

# THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY

## 20TH APRIL 2022

### **MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap, Kings Langley**

Present: Kings Langley Parish Councillors: Anderson, Angiolini, Button (Chair), De Silva, Johnson, McLean, Rogers and Sinclair

Also present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk, Kings Langley Parish Council  
Mrs Beverley Ross, Administrative Assistant, Kings Langley Parish Council  
Mr David Fisher, Headteacher, Kings Langley School  
Mrs Frances Stickley, Chair of Governors, Kings Langley School  
Mr Paul Hier, Village Warden  
Approx. 40 members of the public

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Chairman Cllr Howard Button welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the council and guest speakers.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 Cllr Collins; Cllr Morrish; PC Dean Childs-O'Leary, Hemel Hempstead Police.

#### 3. Dacorum Borough Council – Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

- 3.1 Melanie Parr, Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead at Dacorum Borough Council gave a presentation entitled Dacorum Borough Council and the Climate Emergency.
- 3.2 Various examples of events driven by climate change were shown on screen including record rain and flooding, extreme heat, wildfires, the mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, extreme flooding in South Africa and other worldwide examples. Dacorum had seen flooding in various places including Gadebridge Park.
- 3.3 Melanie explained Dacorum's Climate Emergency Statement of Intent which included leading by example in reducing carbon emissions and working with residents, community groups and partners to reduce emissions across the borough and prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change.
- 3.4 Melanie informed the meeting that grants were available including the Green Homes Grant for those who meet the criteria and Green Community Grants.
- 3.5 To improve biodiversity, Dacorum had planted over 1300 trees and was increasing the number of wildflower areas and offering wildflower seeds to residents and primary schools.
- 3.6 Melanie explained the Dacorum Climate Action Network that brings together individuals and organisations to 'think global and act local'.

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- 3.7 Bill Ashford asked why there were no costings in her presentation. He said it would be very expensive to change to electric cars and heat pumps and pointed out that other countries like China and the USA were far more polluting than the UK. He suggested Melanie added costings to future presentations. Cllr Button stated that it was a Government decision to ban petrol/diesel cars by 2030, so the cost was irrelevant, it had to be done anyway. Emily responded that as the Industrial Revolution had started in England, why can't the Green Revolution? Cllr Anderson said that we can play our part in seeing the problem and doing something about it. We would have to try and budget the costs and see what wins were achievable. Cllr Button reported that the Parish Council had made a commitment to climate change by installing solar panels and pointed out that the warden's van will be replaced by an electric or hybrid vehicle. He said that the Council was firmly committed to combatting climate change. John Ingleby said there was an idea to extract heat from the canal near Tooveys Mill and that there was a pot of money to pay for a consultant to look at whether it would be achievable. If so, it could be piped around the Willow Edge retirement home. Cllr Johnson said that hydrogen technology didn't exist as yet but there is flexibility to adapt to changes within DBC and an update takes place each year. This was a fast-paced environment. Soon every new house build will require a vehicle charging point.

#### 4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 4.1 It was proposed, seconded and resolved: -  
That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be adopted as a true record.
- 4.2 The Chair then signed the minutes.

#### 5. Annual Report of the Council

- 5.1 The report was attached to the agenda. Cllr Button gave a brief outline reporting that the various events the council ran or supported each year would be held as normal. To commemorate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee there would be a garden party on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the village garden, organised with Churches Together in Kings Langley.

#### 6. Environment Initiative Award

- 6.1 The award was presented to James Deayn and Scarlett Mangan, Head Boy and Head Girl at Kings Langley School for their paper recycling scheme that aimed to reduce the school's carbon footprint. They were presented with a certificate and £200 prize money. Their recycling scheme will enable that all paper from the school is recycled with proper recycling bins in every classroom and communal areas. The paper will be taken by volunteers to the nearby Apsley Paper Trail based at Frogmore Paper Mill where it will be recycled onsite. A photo was taken of James and Scarlett with Cllr Button and Mr Fisher, Head Teacher.

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### 7. Financial Report

- 7.1 Accounts for 2021/22
- 7.2 Budget/Precept for 2022/23
- 7.3 Cllr Anderson introduced the report, a copy of which was attached to the agenda and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### 8. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- 8.1 Cllr Morrish introduced the update and explained that there was a delay to the plan due to Natural England's report into the damage being sustained to the beech woodlands in Ashridge and Tring which are under increasing visitor pressure from people in the Borough and beyond. Working with the National Trust, a mitigation strategy was being put in place and until such is received, the process of determining new house building in the borough was being delayed.
- 8.2 Harold Taylor congratulated everyone involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 9. Transport, Leisure and Environmental Groups Updates

- 9.1 Cllr McLean introduced the report from the Transport Group. A copy of all the reports were attached to the agenda. A high priority was a crossing patrol at the junction of Rectory Lane/Hempstead Road to provide a safe crossing to the Primary school and traffic lights at the Vicarage Lane/High Street/The Nap junction. It was noted there were quite a few accidents at this busy junction.
- 9.2 John Ingleby pointed out that the canal towpath in parts was in a very bad condition. Cllr McLean replied that the focus was on the Red Lion Lane end and the hope was to continue the repaired footpath but funding was an issue and it was considered a low priority.
- 9.3 A resident raised the point about how long it takes pedestrians to cross at the pedestrian lights in Rucklers Lane and the dangerous issues around that junction. Another complaint was about congestion caused by increased parking on the pavement in Red Lion Lane. Cllr Anderson pointed out that residents from the housing development have to pay to park there, so park on the road instead and that the field to the side would not be developed for car parking. Both issues would be taken up by the Transport group.
- 9.4 David Spacey said, in relation to speeding, that speed indicators have little effect and speed cameras were needed. Cllr McLean responded by saying the speed cameras were wanted but the criteria was that there had to be a certain number of deaths before a speed camera is considered. However, the new pedestrian crossing being installed near the junction of Rectory Lane which should stop drivers speeding out of the village.

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- 9.5 There were no questions asked on the Leisure report which highlighted the projects the group were working on including the feasibility of a Repair Shed, a trim trail, community toilet scheme, a heritage trail and a website 'Kings Langley Links' to provide information on local activities, clubs and businesses.
- 9.6 There were no questions asked on the Environmental report which highlighted the topics of interest being looked at including local recycling schemes, wildflower planting, grass verge damage and bee boxes to be placed around the village. A Sustainability and Environmental Achievement Award was implemented in which the winner was presented tonight.

#### 10. Police Report

- 10.1 No report had been submitted and no member of the Police was present.

#### 11. Kings Langley Primary School

- 11.1 There was no report submitted and no member of the Primary School present.

#### 12. Kings Langley Secondary School

- 12.1 Mr Fisher, headteacher, reported that the school now had 1200 pupils, the 6<sup>th</sup> Form was growing and the school was receiving lots of awards.
- 12.2 Mr Ashworth asked if the school still had the farmhouse in Wales, to which Mr Fisher informed him that yes, the Welsh farmhouse was thriving, it was run by trustees and it generated an income, though things had been difficult with Covid. However, it is maintained by volunteers and used by various groups. Unfortunately, not every child can be sent there as in previous years, but it is used and the school is very proud of it. It can be rented out and they were very grateful for a legacy left by John Beukett in his will that kept them going through the pandemic.
- 12.3 Mrs Stickley, Chair of Governors, said the school was expanding its 6<sup>th</sup> form centre and was hoping to get an all-weather football pitch which could also be used by the community. She reiterated that the school was very popular and there would be extra students in September.

#### 13. Kings Langley Charities

- 13.1 Cllr Johnson introduced the report, a copy of which was attached to the agenda. He explained that the charity itself was established to address, 'The relief of poverty, sickness and disability among the population of Kings Langley, Hertfordshire.' It was acknowledged that the pandemic had placed extra pressure on local families but the charity was very grateful for the donation of £1,000 from the Kings Langley Carnival to supplement the grant received from the Henry Smith Foundation. There were no questions on the report.

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#### 14. Borough Council Report

Alan Johnson introduced the report and stated that it had been a busy year due to the Covid pandemic but key services were running as close to normal as possible. With climate change on everyone's mind at the moment, the Borough Council had pledged to reduce to reach net zero by 2030 for its direct greenhouse gas emissions and by 2050 for emissions where the Council does not control the energy use of buildings it rents or leases. A strategy and action plan setting out how these goals will be achieved had been published.

#### 15. County Council Report

15.1 No report had been submitted and Cllr Richard Roberts was not present.

#### 16. Consideration of any resolutions of which written notice had been given

16.1 None

#### 17. Any further questions/other business

17.1 None

Meeting closed at 9.15pm



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2021/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to this the Annual meeting of the Parish of Kings Langley. This has been another busy year for the Council and your councillors, and I want to pay a special thank you to Paul Dunham who 'stepped down' as Parish Clerk after 17 years. We are enormously grateful for his contribution to the Council, and it was our pleasure to 'dine him out' on his retirement. We are very pleased to welcome our new Clerk, Caroline Owen.

Let me introduce my fellow Councillors:

### **Alan Anderson**

Alan represents North Ward, is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Personnel Committee. He is the Council's Finance portfolio-holder, and a Dacorum Borough Council Councillor for the Kings Langley Ward. Alan also represents the Council on the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society and organises the annual 'Beating the Bounds'.

### **Gerry Angiolini**

Gerry represents Central Ward, is Vice-Chair of the Council and the Personnel Committee. He also Chairs the Planning and Licensing Committee and works tirelessly on many aspects of the Council's activities, including village events such as the Carnival and the Christmas Lights, and the Council's Gardens competition.

### **Derek Collins**

Derek represents Central Ward and is a member of the Council's Leisure Group. He is also a stout campaigner for road safety and represents the Council on the Community Centre Association.

### **Rene De Silva**

Rene represents South Ward, is Vice-Chair of the of the Planning and Licensing Committee and represents the Council on the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society.

### **Alan Johnson**

Alan represents South Ward and is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and Chairs the Council's Leisure Group. Alan is also responsible for the Village Garden and the monthly community gardening sessions, surgery and litter picks. He also co-judges the Gardens competition and helps organise the Carnival and Lights Festival. Alan chairs 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Langley Scouts and the primary school Governing Body, is Secretary and Treasurer of Good Neighbours and a trustee of Kings Langley Charities. He is a Borough Councillor and in 2022 was elected Deputy Mayor of Dacorum.

### **Bob McLean**

Bob represents North Ward, is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee, the Personnel Committee and Chairs the Transport Group. Bob is also a member of the Carnival committee and Chair of Trustees of the Waterside Centre

## **John Morrish**

John represents South Ward and was lead councillor for the Parish and Neighbourhood Plans. He organises the Village Market and is a leading member of the Kings Langley Community Benefit Society. John has been working to improve the canal towpath amongst many other environmental projects.

## **Mark Rogers**

Mark represents South Ward and is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Council's Leisure Group. Mark was also elected as a Borough Councillor for Bennetts End in 2019.

## **Ian Sinclair**

Ian represents the South Ward and, since being elected nearly two years ago, has fought hard to protect grass verges and address the problems of parking around the village.

## **Howard Button**

I am Chair of the Council and the Personnel Committee, a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee, Chair of the Environment Group and a member of the Transport Group. In between campaigning for improvements to the local paths and roads and protecting the grass verges, I lend a hand with everything, including the Carnival.

My thanks to all our Councillors for their support and dedication, working on your behalf, and for their support of me in the role as Chairman. I would also like to say a thank you to the Parish Council's staff for their exceptional efforts throughout the past year including Caroline Owen, our Clerk, Beverley Ross who provides support in both the office and other Council activities and Paul Hier, the Village Warden.

## **Contact with the Council**

Anyone wishing to contact the Council can telephone or visit the Council premises at Charter Court, Vicarage Lane. Opening hours are 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday. The office telephone number is 01923 261828. The Council can also be contacted by email: [klpc@kingslangley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:klpc@kingslangley-pc.gov.uk). The Council also has a website: [www.kingslangley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingslangley-pc.gov.uk) on which you will find a range of information including the Council's agendas and minutes, and there is a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KingsLangleyPC>.

The Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month, including some planning and licensing matters. The Planning and Licensing Committee also meets on the third Tuesday of the month. All these meetings are open to all and are now being made more accessible online. A list showing Councillors' contact details is displayed on the notice boards throughout the village, is available from the Council office and on the website. This list also shows the contact details for our two Dacorum Borough Councillors and our County Councillor, Richard Roberts.

The Council continues to operate its "portfolios" so that each Councillor is responsible for an area of activity and/or a geographical area of the village, so that there can be a clearer focus on problems, allowing a single Councillor to "own" the issue or area.

## **Planning and Development**



The Parish Council has continued to carefully monitor planning applications, particularly for Kings Langley and those on our borders with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). In doing so, we are continuing our approach to protect the Green Belt and to avoid coalescence with Apsley, Abbots Langley or Hunton Bridge. This has been a constant theme for the Council, most notably since 2017 when we held a parish poll, instigated by Alan Anderson, that saw 800 people attend a meeting at the senior school followed by a 99% vote against Green Belt development in Kings Langley.

In the intervening period the Council has consistently shown itself predisposed to opposing Green Belt developments in the village, including the proposed Motorway Services, the proposals for Rectory Farm and TRDC's Local Plan housing proposals along our joint border, including two sites either side of the M25 numbering @1300 new homes. The Council has continued to work alongside the Kings Langley and District Residents' Association, with two Councillors being co-opted to their committee.

The Council will always consider the concerns of its residents and support appropriate objections, including making personal representations at Dacorum's Planning Committee when planning officers are minded to grant applications to which the Parish Council have raised objections.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The village voted by a very substantial majority in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was subsequently adopted by Dacorum Borough Council. The Neighbourhood Plan is a document that sets out planning policies for Kings Langley which are used to decide whether to support planning applications.

### **Regular community organised activities**

The council continued its regular monthly activities in the village including the community gardening in the Village Garden on the first Friday morning of every month where anyone can come and 'lend a hand' with planting or weeding or pottering about. A great deal of time, effort and enthusiasm has been invested in the Village Garden to make it an open, welcoming and colourful space.

The Village Garden is also the location of the monthly Parish Council surgery on the third Saturday morning of the month (at the same time as the Village Market). Both have relocated from the High Street. The surgery provides an opportunity to ask questions, raise problems or just have a chat with local councillors.

The last Sunday morning of the month sees the regular community litter pick, providing anyone with the opportunity to keep Kings Langley litter-free. The appropriate equipment is provided, including a very fetching hi-vis jacket. This supplements one of the parish warden's regular activities.

### **Regular community events**

After taking place in September in 2022, this year's Carnival is returning to its regular summer slot on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June on the Common with the dog show, performers, local food and craft stalls, fun and games – and this year the organisers are out to break a Guinness record. The

aim is to get 500 people 'dancing' to "Oops Upside Your Head." Councillors Gerry Angiolini, Alan Johnson and Bob McLean are on the Rotary Club's organising committee. Other councillors will be 'on duty' during the day to assist with the various activities.

The Best Kept Gardens Competition will take place, as it does every year, at the end of July. Anyone and everyone with a garden are invited to enter. Councillors Gerry Angiolini and Alan Johnson will be judging the competition, ably assisted by Beverley Ross and a horticultural expert from the Sunnyside Trust.

The Christmas Lights Festival will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, with the closure of the High Street and all the familiar favourites including rides, stalls, shops, entertainment, fireworks and, of course, Santa. The event is being organised by Councillors Angiolini and Johnson, Community Action Dacorum, with help on the day from other councillors.

### **Annual grants and financial support**

The Council continued supporting local organisations and memorial donations including:

- Kings Langley Senior School for the Environment award/sustainability initiative and towards the cost of paper recycling scheme
- Poppy Appeal
- Essex and Herts Air Ambulance
- Herts Police Widows and Orphans Fund
- Kings Langley Community Choir
- Kings Langley Primary School
- Kings Langley Firefighters Charity
- Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

In recent years the Council under the direction of the leisure group has also promoted and financially supported a range of activities including installing a Trim Trail in Green Park, renewing the Old Pound, a Community Toilet Scheme, Kings Langley Links, increased footpath signage, a human sundial on the Common, clearing 1000 metres of footpaths through the woods, a Repair Café, a new path in the Village Garden and another speed indication device on Watford Road. There has also been funding for, among other things, solar panels on the Council Office roof (as part of our climate change emergency declaration) and an annual environmental innovation award, a Jubilee Party in the Village Garden in 2022 and a Coronation Party this coming June.

Further projects we are promoting and financially supporting for this year include resurfacing more of the canal towpath, replacing the High Street hitching rail, more verge protection around the village, youth survey and engagement projects, and refurbishment of more benches and street nameplates.

Following pressure from the parish council guided by the transport group, the M25 roundabout has been resurfaced and a school crossing patrol and safer crossing point installed at Hempstead Road, just north of Rectory Lane. There have been a number of smaller transport projects, including a swathe of resurfacing and drain clearances, around the village.

The environmental group has held several meetings over the past year discussing a range of topics aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of our local community and I look forward to this evening presentation on Transition streets and the community heating project.

#### **Dog Litter Bags:**

The Council continues to provide these free of charge for those who live or walk their dogs in the village and would like to encourage more dog owners to make use of the bags, but please, please also to deposit them in the appropriate bin. It is encouraging that the number of dog litter bags being issued is increasing.

#### **Budget 2023-24**

There has been no increase in the precept for 2023-24. Councillor Alan Anderson will take us through the budget in more detail within his report.

Your Parish Councillors are unpaid and give up their time and effort on your behalf, because they care about the village and the residents' issues. Much of what we do, we know, is appreciated by you, but without your support none of us would be here, and we aim to continue to support and further the needs of the village wherever possible.

Thank-you.

**Howard Button, Chair, Kings Langley Parish Council**



## **Annual Parish Meeting 2023**

### **Financial Report**

On the following pages, please see:

- i) A summary of the council's accounts for 2022-23 and budget for 2023-24.
- ii) Explanatory notes.

If you would like a full copy of the accounts or budget, then please ask the Clerk, who will ensure a copy is delivered to you as soon as possible.

As is normally the case this soon after the close of the last financial year, the accounts for 2022-23 have not yet been audited. The accounts will be prepared for audit in the proper manner in due course by the Clerk, in her role as the Responsible Financial Officer.

Councillor Alan Anderson.

<b>KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL</b>				
<b>APM 2023 BUDGET/ACCOUNTS</b>				
	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Outturn</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>REVENUE INCOME</b>				
Precept (KLPC Share of Council Tax)	129,075.00	129,075.00		130,095.00
Central Govt Council Tax Benefit Grant	0.00	528.61		0.00
National Savings/Bank Interest	300.00	790.11		300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,375.00</b>	<b>130,393.72</b>		<b>130,395.00</b>
<b>PRECEPT</b>				
Precept	129,075.00			130,095.00
Resource Base (Amount of Taxpayers)	2,344			2,363
Band D Property	55.06			55.06
Increase				0.0%
<b>REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>				
Staff Costs	56,160.00	56,684.51	524.51	55,160.00
Administration	15,285.00	15,531.31	246.31	13,355.00
Charter Court Costs	20,950.00	22,005.71	1,055.71	21,385.00
Village Clock Maintenance	230.00	236.00	6.00	230.00
Best Kept Gardens Competition	1,000.00	625.50	-374.50	1,000.00
Carnival Donation	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Christmas Festival	10,480.00	10,558.00	78.00	11,800.00
Community Run Donation	150.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Donations to Village Groups	1,000.00	1,275.00	275.00	1,000.00
Concurrent Services (Net of Grant)	23,870.00	25,042.29	1,172.29	26,065.00
VAT (Net of Previous Year)	0.00	-6,362.40	-6,362.40	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,375.00</b>	<b>125,995.92</b>	<b>-3,379.08</b>	<b>130,395.00</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,397.80</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b>BALANCES</b>				
<b>Balances at 1st April</b>	<b>15,048.60</b>	<b>17,139.29</b>		<b>16,096.27</b>
Excess Income/Expenditure	0.00	4,397.80		0.00
Transfer to Concurrent Maintenance Fund	0.00	-5,445.00		0.00
<b>Balances at 31st March</b>	<b>15,048.60</b>	<b>16,092.09</b>		<b>16,096.27</b>
(Continued on next page.)				

	2022-23	2022-23		2023-24
	Budget	Outturn		Budget
<b>PROJECTS FUND</b>				
<b>Projects Fund at 1st April</b>	<b>48,189.05</b>	<b>52,665.50</b>		<b>86,036.85</b>
Transfers from Balances	0.00	0.00		0.00
Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts	0.00	53,318.96		0.00
Top of Langley Hill Parking Area	0.00	0.00		-2,000.00
Common Top Parking Areas	-2,000.00	0.00		-20,000.00
Highways Signage	-750.00	-2,100.00		-750.00
High Street Hitching Rail	-1,500.00	0.00		-20,000.00
Hempstead Rd Curtillage	-1,500.00	0.00		0.00
Parish Plans	-4,000.00	-654.19		-1,000.00
Canal Towpath Upgrade	0.00	0.00		-5,000.00
Fitness/Play Equipment Trail	-8,100.00	-9,200.00		0.00
Common Woodland Pathways	-5,100.00	0.00		0.00
HMQ Platinum Jubilee	0.00	-473.42		0.00
HMK Coronation	0.00	-230.00		0.00
KL Swimming Club Coaching	0.00	-620.00		0.00
K/L School 3G Pitches	0.00	0.00		-1,000.00
K/L Library Sensory Garden	0.00	0.00		-1,000.00
General/Youth Facilities Survey	0.00	0.00		-6,500.00
Youth Facilities	0.00	0.00		-15,000.00
Lunch Clubs Support	0.00	0.00		-1,000.00
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-22,950.00</b>	<b>40,041.35</b>		<b>-73,250.00</b>
<b>Projects Fund at 31st March</b>	<b>25,239.05</b>	<b>92,706.85</b>		<b>12,786.85</b>
<b>FUND CHANGES</b>				
Balances	0.00	-1,047.20		0.00
Elections Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00		-3,000.00
IT Fund	360.00	178.00		-1,250.00
Self-Insurance Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00
Charter Court Fund	-4,350.00	2,500.00		-1,060.00
Achiet-le-G Twinning Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00
Christmas Lights Fund	-750.00	0.00		-750.00
Warden Van Fund	-9,750.00	2,700.00		-12,450.00
Concurrent Maint Fund	12,200.00	6,893.36		-5,950.00
Projects Fund	-22,950.00	40,041.35		-73,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>-22,240.00</b>	<b>54,265.51</b>		<b>-97,710.00</b>
<b>FUNDS AT YEAR END</b>				
Balances	15,048.60	16,092.09		16,096.27
Elections Fund	4,000.52	4,000.52		1,000.52
IT Fund	3,515.88	3,333.88		2,080.88
Self-Insurance Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00		2,500.00
Charter Court Fund	3,145.02	9,995.02		8,935.02
Achiet-le-G Twinning Fund	3.17	3.17		3.17
Christmas Lights Fund	1,355.54	2,105.54		1,355.54
Warden Van Fund	1,000.00	13,450.00		1,000.00
Concurrent Maint Fund	16,331.82	12,387.48		682.48
Projects Fund	25,239.05	92,706.85		12,786.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,139.60</b>	<b>156,574.55</b>		<b>46,440.73</b>

# **Annual Parish Meeting 2023**

## **Financial Report - Explanatory Notes**

### **Outturn 2022-23**

Central Government Council Tax Benefit Grant - We were given to understand that council tax benefit had been localised fully, and that the last offset grant had been received in 2021-22, but the council received one last unanticipated grant.

Staff Costs - When setting the budget, we of course had no knowledge of the cost of living crisis coming, and the staff were given the cost of living increase set nationally.

Administration - The chairman's allowance was overspent to give the council's former Clerk a retirement send-off as befitting his 17 years service to the council.

Charter Court Costs - The council is having to catch-up on a rent increase backlog caused by a delayed lease renewal, and on a backlog of electricity costs, though this currently appears to have been halved by the saving from installing roof solar panels.

Best Kept Garden Competition - The council had a backlog of supplies from previous years, and so didn't need to spend as much on supplies this year.

Christmas Festival - We are particularly grateful to Mr Barry Denmead of Wilden Plumbing & Heating for his generous sponsorship of this event. As a result of the sponsorship, we usually spend what we budget, but there was a late charge for the bins we put out for the event.

Donations to Village Groups - We received more requests than usual for grant funding this year, and in view of the council's finances overall, were able to pay the grants.

Concurrent Services - This budget section includes the Warden's pay, and similarly to the Staff Costs, the Warden was given the cost of living increase set nationally.

VAT (Net of Previous Year) - The council is reimbursed for the VAT it spends, but not until the following financial year. This figure, and any overspend/underspend, are therefore only a reflection of the relative amounts spent on VAT across the two years. (The imbalance resulting from spending double the usual amount of VAT in 21/22.)

Transfer to the Concurrent Maintenance Fund - The council has a reserve fund for non-annual or highly variable/unpredictable Concurrent Service expenditure, and the fund has the greatest need for the redistribution of the revenue surplus.

Balances - According to good governance and government legislation, Balances should be set at around 5 to 15% of the council's revenue turnover. The revenue figures here are netted of receipts income, and the turnover for 2023-24 is budgeted at £160,090.

### **Budget 2023-24**

Precept - This was the minimum increase we needed to balance the budget.



Interest Income - Our receipts have been highly idiosyncratic, as in 21/22 they were £17.92 & in 22/23 they were £790.11. We cannot afford to increase the budget until we can get some certainty over the level of receipts we are likely to receive.

Precept Payers - A small increase meant that we did not have to increase the Precept.

Staff Costs - Even allowing for another cost of living increase set nationally, a small reduction was possible.

Administration - The budget had to be increased previously to pay for an unprecedented by election, and can now be reduced back.

Charter Court Costs - At budget time, the council's hall hire receipts were not performing as well as hoped, but they have since improved.

Christmas Festival - The County Council decided to increase the cost of the light column safety inspections from £279.86 to £2,157.00. We managed to find savings elsewhere in the event budget to take £557.14 off the ridiculous increase of £1,877.14, but it still caused a wholly disproportionate increase of £1,320.

Concurrent Services - Again, this budget section includes the Warden's pay, and we've allowed for another cost of living increase set nationally.

## **Projects Fund**

In 2022-23, the council:

- Contributed towards another Speed Indication Device in Watford Road.
- Continued paying for the Neighbourhood & Parish Plans.
- Installed a fitness/play equipment trail, or "trim trail", in Green Park.
- Celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and paid for the new King's Coronation celebrations in the Village Garden.
- Paid for the Kings Langley Swimming Club to procure specialist training.

In 2023-24, the council has budgeted to:

- Contribute to the improvement of the edge of the Common adjacent to Love Lane and of the land at the top of Langley Hill.
- Implement a tourism sign at the M25 junction 20 roundabout.
- Renew the failing hitching rail in the High Street.
- Contribute towards the upgrading of the canal towpath.
- Contribute towards the new 3G pitches at the Secondary School..

Away from the Projects Fund, the council is planning switching the warden's van to an EV, to demonstrate our commitment to combating climate change in practical ways.

Councillor Alan Anderson.





## Kings Langley School Parish Council Report

Wednesday 19th April

Kings Langley School remains significantly oversubscribed and oversubscribed by first choices alone. We will be going back to a 6-form entry school following the one year increase resulting in 186 students in year 7 for September 2023. We currently see an increase in students joining our Sixth Form from outside our direct school community with parents citing the schools, vision and ethos and obviously results for their rationale. We have 42 external candidates applying to our Sixth Form this year and 102 internal candidates who wish to study their A Levels with us.

The school benchmarks itself on national data and on every metric, we are now above national average. The school's progress 8 figure is above the national average as is the attainment 8 figure with students attaining a 5.1 on average which means on average students achieve a strong pass at Kings Langley School. Students with additional needs do particularly well at Kings Langley School with a progress figure of +0.19 compared to the national average of -0.61

Attendance remains a concern from central Government and the Department for Education. However, at Kings Langley School our student attendance remains above the national average for all year groups. We want to get attendance back to pre-pandemic levels and continue to work hard to get all students back into school on a regular basis.

[Schools in England seeing more pupil absences on Fridays | Schools | The Guardian](#)

The school has an extended school day every day offering clubs and opportunities for young people to take part in. A sample of the clubs can be seen on the school website which ran over the spring term. Every term we review our offer from a student perspective as well as facilities and weather perspective and as such the summer extended school day will go to parents shortly:

[Extra-Curricular - Kings Langley \(kls.herts.sch.uk\)](https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk)

The clubs and opportunities can also be seen on the Kings Langley School Twitter page:

[Kings Langley School \(@KL\\_School\\_UK\) / Twitter](#)

[KLS PE Department \(@KLSPE\) / Twitter](#)

Since December last year, we have been invited to have a regular half page article in the Kings News. This is written on a monthly basis and can be seen online.

March edition: <https://www.calameo.com/read/006316555044ea8fcdef2>

We continue to support our local community through fund raising, community events, our facilities and local offer. Once such example post pandemic is our reader's scheme with a group of students visiting Laura's Care Home in Kings Langley with Jane Hill the school librarian to read to the residents but also be read to. This has helped developed a sense of confidence and community for our young people and also development in the student's character. The feedback from the care home was very positive.

The school has almost 1100 students on roll and the vast majority support the school's aims, ethos and values in their conduct in the community. If you do see anything involving our students,



please report it to the school with descriptions so we can address any issues on a personal level with the students involved.

We have two facility development projects underway at the school site at present. The Sixth Form Centre is a much-needed space to provide both study and social space for our post 16 students. This construction project is well underway; the facility will be opening in September 2023. We are very excited about this project, and we will be able to accommodate our growing Sixth Form in a purpose built facility.

The second development is a 3G football pitch, which will be located at the back of the main school building. Planning permission was granted in March 2023, which will enable us to submit a grant application to the football Foundation in the late spring. The outcome of the application will be known at the end of the summer term. On receiving positive news of the funding the construction will commence immediately and the pitch is anticipated to be available in January 2024. The 3G pitch will not only provide a fabulous facility for our students during the school day but it will also provide much needed playing space for our local community. We have been delighted to be working with both Kings Langley Football Club and Chipperfield Corinthians who are both partner clubs in this project. There will also be availability for smaller local community groups to be able to use the pitch on a pay and play basis.

**The Kings Langley Charities**  
**(Registered Charity No. 234115)**  
**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023**

**Background**

Kings Langley Charities (KLC) was created in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century bringing together a number of charities which were active in the village. Most of these were of a 'legacy' nature, like the Henry Smith Foundation that was originally started in 1628, and others had been running for decades. They involved what we today would consider to be relatively small sums (generally a few hundred pounds, which had been a considerable sum when left) and all of it was invested.

KLC received the dividends from these investments. These sums were so small that around 12 years ago these investments were all cashed in and the proceeds paid into a single account. The Charity itself was established to address "The relief of poverty, sickness and disability among the population of the parish of Kings Langley, Hertfordshire." Whilst there are now other safety nets provided in this country, recent years overshadowed by the pandemic and increasing utilities and retail costs have placed extra pressures on local families.

**2022/23**

The trustees are grateful that the Henry Smith Charity supplemented their annual grant of £2k with 2 supplementary grants totaling £4.5k. KLC also received £1000 from the Community Development Household Support Grant, £200 from Hemel Hempstead Rotary Club's Santa Sleigh, and £275 from the Kings Langley Carnival.

As a result, KLC was able to provide food vouchers worth £80 to each of its independently identified recipients during the summer of 2022 and its traditional Christmas vouchers, but with the value increased to £100. The vouchers can be spent locally in the sub-post office store and the butchers. KLC also made a cash donation of £250 to the Langley Benefice Foodbank.

In the next 12 months KLC plan to issue summer vouchers to value of £100 unless a supplementary grant from the Henry Smith Foundation is not received. The potential for supporting individuals or the foodbank, in addition to summer and Christmas vouchers, will also be considered. The trustees wish to acknowledge the unwavering support of Richard from Kings Langley Butchers and Bhavik Shah from the sub-Post Office store for their ready co-operation and patience in ensuring that these arrangements worked smoothly.



## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023**

### **DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT**

We have spent the last year continuing to pursue a wide range of strategic issues affecting the Borough and Kings Langley, together with dealing with issues raised by individual constituents. Alan Anderson is the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Infrastructure, and Alan Johnson has been an active member of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, the Licensing Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee. He was elected Deputy Mayor in May 2022.

#### **Covid 19 and cost of living challenges**

The effects of the pandemic continued to be felt in all areas of Council business and Council services as the country returned to a new norm. Thankfully the good work of the Council and Council staff and the Council's additional financial support ensured key services are running normally, e.g., refuse collection, housing services; green spaces protection, and supporting wherever possible community initiatives to help those who have needed more assistance. It has been a real team effort. This has also included a major programme to bring together many Borough, local and county services. If anyone needs help or advice. It is available at: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/cost-of-living) or by telephone to Customer Services.

#### **Green Belt/Planning/Housebuilding and employment**

As previously reported, the Local Plan process has been reconfigured in the light of a number of compelling factors, including:

- The need to look more closely at the issues raised in the initial consultation;
- To assess the implications of the pandemic, specifically the changes to work and retail patterns potentially releasing non-viable space for residential use;
- Carrying out more detailed work on the likely environmental and recreational impact to ensure the proposed levels of growth and sites are most appropriate; and
- To incorporate expected changes to the national planning system

The new Local Plan timetable anticipates a further round of consultation in June 2023 (Regulation 18) and adoption of the new Local Plan in October 2025. Looking further ahead, Dacorum have prepared a Mitigation Strategy to tackle the problems being caused around Ashridge NT site. Close working with St Albans Council continues on the Hemel Gardens Communities Programme which will create 11k houses and 10k jobs by 2050.

In terms of employment, Dacorum continues to prioritise local employment, supporting local business areas and local jobs for local people. The current unemployment levels are more than 30% lower than national averages.

In terms of housing, the Borough is one of the largest social housing providers and has been responsible for a number of award winning developments and a small number of developments in the village including Godman Mews, Beechfield and Coniston Road.

### **Climate Emergency Strategy and High-Level Action Plan**

The Borough Council's pledged to reach net zero by 2030 for its direct greenhouse gas emissions and by 2050 for emissions where the Council does not control the energy use of buildings it rents or leases. Tackling the climate and ecological emergency is one of DBC's six corporate priorities,

The Council will be providing 104 Electrical Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) across 18 car parks, with around £2.7million of both public and private investment being made in EVCPs in the borough. Once the new charge points are in place, Dacorum will become the borough with the highest number in Hertfordshire and will also move into the top 20 per cent nationally.

To support the borough's environmental agenda, Dacorum's Climate Action Network (Dacorum CAN) has been established to encourage parish and town councils, residents and local groups to "think global and act local." This includes making the borough a cleaner, greener and safer place to live.

To do this a Street Champion network of volunteers has been established to act as the eyes and ears of the community. They help improve an area by litter picking, reporting fly-tipping, looking after the environment and encouraging neighbours and friends to get more involved in community events and activities. They are also provided with the equipment and information to carry out this role. To date, more than 1,000 Street Champions have signed up to the scheme.

***In closing***, it continues to be a real honour and a privilege to represent and serve the parish on Dacorum Borough Council over the last year. As "dual councillors", we would also like to thank parish colleagues and staff for their support and professionalism.

Alan Anderson & Alan Johnson,  
Dacorum Borough Councillors.



## Kings Langley Annual Parish Meeting

County Councillor Richard Roberts

2023

**Ofsted** came calling, to check up on the quality of our Children's Services; are we making the right decisions about safeguarding, for the 1000 children in our care, support families who need a little extra help, our youth service and youth justice teams. They found our services to be "outstanding". This has been a long journey of improvement and to all our staff who have contributed and all our partners across social care, education and of course our Foster Carers and Parents who adopt I am very proud of all you achieve, day in, day out.

**The Junction 20 roundabout** has now been resurfaced with all the signage and road markings back in the right place. Dacorum Borough followed up with a clean up and although there is a little follow up on the lights, all in all a job well done by our contractors. Just in case you were wandering the cost of this work was more than 600k so a huge, and we hope long lived investment in the Highways.

I am very aware of the state of London Road and I am hoping that this is a priority for the **additional £4m pothole fund granted by Gov.** last month. Despite the cost of capital projects across the County we will still carry out more than a 1000 Highway improvement schemes and I have had more money put into making sure pavements and Hedges are kept in order.

Through my locality budget and the superb support from the Parish I have managed to have some more paving done on the Hempstead Road and the Lolly Pop road crossing site has now got its power, lights and crossing upgrades. This will be a real bonus for parents crossing from the lower part of the village.

This spring a **new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)** will go into the Watford side of the village to slow traffic exiting the village. Again, great to work with the Parish who are part funding this project.

At secondary transfer this year all Kings Langley Children and those in the villages got into a school of choice, good luck to everyone moving up to year 7. And Good luck to Mr. Fisher his staff and the Governing body who make such a difference for the school. New 3G football pitch, what a bonus not just for Kings Langley FC but all the local villages who will have access to all weather. I know Chipperfield Corinthians have also been heavily involved in the planning with the FA.

With so much pressure on hospital services over Christmas I visited Lister and Watford Hospitals to see how our Discharge teams were managing. Surprisingly well is the answer, we have the best discharge rates in the East of England. Our social care teams and the NHS work very closely to minimise time in Hospital and while there are always complications it's a lot better now than when Covid and the Flue were adding to problems.

Whilst **Watford General** does have a great new car park the financing and even the location of a new South West Herts Hospital is still not decided. The increase in building costs some 20% at least is not helping. Matt Coates the Chief Exec of the trust which includes Hemel, Watford and St. Albans comes across as very fair minded and high calibre contributing across Health locally.

**If you are eligible, there will be another round of Booster jabs this spring.**

Before Christmas I was very concerned about our finances, inflation was creating big overspends but to help us with this year's budget we got our share of the two year social care grant which was really helpful, regrettably we had to put up Council Tax but we kept it well below inflation and it will only just be enough for this year. This equated to an extra £1.47 on a band D property. Our budget is now over a billion pounds, with adult care alone, spending more than a million pounds every day supporting as many as 30,000 adults at any one time. Our care staff are invaluable and with your help we managed to increase their pay significantly (9.7%) this year.

Times for some are really tough at the moment and so if you are struggling and not sure who to get in touch with, call HertsHelp, 03001234044, [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net), they are a great place to start. The CAB are also doing a fab job and in the background our Money Advice Unit are unlocking benefits where they are needed.

Have a great summer, best wishes Richard. [richard.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk), 07923139092.