



ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 10 March 2020

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Lisa Jerome 01438 242203

Members: Councillors: M Downing (Chair), A Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), D Bainbridge, S Barr, S Booth, A Brown, J Brown, Callaghan, D Cullen, J Hanafin and L Rossati.

AGENDA

PART 1

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. **MINUTES - 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 11 February 2020.

Pages 3 – 6

3. **ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21**

To agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Select Committee for the new Municipal Year 2020-21.

Pages 7 – 14

4. **REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES - UPDATE**

To receive an update from the Scrutiny Officer regarding the Review of Neighbourhood Centres.

Pages 15 – 20

5. **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

To consider any Part 1 business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

6. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2020

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Michael Downing (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice Chair), Doug Bainbridge, Stephen Booth, Adrian Brown, Teresa Callaghan and Loraine Rossati.

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 7.10pm

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Dave Cullen and Jody Hanafin.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **MINUTES 20 NOVEMBER 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 20 November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

At this juncture, the Chair advised the Committee that there despite the Council having continued dialogue with a number of options being considered, there was no further update in relation to the support for Post Office provision in the Old Town. Any updates would be brought to this Committee as soon as they were available.

3 **UPDATE ON PREVIOUS REVIEW INTO MAINTENANCE OF TREES HEDGES & SHRUB BEDS**

Members received an update on the recommendations agreed by this Committee in relation to the 2015 scrutiny review into the Maintenance of Trees, Hedges and Shrub Beds.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Mead to the meeting who advised that she was in attendance for this item to raise concerns on behalf of a number of local residents with concerns on this matter.

Members raised the following issues:

- In relation to shrub beds, officers advised that following a full survey of the shrub beds on Council land, the Council was ahead of its planned schedule

and many improvements had been made to shrub beds across the Town. In response to a request, Officers agreed to send Councillor Mitchell the survey results for the Longmeadow area;

- Members were disappointed to learn that no work had yet been undertaken on the promotion of gardening services to those residents unable to maintain their own gardens. Officers advised that this would be reviewed including as part of the Council's Commercial Strategy. Members also suggested contact with the voluntary sector as part of this review.

Councillor Sarah Mead's concerns included the seeming lack of response by the Council to residents where there were concerns about overhanging and potential nuisance or even danger being caused by trees; the problems caused by certain types of trees eg sycamores, in relation to leaf drops and flooding issues; the blocking of light from trees and the half pruning of shrubs and hedges.

In response, Officers informed Members that due to limited resources they had to make judgements to respond to what requests were considered reasonable and in the main to address safety issues, on top of the routine maintenance undertaken by the Team. A review of the Policy would be undertaken in due course.

- In respect of volunteering, the programme of Green Space volunteering activities was continuing and viewed as a success by all.
- Officers agreed to take up the issue of breaches of tenancy agreements in regards to trees and specifically the planting of leylandii trees, to find out how this issue is monitored by Housing colleagues and what can be done to help tenants who inherit the problem and have the prohibitive cost of their removal.
- In relation to Licences to Occupy, Members noted that although the new system had been in place for a while and the process had been simplified, officers would be undertaking a review of possible gaps and risks that had been identified.
- Members were pleased to see the wide range of species of trees that had been planted throughout the Town in recent years. In response to a question, officers advised that a number of native tree species such as holly, maple, birch etc were also planted. The challenge for the team was to plant the right size and type of tree in the appropriate location.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the update be noted;
2. That a further progress report be added to the work programme and brought back to this Committee in 6 months' time.

4 **REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES**

The Scrutiny Officer gave Members an update on the review of local neighbourhood centres and presented a report with some background information for the review.

It was noted that the first site visits by officers and Members had been made to Symonds Green and The Oval Community Centres. The next visits to the Neighbourhood Centre buildings included Oaks Cross and would end up back at the Oval and would help Members to gather evidence for the Review.

It was **RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

5 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

6 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

7 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR

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Meeting ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

Portfolio Area

Date 10 MARCH 2020



ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

Authors Stephen Weaver | 2332

Lead Officers Tom Pike

Contact Officer Stephen Weaver | 2332

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Select Committee for the new Municipal Year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That having considered ideas put forward by individual Members, (see section 5), the Committee determines the subject matters to be added to a 'long list' work programme of potential Scrutiny reviews items for 2020/2021.
- 2.2 That consideration is given to including in the work programme, specific monitoring or review of recommendations from previous studies (see section 6.2).
- 2.3 That the Portfolio Holder Advisory Group meetings to carry out policy development work identified so far for the Committee (see section 7.1) be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committees are asked to draft their work programme ahead of the new Municipal year in order that work may begin as soon as the Committees are appointed at Annual Council. Any outstanding and unfinished studies, where applicable, will also need to be included. Such cases are detailed at item 5.2.1 to 5.2.4
- 3.2 During February 2020 Members provided ideas for the Work Programme for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.
- 3.3 When considering what work to undertake in the coming year, Members may wish to consider if the matter in question is of a cross-cutting nature and might lend itself to being considered jointly with another Select Committee.
- 3.4 Officers have also been requested to bring to the Committee's attention, likely Portfolio Holder Advisory Group (PHAG) policy development items that the Select Committee might be requested to consider and comment on before reports there are submitted to the Executive.
- 3.5 The Committee may also consider whether specific time should be allocated for monitoring or review of recommendations of previous studies. It is recognised that there is a limited dedicated officer resource for the scrutiny work of three Scrutiny Committees and therefore it is important to ensure that work plans are in place in order that the call on those resources and on each Committee's time on all its activities are prioritised and evenly spread across the year.

4 MEMBERS' IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SCRUTINY

- 4.1 Previously as part of the annual survey of Scrutiny Members, Members were invited to provide feedback on their ideas to improve scrutiny. It was agreed with the Chair that this area has been covered as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements and as such will be addressed in the O&S Committee's recommendations.

5 MEMBERS' IDEAS FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEWS

5.1 Scrutiny Members' Suggestions for Future Scrutiny Review Items

- 5.1.1 The following issues have been raised by Members as potential Scrutiny review items:
- 5.1.2 **Scrutiny of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) - Officer comment:** As well as being raised by Members there has been an offer from the LEP Chairman to provide and update on the work of the LEP at a local and County level and update on its future plans. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory, Regeneration)
- 5.1.3 **Review of parks including Fairlands Valley Park - Officer comment:** Members previously requested a wider review of the facilities at FVP when they considered this theme as a meeting in January 2019. The Scrutiny Officer could provide an update to Members on the recommendations of the Community Select Committee's review into sports and leisure that referenced the facilities and community use at Fairlands Valley Park. However, Members

may wish to carry out a wider review of parks in the town with a focus on the green space environment. - (Lead AD - Stevenage Direct Services & Communities & Neighbourhood)

- 5.1.4 **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)** Transparency of project allocation – **Officer comment:** CIL will be adopted on 1 April 2020. (*Zayd Al-Jawed to comment*) (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory)
- 5.1.5 **Progress with the Town Centre Regeneration/Progress of the SG1 project** **Officer comment:** A review of the overall regeneration programme and SG1 scheme in particular can be provided, though the choice of timing may need to be carefully considered for example in relation to the Planning elements of the regeneration programme. This topic may suit an All Member Briefing which would cover of any potential conflict of interest with Planning Members linked to the timing of related planning matters. (Lead AD – Regeneration)
- 5.1.6 **Transport Strategy** - **Officer comment:** Members undertook a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group for the Integrated Transport Strategy in October 2018, and the Transport Strategy was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee when it considered the work of the Executive in October 2019. If a further briefing is required this could be arranged. It is recommended this takes place a minimum of twelve months after adoption of the Strategy to give sufficient opportunity to progress relevant activities. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory)
- 5.1.7 **Review of Grasslands Plan** - **Officer comment:** There is an officer project to manage parkland areas as meadow grassland as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Members could scrutinise these plans in parallel to any consultation exercise that is undertaken. (Lead AD Stevenage Direct Services)
- 5.1.8 **Update on the Climate Emergency** - **Officer comment:** As part of last year's work programming it was agreed that a regular item updating Members on progress with individual Executive Portfolio areas and related service departments and selected partners could be provided to the Committee starting in 2020-21. This would provide an opportunity to hold to account the ongoing Climate Change and Engagement process with a series of interviews with officers/Executive Members and Partners. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory and all Assistant Directors)
- 5.1.9 **Review of the Council's Tree Policy** - **Officer comment:** Stevenage Direct Officers attended a meeting of the E&E Select Committee meeting in February 2020 to update Members on a previous review into, trees, hedges and shrub beds. It was agreed at the meeting that there should be an update of the Council's tree policy, so when officers are able to provide a draft of the updated policy, Members could comment on it. (Lead AD Stevenage Direct Services)
- 5.1.10 **How GIS (Geographical Information System) operates** – It is not easily identifiable to Members who the landowner is, whether its private, Borough Council or County Council owned. **Officer comment:** This could be addressed at via a Member briefing or written submission. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory, Corporate Services & Transformation)

- 5.1.11 **Review of the Council's recycling offer** – In view of the proposed changes within the Household Waste Management Policy, Members could scrutinise the options being considered as part of the emerging Recycling Strategy. **Officer comment:** The recent approval of the Waste Policy included a recommendation to develop a Waste Strategy to achieve a significant increase in the recycling rates in the years ahead. This Strategy would be developed for consideration by the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny, with an expectation of a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group to be convened as part of the Strategy development. (Lead AD Stevenage Direct Services)
- 5.2 **Items that are on the existing work programme, which in some cases may have started but have not been completed and others which are yet to start are rolled over for completion or start in 2020-21:**
- 5.2.1 **Local Neighbourhood Centres** – **Officer comment:** The review has started with a number of site visits to various Neighbourhood Centres in Stevenage. Members and Officers have recorded issues that have arisen following a visual check of the Neighbourhood Centres and will use this evidence to inform the review going forward. In addition, the Asset Management Strategy includes the intention to work through a series of Locality Reviews and there could be potential to use the Neighbourhood Centre review to inform this work. (Lead ADs – Finance & Estates, Communities & Neighbourhoods & Stevenage Direct Services)
- 5.2.2 **Business Technology Centre** – Members agreed to receive an update on the on the reappointed operator of the centre, WENTA. **Officer comment:** An officer update is available and will be scheduled in for consideration during 2020-21. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory)
- 5.2.3 **Neighbourhood Wardens briefing for Members** - **Officer comment:** An Executive report on the Co-operative Neighbourhoods was considered at the Executive and at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in December 2019. If Members are of the view that they still require a briefing this can be arranged. (Lead AD Communities & Neighbourhoods)
- 5.3 Members are asked to consider, which of the above items they wish to include in their work programme and which approach they favour to review the items, based on those suggested at paragraphs 5.1.2 to 5.2.2, namely a more in-depth review or a one-off discussion item?
- 5.4 Members should note that whatever issues they agree to be scrutinised as a main review item would be subject to a full scoping process and subsequently a scoping document would need to be agreed by the Committee at a future meeting. Other items, which can be addressed by a briefing and discussion item, may not require a full scoping document.
- 5.5 **Work Programme Schedule for 2020/21**
- 5.5.1 When the Scrutiny Work Programme is agreed by the Select Committee, the Scrutiny Officer will, using the agreed dates for generic Select Committee meetings in the Calendar of Meetings, draw together a work programme schedule for the 2020/21 Municipal Year, including scrutiny review meetings, monitoring of previous reviews selected by Members and policy development

meetings, which will be circulated to Members, and electronic diary invites will be sent to all Community Select Committee Members.

5.6 Alignment of Scrutiny with the Strategic Leadership Team

5.6.1 It is important that the three Scrutiny Committees (Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Community Select Committee and the Environment and Economy Select Committee) are aligned to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). As such, the following Scrutiny Committees are covered by the relevant nine Assistant Directors and SLT areas:

5.6.2 Customer – Community Select Committee:

Assistant Director for Housing and Investment (Jaine Cresser) and the Assistant Director for Communities and Neighbourhoods (Rob Gregory)

5.6.3 Place – Environment and Economy Select Committee:

Assistant Director for Direct Services (Dave Brown/Steve Dupoy), Assistant Director for Regeneration (Interim Chris Barnes), Assistant Director for Housing Development (Ash Ahmed) and Assistant Director for Planning and Regulatory (Zayd Al-Jawad)

5.6.4 Transformation and Support – Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Transformation (Vacant), Assistant Director for Finance and Estates (Vacant) and Digital & Transformation (Ruth Luscombe)

5.6.5 Role of the Assistant Directors and Scrutiny

5.6.6 The Assistant Directors will take a leadership role in assisting and supporting the relevant Scrutiny Committees and specific reviews that align to their area of expertise. The Assistant Directors will support each review through its various stages, from scoping of reviews, attending Chair and Vice-Chair briefings and offering support to the Scrutiny Officer in providing written and oral evidence for reviews as well as identifying 'Critical Friends' and other review witnesses. The Assistant Directors will liaise with the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder(s) and the Senior Leadership Team (CE and Assistant CE's).

5.6.7 Strategic Director, Tom Pike from the Senior Leadership Team has overall responsibility for the Scrutiny function, deputised by Strategic Director Richard Protheroe.

6 MONITORING REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee may consider there is a need to undertake some follow-up work on recommendations arising from previous studies. It may be considered sufficient to simply request update briefings from the relevant Heads of Service to be circulated to Members at appropriate intervals. However, if the Committee requires more detailed consideration or examination of the progress of previous recommendations, this should be factored into its work programme.

6.2 Reports within the remit of this Committee that have been issued over the last five years are as follows:

- Stevenage Rail Station Timetable Changes & 5th Platform (Meeting October 2018, Update Meetings February & July 2019)
- Maintenance of Trees, Hedges and Shrub beds (Completed February 2015, revisited October 2016 & Feb 2020)
- Briefing on the Green Travel Plan – Action Plan (Revisited with officer briefing September 2014, October 2015 and again in November 2016)
- Briefing on Cleansing of Children’s Play Areas (January 2015)
- Business Technology Centre Review (Completed January 2016, update to Exec response July 2016) an offer to update Members on the reappointed operator of the centre, WENTA, is available.
- Briefing on Fly Tipping, Littering & Environmental Law (January 2016)
- Allotments (Completed January 2017), Executive Member response July 2017.
- Briefing on Open Spaces (September 2016)
- Briefing & site visit report on Underpasses (September 2016 and updated November 2016)
- Briefing on the Provision of Public Toilets (October 2016 & to be revisited March 2017)
- Revisit to Recommendations and agreed actions from the Review of Environmental Campaigns & Fixed Penalty Notices (Dog Fouling) (October 2016)
- Flood Risk Management Policy (January 2018)
- Bus services (November 2017)
- Local Post Office Services (September 2019 & November 2019)

7 PORTFOLIO HOLDER ADVISORY GROUP - POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORK FOR 2020/2021

7.1 Following consultation with the Assistant Directors for Stevenage Direct Services, (Interim Dave Brown), Regeneration, (Interim Chris Barnes), Housing Development, Ash Ahmed and Planning & Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawad, the following matters have been identified for potential Portfolio Holder Advisory Group Policy Development to be undertaken with the Portfolio Holders for Environment & Regeneration and Economy, Enterprise and Transport during the Municipal Year for 2020/2021:

7.1.1 Issues that have been highlighted by the Assistant Directors include:

- Economic Development Strategy to be scheduled for Executive in 2020/21, PHAG meeting to be scheduled in 2020/21
- Commercial Insourcing to be scheduled for Executive in 2020/21, PHAG meeting to be scheduled in 2020/21

7.2 The above schedule is subject to change and Members will be contacted with a meeting invitation closer to the PHAG meeting. Any further issues that the

Assistant Directors can give notice of for Portfolio Holders Advisory Groups, Policy Development work in 2020/2021 will be advised throughout the year.

- 7.3 These meetings will continue to be clerked by Constitutional Services but are private informal meetings Chaired by the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder and supported by the relevant Assistant Director.

8 IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 8.1.2 A small budget of £1000 is held to support the work of the Select Committees in their research and study.

Legal Implications

- 8.2. The role of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is set out in the Local Government Act 2000. The recommendations made in this report are to facilitate the Committees to fully undertake this role.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.3. There are no direct Equalities and Diversity implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Specific equalities and diversity implications are considered during each scrutiny review.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

All documents that have been used in compiling this report, that may be available to the public, i.e. they do not contain exempt information, should be listed here:

- BD1 Submissions from Councillors.

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Location	Neighbourhood Basics											Accessibility	Visual Check	Flowers	Condition	ASB
	Community Centre	Place of Worship	Shops	Post Office	Pharmacy	GP	School	Café	Pubs	Take aways	Cash Machine					
Oaks Cross (Visited 14 February 2020).	None	Longmeadow Evangelical across the road	Convenience store. Florist and others.	Yes, in convenience store.	Yes.	Not close. For example Roebuck SG2 8HW and Spring Drive SG2 8AZ.	Longmeadow Primary School SG2 8LT over zebra crossing. Hideous fence.	No.	Pied Piper.	Several	Yes but charge.	Fairly frequent buses. Cycleway crosses Oaks Cross between Pied Piper and the school. Difficult steps up to flats above shops.	There is a vast expanse of pavement, parking areas and ramp all the same colour and design. Boring and a trip hazard. Very concrete. Rear of the Chinese carry out block is particularly unsightly. Cars sometimes park on the entry to the cycle route. Some trees missing.	There are no flowers in the shops and car park area. There is a garden scheme behind one block of shops.	Barbed wire. Is some concrete failing? Canopies seem OK. No lights in the bus stops.	Nothing observed during the visit but Pied Piper can be very loud during special events.
Oval (Visited 11 and 14 February 2020)	Large centre. Busy but part-time reception. A few years ago the centre got a new lease and funding for an extension and stairlift.	Anglican and Methodist in the same building. Multiple others nearby. Mosque on Vardon Road.	Co-op. News'gnt. Amazing DIY shop. Butcher.	Yes. In Martins news'gnt.	Yes.	The nearest may be Chells & St. Nicholas.	Trotts Hill?	Yes. In shopping area. Part-time in community centre,	There is the Times Club but no nearby pub.	Several	? But need to check on charge or free.	Fairly frequent buses. Cycleway parallel with Verity Way. There is a ramp up to the flats above shops.	Some maintenance issues at the community centre. Letters missing in "The Oval" sign. Concrete steps to homes just north of the neighbourhood centre collapsing.	There are no flowers in the community centre and shops areas. There is a community garden but is not visible from the community centre and active shops.	Some issues around responsibility for and condition of the former youth wing.	Nothing observed during our visit but some anecdotes from the café.

Neighbourhood Basics												Accessibility	Visual Check	Flowers	Condition	ASB
Location	Community Centre	Place of Worship	Shops	Post Office	Pharmacy	GP	School	Café	Pubs	Take aways	Cash Machine					
<p>Symonds Green (Visited 11 and 3p.m. 24 February)</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PDR</p>	<p>Medium sized recently extended centre following closure of the play and neighbourhood centres. Busy programme including the Learning Zone. Storage space is an issue.</p>	<p>Christ the King Church is in the same building. I'm not aware of other religions or denominations nearby.</p>	<p>Co-op. The neighbourhood shops are not owned by SBC. Hairdres'r is still open but round the back amongst scaffoldng. The hairdresse r may move round the front when the building work is complete.</p>	<p>Yes. In Co-op.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes. SG1 2JW.</p>	<p>Woolenwic k SG1 2NU is the nearest school. Some distance and the other side of a dual carriageway.</p>	<p>Part-time in communit y centre.</p>	<p>Yes. Tom Tiddler s SG1 2JW.</p>	<p>Two. Chinese /fish and pizza/ke bab.</p>	<p>Yes and free. At Co-op.</p>	<p>Cycleway the other side of the Co-op. The bus service is not great during the day and stops completely early evening.</p>	<p>Building work on top of the tops does not help the current appearance and caused the recent temporary closure of the shops. No public toilets after 2p.m. or at weekends. Pub garden privately owned - hard, flat and colourless.</p>	<p>A small number immediately in front of the community centre.</p>	<p>Much of the exterior of the community centre is new.</p>	<p>Nothing observed during either visit. No obvious youth provision. There had been some in the neighbourhood centre.</p>

Neighbourhood Basics												Accessibility	Visual Check	Flowers	Condition	ASB
Location	Community Centre	Place of Worship	Shops	Post Office	Pharmacy	GP	School	Café	Pubs	Take aways	Cash Machine					
Bedwell (Visited about 4p.m. on Monday 24 Feb 2020)	Bedwell benefitted from a new lease and SRB funding bringing a substantial extension in 2004. Large centre with many rooms including a hall with a stage. The Sherma Batson (Together) Centre and Family Centre are nearby.	URC in Cuttys Lane. CofE at the bottom of Cuttys Lane.	General purpose store (appeared delapidated). Other shops include a hairdresser; off licence; bakery; bookie.	Yes. In a shop.	Yes.	Bedwell Medical Centre, Sinfield Close, Bedwell Crescnt, SG Herts. SG1 1LQ	Bedwell Primary, Bedwell Crescent, SG SG1 1NJ and Broom Barns, Homestead Moat, SG1 1UE.	Mornings in the comm. centre.	The Poacher.	Fish and chips; pizza/kebab.	Two. One free; the other £0.99.	Bus stops nearby on Bedwell Crescent. Steps up to flats above shops. No nearby cycle way but links either end of Bedwell Crescent.	Some cigarette ends in the gullies at the edge of the car park. Who knows what's happening at the old telephone exchange?	No much evidence in the shopping area but have a look at Bedwell Park which is nearby.	Back of shops much better than Oaks Cross. There is a fence.	Nothing observed during our visit.
St. Nicholas (Visited 24 February 2020).	Yes. Partly hidden behind the shops. Another community centre with a former youth wing. Also a separate building at the back. Office open in the mornings. Forbidding security fence from 1990s.	A long way from St. Nicholas Church.	Substantial convenience store. Small shopping area.	No.	Yes.	Yes. Two but oversubscribed.	St. Nicholas School is not close. It is on Six Hills Way. The Leys Primary and Giles Schools are closer.	No.	St. Nicholas.	No.	Yes but a very high charge of £1.99.	Fairly frequent buses. Bus stops near the pub. No nearby cycleway. Links at the western end of Catnerbury Way and off the Pilgrims Way.	Not in the neighbourhood shops but there's a lot of scaffolding nearby which seems to have been there for a long time.	No much evidence but there is a large Christmas tree in a planter and flowers may appear around it in the Spring.	Community centre looks a bit under seige.	Nothing observed at the time of the visit, about 3.30p.m, but some graffiti.

Neighbourhood Basics												Accessibility	Visual Check	Flowers	Condition	ASB
Location	Community Centre	Place of Worship	Shops	Post Office	Pharmacy	GP	School	Café	Pubs	Take aways	Cash Machine					
Old Town (No visit. Virtual 24 February 2020)	Springfield House is an old house covenanted for community use. Its age and garden make it very attractive but there are challenges. Access to the first floor would be difficult for those with mobility difficulties.	Several in the old town including Baptist, Catholic, CofE and Methodist.	Several but suffering from the closure of Waitrose and the Post Office in October 2019 and the last bank just before that.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Letchmore Infants; Fairlands Junior and Thomas Alleyne secondary.	Yes including TJs., Revolution and Costa.	Several.	Several.	Yes. Free still available.	Fairly frequent buses on routes between the new town centre, Lister Hospital and Hitchin. Cycleway up to the front of the community centre. Noted this is the only neighbourhood where people have to pay in the car parks.	An attractive old High Street. This was the original heart of Stevenage but spoilt by empty shops and the gyratory. The shops are not owned by SBC. The southern part of the High Street is dominated by parked cars.	The old Bowling Green is very attractive. The planters further down the High Street are a bit sad. A start has been made but more missing trees need to be replaced.	Many of the buildings are quite old and in a conservation area. Interesting access to some flats.	There are complaints about young people in front of Tesco Express and issues with rough sleepers and asking for money. The lively night time economy can lead to noise complaints and other ASB issues.
Chells (No visit. Virtual 24 February)	Timebridge. Named after the links between young people and the rest of the people. At the edge of Nobel School.	St. Hugh and St. John (Anglican and Methodist) between the community centre and the shops.	Several including Tesco. TBC	TBS	TBC	Chells Surgery, 265 Chells Way, SG2 0HN. Stands apart from the rest of the neighbourhood centre.	Lodge Farm Primary; Camps Hill Primary; Nobel secondary and not far from Marriotts.	Yes.	The Swan public house has closed and the site occupied by Tesco.	Yes. Details TBC.	TBC.	Fairly frequent SB1 buses.	TBD.	TBD.	Recent refresh. TBC	TBD.
Hampson Park (Pin Green. No visit. Virtual 27 February)	The Hampson Park Community Centre is new (2016) and well used. It replaced the Pin Green (Fairlands) Community Centre which was on Archer Road. It is more than an easy	The mosque is the nearest place of worship. A church group meets in the centre.	A few on Archer Road.	TBD.	TBD.	TBD.	Mossbury Primary, Webb Rise.	In community centre.	Not close.			It's a walk to the bus stops. There are fairly frequent routes 2 and 3 buses along Vardon Road, Merdith Road and Archer Road. A cycleway runs close to the rear of the community centre. The centre is a single storey building.	The centre is in an attractive park location.	In the park.	The centre was opened in 2016. There may be some maintenance issues.	TBD.

Neighbourhood Basics												Accessibility	Visual Check	Flowers	Condition	ASB
Location	Community Centre	Place of Worship	Shops	Post Office	Pharmacy	GP	School	Café	Pubs	Take aways	Cash Machine					
The Hyde (Shephall. No visit. Virtual 27 February)	The Shephall Centre was formerly known as the Broadhall Community Centre which was dominated by its social club. It's a substantial building but some distance from the local shops at The Hyde and	The Catholic Church is close to the Hyde. There is a community church on Hydean Way.	The Hyde is a substantial local shopping area.	Yes. In Foursquare shop at The Hyde.	Yes. 8 The Hyde.	Shephall Health Centre.	Peartree Way and Peartree Spring. The Heathcote site of Barnwell secondary school is next door to the Shephall Centre.	Yes. Slightly behind and to one side of the shops.	Yes. Vincent .	TBD.	TBD.	Fairly frequent buses on routes 4 and 5 at the Hyde.	TBD.	TBD.	TBD.	Note the CCTV camera on Shephall Way.

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