



TRING  
TOWN COUNCIL

*Working Together for Tring*

# Tring Town Crier

February 2024 Published by Tring Town Council

Welcome to the 2024 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 2023 to publication). The Town Council is the first tier of elected government, representing the views 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 'Working Together for Tring'



Cllr Nigel Nutkins  
Town Mayor



This year we created a tagline for the council, 'Working Together for Tring'. We think it encapsulates the spirit of the Town Council to work together with the local community. On that note, many thanks are in order for all the wonderful people and organisations who contribute to making Tring the interesting and engaging town it is. Both the Summer Carnival and Christmas Festival went off brilliantly, despite weather challenges, and Tring Together must be commended for doing a fantastic job.

Thank you to the Town Crier, Mike Code, for supporting events with his booming voice and announcements at town events. Once again, thank you

to the organisers of the Apple Fayre for keeping up this Tring tradition. This year's Apple Day was one of the best attended so far - I've been making apple juice from local fruit for the last twenty five years and it's wonderful to celebrate our natural harvest. Although we are a town, I always think of Tring as a rural community where hedgerow fruits, the health of our waterways, and wildlife is close to my heart.

The consultation on the emerging Local Plan for Dacorum gained considerable public attention when DBC officers attended the Planning Committee Meeting in December, and had a stall at the Christmas Festival. The Council put forward its views in the consultation and these can be found on page 6. We continue to work alongside Sustainable Tring, Youth Council, members of the community and other bodies to promote all the good work done in the town. You can read more about this in our monthly e-newsletter which was launched in October. Sign up on our website.

Tring is blessed with a wonderful High Street of independent shops, restaurants and cafes. We have fabulous markets - the Friday market and Farmers market, access to the countryside and the Chilterns, and a great community where we can all work together for the benefit of all. Let's continue the good work we're



doing as we move through difficult times. Please try to reduce your carbon footprint and look after nature.



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, 8PM

AT VICTORIA HALL, AKEMAN STREET, TRING, HP23 6AA

# Allotments & Environment Committee

CHAIR, CLLR NIGEL NUTKINS

With the new Council's evaluation of committees and meetings came a change to the Allotments & Environment Committee, adding a new transport element. Two new members were co-opted for transport, Lee Kennedy Washington and Peter Georghiades. Exciting news for the town on this front was the launch of the Herts Lynx on demand bus service on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Download the Herts Lynx app to book your trip!

The Allotment Summer Show took place in the pouring rain on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, with prizes being awarded by the Mayor, Cllr Nigel Nutkins and former councillor and Mayor, Roxanne Ransley. The ever popular Allotment Society Plant Sale takes place on 15<sup>th</sup> June this year. Ben, our Town Warden has been planting hedges from The Wildlife Trust at the allotments to create a boundary and increase biodiversity. He has built a new fence with materials from the site to demarcate the community garden and allotment plots, and new signs are on their way from The Sunnyside Trust.

## In addition we have seen:

- Tring's first Great Big Green Week took place in June, and there are plans to work alongside Sustainable Tring for a bigger event in 2024. Thanks go to Councillor Sharon Wilkie for liaising with the Canal and River Trust, Hertfordshire County Council and Thames Water to organise repair works to the culvert at Chapel Meadow in February, in order to resolve the flooding issues.
- In July, Hertfordshire's Countryside Management Service undertook a Green Space Audit, evaluating council land for maximising its contribution to preserving the environment. We were commended for the use of land at Duckmore Lane for allotments, the Community Garden and Millennium Wood, and ideas were offered for land at Bulbourne and New Mill.
- The Canal and River Trust undertook a dredging of the upper feeder stream at New Mill to improve water flow and biodiversity and we understand that phase two is in place for this year to cover the stream from Silk Mill Way to the bridge by the ATC hut.
- And finally, a water refill station will soon be coming to Church Square, so you can fill your bottles and avoid unnecessary landfill. Watch out for it, and have your reusable bottles at the ready!

The Council works in co-operation with Sustainable Tring, Bee Friendly Tring and the Justice & Peace Group with their continuing work for the environment.



The launch of the Herts Lynx on demand bus service, in Dacorum, on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

# Climate Action Working Party

CHAIR, CLLR CHARLES NOXON

We work alongside other organisations in Tring, such as Sustainable Tring to address climate change issues.

This year progress has been made on the following activities:

- The installation of a water refill station in Church Square
- Evaluating the use of Town Council land, in particular land at Bulbourne, with a Green Space Audit from the Countryside Management Team
- The expansion of Great Big Green Week in 2024 following the success of our first one in 2023

In addition, we are investigating:

- A wildlife trail to include the many waterways in Tring
- Ways to support Tring litter pickers
- Implementing a Green Planning Criteria to support our recommendations to Dacorum Borough Council
- Website energy efficiency

Adrian England, Dacorum Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, attended the last Climate Action Working Party to give a presentation and offer an open question and answer session, for which the working party were very grateful.



Flooding issues, which are affecting homeowners in Chapel Meadow and Cobbetts Ride, are also being resolved by liaison with the appropriate authorities.

We are living in times when Climate Action must be considered an absolute priority, and Tring Town Council is committed to this working party dedicated to green events and policies.



***A celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature***



# Buildings, Assets & Infrastructure Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR, CLLR JOHN MOTTERSHEAD



External works to the Council's Market House, a Grade II listed building where offices and council chambers are located, were underway when I started as a Councillor in May. This was part of an ongoing schedule of repairs and maintenance that needed to take place on one of Tring's most iconic buildings. A specialist conservation consultant was instructed to help select and supervise the builders, and works started in April 2023. The work was completed a couple of months later and this included re-pointing, repainting, roof repairs, renovating the notice board, and hanging a smart new sign outside the Information Centre in Akeman Street. There are plans to re-decorate and re-carpet the interior in the coming year.

Church Square, in the centre of town, in front of St. Peter & St. Paul Church, has seen the repair and replanting of the flower bed by talented volunteers. The kerb to the rear of the bed, considered a trip hazard, has been lowered, and our Town Warden has repainted bollards and benches. The water bottle refill station is now in place and will be open for refills in the Spring. The Council is currently investigating the renovation of the bus shelter, which has seen better days.

Developers who build in the town have to pay a 'Community Infrastructure Levy' to the Borough Council (in our case Dacorum). Dacorum Borough Council then gives a proportion of the money (15%) to Tring Town Council, who are allowed to spend it on infrastructure projects. For more about CIL money, see the Finance & Policy Committee report opposite. The Council has been working hard on using this money to move projects forward, including:

- Replacing benches in the High Street
- Ash tray lidded bins for outside Morrisons and the Robin Hood public house
- A Toucan crossing at Station Road
  - Pound Meadow
- New notice boards across the town

- Renovation of the Brook Street ball park into a multi-use games area
- An insect house and information board at Chapel Meadow
- Allotments, Community Garden and car park at Bulbourne

Due to the state of the Nora Grace Hall, which is in urgent need of repair or replacement, the previous Council undertook an extensive consultation on a remit for the design of a new building, which resulted in an outline design being submitted to Dacorum Borough Council for planning permission. At the time of writing, the outcome is still awaited, and that is essential to the Council's future decisions in particular, with regard to costs, facilities and environmental issues.

When the options were being explored, it was hoped by the previous Council that funding would come from the Dacorum Borough Council's share of CIL funds plus the sale of Council land at Bulbourne. It is now looking unlikely that any funding will be available from either of those sources.

As a new Council, and in light of the current funding position, we will be revisiting this project to review the options including refurbishing the current building, rebuilding it in stages, or considering a new design.

## Community Infrastructure Levy Monitoring Report

a) Total CIL receipts for the reporting year 2022/2023 £36,171.83

b) Total CIL expenditure for the reported year £48,804.20

### c) Summary details of CIL expenditure on each item

Items to which CIL had been applied	Amount of CIL expenditure on each item
Lower kerb at back of Church Square	£5,450
Contribution to Pound Meadow skateboard park (ear-marked in previous year but now paid)	£25,000
Contribution to purchase of benches in Dolphin Square	£750
Planning consultant fees for Nora Grace Hall replacement Project	£14,800
Planning application fees for Nora Grace Hall replacement Project	£2,804.20

### 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 £36,171.83

CIL receipts from previous years retained at the end of the reported year £742,010.99 (However a commitment has been made to contribute up to £6,100 to Hertfordshire County Council Highways department for the installation of fencing at Hastoe Lane.)

f) Infrastructure priorities for the coming year Replacement of Nora Grace Hall & play equipment for Pond Close.

# Finance & Policy Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR, CLLR PAUL REYNOLDS

The Finance & Policy Committee is responsible for detailed oversight of the Council's financial affairs and its policies. The annual cycle of activities starts with budget preparation and budget approval (by the full Council). The Committee monitors expenditure against the budget during the year and recommends any actions needed to keep the budget balanced, such as transferring money from reserves. The Committee scrutinises the reports from the annual audits (internal and external) and ensures that any actions needed are taken to achieve compliance. The budgetary year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Last year an overall working budget was set of £315,742. This was to be funded by the Town Council's share of council tax (the precept), income from assets, and grants from Dacorum Borough Council. At the time of writing, it is expected that we will be on target. The Council is suffering from inflation and increases in costs, particularly energy costs. This is being partially offset by the increase in interest on investments the Council is currently receiving. However, we are assuming that this will not be a permanent bonus. The overall plan is to maintain the current level of services and to be prudent with the precept whilst we try to get a better idea of where inflation and interest rates are heading over the year ahead. The annual cost of the local precept for a Band D house will increase by £1.64 to £34.53 per year.

The Council does benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) scheme where, money is given to the Council via the Borough each year in proportion to housing development in the Town. This money cannot be spent on things like salaries and wages or day to day running costs. It has to be spent on projects to support the general development in an area, and must be spent within 5 years of receipt. There are various other rules regarding how the money can be spent. There is currently around £759,400 of CIL money held. This has been generated from recent developments in Tring, particularly Roman Park. We cannot expect similar amounts in the future unless major new developments were to be approved.

We have spent some CIL money this year and whilst we have also set aside a large chunk of this money for the Nora Grace all project, we have been actively engaging with the community for



ideas that we could spend the rest of the money on. There are now some interesting proposals in the pipeline that are near to getting approval and we hope to be able to start work on some of them in early 2024.

Our work covers financial policies, which ensure that we follow statutory guidance in our spending and how we manage our reserves and investments. One of the key things we have looked at this year is the Council's banking arrangements, and whilst we recognise it is hard to know with certainty the sustainable credentials of different

banks, we have tried to ensure that the bulk of the Councils' funds are held within banks that have sustainability as a priority. This is something we will continue to look at and monitor into 2024. Many of our other policies cover our duty as an employer to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees. All of our policies are reviewed regularly and updated in line with changes in the law and best practices.

## INFORMATION CENTRE

The Town Council's Information Centre on Akeman Street is an open and welcoming resource for locals and visitors alike. We have up-to-date information on a whole host of subjects, ranging from transport timetables, local theatre programmes, concerts, local groups (of all sorts!) - not to mention all our local walks and information about access to the countryside and places of interest. In fact, if you have any query about anything to do with Tring or its surroundings, call in and talk to us – Ray Flanigan and his team look forward to helping you. It's also worth noting that lots of this information (and more) is also available online on our website: [www.tring.gov.uk](http://www.tring.gov.uk)



# Planning Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR, CLLR CAROLE WESTON

Tring is a charming market town located in the county of Hertfordshire, Eastern England, approximately 30 miles northwest of London. It is situated in a gap passing through the Chiltern Hills, which is classified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Tring has a rich heritage and a High Street brimming with independent shops, cafes, restaurants, and businesses. It is the only small town that can boast an extensive Natural History Museum, affiliated with London.

Tring Town Council's Planning Committee allows Councillors to discuss all planning applications that are received from Dacorum Borough Council. The Committee reviews and discusses every planning application on its own merit. The Committee scrutinises and makes recommendations on the planning applications received which are then returned to Dacorum Borough Council who make the final decision.

Most planning applications are submitted by homeowners, applying for extensions to their properties, whether they be additional bedrooms, garage and loft conversions, or office spaces. There were over 200 such applications in 2023. It was

also noticeable that there were a number of conversions from office or retail to residential use within the commercial heart of the town. Recent changes in planning legislation make it attractive to developers to submit large developments.

One such planning application was made for up to 1,400 dwellings in greenbelt land East of Tring (Marshcroft Garden Village). The Town Council recommended refusal of this application which was subsequently endorsed by Dacorum Borough Council. The applicants appealed. An inquiry was held between March and May 2023 and ended



on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The Secretary of State is currently considering the Inspector's report. A decision was expected by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. However, this now has been put back until on or before 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Tring Town Council instructed a planning consultant to draft representations on behalf of the Town Council at the inquiry, and again, further to changes in planning legislation.

I'm pleased to report that the newly elected councillors for Dacorum Borough Council have listened to the concerns raised by Tring Town Council and others and overhauled the draft local plan. Residents and stakeholders were consulted on the proposed changes. The Town Council's response can be seen below.

All Planning Committee meetings are held in public, and residents can come and put in representation about specific applications. These may be in support, or in objection to an application, but all comments are taken into account. Information regarding agendas including dates, times and locations are on the Council's notice boards and website [www.tring.gov.uk](http://www.tring.gov.uk).

## Response to Dacorum's Local Plan Consultation

The Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan Revised Strategy for Growth Consultation took place in November and December 2023, and Tring Town Council was invited to submit a response to the online survey. You can read the Council's response here:

**Where does your response relate to?**

*Tring*

**Overall feedback on changes to the strategy**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to the strategy?**

*Agree*

**Please use this space if you would like to provide any further feedback on the revised strategy.**

*Tring Town Council agrees with Dacorum that all sites apart from Dunsley Farm should be deleted, in recognition among other things of Tring's Green Belt and surrounding Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status. The Town Council would be supportive of development at Dunsley Farm, provided that no other housing development occurred on the deleted sites or on any other large sites in the area.*

*The sensitivities of all sites should be noted as set out in The Landscape Report by Huskisson Brown dated June 2021 in response to Proposed Growth Areas, TR01, TR02 and TR03 indicated in the Emerging Strategy for Growth for the New Dacorum Local Plan (to 2038). That report also identifies certain parts of Dunsley Farm which are sensitive. However provided those sensitivities are respected and that*

*there is a significant landscape addition to the London Road boundary of this gateway site and will be appropriate landscape treatment within the site to soften development and to ameliorate its effects when seen from the High Scarp Tring Town Council would be supportive of the development allocation proposals.*

*It would be supportive of an education use within the site. The Town Council takes this opportunity to argue also for the provision of a sixth form college to Tring School within Tring, since this would release 300 places for educating the other (younger) secondary aged school pupils. This would be advisable given Tring School's current position of being at capacity, and taking into account the 250 houses proposed by Dacorum, as well as further houses coming on stream at Roman Park and other windfall housing developments. Tring Town Council would be agreeable to an employment site on Dunsley Farm provided it were limited to what was Use Class B1, now contained in Use Class E. The site is not appropriate for very large units or for accessibility and parking arrangements for HGV's. On this basis, it may be that the employment site could be somewhat smaller.*

**Would you like to do anything further as part of this consultation?**

*Provide feedback on infrastructure priorities for the Local Plan (+30 seconds)*

**Infrastructure: When thinking about the future, what are the five most important things to you?**

*Other (please specify) – Tring Town Council consider all of the infrastructure items identified to be of equal importance.*

# Supporting Good Causes - Council Grants

Tring Town Council has an ongoing annual budget which it can spend on local good causes. This money is split into a pot that goes to one-off grants that are asked for during the year, and the remainder that is allocated to organisations whose aims, broadly, are the promotion and wellbeing of Tring.

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

## Tring radio

*Thanks so much to Tring Town Council for awarding a grant to Tring Radio. We have been able to buy much needed new equipment, including an outdoor broadcast speaker and mixer and a gas generator which mean that we are able to be self-sufficient when we're asked to attend events. We also now have a proper gazebo in Tring Radio colours with brand new banners! In addition we have new studio headphones and another computer, which are invaluable as we now have one of our previous work experience students volunteering for us at weekends. We also have money put away ready for our DAB licence which will enable Tring Radio to be heard by so many more people across the local area. We continue to be very proud to serve the community, offering opportunities to learn and grow with us.*



*The County Market Company Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation set up to organise and run the Tring Farmers Market. We applied for and were grateful to receive a grant of £480 from Tring Town Council in July 2023.*

*The grant was requested as the Market was to move from Market Square to Church Square and paid for changes to signage, advertising and social media, and costs which were incurred generally. The funds were also used as the Company supported the Apple Fayre and Parade and contributed to the costs, advertising and running in conjunction with the Market on that day.*



*Thank you for the contribution to install a defibrillator at Tring Bowls Club.*

*The Bowls season runs during the summer months and in March I will be talking to London Heart Charity ([www.londonhearts.org](http://www.londonhearts.org)) and organising the delivery of the defibrillator to the club before the summer season starts.*



*Toy Hub's aim is to ensure that no child (aged 0–18), living within our local community goes without a gift to open on Christmas Day. We provide support in the form of unwrapped gifts to parents/carers living locally here in our community. We sort, pack and deliver these bags of gifts in the run-up to Christmas. To do this we rely on donations of new and like new gifts from our local community. 2023 was our second year and we were yet again blown away by the quantity of new and like new donations we received at our drop-off points. However, despite the donations we receive, we always lack donations of brand new gifts for specific age groups. We aim to provide one brand new gift for every child that we are supporting (via the grown ups) and this is where we depend on grants and financial support. Thanks to the amazing grant we received from Tring Town Council, we were able to ensure that we could buy new gifts for every child. We really couldn't fulfil our mission without grants like these and we are so grateful. We provided bags of gifts for 549 children living locally this year.*

# TOWN COMPETITIONS

THE ANNUAL COMPETITIONS TOOK PLACE AGAIN IN TRING THIS YEAR

## Winner of the Annual Community Award

### Trish Dowden

Trish was the winner of this year's Annual Community Award.

Trish is the cheerful and effective organiser of Tring's participation in the Dens Food Bank scheme. Trish has assembled and sustains a dedicated team of volunteers to host daily foodbank sessions, ensures smooth liaison with DENS itself and arranges one-off activities, like Christmas food parcels. She also arranges a regular lunch for elderly and isolated town residents. Furthermore, she is the efficient secretary for Friends of Tring Church Heritage, which works to sustain a vital community asset for the town. She certainly deserves recognition and our gratitude.



## Special Commendation Award

### Eileen Wilton

For the first time, a Special Commendation Award has been presented.

Eileen Wilton, who received the award and flowers from last year's Mayor, Christopher Townsend, was commended for fifty years' dedicated to Bishop Wood School as a lunch time supervisor (previously known as a dinner lady). Eileen will be much missed by staff and children, and we wish her a wonderful retirement.



## Winners of the Allotment Competition

### 1st prize

**Gwynneth Down**

pictured right

### 2nd prize

**Mr. P. Flitney**

### 3rd prize

**John Budd**



# Winners of the Annual Front Garden Competition

This year the winners were divided into first, second and third places:



**44 Goldfield Road**

# Winners of the Christmas Window Competition

The Mayor presented the awards, to much excitement from the winners who were:



**Our Bookshop**



**68 Miswell Lane**



**Magnolia Florist**



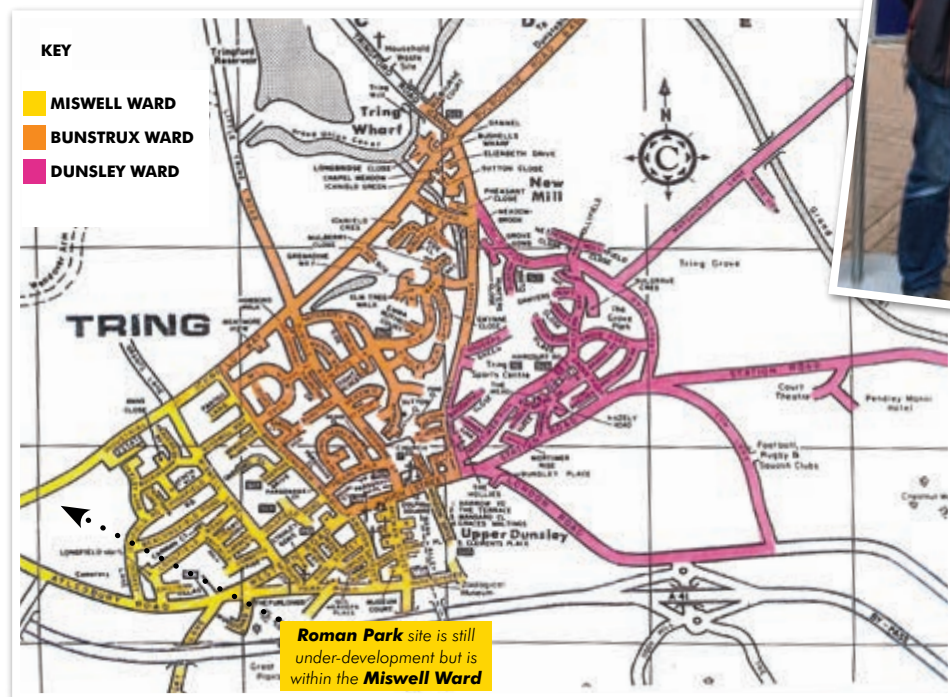
**38 Miswell Lane**



**Sons of Ink**

# Meet your Council

Watch out for an opportunity to meet councillors and have your say as they make themselves available at the Friday Market in Church Square every three months, to hear your suggestions and answer your questions.



**MARCH**  
**1**  
**Friday**  
**9.30am**

## MISWELL WARD



**Cllr Nigel Nutkins**  
**Mayor**

*Chair: Allotments & Environment Committee*



**Cllr Brian Patterson**  
**Deputy Mayor**



**Cllr Paul De Koning**

*Chair: Staffing & Employment Committee*



**Cllr John Mottershead**

*Chair: Buildings, Assets & Infrastructure Committee*

## BUNSTRUX WARD



**Cllr Carole Weston**  
*Chair: Planning Committee*



**Cllr Sheron Wilkie**



**Cllr Robert Farrow**



**Cllr Paul Reynolds**  
*Chair: Finance & Policy Committee*



**Cllr Charles Noxon**

## DUNSLEY WARD



**Cllr Carol Nutkins**



**Cllr Penny Hearn**



**Cllr Caroline Blair**

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



**Cllr Sally Symington**  
*County Councillor for Tring Division*

# Tring Youth Town Council

CLERK TO THE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL, EMMA CAVE



Tring Youth Town Council (TYTC) have enjoyed an interesting year. We have been involved in consultations and outside projects as well as working on our own ideas and also the usual unmissable and fabulous Summer Carnival Dog Show and the Vintage Tombola at the Christmas Festival!

Hope, Damian and Jacob did a fantastic job with the difficult conditions at the Summer Carnival. Parts of the event had to be cancelled due to the storm but among others, TYTC continued with a scaled down dog show in the rain and wind, managing lots of categories, and crowning our Best in Show the beautiful Dalmatian.



The Christmas Festival was cold and crisp with plenty of unusual vintage items donated by Tring Market Auctions being happily fought over by an enthusiastic bunch of regulars. We were joined by the local Dragons Den Team for 2024 – raising money selling Hot Chocolate and Homemade Cakes. Our profits went to the Royal British Legion and TYTC, to put towards future events and fundraising.

Damian and Hope laid our wreath at the Remembrance Day Service accompanied by Harry.

Our joint Chairs Archie and Harry continue to keep an eye on the new skatepark and are working to maintain lighting in the evenings so that skaters can enjoy the space after dark. We have now moved our focus on to the ball court in Brook St and are working with the Town and Borough Councils to achieve an effective refurbishment. We hope to be supported by the Town Council using CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money to kickstart the funding.

We have engaged in consultations over the DBC Local Plan and Town Council Budgets for CIL support. We have also given feedback on our opinions on the Nora Grace Hall refurbishment and to HCC regarding the 20mph expansion.

Currently we are campaigning to get some improved low level lighting along the path on Station Rd in the unlit area. Our members have reported feeling uncomfortable when trying to reach the station in the pitch dark. Hopefully we can finally achieve an appropriate solution with Hertfordshire Highways. We are being supported with this by Herts County Councillor Sally Symington and TYTC/DBC Councillor Sheron Wilkie. We are also trying out the new

HCC HERTS LYNX bookable local bus service with each journey costing a flat rate of £2.

We have been looking at providing a post box specifically for people young and old who have experienced loss to send a letter to their loved ones. These are classic post boxes painted white and known as Post Boxes to Heaven. There is one in Aylesbury and other places across the country which have been well received, with reports of help with the grieving process.

Our young people have been asking for a local cafe that provides shelter and seating that might welcome young people after school and in the evenings. Although Tring has many wonderful Cafes, they are looking for something serving simple and affordable food, healthy and not so healthy! We are currently looking at locations available to maybe trial a pop up but would welcome any ideas or help from the local community.

Our Christmas lights in Tring have prompted lots of discussion on social media and we are talking about ideas and improvements to the scheme which we will feed back to the Town Council. The lights are provided by an outside company so any changes need to be available, affordable and ordered in plenty of time for next Christmas. The TYTC are discussing the possibility of having a special installation such as the Giant Bauble that Harpenden have as an Instagrammable attraction.



Young people locally are looking for work after school and at weekends and there seem to be few opportunities available. If any local businesses have any openings please let us know and we can forward to interested young people.

We are looking forward to all the Town events throughout the coming year and will be taking part in the Big Green Week 8–16<sup>th</sup> June, and hopefully a dry and sunny Summer Carnival. We continue to support our Youth Club at the Temperance Hall on Fridays 6.30–9pm and Wednesdays 4.30–7pm.

As always we welcome new members aged 11–18 years, and have monthly meetings on a Wednesday 4–5.30pm in the Council Chamber. We have drinks, snacks and homemade brownies, and chat about whatever we want, it's up to us! If you or your friends are interested please contact Emma on [youthcouncil@tring.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@tring.gov.uk). We would love to see you at our next meeting.

# Outside Bodies

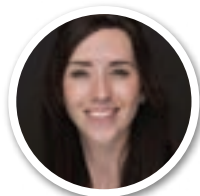
## COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2023/24

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
<b>Tring Community Centre Management Committee</b> 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 Sheron Wilkie
<b>Tring Together (as observer)</b> Tring Together plans and organises events and activities for the town, involving community groups, the business community, Tring's residents and its visitors.	Cllr Paul Reynolds
<b>Old Church House Management Committee</b> 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.	Cllr Charles Noxon
<b>Tring Charities</b> 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 Penny Hearn
<b>Tring &amp; District Local History &amp; Museum Society</b> 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 Brian Patterson
<b>The Friends of Tring Church Heritage</b> 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 Brian Patterson
<b>County Market Company Ltd (trading as Tring Farmers' Market) - observer status</b> 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 Carole Weston
<b>Tring Sports Forum</b> 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 Penny Hearn
<b>Churches Together in Tring</b> 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 Nigel Nutkins
<b>Justice &amp; Peace Group</b> 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 Nigel Nutkins
<b>Hertfordshire Association of Parish &amp; Town Councils</b> A forum enabling Town and Parish Council Officers to share common issues and ensure consistency of approach.	Town Clerk, Mrs Lydia Housden
<b>Arla/Olleco Liaison Group</b> 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.	Cllr Brian Patterson
<b>Dacorum Environmental Forum (DEF)</b> This voluntary organisation meets quarterly (currently online) to discuss matters of environmental interest within Dacorum, including Tring.	Cllr Robert Farrow (Cllr Caroline Blair as substitute)
<b>Rothschild Surgery</b> 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 Carol Nutkins
<b>Tring Place Strategy</b> A company was commissioned by DBC to carry out a place consultancy project in Tring and there is now a narrative for the Town. This group has now formed to take certain projects forward including welcoming visitors, communicating to current residents, developing a positive voice for Tring and measurement of success.	Cllr Caroline Blair

# 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](mailto:clerk@tring.gov.uk)



## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Deputy Town Clerk, Caroline Murray**

Caroline 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](mailto:admin@tring.gov.uk)

## **Cleaner**

Keeps the Information Office, Council Chamber 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](mailto: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 9.15am–2.45pm 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, the office acts as the Council's 'switchboard' for dealing with incoming calls and e-mail enquiries.

Contact via: [info@tring.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:youthcouncil@tring.gov.uk)

**TRING TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**THE INFORMATION CENTRE**

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

For information on our opening hours, please visit our website at [www.tring.gov.uk](http://www.tring.gov.uk)

# Become a Tring Town Councillor

Town and Parish councils have elections for all their councillors every four years and the next elections for Tring Town Council will be May 2027.



## HOW can you get involved?

### You can become a councillor as long as you are:

- A British citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
- At least 18 years old
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election

### You can't be a councillor if you have a disqualification which includes:

- Working for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a politically restricted post
- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- Have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the five years before election day
- Have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court
- You are subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003

Full details of the eligibility and disqualification requirements can be found on the websites below.

### As a local councillor, your residents will expect you to:

- Respond to their queries and investigate their concerns
- Communicate council decisions that affect them
- Know your area and be aware of any problems
- Know and work with representatives of local organisations, interest groups and businesses

## WHY get involved?

Councillors play a key role in the town. They are a voice representing local people and communities. They are champions of the users of local services and help shape future services for the benefit of local people. They work in partnership with other organisations and they play a major role in making local government work by developing a better quality of life for the people of Tring. The websites below give you answers to questions such as whether you are eligible to stand for election and how to get involved:

[www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/become-a-councillor](http://www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/become-a-councillor)

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/council-democracy/elections-and-voting](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/council-democracy/elections-and-voting)

For more information on how to register to vote please visit the Dacorum Borough Council website:

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/council-democracy/elections-and-voting](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/council-democracy/elections-and-voting)



# Dates for your diary



## February

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**7.30pm:** Ordinary Council Meeting, Council Chamber

## March

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**9.30am** Meet Your Council, Church Square

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

**7.30pm** Planning Committee Meeting, Council Chamber

**8.15pm** Finance & Policy Committee Meeting, Council Chamber

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

**7.15pm** Energiser Meeting for Great Big Green Week, High Street Baptist Church

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

**8pm** Annual Town Meeting, Victoria Hall

### Monday 25 March

**7.30pm** Planning Committee Meeting, Council Chamber

**8.15pm** Allotments, Environment & Transport Committee Meeting, Council Chamber



## April

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

**7.30pm** Ordinary Council Meeting, Council Chamber

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**7.30pm** Buildings, Assets & Infrastructure Committee Meeting, Council Chamber

## May

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

**7.30pm** Annual Council Meeting, Council Chambers

## June

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Great Big Green Week

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Allotment Plant Sale, Church Square

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Summer Carnival

## October

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Apple Parade Day, High Street

## November

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Festival

## Markets

**The Market** is in Church Square every Friday morning.

**Tring Farmers Market** is on the Saturdays listed below:

**March** 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

**April** 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**May** 11<sup>th</sup>\* and 25<sup>th</sup>

**June** 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

**July** 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**August** 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

**September** 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

**October** 12<sup>th</sup>\* and 26<sup>th</sup>

**November** 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

**December** 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

All Farmers Markets take place in Church Square except \* which are in Market Place.

