



## North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Parish Office, Queens Hall Community Centre,  
School Green Lane, North Weald, CM16 6EJ

Tel: 07572 507591

Email: [clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk)

Web Site: [www.northweald-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northweald-pc.gov.uk)

*Clerk to the Council.*

Susan De Luca

27<sup>th</sup> August 2025

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### NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on **MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.30 pm** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

This meeting will be held in the **Thornwood Common Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood.**

Susan De Luca

Clerk to the Council

*Members of the public and press are invited to attend this meeting*

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#### AGENDA

##### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To **NOTE** any apologies which have been received.

##### 2. OTHER ABSENCES

To **NOTE** any absences for which no apology has been received.

##### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To **AGREE** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July as attached as attached at **Appendix 1.**

##### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To **RECEIVE** any Declarations of Interest by Members.

*A Member with a personal interest in a matter must consider whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary, Non Pecuniary or Other Pecuniary Interest, and declare it accordingly. A Member who is unsure as to how to declare their interest should seek independent advice.*

##### 5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To **RECEIVE** questions from members of the public for a period determined by the Chairperson of the Meeting. **Please NOTE if the Clerk has not been previously notified of the Question Council may have to note questions and respond to them after the Meeting.**

##### 6. REPORT OF THE CLERK

To **RECEIVE** a report or update from the Clerk on Parish Council matters that Staff have been working on.

- Various Planning Matters
  - Various Cemetery Matters, which include, Interments & Bookings
  - VJ Day Commemorative Event
  - Thornwood Village Hall, Various Matters including maintenance issues and Wi-Fi
  - Assistance to the Queens Hall Charity
  - 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bombing of North Weald and North Weald Airfield
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- g) Revetments on North Weald Airfield
- h) Councillors Surgeries
- i) Wayleave at Thornwood Common
- j) EFDC Local Council Liaison Committee meeting 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## 7. REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

**Councillors are reminded that, if possible, members reports should be submitted in written form for noting only, this enables the meeting to flow smoothly and allows adequate time for discussion of matters appertaining to the Parish.** Written reports, if available, will be reproduced at *Appendix 2*.

- a) **Chairman's Report**
- b) **Vice Chairman's Report**
- c) **District & County Councillors Reports** - District Councillors are invited to submit a written report if they are unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting
- d) **Parish Councillors Reports**
- e) **Queens Hall Charity Report**
- f) **Highways** - Various Road closures & Changes to Road Closures which were advertised

## 8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a) **List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**
- b) **Investments** – Latest available report(s) will be given
- c) **PWLB Confirmation of End of Loan**

## 9. TREES

Following the report to the July Meeting, the council has received a report of works to the trees on land owned or which is affected by the Parish Council. This report has been sent to three tree companies for a quotation to undertake these works. Quotation will be presented to Council at the meeting for determination.

## 10. PATHWAY BETWEEN WEALD COMMON AND NORTH WEALD VILLAGE HALL

Members will recall this matter was on the Agenda and discussed at a meeting in 2024. However it 'dropped' off the agenda as the Clerk was awaiting confirmation from the Parish Council's Insurance Company in relation to this councils' liabilities with regards to possible works to the willow tree that the Village Hall would want the Parish Council to undertake and maintain if a path was to be constructed between the Car Park and Weald Common. The Insurance Company had advised the Clerk that they would not wish to see the council 'at risk' in undertaking this. However, the Clerk was awaiting this confirmation in writing. Upon chasing up the insurance company they had a note of the conversation and have now sent confirmation regarding this. The Clerk has written to the Village Hall Committee explaining that even though it was their (Village Hall Committee's) understanding that the people in attendance could give confirmation that works such as this could be agreed, this was not the case, and that it first had to be discussed by the Council as a Corporate Body. Any Action agreed by the Council then has to be actioned by the Clerk and then this action has to be advised to Council. Therefore, this is why this item is now back on the Agenda for Members to be appraised of.

## 11. YOUTH CLUB

Members are advised that this matter was discussed in April 2024. Funding was offered to the organisation, however they did not feel they could fulfil the necessary criteria, so the funding was not accepted. The details are shown below:

**APRIL 2024 AGENDA ITEM NORTH WEALD YOUTH CLUB** - Members will recall that a number of meetings and numerous correspondence has taken place with representatives from North Weald Youth Club following agreement from Members that the funding agreed by the Parish Council to offer the Youth Club.

*An offer letter was therefore sent which advised the following: It has been confirmed that all the Questions that Councillors asked have now been responded to, the last ones being:*

- The monies can only be spent on a Youth Club, and no other facility.*
- The Youth Club will be held in the Queens Hall Community Centre which is located within the Parish of North Weald Bassett, and any change to this must be agreed with the Parish Council.*
- The Age Range is 11- 16 for an 'On Site ' Youth Club, & the 17 – 19-year age range will be catered for on an 'Outreach Basis'.*
- This Service will be for Youth within the Parish of North Weald Bassett.*
- The Service will be run by Zinc Arts.*
- If it cannot be run within the Parish of North Weald Bassett, any unspent funds must be returned to the Parish Council.*
- If so requested, Zinc Arts will provide the Parish Council with Statistics and Data on the service (the Parish Council fully understands that Zinc Arts will not be able to give details of names and addresses of attendees).*
- No monies should be transferred to any other Youth Facility that is not within the Parish of North Weald Bassett.*
- In view of the above this funding of £2,453 is now offered and must be used between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. If not spent, the funds must be returned to the Parish Council.*

*The Parish Council may wish to see a spreadsheet of how the funds are spent, therefore we ask that records are kept. Following the letter, a representative from Zinc Arts (who are providing the Service) asked to meet with the Parish Council, and this meeting took place where the offer was declined, initially because the representative advised that they could not accept as they could not fulfil the terms due in the main to the final bullet point, and that the funding offered by the Parish Council would not cover a whole year. The Clerk advised that the final bullet point did not state that the Youth Club HAD to be run for a whole year. The Clerk advised the representative that instead of simply declining the offer straight away perhaps they should take some advice and take some time to think about it. She also advised that the money was held in the Parish Council Budget until 31st March 2024 before any decision had to be made by this date. A few days later an email was received formally declining the offer: the content of the email as detailed below:*

*Good Afternoon Susan, Many thanks for your email confirming the offer of the funding and its conditions of acceptance. As i said during our meeting, Zinc were unable to accept the grant, with these conditions and expectations. Please see detailed below;*

- £2453 for the period 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025, works out at £60 per session. This would cover hall hire and some materials. We could not run weekly youth hub for that sum*
- As you discussed in the meeting, expectations of Zinc Arts are to run youth hub for that 12 month period and that, we were responsible for obtaining further funds, if no funds were sourced then it would be down to Zinc Arts to fund the sessions.*
- Zinc Arts is a not-for-profit charity and is dependant on funding, fees and commissions to operate. We would not be in any position to fund sessions at our expense.*
- I don't think that the Parish Council completely understands the nature of a youth hub ? Youth hubs/clubs are very different now days, especially since the pandemic, where young people missed out on a lot of social interaction and thus feeling the effects with poor mental health. We run youth hubs across Essex and with the fallout of pandemic and the cost of living, our youth hubs are very different to how they used to run. We offer positive interaction, developing social and communication skills, we also offer mental health support in terms of one-to-ones and referrals to appropriate services and support. Our youth hub in Ongar, sees a member of staff just providing one-to-one sessions, with the young people, this highlighting the need to provide 3 members of staff. The cost of living crisis has also seen the need for us to provide hot healthy*

meals. Yes, i agreed with you Susan, that isn't everyone, but we can't just feed those most in need and single them out.

- We work closely with many Parish Councils, who are addressing the need for more positive interaction for the young people of the their community. We have recently seen huge success in Sheering. Sheering Parish Council are extremely supportive of what we do, attending our Youth Hub and helping us to secure further funds. We have been so shocked by the negative and at times acquisitional, rude communication.
  - We will continue to fundraise for Positive Interaction activities in North Weald, I hope that the Parish Council are aware of the recent £4,000 we were able to secure for projects in North Weald. Zinc Arts staff are North Weald residents, and are invested in supporting and helping young people achieve and discover their full potential and become positive members of the community. We will keep the Parish Council updated on our successes and positive effects on North Weald Young People. I'm sure Dawn from Queens Hall will also keep you updated, she has extremely supportive of our work and visits regularly.
- Yours Sincerely Sonia

Following the receipt of this email, the Clerk contacted Sheering Parish Council who advised that they do not fund the Youth Club, and it is indeed funded by the Village Hall which is a Charity. The Clerk then contacted Essex County Council who advised that they fund one Youth Worker for the project. Following these - communications, the Clerk received notification from Essex County Council that they will not be going forward with a Youth Club/Hub in North Weald. Members are asked to NOTE the above.

This is the minute from the April PC Meeting:

### **C23.205 NORTH WEALD YOUTH CLUB**

Members recalled there had been a number of meetings and numerous correspondence has taken place with representatives from North Weald Youth Club following agreement from Members of funding agreed by the Parish Council to offer the Youth Club. An offer letter was therefore sent, full details of which were included within the body of the agenda, including details of the actions the Clerk had taken to date. Councillors **NOTED** that following these communications, notification had been received from Essex County Council that they will not be going forward with a Youth Club/Hub in North Weald, and the offer rejected.

We have now received an approach from the Queens Hall Charity who themselves have been approached by an organisation who wish to start up a Youth Club in the Queens Hall. Detailed below is the extract from the email from the Queens Hall Charity:

*"Cllr Dawn Wood met with the new administration lady (Rhianna Picking – Zinc Arts) and one other person who is behind the youth club and they are keen to move forward to see if this can work out. They are looking to have the club in the hall on a Tuesday 4 to 5.30pm - they are asking £25 per session and they asked if I think they could go back to the PC for any funding towards the hire of the hall - do you think this is possible if they ask ? What they are saying is they need to give it a good try starting September so the hire fees would be as follows:*

**Sept- £125.00, Oct - £100.00, Nov - £100.00, Dec - £75.00, Jan - £100.00, Feb - £100.00, Mar - £100.00, Apr - £125.00**

The organisation is looking for start up funding for this project. They would like to run it for a year, if possible, but would be happy for the Parish Council to hold the funds and simply pay for the sessions on a month to month basis, just in case it did not work out if the council would prefer this. They have confirmed that the children come from the North Weald Bassett Parish Area. Councillors are now asked to **CONSIDER** this matter.

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## 12. EXTERNAL AUDIT 24/25 – AGAR

Councillors are asked to note that the Limited Assurance review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR – External Audit) for 2024/2025 has now concluded. In accordance with the regulations, a copy of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been placed on notice boards in the Parish and on the Councils website, together with a copy of the certified AGAR sections 1, 2 and 3. Councillors are asked to review section 3 of the AGAR as attached to the agenda at **Appendix 3**, which includes one ‘except for’ matter. The PFO will provide a further update at the meeting.

## 13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

An updated copy of the Neighbourhood Plan has now been received from this Council's consultants. A full copy of this draft NP will be emailed directly to members on their Councillor email addresses for review. A few amendments are needed, as well as the addition of some pictures, however Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** the following:

1. Consider if they are happy with the content of this draft NP
2. Submit this draft copy to EFDC to ask if they would want to screen for the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) at this stage. Consideration of SEA and HRA are two of the Basic Conditions that an NP must meet if it is to pass examination. EFDC will initially ‘screen’ for the need for SEA/HRA. If they decide that the plan is not likely to have a significant environmental impact (SEA) or a significant impact on European habitats (HRA), then that is the end of the process. If they do consider that it could have these impacts, then an SEA and/or an HRA will need to be prepared.
3. Start the processes of progressing with a Regulation 14 Consultation.

## 14. MEETING WITH EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL RE. NORTH WEALD MARKET TRAFFIC

The Clerk was asked to contact EFDC to make a date to put into the diary of Epping Forest District Councillors of mid January 2026, to discuss North Weald Market Traffic (follow up meeting). A date has now been set and confirmed: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 3.30pm. The venue has been set as Thornwood Parish Hall. However, if this is not possible it will be held in the Council Chamber at Queens Hall Community Centre. The Clerk is currently checking the 2026 Parish Hall Diary. Members are reminded that they should ensure that they bring along any questions that they have to that meeting.

## 15. MEDIA SERVICES – PHOTOS ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Members asked for this item to be placed on this meeting as it was brought forward from the July Agenda. At the meeting regarding the Remembrance Sunday event, Members present were concerned at the lack of attendance at the Remembrance Sunday events by our Media Representative. Members present at that meeting asked for this to be placed on the Parish Council Agenda as a specific item to be discussed.

## 16. ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

Members are advised that the External ROSPA Company used by the Parish Council to undertake its Annual Inspections of all three play areas was undertaken in August. A detailed evaluation of the report is currently being looked at to assess the priorities in relation to the need for the scheduled works necessary.

## 17. UKPN WORKS ON THORNWOOD COMMON

Works to Thornwood Common commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> August. All the relevant Notices are in place as well as the relevant safety documentation. The office staff have had a couple of enquiries and one complaint in relation to these works, however as these works are temporary works and are being carried out by a Statutory Undertaker, they are able to go ahead.

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## 18. EFDC – CIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Following a meeting of the Planning Committee, Members were advised of an EFDC Consultation on the introduction of a Community Infrastructure levy. It was agreed at the planning meeting that a response should be drafted by the Clerk and RFO and put to full Council to agree the prior to the response being sent. A copy of this is attached for Members at **Appendix 4**.

## 19. BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY

Members will be aware that over the last few months the Clerk has been entering into various communications with the PCC of St Andrews Church, North Weald in relation to the Commemorative Event. The Clerk had advised the PCC in her last email that the event was a simple Wreath Laying event, with no religious implications and no religious service, and that there was no Vicar in attendance. The Council then received an email, which has been reproduced below:

*Dear Ms de Luca,*

*I am following up on our previous correspondence having seen the invitation recently issued to the planned act of commemoration in the churchyard here at St Andrews. We remain committed to facilitating this act of remembrance but I think there has been some misunderstanding about the status of the churchyard and the legalities involved here.*

*The whole of the churchyard is the responsibility of the parish church and the incumbent. This includes the area with burials since 1937, the war graves and the cross of sacrifice. The whole churchyard is consecrated ground which, as the parish council has its own burial ground, you may be aware affects the law applying to it. This extends to forms of service or ceremony which may be used as well as who may conduct them.*

*The Church takes very seriously its duty to honour the sacrifice of the servicemen buried in the churchyard and the fact that they are buried in consecrated ground. We are certain we would be able to work with the Chair of the Council to offer an act of commemoration that respects all traditions whilst observing the particular circumstances of these graves.*

*I can see that the church conducted Battle of Britain Sunday services up to 2017. I would really like to enable the service to take place according to a permitted form and to discuss the form of service with the chair of the parish council. We are happy to do this and to provide someone to officiate, altering our normal morning service to fit in with it, if necessary.*

*Kind regards,*

*Tim Valder-Hogg*

The Clerk subsequently took the time to undertake significant research in relation to the fact that the PCC were advising that the land in St Andrews Churchyard was consecrated ground and only certain services could be carried out there. The result of this research is as follows:

‘When Commonwealth war graves are located in churchyards in the UK, the ownership of the land remains with the church or the local authority that owns the churchyard. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for the care and maintenance of the war graves themselves, regardless of who owns the land.

- Churchyards and cemeteries are typically owned by parish churches, dioceses, or local councils. The CWGC does not own the land in these cases.



- The CWGC has formal agreements or understandings with these landowners that allow them to maintain the war graves in perpetuity.
- In some cases, the CWGC may install standard headstones or markers, and they monitor the condition of graves even if they are marked with private memorials. If a private memorial deteriorates, the CWGC may liaise with the grave owner to replace it with a CWGC headstone .
- The CWGC's responsibility is defined by its Royal Charter, which mandates it to commemorate Commonwealth war dead "in perpetuity," including those buried in churchyards

Therefore, while the CWGC does not own the land, it has a long-term custodial role over the graves themselves.

The Cross of Sacrifice found in churchyards and cemeteries across the UK is owned and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), even when it is located on land not owned by the CWGC, such as a churchyard.

- The land itself, including the churchyard, is typically owned by the church or local authority.
- The Cross of Sacrifice, however, is a CWGC structure. It was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and is installed by the CWGC as a symbolic memorial to the fallen of the Commonwealth forces
- The CWGC is responsible for the ongoing care, conservation, and restoration of the Cross of Sacrifice as part of its broader heritage estate, which includes headstones, memorials, and other commemorative structures

The Cross of Sacrifice at St Andrews Churchyard was unveiled in 1954 by the RAF Station Commander and is maintained by the CWGC, even though the churchyard itself is not CWGC property. So while the churchyard remains under the ownership of the church, the Cross of Sacrifice is CWGC property, installed with permission and maintained in perpetuity.

The Clerk also undertook an AI search regarding this matter, asking whether or not the Parish Council needs permission from the Church to hold a Wreath Laying Event at the Cross of Sacrifice. The result was as follows:

**Yes, you do need to ask permission from the church to hold a wreath-laying event at a Cross of Sacrifice located in a churchyard, including for occasions like Battle of Britain Sunday. Here's why:**

### **1. Churchyard Ownership and Oversight**

- Churchyards are **consecrated ground** and remain under the **legal and ecclesiastical authority of the church**, typically managed by the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** and the **incumbent (vicar or rector)**  
.Any event held on church property, even if it involves a CWGC monument like the Cross of Sacrifice, must respect the church's **regulations and sensitivities**.

### **2. Permission and Liability**

- Churches often require **formal permission** for events, especially if they involve public gatherings, ceremonial acts, or media presence  
.You may be asked to provide **details of the event**, including timing, expected attendance, and whether any **insurance or risk assessments** are in place.

### **3. Respect for Sacred Space**

- Churchyards are places of **Christian worship and remembrance**, and any event must be **appropriate to the sacred character** of the site  
.The church may have policies about **non-liturgical events**, and even wreath-laying ceremonies should be coordinated to ensure they align with church values and schedules.

### **What You Should Do:**

- **Contact the parish priest or church administrator** well in advance.
- Explain the nature of the event (e.g., Battle of Britain Sunday wreath-laying).
- Ask if any **formal application or written permission** is needed.
- Offer to coordinate with the church on timing and logistics.

In relation to the above, the Clerk had contacted the church well in advance (July) and explained the type of event, however we did not ask formal permission but simply advised that this Council was going to hold the event at Cross of Sacrifice as we believed we could and it was not religious. The timings were changed at the request of the church. We felt we had fulfilled all the criteria. This then became a bit of a dilemma as we ‘inherited’ this event from RAFA, and was not a Commemorative Event that the PC ever really got involved with, other than to simply turn up and lay a wreath. No procedures were ever handed over to the Parish Council to be able to work to.

At the last meeting it was clear to see that Members did not want it to be a religious event, but a Commemorative Event honouring the fallen of the Battle of Britain. The Clerk’s view was (and not necessarily that of the council, as they had not had time to discuss it again) the following:

“We have a Memorial sited in the Centre of the Village – The Debt of Honour’ which is recognised as a deeply meaningful memorial that commemorates the 267 men, women, and civilians who lost their lives while serving at RAF North Weald between 1916 and 1964, during both peace and wartime. The Debt of Honour was created to recognise all personnel who served at North Weald, regardless of how they died—whether in combat, accidents, illness, or other circumstances. It makes no distinction between those who died in battle and those who died in service .”

Therefore the Airmen who are buried in the Churchyard are also commemorated at the Debt of Honour, and perhaps the best scenario would be to lay the wreaths at the Debt of Honour and to simply place the wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice after the event, obviously advising the Church that this is what will be happening (and asking for permission to do this), as we will be going on to their land.

This was discussed at considerable length with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and it was subsequently agreed under Delegated Powers (due to time constraints) to move the event to the Debt of Honour, and to ask Council to ratify this decision, along with confirming if Councillors wished to leave the wreaths at the Debt of Honour or move them to the Cross of Sacrifice the following day. Councillors were emailed of this decision on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, and only one response was received.

The reasoning for the move to the Debt of Honour, which would be quite suitable for an event such as this is, was due to all the point above, and also that when this council took on the event it had been at the request of Reverends Lee Batson and Jamie Summers. In addition, the local RAFA branch were unable to continue organising it. Arthur Moreton did not provide the Council with any documentation as to how the event had been organised previously and due to a lengthy illness any documentation was not available. The Clerk had contacted a member of Arthur’s family who had contacted RAFA and had searched to see if Arthur had left any documents relating to this event, nothing was available.

Members are therefore asked to **RATIFY** this decision and **CONFIRM** what they would like to happen to the wreaths.

## 20. 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARISH HALL THORNWOOD

Cllr Mrs Hawkins has advised that there will now be a ‘scaled down’ event with a simple plaque unveiling on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Details of this will be provided at the meeting.



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## 21. PARISH STREET LIGHTS

- a) We have been advised that the Street Light Energy Charging will now be carried out by the Energy Company on a half hourly basis. At this stage it is unclear what this will mean in terms of energy costs.
- b) The Maintenance and Structural check of all Parish Council owned Street Lights will be carried out over the next few weeks.

## 22. MILLENIUM WALKS

The Clerk has been advised of various works necessary to some of the footpaths that together make up the Millennium Walks. All of the footpaths are on private land or under the responsibility of Essex County Council. It is understood that a number of these will be upgraded under the development proposals relating to Countryside/Vistry development, so before looking at this it may be worth waiting to see these proposals. It may be that other proposals could come from other developments. Copies of the Millennium Walks are attached at **Appendix 5**.

## 23. MEETING WITH ST ANDREWS SCHOOL

The Clerk met with the Head and Deputy Head of St Andrews School. The Invitation had been sent to EFDC Cllr Bromwich and Cllr Buckley, however as Cllr Buckley had a prior appointment, he asked the Clerk to attend in his place. The school are very concerned with the problems emanating from the Bell Motel and the Phoenix Hotel, and the problems that this is causing regarding racist and anti-cultural issues within the school. We were advised that racism in schools has become a growing concern in parts of the UK, including Essex, where recent data shows a sharp rise in racial incidents. While some of this increase may reflect stricter enforcement and greater awareness, it also points to underlying tensions that may be exacerbated by broader societal issues, including debates around immigration. The Illegal Migration Act and related political rhetoric have intensified public discourse, often framing migrants—particularly those from racialised backgrounds—as threats, and unfortunately this can influence young people's attitudes, especially in communities experiencing demographic shifts, leading to increased incidents of discrimination and bullying in schools. Experts stress the importance of equipping students with the tools to challenge racism and fostering inclusive environments to prevent long-term harm to victims' mental health and educational outcomes.

To ensure that this is addressed in a sympathetic manner the school is looking for ways to embrace a project to counteract this. Both Cllr Bromwich and the Clerk met with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher of St Andrew's Primary School and they are involved in the Royal Opera House's Cultural Champions project and are planning a Year of Culture for the school which will focus on exploring and celebrating the diversity and culture of our local community.

One of the ideas discussed to help engage children in this journey is a local diversity cultural trail featuring a series of owls in various places throughout the area. The owls, which are of course symbols of wisdom and knowledge, will all be individually designed and decorated and positioned in a variety of locations, each one with a local meaning. Thereby each owl located will have a specific educational and cultural meaning.

The school is very keen to promote this within the Parish of North Weald Bassett and would like to have a list of a few locations where they could be situated and the meaning of that location. They will also be reaching out to local primary schools in High Ongar and Moreton, and also senior schools in Ongar and Epping. They are keen to go ahead with this on their next school curriculum starting in September. A number of locations have been suggested for the owls, which include:

- Weald Common – adjacent to the Bench where the children planted the trees

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- The Sensory Garden
  - Close to the Debt of Honour

Members are asked if they support this project, and if they have any other suggestions to put forward.

#### **24. HEDGEHOG BOXES ON ALLOTMENTS AT THORNWOOD**

Mary Crosby, who runs the Thornwood Market, has kindly donated a few Hedgehog Boxes to be placed on the Allotments at Thornwood Common and has been liaising with the RFO and the Allotment Warden in this matter. This will help with local biodiversity, and support a thriving hedgehog community.

#### **25. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

Members are advised that the latest updates can now be accessed via the following link:

[A stronger Greater Essex | Essex Local Government Reorganisation Hub](#)

#### **26. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

In the event that the Agenda contains Exempt (pink) pages, or an item needs to be discussed confidentially, to **CONSIDER** the following motion to be proposed by the Chairman:

“That the public and the press be excluded from the meeting, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed. However an item may be placed in the Confidential part of the meeting so long as it is accordance with the Statutory Guidance,

**There are currently TWO confidential items to be considered**