together in association with Tring Town Council and many local businesses. If you are interested in exhibiting at the Tring Job Show or require further information, please contact Steffi (steffi@tringtogether.org.uk).

Information Centre by Ray Flanigan & Ruth Higgins

Even if you can 'google' almost anything these days, most people value face-to-face connection with another person. While many local towns are closing their Information Centres, Tring Town Councillors believe that the facilities available at 99 Akeman Street are worth preserving and developing. Increasing numbers of tourists, as well as incomers to the town and its surrounding villages, ask us about 'things to do', 'places to go', and information about services, entertainments, clubs and groups, and activities in the area.

We do, of course, have a website – www.tring.gov.uk – which has a wealth of information about Tring.

But if you phone us, or even better call in, you'll find that we can help with almost anything you might need to know – whether that's 'signposting' you to the service provider you might need, showing you planning applications, or providing you with information about your area of interest. We've got up-to-date copies of all the local bus and train timetables, and can even help you plan journeys further afield. We hold all the local, and some of the 'not-so-local', theatre and entertainments guides. And of course we have information about local attractions and services for both adults and children. Drop in and see us any weekday from 9.30am until 3pm, and from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. Ray Flanigan and Ruth Higgins staff the office Mondays-Thursdays, and Victoria Eldson works on Fridays. On Saturdays, cover is shared between Victoria and Marj Swain. We are so grateful for the expert support of our volunteer, Janet Rigby, on Friday afternoons.



Making the most of our assets

COUNCILLOR OLIVE CONWAY REVIEWS THE COUNCIL'S PROPERTIES



Cllr. Olive Conway

Tring Town Council's property portfolio extends from Church Square at the town centre to the Millennium Wood on Tring's western edge. The Council works hard to keep its property in good repair.

Tring is lucky in that the Town Council has some properties which, as well as providing facilities, also generate income (see article on page 9, Budget and Precept). Looking after them does take time and resources, however.

The switch to Church Square for the Friday Market has been a great success and is attracting more people now that it is on the High Street. There are more stalls and the variety on offer draws more custom to the stallholders. The Market has returned to its central place in the town, and is a welcome site on a bustling Friday morning – and on Saturdays, when the fortnightly Farmers Market is held.

The grasskeep at Duckmore Lane, allotments and Millennium Wood are all part of the Council's portfolio.

Nora Grace Hall is being considered as a Community Hub in the future and research is being carried out at present by Tring Together. The hall provides so much for the people of Tring and is ably managed by Tring Together for the Council. The addition of the Cinema is well supported by the residents of Tring and is a huge success.

Pond Close play area is being updated and we hope to acquire some new play equipment to replace the present installation. This is an area widely used by the younger members of the community who will have better facilities in future.

Various uses for the Market Place will be researched – the main possibility is the creation of a car park to alleviate the parking problem in the town. Even with this, the Market Place could still be used for other events at certain times of the year.

Bulbourne Allotments is also part of the Council's portfolio.



Photograph by: Mark Burstow



Council Grants

Councillor Christopher Townsend explains how the Council spends your money wisely to support Tring directly

Every year Tring Town Council has a budget of about £17,000 which it spends on local good causes. This money is split into a pot of £4,000 that goes to one-off grants that are asked for during the year and £13,000 that is allocated to organisations whose aims, broadly, are the promotion and wellbeing of Tring. For example, Tring Together gets a grant, as does the Tring Youth Town Council, the Tring Youth Project and our Local History Society. All money well spent, as these organisations work tirelessly throughout the year to support our town in a great many ways.

The 'one-off' grants vary considerably from year to year. We have supported counselling services for young people in Tring, the Friday Café and have put money towards the commemoration of the Queen's 90th birthday celebration. Throughout the year councillors decide on the allocations as they come up: approach the Clerk should you know of something that needs support.

Sometimes services have been cut, for example, day care services at Victoria Hall. This was not a Town Council service, but the Town Council, together with Dementia Friendly Tring, stepped in to help. They now administer a County Council grant that helps to make up the difference. Recent grants include support to establish an outreach centre and a programme of structured activity sessions for small groups of dementia sufferers.

Tring benefits greatly from all these varied avenues of support; Tring Town Council is working hard to enable them to continue.



The 2017/18 Budget & Precept



Cllr. Christopher Townsend

There will be a 2% increase in the precept – the amount of money the Town Council gets from Council Tax. For those in a Band D property this amounts to a £0.50 increase for the whole year – the annual charge being £25.66. The increase is necessary to cover rising costs.

Income from the Council's properties augments the money raised by the precept. The increase in income from assets shown for 2017/18 is the result of a change in accounting procedure. This increase is offset by a corresponding increase in expenditure, primarily shown under 'Other Holdings'. Sums have been allocated to explore ways to improve the revenue generated from the Council's assets. Business rate reductions have helped keep costs down.

However, as the implementation of the Town Plan through Dacorum Borough Council funding draws to a conclusion, there will be less money available for projects.

	2016/17	2017/18
Income		
Precept:	£123,587	£126,922
Grants Received:	£19,393	£20,201
Assets:	£83,903	£97,212
Interest Received:	£143	£143
Total Income	£227,026	£244,478
Expenditure		
Administration:	£137,219	£146,631
Grants:	£17,300	£17,300
Market House:	£17,403	£15,509
Market Place:	£18,396	£16,577
Other Holdings:	£8,200	£19,235
Allotments:	£2,560	£3,220
Open Spaces & Environment:	£15,070	£7,410
Projects:		
<i>New Fencing Duckmore Lane Grasskeep:</i>	£0	£5,070
<i>Professional Services</i>		
<i>Council Properties:</i>	£0	£11,250
<i>Upgrade the Council's website:</i>	£0	£1,800
Total for Projects	£0	£18,120
Total Expenditure	£216,148	£244,002
Surplus/Deficit	£10,878	£476

Tring Town Council – representing you



**John Bowden,
Liberal Democrat**

30 Kingsley Walk,
Tring HP23 5DN

john@bowdens.plus.com

I serve on the Planning Committee and on the Buildings & Assets Committee. As an outside interest, I have been Chair of the Management Committee at Tring Community Centre for many years. The Community Centre is a self-funding charity. In my role as Tring Town Councillor I am passionate about representing the best interests of local residents where possible.



**Olive Conway,
Conservative**

17 Emma Rothschild Court,
Tring HP23 5HX

01442 828802

ellen.plunkett123@btinternet.com

I represent Miswell Ward as a Town Councillor and Tring West & Rural as a Dacorum Borough Councillor. I chair the Buildings & Assets and serve on the Allotments Committee and Finance & Policy Committees.

I work with Tring Charities, Churches Together in Tring and Old Church House. I am also a member of the Justice and Peace Group, a trustee of Tring Youth Project and I chair the Beavers Swimming Club.



**Henry Grace,
Conservative**

Little Tring Farm,
5 Little Tring, Tring HP23 4NR

henry.grace@btinternet.com

I represent Bunstrux Ward and I'm a member of the following committees: Finance & Policy, Planning, Road & Home Safety, Town Plan & Infrastructure. I am the Town Council's representative at the Tring Sports Forum.

My personal interests include the countryside and farming, running, cycling and tennis.



**Stephen Hearn,
Conservative**

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Tring HP23 5LD

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I was born in Wigginton more than three score years and ten ago! My roles are Town Councillor, Dacorum Borough Councillor, Chair of Town Planning and Chair of Road and Home Safety.

I work as Managing Director and Senior Auctioneer of Tring Market Auctions.

Likes: Work, cricket, fishing, the countryside, people, grandchildren and helping others.



**Penny Hearn,
Conservative**

31 Chiltern Way,
Tring HP23 5LD

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pennyh31@fsmail.net

Chairman of the Town Council's Finance Policy Committee and Town Plan and Infrastructure Committee.

Town Council's representative on Tring Charities (a Housing and Education Trust) and The Ladies Section of the Royal British Legion.

Chairman of the Tring Youth Project: we are a small group of Trustees who run a youth club at the Temperance Hall in Christchurch Road. The Tring Youth Project was first introduced by the Town Council in 1992.

Hobbies: Shopping(!) and gardening.



**Michael Hicks,
Conservative (Mayor)**

Orchard Cottage, 42 Park Road,
Tring HP23 6BP

01442 822280

mike@mehicks.com

This is my second term as a Town Councillor for Dunsley Ward and I am very pleased to have been Mayor this year. I am a Dacorum Borough Councillor for Tring West and Rural.

As Mayor I attend all the Council's committees. I am the Council's representative with Tring Together.

With regard to pastimes, I enjoy skiing, cycling and swimming. I enjoy watching rugby (I watch Tring whenever I can). I also enjoy watching live music in Tring.



**Phil Hills,
Conservative**

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Tring HP23 5EB

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hillsphilip7@gmail.com

Hello, I'm Councillor Phil Hills representing Tring Central Ward elected to the Council in May 2015.

I'm committed to protecting Tring's Green Belt and environment having lived in Tring for the last 33 years.

In my leisure time I like going to live music events and doing plenty of walking.



**Nick Hollinghurst,
Liberal Democrat**

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A Town Councillor, the County Councillor for Tring and a former DBC Councillor with 30 years experience in local government. I served for 9 years on the County's Health Scrutiny Committee and my other interests are in transport, local planning and the environment - I drive an all-electric car. I represent the Town Council on the Tring Bus Users Group and the Arla Liaison Group, and I am on the Finance & Policy and Town Plan & Infrastructure committees.



**Nigel Nutkins,
Liberal Democrat**

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Tring HP23 4DE

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nutkins@tesco.net

This is my second term as a Tring Town Councillor. I am a member of the Planning Committee Working Party and of the Road & Home Safety Group. I'm interested in the ecology of our town and animal welfare. I enjoy motorcycling, judo and I do first aid for the Red Cross and with Tring Rugby Club.



**Roxanne Ransley,
Liberal Democrat**

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Tring HP23 5DG

01442 824871

roxanne.ransley@btinternet.com

I am pleased to represent Tring on both the Town Council (Bunstrux Ward) and Dacorum Borough Council (Tring Central). I sit on three Town Council committees: Planning, Allotments and Town Plan & Infrastructure. In 2010/11 & 2013/14 I was Tring Mayor. I represent the Council on the Tring Community Centre Management Committee and with the Farmers' Market. I am an instructor at Tring Beavers Swimming Club for the Disabled. I also teach adults to swim; I am a Governor of Dundale School and a social member of Tring Squash Club.



**Christopher Townsend,
Liberal Democrat**

8 Gordon Villas,
Aylesbury Road,
Tring HP23 4DJ

info@christophertownsend.org

I have lived in Tring for over 10 years and have three young children who go to local schools. I believe in communities working well together and that, through the political process, you can make real change. I've served as a Borough Councillor for over eight years and have grown to understand the complexity that besets local government. My mission is to make it all work better, serving the community as a whole.



**Gerald Wilkins,
Conservative (Deputy Mayor)**

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Tring HP23 5JR

01442 890257

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I represent Dunsley Ward as a Town Councillor and serve on the Planning Committee and I am chair of the Allotments Committee. I also represent the Council on the board of Tring & District Local History & Museum Society.

I am Tring Town Council's representative on Dacorum Borough Council's Standards Committee. My interests include farming and the countryside and fly fishing. I'm Honorary Vice-President of Bucks County Show.

Supporting achievement, planning for change

with Michael Curry,
Town Clerk

The Council is now half way through its four-year period of office and the character (and characters!) of the Council has been established as the Members' confidence grows and their interests develop. I hope the articles have demonstrated the enthusiasm with which they set about their work and the great deal that has been achieved.



As well as supporting the Councillors, a large proportion of my time is spent on the day-to-day management of the Council. A local council faces many of the same challenges as a local business, often with an added twist due to legislation governing the Council's activities. VAT is a prime example, as this year the Town Council has had to register for VAT although exemptions apply. Pension auto-enrolment is also being implemented. All very necessary and appropriate, but each initiative erodes the time available to focus on the Council's core activities.

One service the Town Council provides is to make available to members of the public a set of documents for each planning application within Tring. These documents are available in the Information Office and are also used by the Council when considering their recommendations to Dacorum Borough Council. From April 2017, this service will 'go digital' and changes are being made for the implementation of this process.

New office furniture and additional computer equipment is being purchased (with help from a grant by Dacorum Borough Council) for the Information Office to ensure that Tring residents can access planning documents. The Town Council will monitor the changeover to make certain the new system does not affect the decision-making process.

A new regular task to undertake is to check the defibrillator on the wall of the High Street Baptist Church. It has been installed now for ten months courtesy of Tring Lions and thanks go to the Baptist Church for allowing it to be installed on their wall.

In his introduction the Mayor, Cllr Mike Hicks, referred to this year as a year of consolidation. This is very true and it is pleasing to see how the views of the Tring's residents given in the original Town Plan survey have been acted upon. Next year will see the conclusion of the implementation of the Town Plan as the various projects will be transferred to existing Committees to take forward and develop in the years ahead.



Contact us at Tring Town Council

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