



TRING TOWN CRIER

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Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Tring Town Crier which is the Annual Report for Tring Town Council providing a summary of key activities during the previous municipal year (April 21 to publication).

The Town Council is the first tier of elected local government representing the view of the community to many public sector organisations, such as Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council. Consequently, the Town Council is keen to engage with the people of Tring to understand better their local concerns.

A MAYOR'S YEAR

Despite the pandemic, it has been a busy year!



Cllr Christopher Townsend
Town Mayor



As Mayor, it has been a privilege to wear the Town's Chain to various events and to represent the Town in this way. To give just a few highlights: topping off the new build at Tring School, speaking at the High Street Baptist church as COP26 'pilgrims' were welcomed to Tring, speaking at the Farmers' Market one Saturday as Fair Trade Tring launched their 'green' Tring leaflet. I particularly enjoyed the Apple Fayre, parading down the High Street and waving to so many people who had come to line the street for the event! Another big event was the Christmas Festival – fantastic that Tring Together managed to organise it this year – hats off to them. These events and more importantly the people and organisations that make them happen really are the lifeblood for Tring. We are so fortunate that so many in our community are willing to make the effort and at all these events I am reminded of what a pleasant and caring place Tring is.

Town Councillors, newly elected in 2019, are now much more experienced and are following through on various plans; see the Committee Chair reports inside this Crier for details. Notably, we are progressing plans for a replacement Nora Grace hall, exploring getting electric vehicle chargers installed on Town Council land and have provided some initial funding to Tring Music Partnership, a group hoping to have music making part of our local community road to COVID recovery.

The Town Council itself has begun to get used to the COVID restrictions placed on us, but it is a regret that we have had to meet at different venues during the year and that meetings are somewhat constrained due to the need for facemasks. I am hoping that by the time this goes to press the restrictions are ended. I feel strongly that to be a good Town Council the public really must be able to turn up in person and scrutinise us as we make decisions – and the more the better - so do please consider attending one Monday, even if just out of interest.

But of course, there are challenges on the horizon, even setting aside COVID. Notably, the Local Plan which drafts an expansion of Tring to the East. As a Town Council, we are limited to being a consultee. However, we have chosen to spend some money on obtaining serious legal and technical support to our arguments about the proposed developments. The hope is to put our arguments on a sound footing so as to achieve sensible results for the Town.



Annual Town Meeting

On **Monday 21st March 2022** at 8pm in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street.
Open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Allotments & Environment Committee

AN UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE CHAIR, NIGEL NUTKINS

The Allotment and Environment Committee meets 4 times a year and consists of 6 elected members and 3 co-optees (Allotment Association, Chiltern Society and Tring in Transition). Their remit is two-fold:

1. To direct the management of the Duckmore Lane and Bulbourne sites
2. To direct the management of the Council's owned green spaces and play facilities

The allotments at Duckmore Lane are well used and the standard of cultivation is very high. The "Duckmore" is a very pleasant place to walk and to access the surrounding countryside. It is disappointing that some members of the public allow their dogs to run loose near the allotments and you are requested to keep your dog on a lead until you have passed by. A newly installed Information Board gives details of what you can see when walking through the site.

An overarching aim of this committee is to maintain the commitment of the Council to the principles of environmental sustainability as a framework for the maintenance of its properties and the provision of services and activities within the town of Tring.

To achieve this aim the following projects have been undertaken during the year:

- Peat free compost is used for planting schemes and in hanging baskets
- Bee friendly plants are used in flower beds and planters
- Allotment plot holders are encouraged to use peat free composts and to re-use/recycle whenever possible
- A wildflower meadow is to be established at Duckmore with a grant from Tesco Bags for Help
- Negotiated with Dacorum to leave verges uncut on London Road to encourage biodiversity
- New litter bins installed throughout the town
- Bike lock planters installed to encourage car free transport
- Awarded a grant to Tring School for environmental studies equipment
- Work with Tring in Transition and Tring Lions to improve access for all at the Community Garden
- Continue to support the Friends of Millennium Wood in their efforts to maintain and enhance the woodland
- Established a Greening Tring page on the website with links to local environmental and conservation organisations.
- Joined Dacorum Climate Action Network initiative to bring together local organisations to "think global and act local"
- Considering installation of EV chargers in car park owned by Tring Town Council

Tring Town Council recognises that these are times of extraordinary challenge for the environment – locally, nationally and globally. Meeting this challenge will involve the community in recognising the need to adapt to radically changing circumstances to ensure the future of ourselves and our environment. This Council is committed to accepting this challenge by implementing policies to reduce its own impact on the environment and to assist others in their efforts to combat climate change.



Climate Change Working Party

WORKING PARTY COMMITTEE CHAIR, CHRISTOPHER TOWNSEND

Climate change is the issue of our time and an awful lot is written about it. My objective for the Climate Change Working Party has been to see what action we can take at the very local level.

The Working Party consists of councillors and representatives from a number of local organisations interested in environmental matters, notably 'Tring In Transition' and 'Extinction Rebellion'. Whilst it does not have any formal powers, it serves the council by putting forward recommendations on the action.

Below is an update on some of our actions:

Mayor's covenant

This was signed in 2019 and commits the Town Council to policies that will help tackle emissions (both the community's, and our own as a Town Council). We have found some of the requirements more suited to larger municipalities, but the covenant has guided our policy framework. In particular, it has made us focus on measuring Tring's carbon footprint. Although making this measurement is proving challenging, it is the subject of our ongoing focus.

Rolling-action plan

We have a rolling Green action plan that lists all Green proposals for Tring, and we are pretty much open to any suggestions. Notable successes:

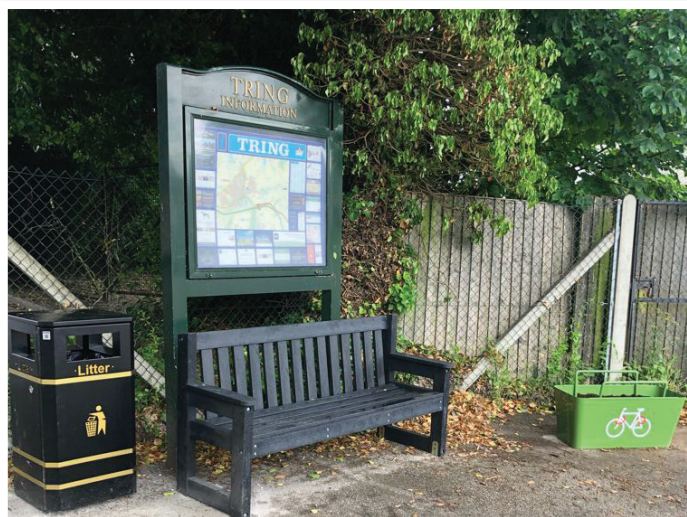
1. Ensuring (with the Borough council) that highway verges are not cut too regularly.
2. Obtaining planters/bike stands (see photo).
3. Ordering gym equipment for open spaces – on its way.
4. Taking delivery of and planting new trees on Council land.
5. Considering 'bee-friendliness' when thinking about planting.
6. Discouraging the use of peat products on our allotments.
7. Installing new signage for the Duckmore Lane allotments.

EV Chargers

A focus has also been on getting more electronic vehicle (EV) chargers in Tring. This process may take some time as we have to be very careful with the use of council land. Further, we need to make sure any EV chargers are the 'right' ones and make sure that we get value for money if we are to use any external companies.

Climate Events

In 2019 we held a successful climate change event at the Victoria Hall. Unfortunately, this could not be repeated last year but one is planned in the near future when it is safe to do so. Please look out for an advertisement for this event on the Tring Town Council website.



Buildings & Assets and Infrastructure Committee

BY COUNCILLOR PHIL MCDOWELL

Tring Town Council is fortunate to own land, buildings and equipment and a list of the property that is owned is shown to the right. The income earned by these properties enables the council to achieve more revenue on behalf of the town and reduces the amount we need to raise from council taxpayers. Administration of the assets occurs through the Building, Assets & Infrastructure committee. Another advantage of owning these assets is that the Council can control what happens at significant sites within the Town. Members of the public understandably often believe that the Town Council owns land which they do not. For example, Dolphin Square is managed by Dacorum Borough Council and both the Memorial Gardens and Pound Meadow are owned by Dacorum Borough Council.

Here is some more detailed information about some of the Town Council Assets, their history, their uses and any ongoing projects.



The Market House

This is the building that both the Council chambers (on the first floor) and the information office (to the side, on Akeman Street) are located in.

The building was erected by public subscription to commemorate the 60th Year of the Reign of Queen Victoria and was opened by Lord Rothschild on 13th July 1900. It is a Grade II listed building.

It is extremely important that such a beautiful and historic building is kept well maintained and consequently every few years a survey is conducted and a schedule of works prepared for the maintenance of the exterior of the building and any necessary repairs are undertaken. A surveyor has been appointed at the end of 2021 to start these works.

Nora Grace Hall

This was built in 1972 and was originally the Red Cross Hall. It was built on Tring Town Council Land and leased to the Red Cross but they chose to surrender their lease and hand back ownership to Tring Town Council around 2013. Today it is owned by the Council but run by Tring Together on their behalf.

TOWN COUNCIL'S HOLDINGS 1 st April 2021	
Land/Buildings/Equipment in the Town Council's Ownership	
A	The Market House, 61 High Street Tring HP23 4AB - Freehold
1	Council Offices and Chamber
2	1 st floor offices leased-out
3	Unit 1 (postal address 99 Akeman Street HP23 6AA) Town Council's Information Centre)
4	Units 2&3, Ground floor – leased-out as shop
B	Church Square, High Street, Tring (Land Only) - Freehold
	Friday Charter Market have a licence to use on Fridays.
C	Mansion Vista, land adj., Memorial Garden, High Street, Tring - Freehold
	Friday Charter Market have a licence to use on Fridays.
D	Old School Yard Car Park, adj. Library, High Street, Tring - Freehold
	Managed by DBC
	(Access road in HCC ownership)
E	Pond Close (North) land - Freehold
1	Open space
2	Play area
3	Nora Grace Hall land
4	Nora Grace Hall - Managed by Tring Together under an agreement
F	Brook Street land - Freehold
1	Tring Market Place HP23 5ED
2	Tring Local History Museum - Leased to Tring Local History Museum
3	Tring Market Auctions HP23 5LJ - Leased
G	New Mill land, off Icknield Way - Freehold
1	Chapel Meadow play area
2	Chapel Meadow – other
3	ATC Hut land - Leased
H	Bulbourne land - Freehold
1	Allotments
2	Hardstanding for car parking
3	Grasskeep
I	Duckmore Lane land - Freehold
1	Allotments, including hardstanding for cars
2	Millennium Wood and open land
3	Grasskeep
Buildings/Facilities/Equipment Owned/Rented Situated on Land <u>not</u> in the Town Council's Ownership	
A	Skateboard Park (on DBC land – Pound Meadow)
B	Lighting in Bank Alley (Public Right of Way – Highways/HCC)
C	Garage, Kingsley Walk, HP23 (rented from DBC Housing Department)
D	Floodlights for War Memorial (on Parish Church/Diocese of St. Albans' land)

The building has sadly seen better days and it is the Council's ambition to replace it with an upgraded version. The Council would like it to be a focal point for the Town both in appearance and as a practical and attractive place for existing and future users. In particular, the Council has aspirations of providing a carbon neutral building both in terms of construction and to be as sustainable as possible in the lifetime running of the building.

A firm of architects has been appointed by the Council to create an initial vision, to assess the feasibility of the project and to provide an idea as to costs so that funding can be raised.

Land at Bulbourne

Tring Town Council owns land at Bulbourne Road.

The land currently comprises derelict allotment land (recently used as grass keep), working allotment gardens and a car park.

It was historically described as allotment land and the Secretary of State's permission has been obtained to sell the land.

The Council carried out a public consultation in 2021 proposing to sell part of the land to Dacorum Borough Council so that they can build a small affordable housing development of social rental housing. Given that the land is green belt land and in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it would be extremely unlikely that any other development would be permitted other than what is proposed.

The proposal retains part of the land which will comprise the allotments currently worked as well as car parking provisions. The size of these areas will remain the same but will be in a different layout. The proposal arose because Tring Town Council was concerned that young people and families are being priced out of the housing market. It is solely because of these exceptional circumstances that Tring Town Council is considering the proposal.

The Council considered the replies to the consultation (a total of 222 responses were received (180 via the online survey and 42 by email or post), mostly opposed. However, at the Council meeting on 25th October 2021, the Council decided to continue discussions with Dacorum Borough. At the time of writing this article, Dacorum Borough Council requires the Town Council to agree to Heads of Terms along with a conditional contract before they will submit their planning application. The hope is that during these discussions some of the concerns from the consultation can be addressed before a Draft Heads of Terms and conditional contracts can be presented to Council for a decision on whether to sell the site subject to planning.



Church Square, Mansion Vista and Tring Market Place

Church Square & Mansion Vista are sites used for the weekly Friday Charter market.

The Market dates back to the early 14th century when the town was granted a charter by King Edward II permitting townspeople to hold a market.

For many years livestock was auctioned at the Market Place, and in 2005 Tring Town Council updated the site, making it suitable for contemporary market trading. Today Tring Farmers Market is held there fortnightly.

In 2011 many years of hard work by volunteers from the Tring and District Local History and Museum Society came to fruition when the award-winning local history museum was officially opened by Lord Rothschild. The museum is housed in the converted cattle market office building and is a wonderful place to visit.

Tring Market Auctions are also located at the Market Place and are renowned for their sales of antiques and furnishings.

Church Square and the Market Place can be hired when markets are not occupying the site. (Subject to the terms of Tring Town Council's protocol for use).



The Budget & Precept

The accompanying table details the budget and precept – the Town Council's part of your council tax bill – with a comparison to the last financial year. The Band D property rate for the Town Council will increase by 4% from £28.99 pa to £30.15 pa (an increase of just £1.16 for the year). The sums allocated for projects are listed.

Projects that are not able to be funded by the precept will still continue with the use of the Councils unallocated reserves and with the use of CIL monies.

	2021/22	2022/23
Income		
Precept	£147,577	£157,441
Grants Received	£17,673	£17,463
Assets	£95,706	£96,058
Interest Received	£48	£96
Total Income	£261,333	£271,058
Expenditure		
Salaries	£140,511	£149,134
Office Costs	£27,603	£42,194
Grants	£18,600	£17,300
Properties	£49,603	£43,817
(Utilities, rent, insurance & maintenance)		
Loan	£13,487	£13,487
Miscellaneous	£3,200	£4,100
(including Christmas Decorations)		
Projects:		
Local Plan Consultation	£5,000	£10,000
Climate Change Project	£3,000	£3,000
Market House Works	-	£10,000
Nora Grace Hall Project	-	£5,000
Total for Projects	£8,000	£28,000
Total Expenditure	£261,004	£298,032
Surplus/Deficit	£0	£26,974*

*Shortfall to be met from reserves

Finance & Policy Committee

CHAired BY PAUL ELLEY (DEPUTY MAYOR)

The Finance and Policy Committee is responsible for detailed oversight of the Council's financial affairs and its policies.

Our annual cycle of activities starts with budget preparation and budget approval (by the full Council). We then monitor expenditure against budget during the year and recommend any actions needed to keep our budget balanced, such as transferring money from reserves. We scrutinise the reports from the annual audits (internal and external) and ensure we take any actions needed to achieve a clean bill of health from these.

Our current financial position is strong and we have a healthy level of reserves as a contingency against unforeseen events.

Normally, the Council can only make small grants to local organisations (please see the section on grants for further information) and fund relatively small projects. However, because we benefit from a scheme known as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) where money is given to the Council by the Borough each year in proportion to housing development in the Town our situation has temporarily changed.

Mainly due to the new development in the west of the town between Icknield Way and Aylesbury Rd, we have received a significant CIL income over the last 18 months.

CIL monies have to be spent on projects to support the development of an area and must be spent within 5 years of receipt. There are various other rules regarding how we can spend the money.

We have already allocated some of the money received towards the refurbishment of the skateboard park in Pound Meadow, the purchase of Bike lock/planters, the installation of Gym equipment on our land behind Pond Close, and a grant to the Wendover Arm Trust which contribute towards the refurbishment of the canal and towpaths near Little Tring. All steps towards making Tring an even nicer place to be!

'Wendover Canal Trust is restoring the historic canal to its former glory and creating an area for leisure and well-being; the project is already demonstrating major public benefit, and Tring Town Council's grant will support our activities. The canal, opened in 1797, brings water from natural springs off the Chiltern Hills rising in Wendover to feed the Grand Union Canal at its highest point at Bulbourne in Hertfordshire. So the canal is critical to the functioning of the locks on the GUC. Restoring the canal is now the centrepiece of the Grand Union Canal Triangle, a major health and leisure facility for a multitude of activities; it will enable people to access this unique historic asset and to enjoy a wide range of leisure activities and is already leading to increased wildlife and biodiversity.'

A number of other projects are under active consideration including setting some CIL money aside for a Nora Grace Hall replacement.

The amount of money that we now have available to be spent over the next four years is unlikely to be repeated. We would welcome input from you as to how best it should be spent.

Community Infrastructure Levy Monitoring Report	
a) Total CIL receipts for the reporting year 2020/2021 £189,113.56	
b) Total CIL expenditure for the reported year £2,879 (and a further £25,000 earmarked as below)	
c) Summary details of CIL expenditure on each item	
Items to which CIL had been applied	Amount of CIL expenditure on each item
Outdoor benches X3	£1,289.00
Bins	£1,590
A commitment to contribute up to this sum to towards the refurbishment of Tring skateboard park.	Upto £25,000
d) Details of any notices received in accordance with regulation 59E	
Total value of CIL receipts subject to notices served in accordance with regulation 59E during the reported year	
£0	
Total value of CIL receipts subject to a notice served in accordance with regulation 59E in any year that has not been paid to the relevant charging authority by the end of the reported year	
£0	
e) Total amount of:	
CIL receipts for the reported year retained at the end of the reported year £189,113.56	
CIL receipts from previous years retained at the end of the reported year £331,788.32 - £27,879 (as above) = £303,909.32	
f) Infrastructure priorities for the coming year Items to encourage environmentally friendly transport, Signage for Allotments & Replacement of Nora Grace Hall	

Our policies cover a number of areas. Our financial policies ensure that we follow statutory guidance in our spending and how we manage any reserves and investments. Many of our other policies cover our duty as an employer to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees are protected. All our policies are reviewed regularly and updated in line with changes in the law and in best practice.

I think of our committee as the "engine room" of the council. A lot of what we do is behind the scenes, but without it, the council couldn't move forward.

Our regular income comes mainly from our share of Council Tax and rental income from the properties that we own. We spend most of our income on our staff and on the upkeep of our land and properties.

Supporting Good Causes - Council Grants

Every year Tring Town Council has a budget of around £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 is 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 and additional funding has been put aside for a COVID and a High Street recovery fund.

Below are some testimonies from some of the organisations that have received grants so far this year:

At **Rennie Grove Hospice Care** we understand that an end-of-life diagnosis affects everyone. We also know the importance of supporting people's mental - as well as physical – health. Our Family Support team provides counselling to patients, as well as their carers and family members, to help them through one of the most difficult times in their life. This year Tring Town Council is generously supporting Rennie Grove's counselling and bereavement support for the residents of Tring. This might help a patient come to terms with their illness and prognosis; the carer of a patient to work through mixed and often conflicting emotions; or the child of a patient to understand and express their feelings. By focusing on quality of life both for patients and their families we can help them make every moment together matter.

Thank you to Tring Town Council for a grant towards the costs of **Tring Carnival**. If you remember back to August 2021, there was a lot of nervousness around COVID and a lot of important, but extra, Risk Assessments that needed to be written and adhered to. We were nervous. Would people come? We needed to be COVID safe, and we wanted to put on the "best show ever" to encourage people to attend. The grant went towards a professional act for the central arena and to implement COVID precautions such as hand sanitiser, masks, signage, and a professional toilet cleaner. Tring Carnival and Tring Brewery work in partnership to put on Tring Carnival Day. Thank you to everyone that came, and the 2022 date is set for Saturday 9th July. Vivianne Child, Tring Together. info@tringtogether.org.uk



Tring Music Partnership was set up in July 2021 to get community music back on its feet following the pandemic. With a grant from Tring Town Council, and crowdfunder campaign: we provided musical instrument demonstration and have-a-go sessions for over 140 primary school children; ran youth musical theatre workshops that are free for young people to take part in; ran the church stage at the Christmas Festival so that school choirs and local musicians could perform; put on a Big Band concert for Armed Forces Day 2021; supported local theatre groups and choirs to get back up and running in a COVID-safe way; and provided early years music sessions for Tring Tots community playgroup.

We are currently planning music and singing sessions for residents at The Furlongs as well as further youth workshops for young people. Music benefits everyone's mental health and wellbeing and we want everyone in our community to have the opportunity to take part in music. If you are interested in supporting the programme as we start planning for 2022-2023 we would love to hear from you: please email Trish@tringtogether.org.uk and tell us a bit about yourself. Rob Schafer – Tring Music Partnership.

We may still have some funds left in the budget for this financial year and if not the budget will restart in April 2022. So, if your charity or voluntary group is in need of a General Grant for equipment or events (unfortunately for legal reasons, it cannot be given to individuals), please apply now. We recognise that the pandemic has had a huge impact on local groups and so in addition funds remain available from monies that have been put aside for COVID and the High Street Recovery Fund. Therefore, if your group is struggling with operating costs due to not being able to fundraise in 2020-2021, we may be able to help. Please visit our website where you can find the requirements and application form.

Planning Committee

BY COMMITTEE CHAIR, BRIAN PATTERSON

The Planning Committee has continued to meet monthly throughout this pandemic year. Meetings were held virtually during the first half of the year and more recently in suitable locations within the town: the parish church, Nora Grace Hall and Victoria Hall. The primary role of the Committee is to consider individual planning applications and to make recommendations to Dacorum Borough Council. About 300 applications were considered by the Committee and the full council. The Committee has to take proper account of planning legislation when deciding whether to raise no objections or to recommend refusal. The Committee is conscious that the town is surrounded by both the green belt and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and that it contains a well-regarded and attractive conservation area. New developments which impinge adversely on the town's surroundings will be very closely scrutinised and recommended for refusal whenever appropriate.

There were unusually large numbers of applications during the summer months, largely homeowners applying for extensions to their properties, whether additional bedrooms, garage and loft conversions, or office spaces for those prompted by the covid emergency to work from home. It was also noticeable that there were a number of conversions from office or retail use to residential use within the commercial heart of the town. Recent changes in planning legislation make this attractive to developers.

The Council has also been considering its response to Dacorum's draft Local Plan for the period 2020 to 2038. This draft attracted much concern because of the large amount of development on green belt land adjacent to the AONB and was predominantly on the east side of Tring. If all the draft plan's proposed developments were to go ahead the town's population would increase by up to 50%, a much greater increase than elsewhere in Dacorum. Accordingly, the council commissioned a response opposing building on the green belt and submitted this on 9/02/21 (a copy of which can be viewed on the Council website). In light of the many objections, Dacorum Borough Council is reconsidering further the need to build so much new housing on the green belt, as opposed to brown field sites. Tring Town Council has set up a Local Plan Working Party which will examine what possible options for new development in and around Tring might be acceptable.

All Planning Committee (and full Council) meetings are held in public so that residents can come along to make representations about specific applications, whether in support or in opposition. Information about dates, location and agendas are on the council's website www.tring.gov.uk.

'Roman Park'

TIM AMSDEN OF TRING LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The street names within the 'Roman Park' development have been chosen by Tring Town Council, after consulting the Tring Local History and Museum Society. There has been a long tradition of perpetuating the old field names or choosing names based on local topography or with historic connections.

On the southern section of the estate, the names are all topographical.

Ardwick Close derives from a long-deserted Medieval village to the north of Long Marston.

Blainways Avenue refers to a field south of the A41 where 'Roman scatterings' have been found.

Drayton Close is a reference to the adjacent parish, manor and village of Drayton Beauchamp (pronounced 'Beecham'), and its manor house, known as Drayton Lodge, to the south of the A41.

Hountslow Close comes from the name of the field, some of which was acquired for the creation of Tring Cemetery in 1892. At one time it was used to grow herbs, particularly lavender.

Legion Field is a local name for the land on the west, adjoining Icknield Way. It hints at a Roman presence of some kind, a hilltop lookout perhaps, although no evidence has been found.

Pavis Close refers to Pavis Wood, visible to the south, on the Bucks side of the county boundary defined by Fox Lane and Drayton Holloway. The Ridgeway National Trail runs along the summit.

Stubbings Close refers to Stubbings Wood, which continues from Pavis Wood into Hertfordshire, above West Leith and the former Rothschild stud farm, where Shire horses were bred.

On the northern section of the estate, family names are used.

Dublois Close refers to Stephen of Blois, who became King Stephen in 1135. His wife Maud inherited the Manor of Tring, which her grandfather, Count Eustace of Boulogne, had been given in 1066. Blois, when pronounced Bloy, might be the origin of the old-established Tring surname Bly.

Jenney Crescent commemorates the farming, cricketing and military family which owned the Drayton Manor estate, including much of this land, from the late 19th century until 1919.

Sears Drive relates to long-standing families, Sear or Sears, probably Sires in the Middle Ages. The Great Train Robbery took place at Sears Crossing, near Cheddington, in 1963.

Vaisey Close refers to the local solicitor Arthur Vaisey (1852-1939), who acted as Clerk to successive local councils for many years. One of his sons, Harry, became a High Court judge, and one of his daughters, Margaret, became chairman of Tring Urban District Council.

Find out more about the area's past at Tring Local History Museum! Situated at the town's former Cattle Market in Brook Street, it is run by volunteers and is free of charge. It is open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 4pm (3.30pm from November to February). Our Society also offers a programme of talks on subjects of local interest. Visit www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk

Youth Council

EMMA CAVE, TRING YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL CLERK

The last year has clearly been very tricky for everyone and our young people have also had difficulties and worries with their education and future plans.

Our members have been really fantastic in following protocols and Covid restrictions but also maintaining input into their roles as Youth Councillors throughout the year.

The delayed Carnival saw us staging our ever-popular dog show which was a brilliant event with almost 100 entries



with dogs young and old and of so many varieties. The atmosphere was fun and exciting and everyone agreed it was good to be back!

Part of the profits have been donated to the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf to help with their valuable work.

Later in the year, our members laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service from the young people of Tring.

The Vintage Tombola supported by Tring Market Auctions at the Christmas Festival was crazy again with plenty of visitors leaving with shiny treasures and the hot chocolate and brownies were vital for combating the cold.

Our Chairman Libby again organised a toy collection for children and families in the local area experiencing difficulties at Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated. Libby had another truckload to deliver like last year.

Throughout the year we have been

joined by a dedicated group of skaters who have represented the skateboard community tenaciously at Town and Borough Council meetings to secure funding for the refurbishment of the skatepark which is 20 years old. By the time you are reading this, you should be seeing a new skatepark in construction.

Plans for events in the coming year include a series of music nights held locally for local bands and artists to have the chance to perform live.

We will be losing some members this year to University and Apprenticeships so are always looking to welcome new members. We meet monthly in the Council Chambers with snacks and drinks and chat about anything the young people want to raise. We put on events and plan new ones and donate profits to charities locally. If you and some friends are interested, please email Emma at youthcouncil@tring.gov.uk



Tring Town Council Competitions

This year, the Town Council held its competitions for Christmas shop windows, allotment holders and front gardens, This year winners were:



Christmas shop windows:

- 1st** Emmaus Nineteen 49
- 2nd** Nonna's Supper Club
- 3rd** Sons of Ink

The best kept allotments:

- 1st** Plot 59
- 2nd** Plot 80B
- 3rd** Plot 27A
- 4th** Plot 96
- Best Newcomer** Plot 73A

The Annual Garden competition:

- Tring UDC Cup (large garden)**
66 Grove Road
- Coulter Cup (Eight Acres)**
77 Eight Acres
- Trevor Marwood Cup (small garden)**
44 Goldfield Road
- Highly Commended**
St Martha's Church, 6 Woodland Close, 38 Miswell Lane, 31 Longfield Road and Osmington House, Christchurch Road

Tring Town Council's Annual Community Award

goes to Valerie Carr in recognition of her exceptional work within the Community.

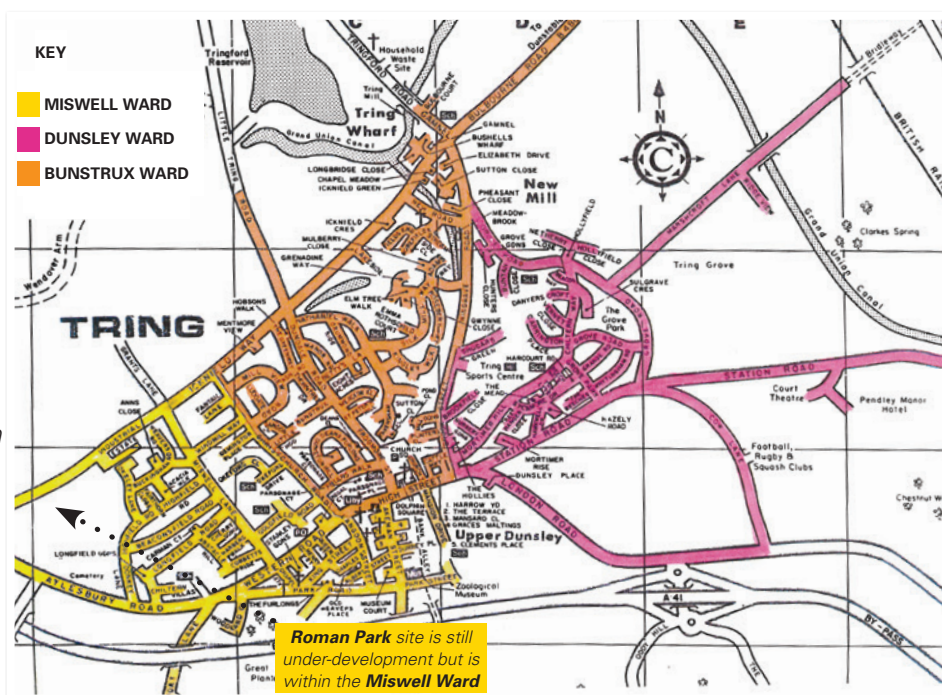


Meet your Council

There are a total of 12 Councillors who are elected members and sit on the Council and the various committees.

The Council meets as a body every month (except March and August).

Six other committees meet regularly: Planning, Finance & Policy, Allotments & Environment, Buildings, Assets and Infrastructure, Local Transport Plan and Staffing and Employment. Committee meetings are usually held quarterly on a rolling programme, except Planning which is held every month. The Council has continued business as usual throughout the COVID-19 pandemic holding virtual meetings whilst permitted, and since May 2021, meetings in person have resumed.



MISWELL WARD

Cllr Nigel Nutkins
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 825110
E: nigel.nutkins@tring.gov.uk



Cllr Christopher Townsend
(Town Mayor 2021/2022)
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 828225
E: christopher.townsend@tring.gov.uk
Also a Dacorum Borough Councillor



Cllr Brian Patterson
Liberal Democrats

E: brian.patterson@tring.gov.uk



Cllr Helena Piper
Liberal Democrats

E: helena.piper@tring.gov.uk



DUNSLEY WARD

Cllr Penny Hearn
Conservative

T: 01442 824949
E: penny.hearn@tring.gov.uk
Also a Dacorum Borough Councillor



Cllr Rosemarie Hollinghurst
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 866650
E: rosemarie.hollinghurst@tring.gov.uk



Cllr Alex MacDonald
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 823490
E: alex.macdonald@tring.gov.uk



BUNSTRUX WARD

Cllr Mrs Roxanne Ransley
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 824871
E: roxanne.ransley@tring.gov.uk
Also a Dacorum Borough Councillor



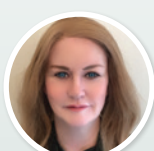
Cllr Paul Elley
(Deputy Mayor 2021/2022)
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 382052
E: paul.elley@tring.gov.uk



Cllr Phil McDowell
Liberal Democrats

T: 01442 603346
E: phil.mcdowell@tring.gov.uk
Also a Dacorum Borough Councillor



Cllr Sharon Wilkie
Liberal Democrats

E: sheron.wilkie@tring.gov.uk
Also a Dacorum Borough Councillor

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Sally Symington

County Councillor for Tring Division

T: 07816 655500
E: sally.symington@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Tring Town Council

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/22

Tring Town Council does its best to ensure that Tring is a great place to live, and that everything works in a 'joined-up' sort of way. However, Tring would not function in the way that it does without the dedicated involvement of its citizens and social or special-interest groups. In order to ensure the principles of consistency and partnership, Tring Town Council welcomes the opportunity to provide representation on a number of local organisations. Details of these are given below:

BODY OR ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
Tring Community Centre Management Committee Tring Community Centre is run and managed by the Tring Community Association, which is a self-funded registered charity providing events, activities and facilities for the local community of all ages.	Cllr S. Wilkie
Tring Together (as observer) Tring Together plans and organises events and activities for the town, involving community groups, the business community, Tring's residents and its visitors.	Cllr R. Hollinghurst
Old Church House Management Committee The Old Church House is a small Community Hall that serves in general the young people of Tring. It also hosts activities for all age groups, and offers facilities for a wide range of regular activities that include Dance, Martial Arts, Drama, Pilates, Yoga and toddler groups.	Town Mayor (ex officio) Cllr P. Elley
Tring Charities Tring Charities has an excellent reputation for providing homes for older people in financial need, and aims to provide a safe and secure environment for its residents who are expected to live independently, without supervision and to care for themselves. The Charity also funds their 'Millennium Education' facility which provides grants towards the further education of young people with limited resources.	Cllr P. Hearn Mr T. Oram
Tring & District Local History & Museum Society The Museum tells the story of the town, the area, its history and the many fascinating people associated with it. Staffed by volunteers, the Museum is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays only.	Cllr R. Hollinghurst
The Friends of Tring Church Heritage A well-established group whose main aim is to preserve the fabric of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, right in the heart of Tring, to continue to offer the church not just as a place of worship, but as a social focal point for the town.	Cllr P. Elley
Chiltern Countryside Group (plus London Luton Airport Matters) A group that does everything it can to preserve, maintain and develop the countryside and amenities around Tring, and beyond, without adversely affecting the natural environment.	Mrs Sue Yeoman
County Market Company Ltd (trading as Tring Farmers' Market) - observer status Tring Farmers Market is a well-established fortnightly (Saturdays throughout the year) attraction to Tring's town centre and meet on the Market Place.	Cllr R. Ransley
Tring Sports Forum Tring Sports Forum is a volunteer group representing Tring residents, sports clubs and other organisations. Its main aims include: ensuring that adequate sports & leisure facilities for the whole community are provided for in local development planning, and assisting the various bodies in implementation.	Cllr R. Ransley (temporarily standing in)
Churches Together in Tring There are six established churches in Tring and a number of others in the neighbouring villages. These churches vary in denomination, size, as well as architectural, theological and worship style. However, Churches Together in Tring (CTT) believe in strengthening Tring's community by working together whenever and wherever they can.	Cllr C. Townsend
Justice & Peace Group This group has been instrumental in enabling Tring to gain 'Fairtrade Town' status. They also champion local businesses who provide Fairtrade and/or local food and drink, and are active in encouraging the idea of making Tring 'bee-friendly'!	Cllr N. Nutkins
Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils A forum enabling Town and Parish Council Officers to share common issues and ensure consistency of approach.	Town Clerk Mrs L Housden
Arla/Olleco Liaison Group Meetings are held at the factory with representatives of nearby councils who can raise any issues to do with Arla, Olleco or their suppliers. Problems are very rare and localised and tend to be about odour, light pollution, HGV traffic, noise and drainage. Tring seems well protected from these by the ridge of the hill and nearly all HGV movements leave the area unnoticed along the A41. Since 1880 Arla has grown into one of the largest food manufacturers in N Europe and is a co-operative owned by nearly 10,000 farmers. The UK company is a private subsidiary with 15 dairy farmers owning shares and another 175 represented on the board. Olleco makes green energy and soil improver using waste from Arla and on-site packaging and produces bio-fuel from used cooking oil elsewhere.	Dacorum Borough Councillor Cllr N. Hollinghurst
Dacorum Environmental Forum (DEF) This voluntary organisation meets quarterly (currently online) to discuss matters of environmental interest within Dacorum, including Tring.	Cllr B. Patterson Cllr P. McDowell
Rothschild Surgery This 'patient participation' group works closely with the GP practice to try to ensure the best quality of care for local people. It also provides information to Tring people about local, regional and national healthcare organisations and issues.	Cllr P. Elley

Tring Town Council - Organisational Structure

Tring Town Council has a considerable range of land, properties, and services to run and maintain. We have a staffed Information Centre which provides information and assistance to locals and visitors alike. There is also the daily administration and organisation of Council business and meetings to be dealt with. It is therefore vital that the Town Council has a strong team of staff. They may all be part-time, but they all have an important contribution to make in ensuring the smooth-running of all the Town Council's responsibilities. You may like to meet them:



Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Lydia Housden

Lydia has overall responsibility for the management of Tring Town Council – everything that its staff do, and the effective administration of the Council itself. All Town and Parish Councils are required to operate in accordance with legal and statutory requirements, and Lydia has to ensure that Tring Town Council complies with those requirements. Contact via: clerk@tring.gov.uk

ADMINISTRATION

Deputy Town Clerk

Provides general administrative assistance to the Town Clerk, particularly with the Council's finances. In addition to standing in for the Clerk at meetings from time to time, the Deputy Clerk has specific duties in respect of the management of allotments and the council land and property portfolio. Contact via: admin@tring.gov.uk

Cleaner

Keeps the information office, council chambers and communal areas clean and tidy. Comes in three times a week.

TOWN ENVIRONMENT

Town Warden, Ben Cartwright

Ben is essentially the 'eyes and ears' of the Town Council – out and about in the Town, attempting to keep everything as we would all like it to be. Ably assisted by his 'outdoor worker' Phillip, Ben also has specific responsibilities in respect of the allotments, market places, and other assets belonging to the Town Council. Ben works closely with other agencies, particularly Dacorum Borough Council, to keep our town clean and tidy, and welcoming to visitors and locals alike. Contact via: townwarden@tring.gov.uk

INFORMATION CENTRE

Information Officer, Ray Flanigan

Ray is responsible for the overall management of the Information Centre. The office is open 9.30am-2.30pm on weekdays, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays, and provides access to all sorts of information about Tring and what goes on in the area. Ray shares cover for those hours with his three assistants, Vicki Elsdon, Trish Dowden, and Janet Wheeler (left to right below). In the background, Ray maintains the Council's website, and the office acts as the Council's 'switchboard' for dealing with incoming calls and e-mail enquiries. Contact via: info@tring.gov.uk

Information Assistants x 3



YOUTH COUNCIL

Clerk to Youth Town Council, Emma Cave

Emma provides invaluable support to Tring's Youth Town Council, and acts in a similar way to the Town Clerk in that respect – ensuring that meetings are properly timetabled, organised, conducted, and minuted. She also ensures that issues raised and considered by the Youth Town Council are dealt with in accordance with accepted practice. Contact via: youthcouncil@tring.gov.uk

TRING TOWN COUNCIL

61 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 4AB • Tel: **01442 823347** • email: clerk@tring.gov.uk

THE INFORMATION CENTRE

99 Akeman Street, Tring, Herts HP23 6AA • Tel: **01442 823347** • email: info@tring.gov.uk

For information on our opening hours, please visit our website at www.tring.gov.uk