

**Cottered Parish Council**  
**Monday 14 September 2026**  
**District Councillor Report**

**1. Planning Appeal - Land North of A507/East of A10, Buntingford ref: 3/24/0966/OUT**

The Planning Inquiry for this application is currently taking place in person at the East Herts Council headquarter (Wallfields) in Hertford. Members of the public can attend - the remaining sessions taking place in person on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 September (start time 9.15). The closing submissions will be heard on Friday 18 September. This will be a virtual session not open to the public. However, closing submissions will be published on the East Herts website just before the session starts.

Four people appeared as Interested Parties on day one of the appeal. I spoke as local district councillor, Tracey Russ represented Throcking residents. We both gave very strong arguments against the appeal as did Chris Berry, Planning Manager, CPRE Herts. He emphasised both the harm that would be caused to the local countryside and the large number of Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan policies that this speculative development contravenes. Duncan Wallace (Mayor of Buntingford) also spoke on behalf of Buntingford residents.

I attended the first 3 days of the appeal, both to speak and hear the evidence. There was very good expert witness evidence given on behalf of East Herts Council from Bobby Brown on landscape and character and from Kate Carpenter (on behalf of Herts Highways) evidence on road safety, particularly regarding how unsafe any proposed toucan crossing on the A10 would be. Richard Lewis also gave good evidence on sustainable transport, particularly pointing out the unsuitability of the proposed shared cycling/walking bridge as a route into Buntingford and the safety and lack of inclusivity concerns about the Toucan crossing, with particular regard to cyclists.

**2. Local Government Reorganisation plans on hold**

The Government has announced a review of Local Government Reorganisation decisions, including the decision affecting Hertfordshire. As a result, plans for reorganisation are being paused while the review takes place.

The Government has also confirmed that elections to the proposed shadow authorities will not take place in May 2027. Instead, local elections will follow their usual cycle, meaning all East Herts Council seats will be contested in May 2027. Hertfordshire's councils will continue to work together throughout the review, with residents and staff kept informed as further information becomes available.

**3. Arts in East Herts 2026**

Arts in East Herts is back this autumn with a programme packed with creative activities, workshops and events for all ages. A range of activities are taking place from pottery, painting and printmaking to textiles, life drawing and eco-art, there are plenty of opportunities to try something new, learn a skill and get creative in your local community.

Many activities are free or offered at a reduced cost. You can see the programme of events on East Herts website here <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/latest-news/2026/arts-east-herts-returns-2026-programme-creative-events>

#### **4. Next Buntingford Repair Café - 19 September**

There are still a few repair slots available for the Buntingford Repair Café next Saturday 19 September from 2 to 5pm. Visit our booking website to reserve your slot at [www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordrepaircafe](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordrepaircafe). We will also have our usual pop-up café serving drinks and homemade cakes and a team from Veolia waste management will be coming along to help triage repair items and to take away any items for safe disposal that are unable to be mended.

#### **5. Buntingford Men's Shed**

The Buntingford Men's Shed now have their own shed space in the grounds of Layston Grove Care Home where they can run all their workshops sessions. There are now two workshop sessions each week on Tuesdays afternoons and Thursday morning. For more information and to apply to become a member email [info@buntingfordmensshed.org.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordmensshed.org.uk)

Sue Nicholls  
14.09.26