

**Achievements List 2022-23 (Quarter 3, October – December 2022)**

**Corporate Priorities:**

One – Attractive and accessible green spaces supporting the borough’s wellbeing

Two – Evolving, vibrant town centres and a growing economy

Three – Quality homes through managed growth

Four – A sense of community where people feel safe

Five – A well run council which puts our customers first

**(Press releases: U: Used by local media – print or online, N: Not used by local media)**

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<b>October 2022</b>		
<p>Welwyn Garden City won several awards in the 2022 Anglia In Bloom competition, recognising the work of the council, BID, and volunteers.</p> <p>The awards for the borough comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks Category – Parkway and Howardsgate – Silver Gilt Award</li> <li>• Victorian Fernery – Conservation Category – Silver Award</li> <li>• Anniversary Gardens – Queen’s Jubilee Category – Silver Gilt Award</li> <li>• WGC Town Centre – BID Town Category – Silver Award</li> </ul>	<p>Press Release (U) Business Plan</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The new High View development in South Hatfield welcomed four new businesses to its commercial units, the latest progress for the ongoing developments of the £45M High View regeneration scheme, a partnership between the council and Lovell Homes.</p> <p>Bob's Family Butchers, The Rise Hair Salon (formerly High View Hairdressers and Just for Men Barbers), Max's Kebabs, and Happy Valley Takeaway are the latest to pick up their keys in preparation to open their doors to this growing community. They will be key to the development of the area which is set to transform the heart of South Hatfield with 146 quality new homes (37 affordable), 18 retail units, and a new green space at its centre.</p>	<p>Press Release (U) Business Plan</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>The Coronation Fountain was turned pink to highlight Breast Cancer Awareness month. Now a tradition, it was the 18<sup>th</sup> year of collaboration between the council and locally based pharmaceuticals company Roche UK in colouring the fountain in a bright display of support for the fight against breast cancer.</p>	<p>Press Release (N)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>Brand new accommodation for some of the borough's most vulnerable adults was given a boost this week, as Cabinet approved a contribution of £300,000 towards the redevelopment of a local YMCA hostel.</p> <p>The work will provide much-improved supported accommodation for vulnerable adults, replacing the long-standing facility at Peartree Lane, Welwyn Garden City with 100 self-contained studios alongside substantial communal and life-skill development areas. The building will include counselling areas, outside spaces, therapy spaces, a training kitchen and communal living rooms for residents – all known to support good mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Remembrance Sunday was commemorated by special services held in Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, and Welwyn village on Sunday 13 November</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p>The council celebrated the lives and contributions of black people locally and nationally for Black History Month, culminating in a special event at Mill Green Mill and Museum.</p> <p>Throughout October, the council worked with primary schools on creative contributions, with pupils producing poetry, art, short stories, and quotes that represented the year's theme, 'Time for Change: Action not Words'.</p>	<p>Press Release (N)</p>	<p>Four, Five</p>
<p><b>November 2022</b></p>		
<p>Mill Green Museum and Working Mill in Hatfield held a traditional Christmas Fayre to celebrate the festive season, with visitors able to meet local artists, bakers, and crafters. Bread and cakes made with wholemeal flour from the mill were available, and families had the chance to make a Christingle and other traditional Christmas decorations.</p>	<p>Press Release (N)</p>	<p>Four, Five</p>
<p>A football tournament supporting the White Ribbon campaign to end violence against girls and women, took place at Gosling Sports Park. The tournament was a celebration of the local community, with everyone united in the theme of ending violence against girls and women. The overarching message of the campaign is to encourage everyone to make the promise to never use, excuse, or remain silent about men's violence against women. It coincides with the start of 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence, an annual global campaign.</p>	<p>Press Release (U) Business Plan</p>	<p>Four, Five</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The council has topped a leader board for the growth of electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the UK. The figures from Citroën follow analysis of the latest government data and reveal the percentage growth of EV charging points per 100,000 people in Britain. The analysis shows a substantial 754% rise in the number of public chargers in the borough, with 90.4 public chargers per 100,000 people — up from 10.6 per 100,000 in October 2019.</p>	<p>Press Release (U) Business Plan</p>	<p>One, Two</p>
<p>An LGA Corporate Peer Challenge follow-up report described the council as “making great progress” with a new management team providing “strong and decisive leadership.” A Peer Challenge team revisited the council in October with the subsequent report citing “excellent progress” with “a new diverse and experienced senior leadership team”.</p>	<p>Press Release (N)</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p><b>December 2022</b></p>		
<p>Two community bus services will continue after the council sought the views of people who use the buses and the wider community. A partnership between the council and local charity, Communities 1<sup>st</sup>, will see the two services continue to operate – the Shopper Hopper providing elderly and vulnerable people with trips to local supermarkets, and a separate regular bus to the Jimmy Macs Lunch Club in Hatfield. Buses from the council’s existing fleet will be transferred to Communities 1<sup>st</sup> to support the delivery of the service initially, with replacement buses to be provided by Communities 1st at a later date.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Four, Five</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>10 long-term unemployed Welwyn Hatfield residents graduated, some with distinction, from a Pitman Bespoke Office Key Skills Diploma course.</p> <p>The training course was organised and hosted by the council and funded through the Community Wealth Building Together Project, which was supported by the Local Enterprise Partnership. The course supported the 10 candidates who learned a variety of skills including how to use packages such as Microsoft 365, thereby boosting their chances of securing employment.</p>	<p>Press release (N)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>Gyms at Hatfield Leisure Centre and Hatfield Swim Centre received a make-over ahead of the New Year's fitness drive. In addition to redecoration and new flooring, both gyms have been updated to promote a feeling of space and flow between different activities.</p> <p>At Hatfield Swim Centre's gym, the strength and cardio area has been expanded with more equipment. There is also now a 'Pool Pod' in the swimming pool to assist those who have difficulty using a ladder or steps to access the 33m pool independently.</p>	<p>Press release (N)</p>	<p>One</p>