



NORTH WEALD BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER 2025-2026

Review from Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Alan Buckley

Dear Residents



Over the past year I have been pleased to represent the Parish Council at numerous events, some of which are listed below:

- 8th May - VE Day, 80th Anniversary Commemoration
- 15th August - VJ Day, 80th Anniversary Commemoration
- 14th September – Battle of Britain Commemoration
- October – Unveiling of Plaque to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Parish Hall in Thornwood Common
- November – Remembrance Sunday events in North Weald
- Attending community events at GreenAcres Living Memorial Park
- Attending community events at Hastingwood Village Hall
- Attending meetings with District and County Councillors
- Attending meetings with developers

Inside this newsletter, you will find a small snapshot of some of the many things that the Parish Council has responsibility for, or is involved with, such as:

- Provision and maintenance of 116 streetlights in local roads (not P1 routes)
- Provision and emptying of 12 dog waste bins
- Provision and management of North Weald Bassett Cemetery
- Maintaining recreation facilities, open spaces and 3 Play Areas (this includes emptying waste bins and grass cutting on some open spaces such as, Pike Way and Bluemans End)
- Maintaining new woodland area and Sensory Garden at Weald Common
- Provision and management of allotments at Wheelers Farm Gardens, Queens Road, Hastingwood and Thornwood
- Provision and maintenance of CCTV in various locations around the parish
- Provision and management of the Parish Hall in Thornwood Common
- Provision and maintenance of street furniture such as bus shelters, noticeboards and benches
- Provision and management of 3 defibrillators
- Maintaining the garden at the parade of shops and by the flagpole
- Organisation and management of Annual Commemorative Services of Remembrance
- Liaising with District and County Councillors on behalf of residents
- Attending and facilitating meetings with developers
- Highlighting traffic concerns on behalf of residents – attending meetings with North Weald Market operator and District Councillors
- Reporting fly-tipping to the appropriate authorities
- Reporting potholes, damaged road surfaces and pavements throughout the parish to Highways
- Commenting on 59 planning applications as a Statutory Authority and speaking at District Council Plans A and B committees
- Working towards completion of the Neighbourhood Plan

We are always happy to assist residents in any way that we can. If we don't have the answer, we will point you in the right direction. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Regards
Councillor Alan Buckley, Chairman

May 2026

North Weald Airfield Market Traffic

Statement released by North Weald Bassett Parish Council – Monday, 4th May 2026

Residents are continuing to experience increasingly significant disruption due to the volume of vehicles parking on local residential roads during market days at the airfield. The current situation is leaving many households unable to access their own properties, with cars frequently blocking driveways, narrowing roads, and creating unsafe conditions for both residents and pedestrians. There is parking on grass verges and pavements ruining these areas and making it unsafe for people to walk or for residents with prams or mobility aids to walk safely.

While we understand the market attracts high visitor numbers the overflow parking into surrounding neighbourhoods is no longer manageable. Local roads were not designed to accommodate this level of traffic, and the lack of effective parking controls or stewarding is causing avoidable stress, delays, and safety concerns.

The Parish Council has been involved in meetings with the District Council and the Market Operator, Saunders Market for over two years, and have been asking them to solve this ongoing problem. We have been asking for action to address this issue. Potential measures have included:

- Designated on-site parking with clear signage directing visitors away from residential streets
- Temporary traffic management or stewarding on market days
- Parking restrictions or enforcement on affected roads
- Engagement with residents to develop a long-term solution
- Additional Access and Exit Gates to the Airfield to be opened

Residents should not be prevented from entering or leaving their own homes due to an event taking place nearby. Members of the Parish Council have been asking the District Council and Market Operator to work with them and for the good of the community to implement practical and effective measures as soon as possible, however despite many meetings over the last two years little or none of the above suggestions have moved forward. This situation cannot continue, and residents ask Councillors what action they can take to move forward in this matter. The Clerk will give Councillors a verbal report of a suggested way forward.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Statement released by Epping Forest District Council – Wednesday, 6th May 2026

Epping Forest District Council and North Weald Market operator Saunders Markets would like to issue a full and sincere apology to all those affected by the disruption associated with last Monday's (4 May 2026) Bank Holiday Market.

We have undertaken to prevent any repeat of the serious traffic congestion and have put together an immediate 7-point plan, starting this coming Saturday.

Immediate actions being implemented

- Updating all advertised postcodes and directions so that visitors are routed only via Merlin Way
- Locking Gate I, restricting it to authorised vehicles only, preventing pedestrian access
- Installing clear signage on Hurricane Way stating there is no vehicle or pedestrian access to North Weald Market
- Deploying staff on Hurricane Way to redirect visitors to Merlin Way
- Coning and taping off the Hurricane Way junction to deter access
- Reintroduce a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order making Church Lane one way only, southbound
- Placing no parking signs on local public green spaces

The Council and Saunders are also committed to further consultation with North Weald Bassett Parish Council and the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) on what further steps may be practical.

North Weald Market is one of the largest and most successful outdoor markets in the UK and the income from the market helps Epping Forest District Council support local public services. Whilst the income is important to all resident, we fully understand this cannot be at the inconvenience or expense of those residents in North Weald. So, we have vowed to immediately address the issues that occurred last weekend.

Whilst some, not all the factors were foreseeable. We have reviewed the events and can see what went wrong and we are working hard to fix it.

We were also surprised by a political event staged without permission, which swelled the number of people coming to the airfield.

Satnav systems incorrectly sent some visitors to the wrong access leading to parking in unsuitable locations, and some pedestrians using the wrong gate. Once this flow began, it escalated quickly and resulted in congestion beyond the boundary of the airfield.

We will introduce parking restrictions in key hotspot areas around the airfield to discourage future inconsiderate parking and improve safety.

The new market car park has worked well for the last six weeks, and while there was plenty of spare capacity on the day, the new and unfamiliar layout may also have contributed to the disruption. These changes are still within an adjustment period, and we are continually refining the process.

We would like to apologise again and thank residents for their patience and understanding whilst we resolve matters. We remain committed to working with the market organisers and the community to ensure future market days are managed smoothly and responsibly for our local residents and our market visitors.

VE Day – 80th Anniversary Commemoration



On Thursday, 8th May we recognised the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley, paid tribute to the heroes who served on the front lines, the families who supported them, and the countless individuals who contributed to the war effort. The Chairman said, “As we reflect on the past, let us also celebrate the enduring spirit of those who fought for a better future. Their legacy lives on in the freedoms we enjoy today and the peace that prevails. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid”.

A seat was unveiled to commemorate the 80th Anniversary and to recognise the late Mr Arthur Moreton, a man who had been eager to keep the connection alive with the Royal Norwegian Air Force and who was well respected by those involved with the Airfield and by the local community.

The Chairman said, “there is no better place to have a seat situated and commemorated in his honour but at the front of the Norwegian Stone and at the vicinity of the Debt of Honour”.



VJ Day



On Friday, 15th August, the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day was recognised by the Parish Council. A two-minute silence was observed at 12 noon, the Ruby Red Light of Peace was lit, and a wreath was laid at the foot of the Norwegian Stone by the Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley.

The Chairman said, “While Europe celebrated the surrender of the German Forces on VE Day, a bitter war was still being waged thousands of miles from home in the malaria-ridden jungles of the Far East and the Pacific. After three long months, the war finally came to an end but for many there were mixed emotions. Those who had fought were largely forgotten by those at home and after they returned many were unable to speak of what they had suffered and seen on the brutal battlefields or in the Prisoner of War camps. There was relief and joy but also sadness at the human cost”.

Hampden Close Memorial



Sunday, 24th August was the 85th anniversary of the heaviest bombing raid on North Weald. Over 200 bombs fell as the Germans targeted the Airfield.

The Parish Council remembered the nine members of the Essex Regiment who lost their lives after their shelter received a direct hit during the Air Raid. An oak tree in Hampden Close still bears the marks of the blast. A wreath was laid at the base of the tree by Cllr Andrew Tyler on behalf of the community.

Battle of Britain Commemoration



On Sunday, 14th September, the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain was commemorated by the laying of wreaths at the Airfield Memorial & Debt of Honour.

Among those laying wreaths were Deputy Lieutenant of Essex Rosemary Padfield, representatives from the parish, district and county councils, RAF 56 Squadron, ATC 414 Squadron, North Weald Airfield Museum, with a wreath also laid on behalf of the Royal Norwegian Air Force 132 Air Wing.

The following day, the wreaths were taken to St Andrew's Churchyard and laid at the Cross of Sacrifice.

Remembrance Sunday

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley welcomed over 300 people to the Parish Council's Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. The Service was led by The Venerable Jonathan Croucher, Archdeacon of Chelmsford. Representatives from the Royal Norwegian Airforce, 132 Air Wing attended, alongside the Deputy Lieutenant of Essex Rosemary Padfield, RAF 56 Squadron, Civic Dignitaries and representatives of local organisations. A total of 34 wreaths were laid. The Parish Council would like to thank Jean-Paul Percival and Thomas Warner for taking photos of the event, some of which are published on our website.



This community service has been organised by the Parish Council in its present format for over 25 years. If you represent a local organisation and would like to be added to the list of wreath layers, please call 01992 952777 or email Clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk. Invitations to organisations will be sent via email in September.



Traditionally, a Community Luncheon is held in North Weald Village Hall immediately after the service. Last year 78 people attended, comprising of representatives of local organisations, residents and civic dignitaries. The lunch is open to all residents of the parish. If you would like to join us, please look out for information on how to book which will be published on the Parish Council's noticeboards and website later in the year. Places are available on a first come first served basis. Prices are kept as low as possible for a three-course meal.

We were pleased to welcome two guests from the Royal Norwegian Airforce 132 Airwing for the Remembrance Sunday events. At short notice, an itinerary was arranged for the Saturday and Sunday. Herman and Ane have allowed us to share their travel letter, which is published on the next two pages.

Travel letter from North Weald – November 2025

Ane and Herman, 331 Squadron, RNoAF

Remembrance Sunday is marked in the United Kingdom every year, on the Sunday closest to November 11. The day has been marked since the end of the Great War. Honoring the victims of the horrible wars that have raged throughout history. Also at North Weald is the day marked, where Norwegian 331 and 332 squadrons operated from during the majority of WW2. For this reason, 132 Airwing gets an invitation to send representatives every year. This time 331 Squadron was honored with the task, and it landed on Ane and Herman, who were eager to travel to England, and learn more about the roots of our squadron. After getting to our rental car, the first reminder that we were in fact in England came when we both managed to go to the wrong side of the car, to our great amusement. Apparently the steering wheel is on the wrong side of the car in England.

Epping

After a somewhat nerve-wracking road trip in British afternoon rush traffic, we finally arrived in Epping. After reading up on experiences from prior visitors from the squadron, our expectations were quite low, which made us positively surprised when we found that Epping in fact was a cozy small town, with lots of atmosphere in the older buildings there. The little thai restaurant we found there further improved our impression of Epping. How tightly packed the neighbourhoods were was something else that intrigued us throughout the weekend.

Saturday

Before we drove to North Weald for a tour of the Airfield, we wanted to get some sightseeing done in Harlow. Due to the driver being more focused on driving on the left side of the road rather than actually navigating, the time at Harlow was greatly reduced. According to some bluntly direct brits later on, this turned out to be a great turn of events, as we were apparently lucky to leave from there with our wallets and other valuables 😊.

On Saturday we got a tour around the airfield by Kevin from the North Weald Airfield Operations team. Kevin was a lovely man with great enthusiasm for the airfield and history belonging to it. We were also impressed by the variety of Kevin's job, in which he was a tower controller, fireman and security depending on the day. Kevin's great interest for the base as well meant he knew a lot of people around the airfield, and he gave us a great and detailed tour of the airfield. The airfield itself was a little bizarre, because there was a lot of cars, trailers and old buses parked at certain parts of the airfield area, while right next to this parking lot we could see historic aircraft in plenty! A total of three dakotas resided on the base, two of which were airworthy! On top of that the last one was a part of the Band of Brothers filming, which we found pretty cool.

The tour was rounded off at the «Norwegian Wing», one of the old squadron buildings from the war times. Now it was a café. Based in an old hangar, it was a great nod to the historic grounds, and the crests and pictures on the walls further showed us the great history of this place. Kevin showed us some of the shelters from the war, small bunkers where personnel could run in case of bombings. The rooms were small and dark, and it is difficult to imagine what the personnel must have felt hiding in them during bombing runs during the war. Even though it obviously was many years since the last military operations carried out from North Weald, just walking on the historic grounds where war heroes from 331 Squadron operated out of 80 years ago made a great impression on us both.



Of course we had to get a picture with Kevin in front of the Dakota from Band of Brothers. In the background you can see the aforementioned parking lot on the Airfield Ground.



There was not much resemblance of what used to be around these shelters, but it was still a great experience walking on these historic grounds.

The Saturday was rounded off with a lovely dinner with Mark and his wife Clair. Mark worked in FedEx to Ane's great relief, because finally the Logistics Specialist could talk about something she knew well and not just listen to Herman talk about planes all day like the planes enthusiast he is.

Remembrance Sunday

Finally the big day arrived. Remembrance Sunday at North Weald was separated into two parts. The first service was at the local church. This was a smaller service with subsequent church service after. It was a nice opportunity for us to observe the traditions of Remembrance Sunday. The church itself was very nice. After laying of the wreaths at the church, one of the Dakotas from the Airfield overflew the church while dropping poppies. It was a majestic sight to see the old bird flying again!



It might not be visible, but during the very moment this photograph was taken, the poppies were dropped from the Dakota over the church ground.



After the service at the Debt of Honor we took some pictures with many people from the local community. To the right here, we see Mark, who took us to a lovely dinner the night before.

After the church service we drove back to the North Weald Airfield Museum, the location of the main service of the day, in front of the Debt of Honor. The turnout was large, we were told over 300 people came out this day to witness the service, which really shows how big the Remembrance Sunday is here. During the service and at the luncheon after, we witnessed some great hospitality and kindness from all the British people we met, something we really appreciated! After that lunch I don't think I'll ever believe a Brit talking bad about British food ever again, because that was a great three course British dinner in my eyes. The luncheon exceeded our expectations by magnitudes!

A gentleman named Andy got the responsibility for us for the rest of the Sunday, where he first took us to the Norwegian wing once again, this time to look at a two seater, airworthy Spitfire, which was awesome to get a quick peek of. We finally tested out the café there as well, Ane enjoying a Spitfire beer while I got some good old British tea. Once Andy heard that we wanted to see a traditional British pub, he enthusiastically brought us to the Kings Head. A pub which has been standing since before WW2. The building really showed this as well, as none of the walls were level, and the doorframes were of varying height, none of them high enough. To me, this was a part of the charm of visiting an old pub like the Kings Head, with history in every room. According to our guides, we were sat in the same room as they usually reserved to Sir Winston Churchill when he visited North Weald. A big group of locals gathered at the pub with us, which was a really fun night and a great conclusion to our trip.



We are both very thankful to the North Weald Parish Council for the invitation and the possibility to visit our squadron's roots. Also partaking in such an important day as Remembrance Day is as well was a great honor. Thank you once again to everyone involved in our great weekend and hope to see you again someday!

- Ane and Herman

Civic Awards

The Civic Awards were presented by Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley, at the Annual Parish Assembly held on 10th March 2025 in the Parish Hall, Thornwood Common:

- **Citizen of the Year** – awarded to **Barbara Waters**, in recognition of voluntary work undertaken in Thornwood.
- **Community / Charity Group of the Year** – awarded to **Aspire, Support, Learn (ASL)** based in Hastingwood Village Hall.
- **Youth Community / Charity Group of the Year (18 and under)** – awarded to **3rd North Weald Scout Group**
- **Best Community Contribution from a Local Business** – awarded to **GreenAcres Living Memorial Park**
- **Special Recognition Award** – awarded to **PC Andrew Cook**



With effect from 2026, Councillors have agreed that the Civic Awards will be presented once every two years. Information on how to nominate will be published on the Parish Council's website, noticeboards and via social media early in 2027.

Parish Hall, Thornwood Common



The Parish Hall in Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood Common is the only hall owned by the Parish Council. In October, the hall's 50th Anniversary was celebrated with the unveiling of a plaque by Epping Forest District Council Leader and Essex County Councillor Chris Whitbread. The hall is home to several local clubs, including Thornwood Seniors, The Over 70's Youth Club, Harlow Bowmen, West Essex Flower Club, Taekwondo, Emma's Music for Babies. In addition to this, the Thornwood Market is held on the 1st Saturday of every month.

The hall is available for hire to residents of Thornwood, North Weald and Hastingwood at a reduced rate. For further information please contact the Parish Council on 01992 952777 or email clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Renewable Energy Project

In March, work on the Renewable Energy Project for the Parish Hall was completed. The project involved making improvements to the insulation and roof covering. The work included the installation of solar panels onto the hall roof. The hall is now 50 years old and, because of how it was constructed, was becoming increasingly more expensive to heat during the winter. The Parish Council was successful in its application for grant funding of £50,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and £20,000 from National Lottery Funding to carry out the works.

The project supports the Parish Council's public commitment, in the form of an Environmental and Green Policy, to reduce its carbon footprint wherever possible – minimising waste, integrating environmental considerations and objectives into decisions on a cost-effective basis and ensuring that the council monitors its use on electricity. The improvements to the Parish Hall will make it more economical to run, ensuring the hall hire costs remain low, thus providing every resident with the opportunity to hire their local parish hall.

Thank You to Thornwood Market

The Parish Council was grateful to receive a very generous donation of £500 from Mary Crosby and the Thornwood Market traders. The gift is to be put towards enhancing the hall.

Weald Common



Planting of the woodland area was completed in January 2023. Native species were carefully chosen to blend in with the surroundings. The trees are slowly maturing and, in time, will provide a beautiful canopy, offering shelter and protection to wildlife. The parish council is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment in which we all live.

The Sensory Garden, located next to the play area, is proving to be a popular place to visit. Its concept was to provide a peaceful place whereby people could enjoy nature and the surrounding areas. The plants chosen for the planters require very little maintenance, attracting wildlife and adding colour during Spring and Summer. One of the benches features solar powered recordings of familiar sounds such as birdsong, running water and steam trains.



The area is covered by 24-hour CCTV, allowing people to relax there in the knowledge that it is a safe place.



Recently we were pleased to receive a Silver Birch Tree from the family of former parish councillor Brian Eldridge. The tree has been planted in the vicinity of Eldridge Wood and the Sensory Garden and is a great addition to the small woodland area



It might be useful to know that the Parish Council provides eight parking spaces in North Weald Village Hall Car Park specifically for the use of visitors to Weald Common. Clear signage marks each space. Please note that the remainder of the car park is owned and managed by North Weald Village Hall.

Allotments

We have four allotment sites – two in North Weald, one in Thornwood and one in Hastingwood. There are a limited number of plots available to rent, with priority being given to residents of the parish. Please contact the parish office for further information on 01992 952777 or email Clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk



Last summer the Red School took over a plot at Wheelers Farm Gardens Allotment Site, teaching the children how to grow fruit and vegetables. It's never too early to start gardening.

Donation of Hedgehog Houses

In July, the Parish Council were delighted to take delivery of two hedgehog houses for the allotment site in Thornwood. The houses were donated by Mary Crosby and the Thornwood Market. Suitable locations to site the houses were selected by Mary, assisted by Lewis the allotment site warden, ensuring that they are protected from the elements and unlikely to be disturbed by people.

North Weald Bassett Cemetery

North Weald Bassett Parish Council Cemetery is situated in Vicarage Lane, North Weald, close to St Andrews Church. The Cemetery offers a tranquil and peaceful setting, in which there are areas for Burials, Cremated Remains, and Garden of Remembrance. The Lawn cemetery offers a perfect resting place, with plots available for up to two burials and four urns of cremated remains. These plots can be pre-purchased or purchased when necessary.

Please contact Susan De Luca, Clerk to the Council and Cemetery Registrar for further information.

Management, Maintenance and Repairs

The Parish Council is committed to enhancing the environment in which we live. Listed below are just a few of the repairs and improvements (within our remit) that have been carried out over the past twelve months:

- refurbishment of the steps to the bridge leading to Weald Common from Higham View
- replaced and painted the sleepers containing the planting in front of the parade of shops
- replaced the bench at the parade of shops
- cut-back trees overhanging the footpath adjacent to the cemetery
- refurbishment of the parish hall roof and the installation of solar panels
- repairs to play area safety surfacing at Weald Common and School Green Lane play areas
- street furniture cleaned and painted

In addition, trees on Parish Council owned land have been surveyed by a qualified arboriculturist.

Parish Council owned Streetlights



The Parish Council owns and maintains 116 streetlights throughout the parish. These are normally located on residential streets, but not on main roads. Each light column is identified with a four-digit code beginning with '6'.

Other streetlights may be maintained by Essex County Council or by Epping Forest District Council depending on the location. If you need help with reporting a defective streetlight or with identifying which authority has responsibility, please contact the Parish Office and we will do our best to assist.

Neighbourhood Plan



The North Weald Bassett Neighbourhood Plan (covering all three villages – North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood) continues to progress with its 'Regulation 14' consultation completed at the start of 2026. The Neighbourhood Plan is a document which carries statutory weight in planning terms, and will be used to influence future planning decisions. It is the best way that the community can set out what's important to them in the area they live, and contribute to how new development should be designed and planned.

It can protect important open green spaces, and set out the priorities of our residents. We hope to continue progress with the Neighbourhood Plan, going to formal consultation and referendum in the next 12 months. Please do visit the website for more information about the Neighbourhood Plan – www.northweald-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan, or email NP@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Planning Committee Meetings

The Planning Committee is chaired by Cllr Baden Clegg. Over the past 12 months comment has been made on 59 planning applications. Meetings are held as and when there are planning matters to be considered. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee – in other words, the Local Authority is required to consult the Parish Council, and we are invited to make comments. It should however be noted that the District Council ultimately make the decision on all planning applications. Councillors are always keen to welcome members of the public to Planning Committee Meetings where they can make representations of objections or support on planning applications. *(Please note, anyone intending to make a representation is asked to notify the Clerk by no later than 2.00pm on the day preceding the meeting. No more than two members of the public may speak on any one application. There is a time limit of 2 minutes per speaker (unless there is only one speaker than the limit is 3 minutes).*

The Clerk has attended and spoken at Epping Forest District Council Plans A and B committee meetings on behalf of residents.

Planning Agendas are published on the Parish Council's website www.northweald-pc.gov.uk and on Parish noticeboards. For further information regarding planning applications, please visit Epping Forest District Council's website www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are held at the Parish Hall at Thornwood Common, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood. Meetings are normally held at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month (excluding August). Should the first Monday fall on a Bank Holiday, the meeting will normally take place the following Monday.

Agendas are published on the Parish Council website and Parish Noticeboards at least 3 full working days prior to a meeting. The public and press are invited to attend meetings. Members of the public are welcome to ask questions for a period determined by the Chairperson of the meeting. However, please note that if the Clerk has not been previously notified of the question, Council may have to note the question and respond after the meeting.



Visit the Parish Council's website www.northweald-pc.gov.uk for further information, including minutes of past meetings or contact the Clerk on 01992 952777 or email Clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Supporting Zinc Arts Youth Hub, Queens Hall

The Parish Council is pleased to support the Zinc Arts Youth Hub based in the Queens Hall Community Centre, by paying the weekly hire fees.

For further details, please see information below from Rhianna Picking, Zinc Arts Project Worker / Bookings Assistant:

“Our youth club is a welcoming and vibrant space where young people can have fun, hang out with their friends and chill out in a safe space. We offer a wide range of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, music, gaming, and cooking, ensuring there's something for everyone. Our dedicated youth workers provide guidance and support, helping members build confidence, leadership skills, and friendships. We also focus on health and wellbeing, offering fitness activities, workshops, and a safe, relaxed environment to unwind. Plus, we have tasty snacks available to keep everyone fuelled and refreshed”.

Age range : 11-16

Cost: FREE

Contact details: Rhianna.picking@zincarts.org.uk or alisha.margetson@zincarts.org.uk



Councillors Support Norway House

As in previous years, councillors supported Norway House by donating personal funds towards the purchase of Christmas treats for the residents.

In addition to this, Cllrs Nigel Bedford and Colin Kinnear held a collection at an event they attended. A donation of £85 was gifted to Norway House for Easter Eggs for the residents.

Play in the Park



The Parish Council is pleased to support EFDC's Play in the Park. This year's session is to be held at the Queens Hall Memorial Playing Field, School Green Lane, North Weald on Wednesday, 22nd July. Look out for further information to be published on Epping Forest District Council's website and on parish noticeboards.

Play Areas

Across the parish, we have three children's play areas:

- Weald Common
- School Green Lane
- Thornwood Common Playing Field

All are suitable for children from the ages of 3 to 12. They are fully approved and regularly tested to make sure they are safe for children. The play areas are covered by 24-hour CCTV.

For older children, we have facilities for playing football at Weald Common and Blueman's End, and in Thornwood Common Playing Field there is a basketball hoop and a kick wall.

Air Ambulance

The Air Ambulance is a vital service that parish councillors are very keen to support. Based at North Weald Airfield, the service covers a wide area and is critical to saving lives. With this in mind, councillors agreed to make a £1,000 charitable donation.



LOCAL COUNCILS

Who does what?

Within the borders of Essex there are County, District and Parish Councils. All have clearly defined roles, although there is some duplication and overlap of responsibilities.



Children's Services

Schools: Nursery, primary, secondary and special pre-school education	●
Youth, adult, family and community education, student support	●
Children's and families' services including Welfare, fostering, adoption and child protection	●
Youth centres, youth justice, secure Accommodation and youth offender teams	●

Highways

Street Lighting	●
Traffic management and road safety	●
Highway maintenance	●
Streetlights marked with a label beginning with '6' followed by 3 digits	▲
Bus shelters, street furniture (some)	▲

Passenger Transport

Public transport, discounted travel schemes and local transport coordination	●
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Social Care

Adult Services	●
Services for older people including nursing home, residential and day care and meals	●
Services for people with a physical disability, learning disability or mental health need	●
Asylum seekers	●
Employment support services	●

Housing

Social Housing	■
Housing benefit and welfare services	■
Homelessness	■
Housing strategy	■

Cultural Services

Culture and heritage including archives museums and galleries	● ■
Parish archive	▲
Libraries and information services	●

Leisure and Recreation

Recreation & Sport	● ■
Open spaces, common land, playgrounds, allotments, nature reserve, village green	▲
Footpaths	●
Village halls (some)	▲

Burial Grounds (some)

	▲
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Waste

Collection	■
Disposal	●
Dog bins that are owned by NWBPC	▲
Litter bins owned by NWBPC	▲

Planning Applications

Building and development control	■
Consultation, public enquiry representation	▲

Strategic Planning

Planning policy including conservation and listed buildings	●
Environmental initiatives	●
Economic and community development	●

Local Taxation Collection

Council tax and non-domestic rates (business Rates)	■
Registration of births, deaths and marriages	■
Elections: Local and national including registration of electors	■
Emergency planning	■
Local land charges	■

Your Parish Councillors

WARD	PARISH
North Weald (Village)	Cllr Alan Buckley (Chairman) Cllr Terry Blanks Cllr Nick Born Cllr Kevin Hind Cllr Mrs Sheila Jackman, MBE Cllr Colin Kinnear Cllr Mark Stroud Cllr Andrew Tyler Cllr Ms Dawn Wood
Thornwood	Cllr Baden Clegg Cllr Mrs Shirley Hawkins Cllr Richard Spearman
Hastingwood	Cllr Mrs Paula Etherington Cllr Andrew Irvine Cllr Peter Lambert

LOCAL COUNCILS – WHO DOES WHAT? Within the borders of Essex there are three tiers of council: County, District and Parish. All have clearly defined roles, although there is some duplication and overlap of responsibilities.

Full details of services, including information on how to contact your local councillor, can be found on the following websites:

Essex County Council

www.essex.gov.uk

Epping Forest District Council

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

North Weald Bassett Parish Council

www.northweald-pc.gov.uk

LISTED BELOW ARE SOME, BUT NOT ALL, OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- North Weald Bassett Cemetery
- Looking after open spaces (including hedge and grass cutting on Parish Council-owned land)
- Allotments – we have sites in North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood
- Maintaining Defibrillators in the following locations:
North Weald Village Hall, Parish Hall Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood; Hastingwood Village Hall
- Maintaining Play Areas in the following locations: Weald Common, North Weald, School Green Lane, North Weald, Thornwood Common Playing Field
- Streetlights (columns are identified with a number beginning '6')
- Street furniture, including bus shelters and emptying dog bins
- Planning applications (the council is a statutory consultee)
- Organisation of Remembrance Sunday events, including a service at the Airfield Memorial & Debt of Honour followed by a Community Luncheon
- Attendance at community days
- Noticeboard updates
- Liaise with other organisations and councils
- Managing the Parish Hall at Thornwood Common
- Hate Crime Ambassador (contact the Clerk for further information)

The Parish Council is a facilitator, passing problems and concerns raised by residents onto District and County Council who will ultimately decide if any action is required.

Local Government Reorganisation



In March, the Government announced one of the biggest changes to Local Government in over 50 years. Five new Unitary Councils will be formed in Essex. Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford district councils will form West Essex Council.

Elections for the shadow Unitary Council are scheduled to take place in May 2027, with Vesting Day (when current councils cease to exist) set for 1st April 2028.

At the present time there are no changes envisaged for Town and Parish councils.

Councillor Surgeries

The Parish Council facilitates surgeries for District and County Councillors in both the Parish Hall at Thornwood Common and in the Council Chamber at Queens Hall. Dates and times for appointments are published on the parish noticeboards, website and via social media. Anyone wishing to attend a surgery is asked to contact the Clerk on 01992 952777 or via email Clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Visit Our Website

Take time to visit the Parish Council's website, where you will find information such as:

- Meeting Dates – Agendas and Minutes
- Parish Hall, Thornwood Common – Hirer information and current fees
- North Weald Bassett Cemetery
- Allotments
- Policy Documents
- News
- Neighbourhood Plan Updates
- Developer Updates
- Consultations

Go to www.northweald-pc.gov.uk for further info.

Finance

North Weald Bassett Parish Council		Precept request	
Year		2025 / 2026	2026/2027
Leisure / recreation	£	30,041	£ 41,780
Community Services	£	99,965	£ 79,085
Administration	£	173,084	£ 184,357
Other	£	2,940	£ 2,390
Use of Balances / Income Received	£	61,790	£ 48,660
Precept	£	244,240	£ 258,952

Address: Queens Hall Community Centre, School Green Lane, North Weald CM16 6EJ

Tel: 01992 952777

Email: clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.northweald-pc.gov.uk

Reporting Issues

The Parish Council reports many issues on behalf of residents, such as potholes, damaged kerbs, overgrown vegetation, defective streetlights and fly-tipping to name but a few. It may be helpful to know that residents are also able to report matters direct to the relevant authority.

Visit Essex Highways website to report matters such as potholes, damaged kerbs, pavement issues, flooding, drainage, manhole covers, overgrown trees, Public Rights of Way, streetlights, etc. www.essexhighways.org

Visit Epping Forest District Council's website to report matters such as fly-tipping, www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Dog Waste Bins

We often receive complaints of dog fouling on pavements, particularly in the centre of North Weald village. Signage has been placed on some lampposts reminding owners that failure to clean up after your dog can result in prosecution with a maximum fine of £1000 or a fixed penalty of £100. **A Public Space Protection Order**, that covers all publicly accessible land within the district, makes it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to remove dog faeces deposited. Below is a reminder of the locations where bins are sited in North Weald which fall under the responsibility of the council:

- Play Area Field, Weald Common
- Higham View, steps leading to Weald Common access road
- North Weald Village Hall Car Park, opposite hall
- Kiln Road, just before the railway bridge
- Green in front of York Road
- Green at Blenheim Square
- Green at Wheelers Farm Gardens
- Memorial Playing Field, School Green Lane
- Nr St Andrew's Primary School, on the by-way just by the entrance
- Skipp's Corner, Weald Common
- Bluemans End Playing Field
- Entrance to Bluemans End from Vicarage Lane East



CCTV

The Parish Council owns and manages CCTV in the following locations:

- outside the parade of shops in North Weald
- Weald Common Play Area
- outside the Parish Hall, Thornwood Common
- Thornwood Common and Play Area

A copy of the council's CCTV Policy and Data Subject Request form can be found on the website: www.northweald-pc.gov.uk



Parish Noticeboards

The Parish Council has noticeboards in the following locations:

- High Road, North Weald – outside the Post Office
- High Road, North Weald – in bus shelter near to the Talbot Roundabout
- Queens Hall, School Green Lane, North Weald
- Corner of Woodside – opposite Silver Birch Avenue
- Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood
- Upland Road, Thornwood
- Hastingwood, opposite Miller & Carter

These are regularly updated with Agenda Notices and other council communications.

Defibrillators

The Parish Council manages and maintains 3 defibrillators at the following locations:

- Parish Hall at Thornwood Common
- North Weald Village Hall
- Hastingwood Village Hall

All are situated on the outside wall of the buildings.

Trustees of the Queens Hall Community Centre also manage and maintain a defibrillator which is positioned on the outside wall of the building. Please note, this defibrillator is only accessible during hall opening hours.



Community Speedwatch

Co-ordinated by Cllr Baden Clegg and local resident Jimmy Waters, the volunteer led Community Speedwatch team continues to operate around the parish. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk for further information.



Contact Us



The Parish Office is based in the Queens Hall Community Centre, School Green Lane, North Weald, CM16 6EJ

The office is open to the public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9.30am to 12pm (please ring the bell)

Alternatively call 01992 952777 or email clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk to arrange an appointment.



The Parish Council would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to:

Arthur Moreton

Arthur was a remarkable individual who moved to North Weald in 1995, however his association with the Airfield goes back much longer, to the times of the Fighter Meets. He dedicated much of that time to serving his community with unwavering commitment. Arthur was a loyal Ambassador for North Weald Airfield and a devoted parish councillor who exemplified the true spirit of community service and leadership. He had a passion for aviation that was evident in his tireless efforts to promote and support North Weald Airfield. He embraced his love for the 'Norwegian Connection' – keeping this alive and to the forefront. His advocacy not only helped to preserve this vital piece of our heritage but also inspired countless individuals to explore this to the full. Through his work, Arthur ensured that the airfield remained a beacon of opportunity for generations to come. As a parish councillor he was a pillar of strength and integrity. His dedication to the well-being of our community was unparalleled and he addressed the concerns of residents. His commitment to making it a better place for all.

Derek Tringham

In January, Parish Councillors expressed their sadness at learning of the passing of Derek Tringham. Derek had been a previous parish councillor for over twenty years, and Councillors agreed that the community had lost one of its most steadfast pillars, a man whose commitment to service was woven into the very fabric of village life. As a councillor, he brought not only wisdom and integrity, but a genuine love for the people he served. His presence was never ceremonial – he had a hands-on approach and was always ready to roll up his sleeves for the good of others.