

# STORTFORD FIELDS

## COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TRUST

Community Matters

Issue Three

### 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.

**SUNDAY**  
**08**  
**DECEMBER**  
.....  
**3 - 5PM**

**Christmas**  
COMES TO  
**STORTFORD FIELDS**

**VENUE**  
AVANTI  
BROOK  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

**MEET THE REINDEER**    **XMAS CHILDRENS CRAFT WORKSHOP**

**LIVE MUSIC AND XMAS SINGALONG**    **FREE DRINKS AND XMAS TREATS**

No parking available on site  
[www.facebook.com/SFCMT](http://www.facebook.com/SFCMT)

### What we've been doing

Since our last newsletter the Trust has:

- Applied for charity status
- Appointed a Stortford Fields resident as a Community Development Worker to progress events and activities
- Continued to meet with stakeholders and Swifts FC regarding the design and layout of Hoggates Park Pavilion and Pitch
- Held conversations about the Foxdells Farm buildings which will be a great community asset
- Continued to progress the legal transfer of Phase 1 green infrastructure
- Held the first Board meeting with directors of Stortford Fields Estate Management Company
- Agreed a Treasury Strategy, set up a Finance and Risk Sub-Committee, and agreed strict processes and procedures to manage the Trust funds to be transferred from the Consortium of developers as part of the planning obligations

East Herts District Council's next  
**Community Forum**

**Thursday**  
**5 December - 7pm**  
**Northgate Primary School**  
Cricketfield Lane  
Bishops Stortford  
CM23 2RL

Parking is available and agreed at the rugby club (walk down hill), or some on-street parking

**DIARY DATE**

## Introducing Elaine Shanahan, Community Development Worker



Elaine Shanahan  
Community Development Worker

At the Trust's first event last Spring, Elaine volunteered to assist the Trust with arrangements. Her help was invaluable, and we're delighted Elaine is now working for the Trust on a part-time basis.

Elaine hit the ground running, setting up a Walking Group, organising a Teddy Bear's picnic and Halloween Trail. Following a poll on social media and requests/responses from residents, Elaine is now planning some keep fit and dance classes and is setting up a parent/toddler group to start in the New Year. If you'd like to register for any of these activities, please do get in touch.

***We've a fantastic community here at Stortford Fields and when the Trust was set up, I knew I wanted to be involved. I'm really keen to hear about the sorts of events and activities that residents would like to see here. I've already been approached by other residents who would like to help, and I hope there are more to follow! I'd love to hear from you at: [elaine@stortfordfieldsomt.org.uk](mailto:elaine@stortfordfieldsomt.org.uk).***

Elaine has made great friends at Elm View Care Home, encouraging residents to visit the elderly residents there, bring in their pets – they love to see them – and join a knit and natter!

There was one notable celebration at the home that we couldn't miss, the 102nd birthday of Margaret.

***"We had so many families and children pop in throughout the day to see Margaret. It was magical. What a lovely community we have. Margaret had so many cards and cakes. We hired a pianist to play, as she used to be a professional. Her face really lit up. She had a wonderful few days and really felt loved. The day ended with children from Avanti Grange coming in to make decorations for our Halloween window display. Thank you to you all for your support."***

**Astra Brace-Day**  
Customer Relations Manager, Elm View Care Home



Margaret on her 102nd birthday with roses called 'Margaret' a gift from the Trust.

### Want to join us?

Applications are now open for the next resident trustee position on the Community Trust Board. This is a voluntary (unpaid) role requiring a few hours time per month. If you would like to apply for the role, please email [info@stortfordfieldsomt.org.uk](mailto:info@stortfordfieldsomt.org.uk). Applicants will be asked for a short CV and statement of experience explaining how they might contribute to the success of the Trust. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2025.

### 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

- Work continues on the homes by Vistry which are due to complete Summer 2025.
- Taylor Wimpey's Western Neighbourhood sales office on Newland Avenue is currently being converted into two new homes.
- Hoggates Pavilion and Pitch – BSNC continue to work in partnership with the Trust and East Herts District Council (EHDC) to look at the delivery of the project. A revised strategy for Hoggates Park has been submitted to EHDC and is being reviewed.
- LEAP and MUGA in Hoggates Park – the play area and multi-use games area is currently being procured and will be completed asap.
- The internal bund, which is now fully planted, is being regularly maintained. The exterior bund will have its annual cut back in November.
- BSNC is working to transfer the remaining green spaces in the Western Neighbourhood to the Trust or Stortford Fields Estate Management Company.
- Completion of the landscaping and paths near Elm View Care Home and the water tower, will take place once Herts County Council has adopted the area for their strategic cycle/footway.

## Eastern Neighbourhood

- Tilia, Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon are selling homes in this area. Show homes are open to view the new homes coming to Stortford Fields.
- Strategic cycle/foot ways have been installed to ensure the development has good links within the site as well as connecting to the strategic routes off site.
- Works on Farnham Road have commenced which will see the creation of a new 3-metre-wide shared use path.

## Foxdells Farm

The Consortium has appointed an architect who is currently surveying the buildings. More information will follow as progress is made.

## Hoggates Wood and Ash Grove



*Woodland thinning*

*Hoggates Wood is an area of mixed broadleaf woodland. The wood includes lapsed hornbeam coppice, together with secondary broadleaved woodland and a varied ground flora. Ash Grove is an area of species rich neutral grassland with pockets of old pedunculate oak and mature ash, young woodland plantings and scrub.*

*Following a recent tree safety audit carried out by BSNC, works have been carried out in both Hoggates Wood and Ash Grove.*



*Clearing bramble in Hoggates Wood*

Tree safety work has been carried out on a small number of trees around the edge of Hoggates Wood and mature trees within Ash Grove. Management works have also been taking place as part of the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Management Plan (GIBMP). These works comprise of bramble and scrub management to ensure walked routes remain passable whilst retaining habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles.

Woodland management has also been carried out, thinning out the established woodland block to allow future tree growth and improve ground fauna and flora. Works will be ongoing over the next couple of months which will all contribute to enhancing these important areas. Once all works are complete, Hoggates Wood and Ash Grove will be transferred to the Trust.

## Allotments and Community Garden



### STORTFORD FIELDS ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDEN

#### GET INVOLVED!

For those of you with aspiring green fingers, we welcome you to get your hands dirty and help in the allotments, community garden and orchard, as part of our aim to create a nature-friendly and healthy living environment for all.

There are so many benefits to having your own allotment, or getting involved with community gardening. Growing your own food is not only good for the environment, it's also good for your physical and mental health and wellbeing. Did you know that soil is a natural anti-depressant?

The Stortford Fields Allotments will have available plots in a range of sizes for food growing, as well as a dedicated area for communal gardening offering everyone access to a green space for relaxation and leisure. There will be provision for raised beds, a communal gathering area with seating and communal storage sheds.



Grow Your Own Produce

Meet New People

Spend time in Nature

Get Active

Relax and De-stress

Share The Work

The Allotments in Ash Grove have been given planning approval and the scrub has been cleared ready for the allotments and community garden to be created for Spring 2025.

We are now collecting details of those who would like an allotment and/or to join our community gardening group. Are you interested?

Drop us a line at [info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk](mailto:info@stortfordfieldscmt.org.uk)

We'll be holding a meeting with all those registered soon.



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN EITHER AN ALLOTMENT OR JOINING A COMMUNITY GARDENING GROUP BY EMAILING: [INFO@STORTFORDFIELDS.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@STORTFORDFIELDS.ORG.UK)

### Other Useful Contacts:

For matters concerning your home at Stortford Fields, contact your developer:

#### Vistry Group - Bovis Homes and Linden Homes

Call: 01992 367859  
Email: [CustomerService.CentralHomeCounties@vistry.co.uk](mailto:CustomerService.CentralHomeCounties@vistry.co.uk)

#### Tilia

Call: 01234 417838  
Email: [eastern.sales@tiliahomes.co.uk](mailto:eastern.sales@tiliahomes.co.uk)

#### East Herts District Council

Call: 01279 655261

#### Persimmon

Call: 01376 518811  
Email: [esse.custcare@persimmonhomes.com](mailto:esse.custcare@persimmonhomes.com)

#### Taylor Wimpey

Call: 01494 509090  
Email: [ccnthames@taylorwimpey.com](mailto:ccnthames@taylorwimpey.com)



Information on Stortford Fields issued by East Herts District Council is available: [Click to View](#) or scan QR code.



#### Gateway Property Management's Customer Services Department

Call: 01702 443555  
Email: [customerservices@gatewayplc.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@gatewayplc.co.uk)

Contact online: [gatewayplc.co.uk/contact-us](http://gatewayplc.co.uk/contact-us)  
Office hours: Monday to Friday – 0830-1730