

1. Planning Appeal: 3/24/1255/OUT - Land South of A507, West of A10 Buntingford

Outline planning application for development of employment land (flexible use B2, B8, E(c) and E(g)), informal open space, associated works and infrastructure including a new access from A507, with all matters reserved except for access.

An appeal has been lodged against the East Herts Council's decision to refuse this planning. No date has been announced yet for the public inquiry.

The closing dates for new comments and amendments to comments that have already been submitted is 31 July.

The main reasons for rejection of this application were:

1. Siting and location - the proposals would be isolated and physically severed from the rest of Buntingford by the A10, with poor quality and unsafe active travel connections to the town.
2. Scale, form, visual impact and siting on the west side of the A10 outside of the Buntingford Settlement Boundary. It would intrude upon and have a significantly harmful urbanising impact upon the 'Cherry Green Arable Plateau.
3. The proposed development results in a conflict with Policies BUNT3, INT1, DPS2, GBR2, DES2, ED1, TRA1 and TRA2 of the District Plan (2018) and Policies ES1 and BE2 of the Buntingford Community Neighbourhood Plan (2017).

The proposals fail to constitute sustainable development and would therefore conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Chris Berry has confirmed with me that CPRE Herts are planning on making representations for this and the other appeal for Land North of the A507 (3/24/0966/OUT) which is due to commence on 8 September.

2. Veolia Sustainability Fund

Veolia, together with East and North Herts District councils have opened up a new sustainability fund designed to award individual grants of up to £1000. Applicants can also request in-kind resources or volunteers to help bring their project to life. Applications are open to individual, community groups, not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding under the following criteria:

Enhancing biodiversity

Promoting sustainable waste behaviours (reduce, reuse and/or recycle)

Protecting or preserving resources and the environment
Use of recycled, reused or reclaimed materials
Improving social wellbeing

Applications for projects that have considered the long-term or ongoing benefits for the community will be looked on favourably and all applications will be considered based on their merit. Closing date Wednesday 30 September.

For more details visit the Veolia website at <https://www.veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund>

3. Arts in East Herts 2026

The popular art event is back for another year and East Herts Council are encouraging people to apply for this year's Arts in East Herts showcase event.

Running across the district and throughout September and October 2026, Arts in East Herts provides an opportunity for residents to access arts and cultural activities that may have previously been inaccessible to them.

East Herts Council has launched a grant scheme offering to support the running costs of one-off events or a series of taster sessions, performances or creative workshops during the September to October Arts in East Herts showcase period. The grant scheme has a funding pot of £20,000, with the Council issuing grants up to the value of £800.

To take part in Arts in East Herts, your event must:

- Be happening between September and October
- Be run in the district

Applications need to be submitted by 12pm on Monday 20th July 2026.

More details available on the East Herts webpage:

<https://yourvoice.eastherts.gov.uk/arts-in-east-herts-2026>

4. New BetterPoints Reward App launched

Funded by East Herts District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the BetterPoints scheme aims to inspire residents to swap short car journeys for walking, cycling, wheeling and public transport.

Local people can simply download the free BetterPoints app and use it to record journeys made on foot, by bike, in a wheelchair, by bus or train. Each eligible journey earns points, which can be redeemed at participating local businesses, exchanged for major brand vouchers or donated to local charities.

By making small changes to everyday travel habits, residents can help reduce congestion, improve air quality and improve their health.

Available to download from app stores.

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/latest-news/2026/rewards-app-launches-inspire-healthier-journeys-and-support-local-businesses>

Sue Nicholls

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