

STORTFORD FIELDS

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TRUST

Community Matters

Issue Four

Welcome

Welcome to Community Matters, the newsletter of the Stortford Fields Community Management Trust (SFCMT), which fosters community and will own, manage and protect community buildings and spaces for the benefit of residents at Stortford Fields and the wider community.

The Great Stortford Fields Easter Egg Hunt underway

Introducing two resident Trustees:

Following our formal application process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Trustees to the SFCMT Board. Both Mark and Simon are residents in Stortford Fields and we look forward to their contribution to our plans and activities.



Mark Johnson

Mark has worked in and around the public sector for his whole career and is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant. He currently works for an accountancy body leading their global research on public sector finance issues. He is also Chair of Governors at St Michael's Church of England Primary School in Bishop's Stortford.

Mark says:

'The open spaces and community facilities planned for Stortford Fields have the potential to be a great resource for residents, to improve wellbeing and build a sense of belonging and community. By joining SFCMT, I want to use my skills and experience to help make sure we make the most of this opportunity.'



Simon Gallagher

Simon brings a combination of corporate board and voluntary sector experience to the SFCMT Board. He has been involved with the community at Stortford Fields from its beginning, having been one of the first residents to move in. Simon also set up the Stortford Fields Residents Facebook page which has over 1,400 members and runs a local business.

Resident survey

We've put together a resident survey with Neighbourhood Lab, who look at processes, methods and strategies to enhance the quality of life and well-being in communities. We're keen for you to share your views about living in Stortford Fields, as the results will inform us about our facilities and activities going forward.

Please scan the QR code to the survey. It should take up to 10 minutes to complete. As a thank you for taking part, you'll have the chance to enter a lottery to **Win a Tesco voucher worth £100**. Instructions on how to enter the draw will be provided at the end of the survey. If you're unable to access via this QR code, please contact us at info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk and we can assist.



There are no right or wrong answers! It's just understanding your perspective. Thank you in advance for your valuable input.

Raised by you

Whilst the Trust is not the decision maker/directly responsible for some of the concerns raised by residents, we are pleased to facilitate/signpost or provide updates where possible:

- Rainbird Road surfacing works – surfacing will be completed once the Consortium receives technical approval from Herts County Council (HCC).
- School traffic – Meetings are taking place between all parties to try and find a solution.
- Frontier's land adjacent to care home – This land was purchased by Frontier in 2019. The decision of when to complete the approved plans remains with Frontier as the landowner.
- Bishop's Stortford Bridleway 8 – from Hadham Road to Wickham Hall - The consortium of developers is working alongside HCC's Transport and Environment department to extend this bridleway to support the connection of the network across the development.

An update from Elaine, Community Development Worker

Great to see over 200 of you at our Easter Egg Hunt at Avanti Brook Primary School. Our special thanks go to our resident DJ Mark and dance teacher Sam who kept the children entertained, and photographer Nick. Over 600 eggs were placed outside on the school field for the children to find and put in our post box to get their Easter Egg! Alice in Wonderland did some superb balloon modelling and the lovely Easter Bonnets were judged by residents from Elm View care home. We supported Avanti Grange on their Spiritual Insight Day in May – they had a packed agenda of activities that took place in our beautiful woodland.



I'm finalising arrangements for the Baby Group. I've received some lovely, donated toys from you all – thank you – and will share more information on a start date soon. Plans are underway for a weekly Stay and Play.

We are now planning this year's Teddy Bears Picnic – let's hope the weather is as beautiful as last year. I'll be in touch via social media with details and we're working on the installation of community noticeboards shortly to help further share community news with you.

In the meantime please feel free to email me with thoughts or suggestions of events you'd like to see happening in our community: Elaine@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk.

What's on when!

How are your fitness goals for 2025 coming along?... Duncan's been running fitness classes at Avanti Brook on Tuesday evenings for some weeks now and those attending are really enjoying the sessions. We asked attendee Emily for her thoughts on the class. She said: *'Duncan's class is friendly, inclusive space where people of all levels can get active, have fun, and support each other along the way!'*

Circuit Fitness Class
TUESDAY 7.30pm
Avanti Brooks Primary School
FIRST LESSON FOR
FREE £8 per class

Tone up and Feel Great
No Matter Your Fitness
Level

To book:
www.dvpersonaltraining.com
Community Class

@dvpersonaltraining
Find Balance, Build Strength,
& Move Freely



Pre-loved Baby/Children's Items Sale



Pre-loved Baby/Children's Items Sale

Sat 14 June 2025

10am - 12 noon

Avanti Brook Primary School

£15 If you wish to have a table

East Herts District Council's Community Forums

Weds 25 June, 7pm
Weds 19 November, 7pm

Bishops Stortford Rugby Club
Silver Leys, Hadham Rd
Bishop's Stortford CM23 2QE

Stortford Fields
in
Bloom



Resident Charlotte Owers is passionate about encouraging residents to get out in their gardens. We were delighted when Charlotte, in partnership with the Trust, wanted to launch a new initiative to celebrate all the gorgeous gardens our community has to offer.

Announcing the inaugural 'Stortford Fields in Bloom' gardening competition. This is a chance to celebrate the green-fingered talents across our community, from seasoned gardeners to enthusiastic beginners. Whether you have a blooming back garden, a flourishing front porch, or a perfectly potted balcony display, we'd love to see it. There are a variety of categories to suit all kinds of gardens – large or small – so there's something for everyone. It's a great way to get involved in our community, share inspiration, and add even more colour and charm to our wonderful neighbourhood. There are lots of prizes to be won, so why not get planting and show us what you can grow? Judging will take place this summer. More info and how to enter can be found by scanning the QR code, by visiting: charlottes-garden.com/stortford-fields-in-bloom, or emailing: info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk.

What we've been doing

Since our last newsletter the Trust has:

- Appointed two resident trustees
- Continued to progress the Trust's application for charity status with the Charities Commission
- Progressed plans and appointed a Project Manager for Hoggates Park Pavilion and Pitch
- Met with residents interested in an allotment plot/community garden
- Had a meeting with the design team appointed for Foxdells Farm buildings
- Continued discussions regarding Phase 1 of the green infrastructure that the Trust will own and manage
- Had a further two meetings with directors of Stortford Fields Estate Management Company
- Organised the Great Stortford Fields Easter Egg Hunt

Bringing forward Hoggates Park Pavilion and Pitch

Following detailed discussions between East Herts District Council and the Consortium of Developers, it has been agreed that the Section 106 funding for Hoggates Park as part of the planning approval, will be transferred to the Trust. The funding is released when the 1,000th home is occupied, which is likely to be around Summer 2025. This means the Trust is now responsible for delivering this exciting facility which the Trust will own, with Swifts Football Club as a long-term leaseholder. The existing planning approval is being updated to better reflect the needs of the community and Swifts FC's expansion. Following a competitive pitch process, Academy Consulting has been appointed as Project Manager. We know residents are keen to understand timelines for completion and will update as we move forward.

Green fingered residents get together

Elm View care home kindly hosted a meeting for some of the residents who had expressed an interest in the allotments and community garden. (Have you been into the care home? A beautiful facility and the residents would love to see you!)

Even at this early stage, it was lovely to hear the enthusiasm from residents to get some growing started. Many thanks to resident Amy McCarthy who has set up the Stortford Fields Allotment Group on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1834608160648652/>

The Consortium has appointed a contractor and we are awaiting confirmation of a start on site date. If you'd like to be added to our database for an allotment plot or to be involved in the community garden, please email: info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk.



Working with the Consortium

The Consortium of developers at Stortford Fields (BSNC) – Taylor Wimpey, Vistry, Persimmon and Tilia continue to work closely with the Trust and have provided the following update:

Western Neighbourhood

A site walk took place in early April with Herts County Council highways and the Consortium to agree a final snagging list for the adoption of phase one. It is hoped the snags and finishing works will commence this summer.

Drainage works have been completed by Breheny. Installation of the NEAP/MUGA equipment has now started. This space can only be opened once a series of health and safety assessments have been carried out.

Tree maintenance work has been carried out in Ash Grove and Hoggates Wood.

Eastern Neighbourhood



The Foxdells Farm Buildings now visible from the Eastern Neighbourhood

A lot of activity is taking place in the Eastern Neighbourhood. All four developers are building and undertaking comprehensive landscaping works. You will see new signage for Charles Church in this area. They are part of Persimmon and are building new homes under this brand.

East Herts District Council is considering the Community Buildings Strategy and Heritage Strategy which relates to the delivery of the Foxdells Farm buildings. The design team has been appointed and meetings are taking place between the stakeholders.

Useful Contacts:

Gateway Property Management's Customer Services Dept

Call: 01702 443555 | Office hrs: Mon to Fri – 0830-1730

Email: customerservices@gatewayplc.co.uk

Contact online: gatewayplc.co.uk/contact-us

Taylor Wimpey

Call: 01494 509090

Email: ccnthames@taylorwimpey.com

Tilia

Call: 01234 417838

Email: eastern.customerservice@tiliahomes.co.uk

www.facebook.com/sfcmt | www.stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk

Vistry

Call: 01992 367859

Email: CustomerService.CentralHomeCounties@vistry.co.uk

Persimmon

Call: 01376 518811

Email: esse.custcare@persimmonhomes.com

East Herts District Council

Call: 01279 655261

Information on Stortford Fields issued is available at:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/improvement-projects-east-herts/bishops-stortford-north-stortford-fields>

Need some advice regarding security of your home and vehicles? Visit www.herts.police.uk/protectyourhome

