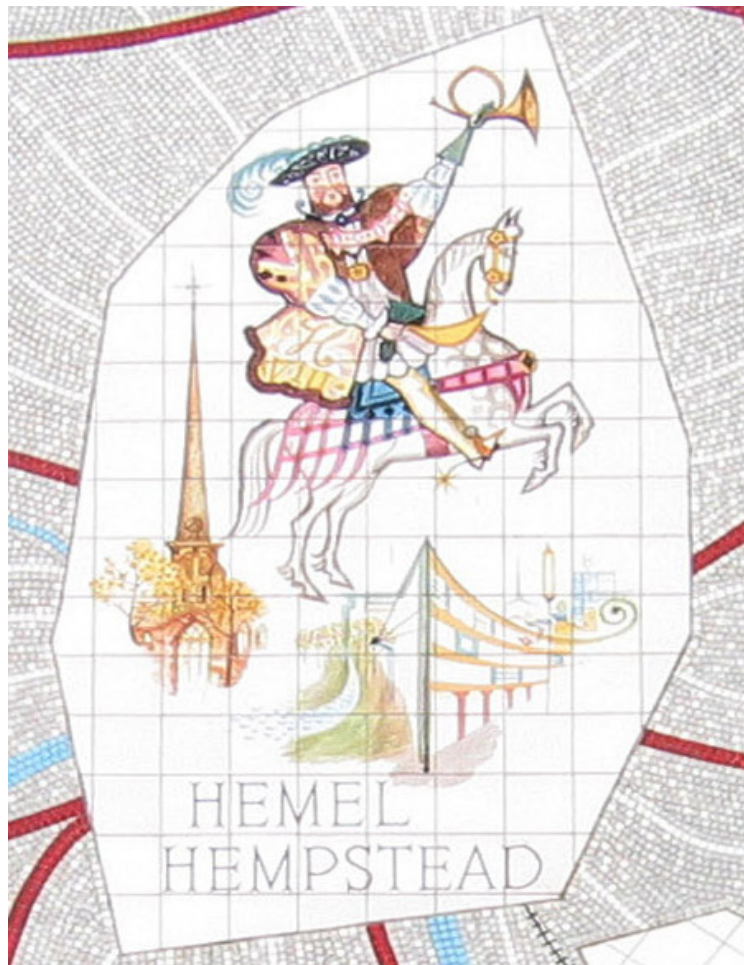




## Hemel Hempstead Place Workshop Report



**4<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

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## 1. Introduction

This workshop was part of a series of place workshops for the towns and large villages (Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Tring, Kings, Langley, Bovington, Markyate and the Countryside), in the Borough of Dacorum. The place workshops have engaged with local residents and organisations to help identify local 'place visions', which will help to inform the Core Strategy document, which is a required element of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

## 2. The Hemel Hempstead Workshop

There was an initial presentation setting the context for planning in Hemel Hempstead, which was followed by 3 group sessions covering the topics 'Your People', 'Your Place', and 'Growth in Hemel Hempstead'. Each of these group sessions covered a range of questions. In order that all of the questions were discussed within an allotted time the participants were split into 8 groups answering relevant topics. The first group session was split as follows: Groups 1 & 5 covered Question 1 & 2; Groups 2 & 6 covered Questions 3 & 4; Group 3 & 7 covered Questions 5 & 6; and Groups 4 & 8 Questions 7 & 8. During the second session people moved round in order that skill and knowledge were applied to relevant topics. The second group session was split as follows: Groups 1 & 5 covered Question 1; Groups 2 & 6 covered Questions 2; Groups 3 & 7 covered Questions 3 & 4; and Groups 4 & 8 Questions 5 & 6. All of the groups remained the same for the final group session, where each group answered the same question about the growth of Hemel Hempstead.

After the participants had answered their questions, the groups had to determine and identify the most important responses made (# highlights an important issue). A nominated person or the facilitator from each group recounted the question and the most important issues to all of the participants in the room. The other groups were then given an opportunity to add any further responses. The responses that were given by the workshop participants are given in Sections 3 to 5 of this report. Answers to the questions have been collated and noted underneath relevant questions (and will therefore include more than one groups' answers), apart from answers given to Group Session 3, Questions 1 (b) and 3, (1) and (2). Answers to these questions are shown per workshop group to help with the analysis of the answers given.

Workshop participants were also asked to write their top 5 priorities for the Borough on sticky notes and then to place them on the Priority Boards 1 to 5, Priority 1 being the highest. These are identified under Section 6 'Visioning Priorities'. An analysis of the priorities has been calculated attributing a sliding scale of points for each priority i.e. 5 points for priority 1, down to 1 point for priority 5 (shown in Section 7). The 5 priorities with the most points overall will then be taken further through the LDF process.

Any other additional comments made during the event were listed on the 'Park It' and can be found under 'Other Comments'.

A list of attendees can be found at the end of this feedback report.

### 3. Group Session 1 - People

#### Groups 1 & 5 - Existing Issues 1

Q1A) What problems do you think your town has with crime or anti- social behaviour?

#### Answers

- Perception is worse than reality
- Hemel Hempstead town centre is not as bad as Watford
- Open space (Boxmoor, Apsley Church) is often a place where youngsters meet up
- Leisureworld is not a problem, as it provides youth with entertainment or somewhere to go
- Criminal damage
- Vandalism – may be helped by if various services were linked together – youth clubs, children’s centres, pre-schools, etc.
- Most is caused by ‘youngsters’ – and this could be attributed to ‘parenting’ issues
- Grovehill/Highfield local shopping areas are the most deprived areas in the Borough and houses a significant proportion of single parents
- Litter in neighbourhood centres
- Stone throwing at cars
- Schools work closely with Police at primary schools – does this continue at secondary school level? It needs to.
- Litter from Sainsburys around Sainsburys, Apsley and the canal area
- Graffiti is not such a big issue for schools or buses in this area
- Big issue with drugs
- Disaffected youths – problem is lots of facilities available but there is a lack of will to use them i.e. adventure playgrounds
- Some facilities for youths have problems with youths intimidating other youths

Q1B) How can these be improved upon?

#### Answers

Need to focus on:

- Youngster and related issues
- Parenting
- Various services working together e.g. children’s centres and pre-school
- CCTV monitoring at Skate park and other areas
- Developer contributions could fund CCTV
- Linking up services
- Housing Associations need to work closely with Police to address issues
- Issues in Woodhall Farm relate to Gypsy & Travellers, some criminal activity and intimidation has been experienced.
- Additional sites in the Woodhall Farm area will exacerbate problems
- Less educationally orientated after school care/facilities provision would be better – most youth facilities like guides or scouts are too educational and

- do not appeal to young people.
- Parents must be held responsible for their children's actions.

Q2) What key social and community facilities/services are we deficient in and where?

### Answers

- Centralising/co-ordinating CCTV
- Health – Watford hospital is too close to football ground so when Watford Football club play it's hard to get to
- When the growth takes place, match housing with new social and community facilities
- Hard to influence the types of facilities brought forward – more community involvement is needed.
- Joined up working with regards to different community facilities instead of similar range in every neighbourhood.
- Youth workers are required in community facilities to provide guidance and interaction
- For new areas: sufficient range of community buildings i.e. community hall, school, park etc
- Post Offices are closing in some areas
- Linking services to new areas – gives a sense of belonging and a sense of community
- Generally good sports facilities, however outdoor swimming pool opening hours need extending
- Woodhall Farm – Community Centre Full, no other facilities. “Needs a heart” in terms of facilities. Adults need support too – as root cause of problems.
- Hospital provision
- Faith groups need a ‘shared space’ – not a Church ) Town Centre  
- open to all to use ) Community space  
to replace Pavilion
- No faith groups have a big enough space at the moment
- Public transport is the key to accessing facilities – co-ordinate buses and trains - need to keep all key routes

### Groups 2 & 6 - Existing Issues 2

Q3A) What problems do local businesses and services face?

### Answers

- Overloaded water and transport infrastructure in Hemel Hempstead which has a knock on effect to businesses
- We need a better roads and road linkages in Hemel Hempstead
- Limited public transport
- M1/M25 complex commuting and road system – problems locally around Maylands
- Retail regeneration changes are needed
- Sports facilities are needed

- People, who have short journeys to work, still drive to work!
- Encourage businesses to the area which are appropriate to local employment needs.
- Remember 'green agenda'
- Local supply of labour for business expansion is required
- Skills required should be linked to the education agenda
- Health – Hospital provision is needed (polyclinic not general hospital)

Q3B) How can we help address these issues?

### Answers

- Congestion – Access and new roads should be built into development, and accommodate different types of transport; also suitable for emergency vehicles
- Consider identity of the town in the long term – i.e. is it industrial, residential etc.
- May be we could target economic sector in neighbourhood development and plan to make multi-use community centre facilities available to schools.
- Anticipate social needs and infrastructure – whole picture of the settlement as a location – i.e. congestion, local landscape, retail etc. housing quality and costs
- Deliver a much better quality of life for residents of Hemel Hempstead
- Car parks are too congested at local shopping centres and are therefore not as accessible as they could be.
- Commitment to retention of local shops following expansion and development
- Plan for library expansion including local neighbourhood facilities
- Linked local facilities
- Roads – widen Redbourn Road
- Northern Bypass – No! loss of green belt
  - Improve public transport and links
  - Need hospital – A & E facility . This facility must be accessible
- Do our views actually matter?
- We need a culture change – get out of cars use: Park and Ride, green travel network, address illegal parking on green space
- Strong neighbourhood/town centres
- Maternity care
- Understand more about what people want and the real issues – what are the options? – Do we know enough?
- Further education provision
- Area based/needs based support in local area is required

Q4 A) Are there sufficient indoor and outdoor sports facilities and or open space? Q4B) If not, where and how can we help address these issues?

### Answers

(a) and (b)

- More greenspace is required, especially in Hemel Hempstead town centre, Maylands Business Park and Apsley.
- Need to improve Nickey Line to link to other green spaces old and new.
- Netball facilities for adults – maybe use of school facilities out of hours
- All weather pitches
- Private schools need to share facilities
- Make all facilities accessible such as footpaths and cycle tracks
- Potential loss of playing fields
- Expansion of schools may result in loss of onsite pitch provision, which is not ideal – need to ensure school facilities benefit the whole community i.e. swimming pools, sports halls and playing fields
- Concern about density increase creating a lack of social cohesion
- Is green space promoted on site?
- Need quality youth facilities
- Green space needs to be planned into expansion
- Allotments are needed

### Groups 3 & 7 - **Future Housing Issues**

Q5 - Do you think there is a particular need for any specific types of accommodation within the town?

#### **Answers**

- There is a very high demand for additional rented social housing #
- It is important to recognise the need for people to have a choice. In addition people also need accommodation for visitors and family to stay.
- The needs of homeless must not be overlooked.
- There is a need for some form of intermediate housing and provision for key workers e.g. shared ownership.
- Some housing with shared communal facilities is needed. For example 'cluster flats'.
- Should investigate the scope for house and flat sharing.
- More houses needed rather than flats.
- More terraces with small gardens are required.
- Cheaper, more affordable market housing is desperately needed #
- Ground floor flats should have gardens. Top floor flats should have roof gardens.

Q6 - We are required by Government to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers within the area. Some possible locations for sites have been put forward by consultants. These were all considered to meet a set of key criteria<sup>1</sup>

(a) Which of these options do you prefer?

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## Answers

- Any site should not be located at the entrances to the town.
  - Should not consider SA20 and SA21 or D1 and D2.
  - SA16 is near an under-subscribed secondary school
- (b) Are there any other sites either within or on the edge of the town that we should consider instead?

## Answers

No comments

## Groups 4 & 8 - Future needs of People

Q7A) What do you think are the future needs of children, teenagers, families and the elderly for Education, Health, Culture and Religion?

## Answers

- Safe areas to play
- Neighbourhood scale of growth is easier to plan for (needing a minimum of 1,000 dwellings for a new primary school)
- It brings other facilities – health, community centre, and they are easier to fund, because for example there would be a critical mass of local charges raised through s.106 agreements.
- An overall strategy is needed for phased infrastructure delivery, alongside housing
- For the elderly the level of care needs improvement. There is a concern over the continuity of care between organisations
- Open space (undeveloped)
- Healthy lifestyles – sport and recreation
- Access to services they want
- Joint working – all services
- Theatre/concert hall – bring in new things
- Adequate pre-school provision
- Facilities for teenagers (12 – 18 years) at reasonable price
- A range of educational provision – vocational small secondary schools
- Provision of services during school holidays
- Given the means to live more sustainably – make it easier for people

Q7B) How can these be addressed?

## Answers

- Provision of education – primary schools and secondary schools, pre school parenting advice and networks
- Heart of town belonging to a community, not just shops
- Addition of structural architectural interest
- Better integration of Old Town and New Town centre
- More sustainable employment

- No more cheap shops – investment brings more affluence to Hemel Hempstead and better shops

Q8A) How can you or town development help us respond to issues of climate change?

### Answers

- DBC should extend recycling to commercial (i.e. non-domestic) waste. The group noted that DBC was responsible for collection, but HCC was the waste authority. The initial priority should be given to collections from schools, because of the link to education.
- By recycling/managing construction “waste”
- Modular construction techniques can use sustainable recyclable materials
- Buildings (including schools) need to be more energy efficient – not just legal requirements – be more aspirational “greenest town in .....
- Thermal insulation initiatives should be pushed more
- Attract high tech industries – innovative solutions
- Trams – could be serviceable along roads with steep hills to the town centre
- Emphasis on long life of goods and repair – favouring industry that replicates this
- Buildings – long life, materials
- Waterhouse Square – opportunity for leadership on climate change issues and renewables
- Policies adopted to encourage people to be green e.g. Park & Ride, Schools., GPs
- More space for allotments
- Accessibility of places that people need to go to
- Transport provision to Watford Hospital
- Tree planting – shade (not summers)
- Cooling of buildings (not air conditioning)
- Warmer evenings – people more active at this time, open space provision

Q8B) Are there any locations where you think we should encourage renewable energy generation?

### Answers

- Consider incineration and renewable energy generation (combined heat and power) when planning new neighbourhoods and with the regeneration of employment areas
- Note that a critical mass is important for incineration of non-recyclable waste. HCC is likely to be looking for 1 facility in the county
- A new hospital is to be planned – a great opportunity for PCT to be “green” as well as looking after health.
- The HCC Waste Strategy has areas of for search for waste transfer areas in the west and east of the country, with a centrally located incinerator for Hertfordshire as a whole
- Building appropriate technologies in all plans
- Ground source heat pumps under landscaped areas of Council offices/flats

- Neighbourhood schemes e.g. community energy recovery from waste, new neighbourhoods should be self sufficient

## 4. Group Session 2 - Place

### Groups 1 & 5- Town Centre

Q1A) We have prepared some draft Policies for the town centre (your facilitator will show you a summary of these). In light of these Policies, how else can the town centre be improved?

#### Answers

- Enhance river and green corridor running through Town and out either end
- Must join up the different areas of redevelopment/improvement
- Reversing the view of building on Waterhouse Street looking over the Water Gardens.
- Town centre at moment is disjointed – we want it to have more specific areas with identities and for them to be joined up
- We have an opportunity to develop the gateways, and get rid of the current windswept feel
- Vision for HH centre must be a realistic goal to work towards and be in line with the overall vision for Hemel as a whole
- Welwyn Garden City has a really good feel to it and has stood the test of time – is always vibrant without being packed. We should try and make Hemel town centre have similar qualities
- Norwich also good e.g. of mix old and new
- Disabled access – bus services – to bus stops. Parking issues at Waterhouse St. – bus access, need to have bus access to town centre
- Create a welcoming and safe town centre in evenings
- Mixed use buildings
- Integration between 3 areas

Q1B) What and where are the key features to be preserved or enhanced?

#### Answers

- Heritage – lots of listed buildings that should be preserved
- Difficult to maintain Old Town and people to use it
- Marlowes and Riverside have taken focus away from Old Town
- Hard to balance – helping the town remain distinctive and attracting the big name retailers
- We should maximise opportunities for sustainable development through: SUDS and electric car charging points
- View of Gadebridge Park and Church spire from Marlowes
- Integrate Old Town into new development improvements to Queensway – re-enhance listed buildings – currently town centre not obvious
- Better pedestrian access between Old Town and Marlowes
- Transport option to and from one end of town to other – shoppers' train? bicycle
- Pavilion is missed
- Good public houses to be achieved

- Exemplar green town status to be achieved

Q1C) How can this be achieved?

### Answers

- Choice of shopping is key attraction
- Integration of public transport is a key factor, as is owning a car
- Town centre has to be a place people want use from 9-8 not just 9-5
- Get vehicles out of the town centre
- Need better public transport from neighbourhoods close to the town centre as people won't walk both ways due to the hills
- Need to link train station with town centre and Maylands
- Home zones – shared space for cars and pedestrians – would make town more pedestrian friendly and allow vehicles to use town centre
- If strip of land on east of HH comes forward – Brent Cross or Milton Keynes direction – then residential development along here may encourage new shoppers into Hemel Hempstead town centre
- SUDS should be used as much as possible to provide water to use for watering/grey water uses
- Safe, properly managed, well lit town centre
- Improve parking – parking obscures views currently
- Better access from train station to town centre and enhance station
- Maylands employees travel into town, so improve facilities and public transport in Maylands area

### Groups 2 & 6 - Neighbourhoods

Q2A) What are the key features to be preserved or enhanced in our neighbourhoods?

### Answers

- Sustainable pattern of development – don't need to drive
- Post Office (loss of!)
- Local shops (retention)
- Need for public transport links
- Good play facilities (regular maintenance) – quality of play space, quality of equipment – not maintained
- Maintain open space – well used and self policing
- Diversity of housing – not as many flats, mix of housing important
- Local shops      no more closures  
                                 having to walk further  
                                 breaks up community
- Community facilities – managing building space and activities and resources
- Ensure built environment promotes a sense of community
- Churches could have wider "multi-cultural" role – shared i.e. attached to community centre in Grovehill. Sense of community is vital. Could include local Police presence to counteract with anti social behaviour
- Local shopping facilities help create a community "Heart" they need to be

walkable (rather than having to drive to larger shops and fight for parking. Post Office is a very important local facility.

- Noticeboards to advertise local activities exist, but need to be more obvious
- Smaller scale parks – we should not concentrate on providing larger areas such as adventure play facilities. Play spaces need to be: easy for all to walk to, well maintained (maintenance is an issue that needs addressing). Consider locking spaces at night to reduce problems.
- Children’s play areas and open space for informal use are important
- Make neighbourhood centres more attractive i.e. more greenery and less ‘harsh’ in appearance
- Signage is generally poor and could be improved
- Publicity for neighbourhood facilities is often poor. Need to advertise better
- Need to encourage walking but also address dangerous parking and accessibility conditions i.e. queues into Chaulden shops

Q2B) How could neighbourhoods be improved and made more attractive?

### **Answers**

- Providing youth/elderly facilities
- Flexible community facilities
- Cost issues of facilities
- Facilities are underused and need more promotion
- Personal management and involvement in decision making
- Promoting a sense of community
- Provision of cemetery space – no bus service to the cemetery
- Community leaders needed
- Public transport – subsidy important, frequent service and cost!
- Maintenance of play equipment
- Getting children involved in projects and delivering new facilities – local ownership
- Lower rents in local shops to deliver more affordable produce/services in local centres
- Problems replacing closed Post Offices
- Churches are well used i.e. Adeyfield Church
- Flexible church space
- Additional church/place of worship needed in neighbourhoods
- Make more attractive – greenery esp. tree planting – need to look at “greening” the environment in the context of climate change (shading, i.e. importance of species, choice of tree etc.)
- Higher density development around local centres would help encourage walking etc.
- Gateways to town need to be better landscaped
- Signs directing people to local shopping centres need to be better
- Ensure town centre shops complement local centre provision i.e. make sure town centre has space to provide key shops
- Encourage people to shop locally

- Library – small scale ones in all neighbourhoods
- Good case study is in Japan where people have to register their cars in order to park. This helps reduce parking problems

Groups 3 & 7 - **GEAs** – Maylands Business Park, Paradise and Two Waters & Apsley

Q3A) There is currently a spread of employment areas in Hemel Hempstead. Should we retain a spread of employment areas?

**Answers**

- The type of business that goes into employment areas is important and can have an impact on the land requirements. For example. Larger storage areas can replace a precious high employment use.
- Should look to retain a spread of 'pockets' of employment around the town but accommodate large developments at a single location (Maylands).

Q3B) For those that are retained how could they be improved or enhanced?

**Answers**

- Office and retail developments should be closer to where people live.
- Public transport needs to be improved to employment areas.
- Make employment areas more attractive.
- Provide leisure and social facilities.

Q4A) Maylands Business Park has been suggested as an area for additional future expansion. Do you agree with this?

**Answers**

- There needs to be control over the types of businesses to be attracted #
- Need to improve the centre of Maylands making it more attractive to users.
- Need to consider the effect of Buncefield on the expansion of Maylands.
- Should look to expand to the east (towards the M1) if we are looking to provide a prestigious hub.
- Should include Breakspear Park and the Gateway in any expansion.
- Need regular, local bus services that are aligned to businesses' work times (especially in the evening) #
- Need to improve the network of green foot/cycle ways #
- Should look to install good design and landscaping principles. Small details make a difference #

Q4B) If not where else could be considered?

- No comments given.

Groups 4 & 8 - **Open Space**

Q5) What are the key features of open space to be preserved or enhanced (open space includes: parks, gardens, amenity green space, green corridors, cycle paths, outdoor sports facilities and play areas, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards)?

**Answers**

- New woodlands/trees should replace lost woodlands/trees
- Keep all of the open space
- Buffer zone to surround expansion containing woodland/green space and protected by a charitable trust
- Bunkers Park to be protected
- Featherbed Lane site not to be developed
- Protect (Home Wood and land adjoining) and expand the green corridor following Two Water/Boxmoor/Apsley
- Maintain permeability through the town and along green corridors, inter-linking existing and new parks
- Enhance existing green space and ensure new development has new high quality green space to support new residents
- Stress importance of Gade Valley and Bulbourne Valley
- Maintain green street scene with verges and trees etc.
- Preserve nature corridors
- Preserve and invest waterways/towpaths, Grand Union Canal and rivers and wetlands
- Value amenity green space within housing areas and community
- Appropriate use of green space
- Make Jarman Park more attractive
- Green space should include planting
- Bio-diversity

Q6A) How could open space be improved and made more attractive?

**Answers**

- ensure accessibility i.e. public transport
- avoid suburban clutter on boundaries to countryside and views
- manage green space (dog waste) (litter) to ensure multi-functionality
- move with the times – review suitability, community preference and need give variety and diversify
- Preserve access to high quality countryside (avoid suburban clutter)

Q6B) Is additional open space needed? If yes where?

**Answers**

- New green space needs to be retained in proportion to new building
- Dog walking and footpaths
- Churchyards
- Allotments
- Outdoor sports space
- Need to make pathways “safe”
- Place to “escape”



- Diverse open space
- Additional open space proportional to development
- Make the most of the footpaths
- Allotments - do we have sufficient?

## 5. Group Session 3 - Growth of Hemel Hempstead

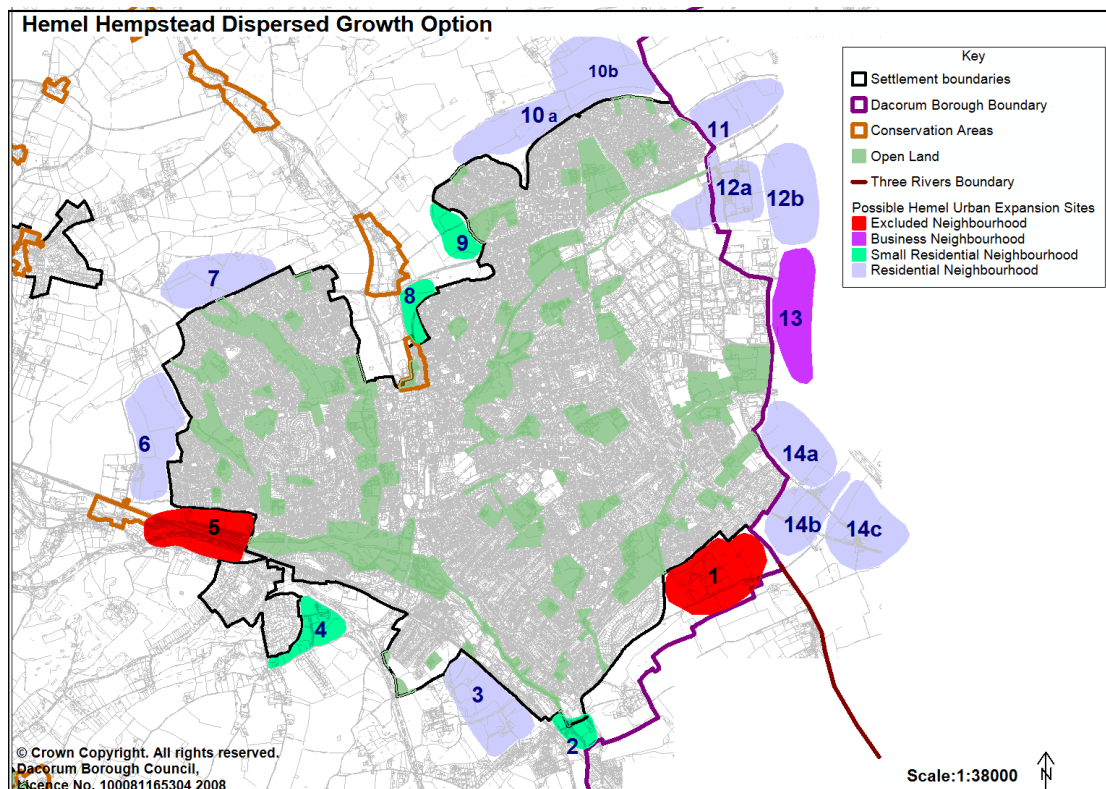
### All groups - growth strategy question

Three ideas for strategies for the growth of Hemel Hempstead are going to be discussed today. The comments that are made during the workshop will help to develop our thinking for growth strategy options. The finalised options will be consulted on publicly during summer 2009.

Q1A) During the presentation on growth you were shown 3 strategies for growth: Eastern, Northern and Dispersed. What are the advantages for each of the strategies, and why ?

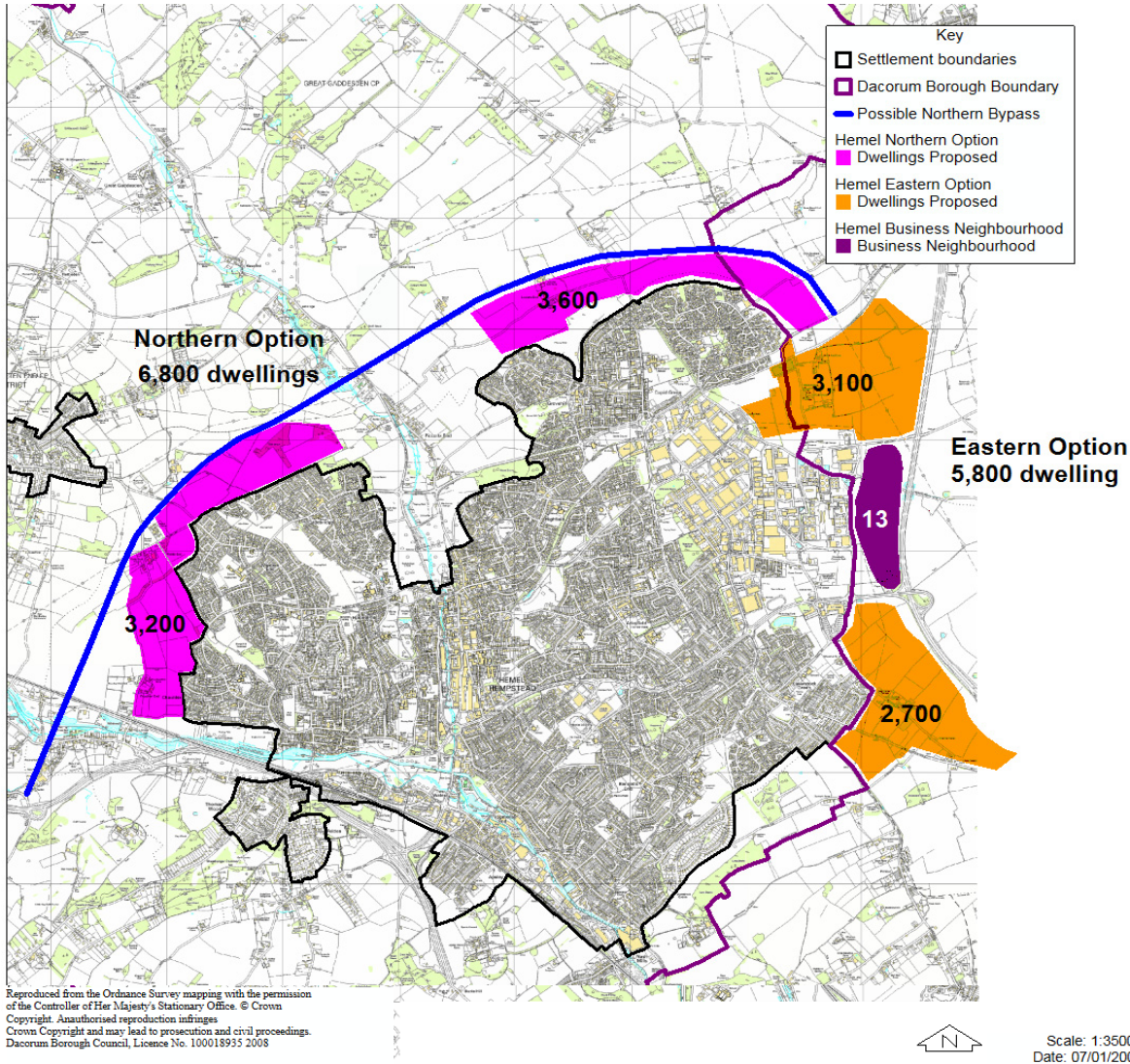
The three strategies for today's discussion include:

Figure 1 - The Dispersed Option with site reference table below



Site Ref.	Location
1	Bunkers Park
2	Nash Mills
3	Shendish
4	Felden
5	Boxmoor
6	Pouchen End
7	Gadebridge North
8	Old Town
9	Marchmont Farm
10 (a+b)	Grovehill and Woodhall Farm
11	Holtsmere End
12 (a+b)	Wood End Farm
13	Breakspear Way
14 (a+b+c)	Leverstock Green

**Figure 2 - The Northern and Eastern Options**



## Answers (refer to Figures 1 and 2)

### Eastern option

#### Advantages:

- There are good opportunities to extend Bunkers Park and develop green lungs.
- There is excellent access to areas of employment.
- Good road access.
- All options need to be 'self-sufficient'.
- Location for reserve site for secondary school – would fit with Eastern option
- School would fit with Eastern option
- Needs solution, could focus efforts on one area
- Larger – better shopping facilities
- More flexibility for school provision - could deliver all needs on one site
- Flat area
- Accessible to motorways
- Accessible to employment
- District heating for employment and residential area
- Increases land area of Buncefield
- Eastern option – communications linked to employment zone are good
- More funding for infrastructure
- Better served neighbourhood centres - multipurpose
- Ability to design direct public transport
- New neighbourhoods – so opportunities for place shaping
- Short journey to work in Maylands
- Preferred to Northern Option because: Huge cost of northern link road/bypass mean it would not be viable/realist to provide; and a bypass would also require a huge green belt area.
- Need to link location of housing and employment to reduce need to travel etc.
- Several other locations too far from the main employment area, Maylands
- Sites (11 & 12 a + b) are likely to generate less local opposition
- M1 marks a clear boundary for an expanded town
- Sites (10 a + b) are prime farmland – so should be avoided
- Sites (6 + 7) - attractive areas so should be avoided
- The M1 is fast and has good accessibility to Maylands
- Accessible motorway to the north via the M, which is a direct route to Buncefield and Maylands for business purposes
- East could be attractive option

#### Disadvantages:

- Accessibility to train station
- Sites (11), (12 a + b) would result in M1 junction problems
- A motorway near residential development may be a problem
- There is likely to be noise from the M1.
- Why long squashed settlements when we could have one new town?
- New transport infrastructure
- Bovingdon Airfield – Develop on it!

- Possibility of favouring it over town centre redevelopment and investment
- Noise from M1 – buy good transport links
- Presence Buncefield Oil Terminal

### **Northern option**

#### Advantages:

- Utilises current capacity in local schools.
- Could enhance the area.
- Could introduce more facilities.
- Traffic problems on St. Albans Road
- NE reasonably close to M1, Maylands and existing schools (established secondary schools)
- NW has a reserve site for school playing fields: NW closer to HH train station
- Traffic effects varied, but problems on Redbourn Road
- Northern bypass (but we won't get it).
- Infrastructure (sewage works network location)
- Too far from trunk road, would damage landscape of high value
- More funding for infrastructure
- Better served neighbourhood centres – multipurpose
- Ability to design direct public transport links
- New neighbourhoods – opportunities for place shaping

#### Disadvantages:

- There is difficult road access.
- Need to create a new community.
- Ecological constraints exist in the area.
- New transport infrastructure
- Possibility of favouring it over town centre redevelopment and investment
- Bypass opens possibility for new urban boundary

### **Dispersed option**

#### Advantages:

- Different areas should take the 'pain' – so prefer a dispersed approach to sites
- Dispersal option for sustainable – sustainable options
- Would help to 'spread the load' around the town.
- Can create links to canal.
- Link possibly to existing infrastructure but hard to plan/manage
- Link to M1, Maylands, existing school, but no new infrastructure at Leverstock Green, Grovehill, Grovehill/Woodhall Farm/Holtsmere End/Wood End Farm
- Preferred new option NE - (10 a+b), (11) and (12 a+b)
- Lower impact on infrastructure – less costly
- Retain community identity and concept
- Reduces impact on individual communities
- Lower local impact but hard to manage creeping development

- Traffic congestion would be less concentrated
- More deliverable

Disadvantages:

- Dispersed may have a smaller impact but there will be a pressure on bus services
- More rat running
- Unlikely to support new road building
- Difficult road access to north and west areas.
- Limited utility (water) provision in southern areas.
- We want low density development
- Some areas have poor access e.g. (10 a+b); other areas have good access but have already congested routes (12a + b)
- (13) would be ideal if Buncefield was not there
- (4) would be a low density development as is close to existing low density
- Need big blob to get funding for neighbourhood e.g. (12a +b)
- (8 & 9) are close to existing infrastructure
- Eastern option has good links to M1 but has problems with linking to rest of town
- (3) is a congestion nightmare, especially given manor estate development
- Eastern option may lead to the blurring of boundary between HH and St. Albans: St. Albans is growing towards Hatfield etc.
- (6) is possible for development due to existing roads
- Worse public transport service than larger areas

Q1B) Which strategy do you prefer and why?

**Answers**

Group 1

- Cannot pick one
- Explore the option of a new town as opposed to adding on to edge of Hemel
- (11 & 12a+b) would be quick to deliver and slightly better than others as it has a road running through it – but it is already congested

Group 2

- Northern or Eastern preferred because of links to M1 and new road infrastructure required

Group 3

- (First) Eastern, (Second) Dispersed, (Third) Northern – Eastern is preferred slightly more because of the advantages.

Group 4

- Eastern area is preferred.

Group 5

- Undecided – both schemes have strong advantages and disadvantages. Eastern favoured over Northern Option but issues over boundaries. Northern Option has a better balance with the town centre. The Eastern Option has transport links but the M1 is a barrier, although this option has less environmental impacts

#### Group 6

- Dispersal would ease pressure approach on infrastructure, but not solve the infrastructure problem
- Look at potential for housing sites south of Bunkers Park?
- Look at gypsy & traveller provision as part of new neighbourhoods in preference to edge of existing residential areas
- (3), (4), (6), (11), (8), (12b) and part (12a) – preferred sites as part of a 'dispersed growth' pattern

#### Group 7

- Northern option is the least preferred. There are concerns because the area is so large. There needs to be careful planning of the area.
- Dispersed option has some merit.

#### Group 8

- Eastern & Bovingdon

Q2 What specific elements of infrastructure are needed to make your preferred strategy work?

#### Answers

- Improved roads and access.
- Hospital. Particularly additional maternity facilities.
- More employment.
- More shops.
- More pubs and restaurants.
- Better provision in schools.
- Need better access to 'cultural facilities'. Including links to education and other authorities in the region.
- Increase library provision.
- Need places of worship particularly a mosque.
- More community centres.
- Improved water supply.
- Drainage
- Social and community facilities associated with neighbourhood principles
- Build infrastructure first, then develop housing
- Get rid of the blobs and have a new town
- (11) is next to Redbourn Road so infrastructure is there, but it is already very congested so would be made worse
- A northern bypass may contain the town
- Water/power
- Health – access to all hospital facilities
- Fire station

- Road capacity – link to M1 – northern and eastern options
- SE – bypass to Leverstock Green
- Better local road network, although there are constraints to achieving this
- Buffer zones to create separate community/communities
- Health, education and shopping
- Transport in all forms, including “green” transport
- Option of small new village, near Redbourn though there are issues about transport links and the impact of the existing centre (at Redbourn)
- Term ‘village’ to replace neighbourhood (would give an extra focus to facilities and the centre)
- Good tree planting to screen development
- Train link
- Employment opportunities
- Eastern Option – favoured over Northern option but issues over boundaries
- Northern Option – better balance with town centre
- Eastern Option – transport links, M1 barrier, environmental – less impact
- Need good linkages to the town centre
- Dispersed option does not need huge road infrastructure i.e. bypass
- Each neighbourhood needs a ‘heart’ i.e. central community facility
- Road safety – creation of “home zones” are a very important consideration
- Shendish – access over railway is potentially problematic – new bridge is needed
- (11) & (12) – there are issues with M1 junction (already a problem) (11 is least problematic) for DBC – though not for St Albans due to landscape quality
- (6) has good connections to railway station at Apsley
- Need to look at ease of delivery across different administrative boundaries i.e. St. Albans
- Water (sewage)
- Transport links to station and centre - tram?
- Economic centre
- Viable local centre
- Community ‘heart’
- Bovingdon – secondary school, incorporate G & T site, incorporate open space
- Eastern and Bovingdon – sports facilities, country park, Breakspear Park, new general hospital, old hospital should become a cultural centre
- Nickey Line
- Transport routes – non car and extended through to the station through the hospital
- Wind farms
- Sewage works
- New roads and Park & Ride
- Water (drinking)
- District heating
- Social and community facilities
- Schools
- Local centres
- Libraries



- Health care
- Identity – community/neighbourhood
- Green space and allotments

Q3 We may need to provide more land,

- Firstly – to make up the numbers by using one of the smaller sites, and
- Secondly – to meet regional planning demands by using more of the blue blobs

We therefore need to ask about your priorities:

(1) Which of the smaller sites would you choose to develop first in order of priority (green blobs)?

### Answers

Group 1

- First priority - Green blobs: (8 & 9) – accessibility to Link Road
- Second priority - (4) Concerns low density levels
- Third Priority - (2) Is feasible but would be contentious

Group 2

- (8) or (9) - Old Town or Marchmont Farm

Group 3

In listed order:

- Old Town/Fletcher Way (part of right hand site)
- (2) Marchmont Farm
- Waterhouse Square
- Sappi – Nash Mills
- Felden

Group 4

- First priority - (9) Resisted but thought inevitable
- Second priority - (2) Assuming green corridor maintained
- Third priority - (4)
- (8) – **Never**, due to impact on woodland (Howe Grove)

Group 5

- First priority - (4) Bad public transport – buses;
- Second priority - (8 & 9) Favoured (8 more)

Group 6

In listed order:

- (2) Nash Mills – extension of what is being proposed at Sappi graphics and extension of the Gade Valley.
- (8) Fletcher Way would be a logical extension.
- (9) Grovehill and (4) Felden. There would be no impact on valley side.

Group 7

- First priority (4), second (8) and third (2)

#### Group 8

- First priority - (8) Close to Old Town, rejuvenation, Access to Link Road
- (4) good communications, small, no facilities existing
- (2) good communications, Apsley Station, local facilities
- (9) Existing structural road

(2) Which additional two neighbourhood areas would you choose, in order of priority (blue blobs)?

### Answers

#### Group 1

- (11 & 12a+b) would be quicker to deliver or new town

#### Group 2

- Eastern Option – firstly, Holtsmere End – secondly, (10a+b) – Woodhall Farm, Grovehill
- North East Option – Leverstock Green (14a +b)

#### Group 3

- (3 & 11)
- Not Shendish because Apsley has had a lot of development already. Unless there is a link to Manor Estate.

#### Group 4

- First priority - (6) Transport – Station
- Second priority - (10b) Local to most development further from Gade Valley/AONB

#### Group 5

- (3) close to station, for employment Eastern & (3)
- (14b) Have good public transport links with St. Albans
- Northern + (14) – Transport
- Eastern + (3) + (10) (parts)

#### Group 6

Did not have enough time to complete

#### Group 7

- Shendish, (12 a+b) and (11), and possibly (14 a+b+c)

#### Group 8

No answer

## 6. Visioning Priorities

### Priority 1

- No northern bypass
- Better transport options into town centre
- Improve Public Transport – cheaper (prioritise subsidies), better routes (improve links with neighbourhoods and outer villages, and more services per route.
- Hospital including A&E
- Non car transport
- Retain and enhance local distinctiveness, which relates to biodiversity, landscape, the built environment, sense of community, economic character (i.e. retail, manufacturing etc.)
- Social family housing with gardens and suitable community housing for the elderly.
- Dealing sustainably with waste
- With increasing population, retention of hospital or a new hospital is a must.
- Town Centre soft play area (came out in consultation with all Children's Centres areas.
- Responding to climate change in terms of energy.
- Education – no more school closures, any new houses must have supporting school places or new schools.
- Schools (locations/size/facilities).
- Development of connecting green areas linked with new town centre.
- Responding to climate change in all activities and developments
- Development cannot take place near the Old Town – no schools or food stores.
- To provide supporting infrastructure (roads, schools, medical facilities, water availability before (NOT AFTER) housing availability).
- Reconsider whole strategy in favour of building new village/town of 13,000(?) homes plus infrastructure e.g. on land opposite Herts showground.
- Plan for reduction of car use and increased local services and improved public transport.
- Protection of Gade and Bourne River valleys in AONB
- Landscape
- Design of new localities – careful design around a centre with shop/post office, pub or equivalent, community hall and faith centre, play area – Green and junior school.
- Protect green corridors and ensure structural build for wildlife in place as part of development.
- A place people are proud to live in.
- Take advantage of what is possible now (college?) – don't wait and delay until overall plan is agreed
- Minimise adding to traffic congestion on southern side of town – it's already unbearable.
- Look after existing neighbourhoods with a clean and safe agenda.

- Improving public transport
- Planning of development to facilitate good public transport
- Strong, vibrant town centre
- Ensure that new development brings recreational/cultural enhancements to neighbouring (i.e. existing) areas.
- Infrastructure (particularly roads are well thought out proactively and not left to drift as secondary requirements.
- A “fine weave” for the town, i.e. not huge big new areas.
- Protect Green Belt designations.
- Utility services (particularly water and sewage) are not only ensured by the developer/provider but take into consideration of upgrading current facilities.
- Speed of redevelopment of town centre – Hemel Hempstead needs some heart and soul.
- Provision for places of worship
- Lobby Government for them to re-instate full service hospital.
- Most new housing at Bovingdon airfield
- Take advantage of what’s possible – build a new college
- Hospital not GP surgery
- Moving Gypsy & Traveller sites away from Woodhall Farm.
- That any development has to be seen to consider the aesthetics of the rest of the town (valley etc.). This enhances the town and its attractiveness to new people and businesses.
- Seek to develop a well-balanced town re: all functions. I know this is very general but sometimes developments can ‘unbalance’ an area.
- Ensuring the right supply of affordable housing, for purchase and rent.
- More analysis of growth directions.
- Gypsy & Traveller sites should not all be put in Woodhall Farm area, but spread around fairly.

## **Priority 2**

- Protect Local Nature Reserve, wildlife corridors
- Be radical about green approach.
- Seek to ensure high calibre design in all matters is achieved not the cheapest but the best.
- Lots of affordable housing
- No Northern By-pass
- Preserve areas of natural beauty such as Ashridge.
- “Whatever” and “wherever” local public transport must be included for all areas – and not only available but must be affordable to the users on a long term usage customer.
- Put new development where it will have least environmental impact.
- Hospital, including A&E and maternity.
- Investing in sports facilities
- Good accident & emergency centre in Hemel Hempstead.
- Ensure any new development(s) are “integrated” with the areas/communities they will border.
- Old hospital site – new cultural centre.

- More growth close to town centre area.
- Protect, preserve and improve current green space.
- Provision for young people aged 12-18.
- Providing better subsidised public transport.
- Provision of affordable housing.
- Realistic infrastructure delivery plan.
- Make Hemel Hempstead a happy mix of first generation New Town and “exemplar” in sustainable urban extensions (use other examples nationally and internationally).
- Responding to climate change in terms of water
- Not to over-develop Hemel Hempstead east area.
- Improvement of existing road systems
- Community spirit.
- Green corridors and pathways between residential centres
- Old town should be one way (going north).
- Include sufficient open space within new development and use as opportunity to redress quantity deficiencies in wider neighbourhood.
- Joined up thinking and finance provision – schools (junior/infant), local health centre/hospital, post office & shop as community hub.
- Restore full hospital with A&E.
- Far better policing with more presence in and around neighbourhoods. Hemel Hempstead really must have its own central police station!
- Sustainable design.
- Reducing the need to travel from Hemel Hempstead for work, leisure, shopping etc.
- Build complete neighbourhoods.
- Special needs care and respite for families integrated into the community.
- Youth provision developed for the borough to avoid problems.
- Community facilities e.g. for youth and childcare special needs.
- Focus on local neighbourhoods and communities and build up from there.
- Open spaces/play areas – keep them available and well maintained.
- Education/schools – adequate sites re: provision.
- Provide more sustainable transport links – especially to railway stations.
- Maintain and enhance all green infrastructure – including spaces and corridors at different levels of resolution.
- Provide church/community buildings when planning new ‘areas’. – faith groups are not able to afford land and buildings but could be community facilities.
- Open Space – retain and improve/extend, should be public open space (parks, allotments, playing fields). Not stadiums.
- Go for the easier choices to facilitate progress e.g. willing landowners rather than compulsory purchase.

### **Priority 3**

- ‘A town for life’, old peoples homes closed down and replaced by flats.
- Redevelopment and enhancement of the canal environment to allow greater access to the canal from surrounding areas.
- Enough and good quality doctor surgeries.

- Stimulate local employment opportunities
- Reduce reliance on private car.
- Restriction of car usage.
- Keeping grasslands.
- Protect green wedges and continuity into open countryside.
- Affordable housing – not rented/housing association but for those on low/middle income.
- Put a hold on the expansion until central government accept an expanded town needs a proper hospital.
- Put people at the centre of decisions if difficult options need to be delivered.
- Well designed neighbourhoods.
- Protect and enhance all green spaces.
- Careful decisions made in Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- Breakspear Park – new hospital site.
- Transport links.
- Innovative new high density housing near to town centre.
- Encouraging and working along the “green” agenda.
- Providing community services in areas, particularly Woodhall Farm.
- Provide more affordable facilities for young children and teenagers.
- Look at large scale development, not lots of smaller ones.
- Community facilities (including special needs).
- Schools (local) – investment in facilities to share with community.
- Town centre crèche for under 4’s while parents shop.
- Energy efficiency
- Health facilities – children need to be seen quickly in an emergency.
- Ensure planning/provision links with Hertfordshire County Council etc. e.g. around providing community facilities that are fully resourced.
- Libraries
- Encourage sense of “belonging” and community through parents and local facilities.
- Seek significant contributions to improve existing green spaces as part of development.
- To avoid, where possible, high levels of housing density.
- No development along the Gade or the Bourne.
- Council houses
- Complete review of the road infrastructure to “even out” over busy roads and repair them properly.
- Improve housing mix – no more flats, more small/affordable family houses with private gardens, more elderly accommodation but not flats, i.e. areas of bungalows thus retaining independence.
- Include green buffer zones between existing and future large developments.
- Ensure development is functional and provides a good quality of life, this includes environmental and social infrastructure, such as shop, school and leisure.
- Preserve areas of natural beauty i.e. Bunkers Park
- Inclusive provision

- Keep heavy traffic out of town.
- Dispersal of sites to ease burden on existing infrastructure.

#### **Priority 4**

- Provide theatre, cultural centre in town centre.
- School provision (high quality)
- Promote walking vs traffic.
- Priority for building housing.
- Find a new identity for the town centre
- Town Centre housing
- Necessary improvements to infrastructure to cope with growth.
- Provide a better more exciting town centre
- More neighbourhood enhancement
- Eastern route for housing and accessibility
- To prevent overcrowding and too dense housing solutions.
- Avoid lopsided 'growth' and stress importance to easy access to the town centre and railway station.
- Provision of attractive town centre
- Existing and new neighbourhoods have real "heart".
- Preserve green open spaces.
- Improve and co-ordinate public transport.
- 'Green lungs', easily accessible should be a priority, but include leisure use – not just open field and not just football.
- Sustainable development socially & environmentally.
- Care for the elderly facilities
- Keep Bunkers Park
- Public transport more affordable and more frequent.
- Developments should be predominantly houses rather than flats.
- Good schools and elderly provision in all new developments.
- Re-think how to run community centres.
- Plan in opportunities for local people to grow/produce local goods that are used/sold locally.
- Transport and infrastructure, quality and affordable.
- Elderly facilities (places to meet etc.); homes for life.
- New roads through estates to have significant verges & trees- replicate character of High Street Green, Leverstock Green etc.
- As far as possible preserve Green Belt.
- Ensure development itself is of a high standard and quality – give new communities a sense of pride and interest in Hemel Hempstead.
- Enhance open land and green belt areas. Let's get Hemel Hempstead back to being a place to be proud of.
- Saving energy
- New college on edge of Hemel Hempstead– not an extension. Its own identity and facilities surrounded by open land.
- A greener environment
- Improved urban design.
- Minimise impact of new development on existing neighbourhoods.

## Priority 5

- Make Hemel Hempstead a more impressive & inviting town.
- Health provision
- Address the transport issues.
- Improve current neighbourhood facilities i.e. police, environment
- Provide commonly needed facilities within walking distance of most users.
- Promote and put into place all forms of renewable energy.
- Locally make a real push for better cycling and walking opportunities and better access to them in the cause of health, sustainable transport and leisure & recreation.
- Investing in schools.
- Consider carefully attracting specific type of new business.
- Minimise impact on the Green Belt and re-use of brownfield sites.
- All towns (not just Hemel Hempstead) to play their part in delivery of growth.
- Town centre housing
- Developments to be as green as possible.
- Schools.
- Define good quality space. Quality not quantity.
- Dacorum or Herts Bank.
- Libraries – secure either new sites or contributions to improvements to existing ones.
- Seek to reduce congestion, which may result from increased pressure on existing transport routes and modes. Encourage innovative transport solutions for work, shopping and leisure.
- Provide for all ages in all areas.
- Recycling – from business and schools.
- Improved landscaping – not just leftovers.
- Better road development to Maylands to avoid congestion in Leverstock Green.
- Think varied housing – not just one-bedroom flats – family homes, elderly houses (small bungalow with garden) – not high density for profit.
- Housing, infrastructure, health, congestion and regeneration.
- Local employment.
- Sufficient schools to give all pupils the best start, also increase their sense of belonging to and being proud of their town.
- No loss of schools or health facilities – retain these within the urban area.
- Resist incremental loss of green space through small-scale developments around the periphery of existing provision.
- Provide direct access to Maylands from motorway slip roads.
- Image of Hemel Hempstead to be enhanced, which can be achieved through good community facilities
- Access to and by emergency services.
- Early years local education/support that really works for children and their parents.
- Gypsy & Traveller sites – consider existing unofficial sites as well as brownfield sites – spread out rather than concentrate – not at gateway to Hemel Hempstead.



## 7. Analysis of Priorities

**Table 1 – Analysis of Priorities**

Issue	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Total Score
Improve public transport service, links and affordability	6x5	5x4	2x3	4x2	1x1	<b>62</b>
Protect and enhance existing wildlife corridors, greenspaces, nature reserves, AONB, SAC and provide joined up green corridors through the town centre	2x5	5x4	5x3	2x2		<b>49</b>
Provide suitable affordable housing for the demographic range with a mix of type and tenure	3x5	2x4	3x3	3x2	3x1	<b>41</b>
Sustainable design of new neighbourhoods – to include shops, pub community hall/faith, Post Office centre, play area, green and school	1x5	5x4	3x3	1x2	1x1	<b>37</b>
Retention of or new hospital with full facilities – A&E and maternity	4x5	2x4	1x3		2x1	<b>33</b>
Provide supporting infrastructure alongside development - including upgrading existing	3x5	3x4		2x2	1x1	<b>32</b>
Provide sufficient accessible open space to readdress shortfalls and maintain existing		4x4	2x3	3x2		<b>28</b>
Responding to climate change	2x5	1x4	2x3	2x2	1x1	<b>25</b>
Planning new schools in line with growth	2x5	1x4	1x3	2x2	4x1	<b>25</b>
No new large areas of development seek to develop a balanced town for all functions	2x5	1x4	1x3	1x2		<b>19</b>
Make HH a place people are proud to live in with a 'sense of belonging'	1x5	1x4	1x3	2x2	2x1	<b>18</b>
Provision for young people in the Borough (12-18)		3x4	1x3			<b>15</b>
Strong vibrant town centre – speedy redevelopment	2x5			2x2	1x1	<b>15</b>
Improve existing neighbourhood facilities	1x5		1x3	2x2	1x1	<b>13</b>

Build a new college	2x5			1x2		<b>12</b>
Special needs care and respite for families		2x4	1x3			<b>11</b>
Retain and enhance local distinctiveness	2x5				1x1	<b>11</b>
New Strategy for growth – new town opposite Herts showground or Bovingdon airfield	2x5					<b>10</b>
Move proposed Gypsy and Traveller sites away from Woodhall Farm	2x5					<b>10</b>
Protect the Green Belt	1x5			2x2	1x1	<b>10</b>
Growth close to town centre		1x4	1x3	1x2	1x1	<b>10</b>
Protection of landscape	2x5					<b>10</b>
No Northern Bypass	1x5	1x4				<b>9</b>
Provision for places of worship	1x5	1x4				<b>9</b>
Be radical about green approach in development		2x4			1x1	<b>9</b>
Integrate new development with existing communities		2x4				<b>8</b>
Improve traffic congestion in the south of HH	1x5				2x1	<b>7</b>
Finance provision for necessary infrastructure and to improve existing facilities		1x4	1x3			<b>7</b>
Seek to ensure high calibre design		1x4		1x2		<b>6</b>
Complete a review of the road infrastructure to improve congested areas and keep heavy traffic out of town			2x3			<b>6</b>
More analysis of growth direction	1x5					<b>5</b>
Dealing sustainably with waste	1x5					<b>5</b>
Town centre soft play area	1x5					<b>5</b>
No development near the Old Town	1x5					<b>5</b>
Improve policing in neighbourhoods		1x4			1x1	<b>5</b>
Avoid high density housing			1x3	1x2		<b>5</b>
Facilitate development without compulsory purchase		1x4			1x1	<b>5</b>
Improve the housing mix – more houses less flats			1x3	1x2		<b>5</b>
Include green buffer zones between new and			1x3	1x2		<b>5</b>

existing neighbourhoods						
New cultural centre at Hospital site		1x4				<b>4</b>
Seek low environmental impact from new development		1x4				<b>4</b>
Invest in sports facilities		1x4				<b>4</b>
Old Town High Street should be one way (north)		1x4				<b>4</b>
No stadiums		1x4				<b>4</b>
Put people at the centre of development planning			1x3		1x1	<b>4</b>
Provision of libraries			1x3		1x1	<b>4</b>
Provide sufficient doctor's surgeries			1x3			<b>3</b>
Restriction of car usage			1x3			<b>3</b>
Hold development until government addresses full hospital needs			1x3			<b>3</b>
Consider Gypsy and Traveller sites carefully			1x3			<b>3</b>
Breakspear Park new Hospital site			1x3			<b>3</b>
Look at large scale development not small scale dispersed approach			1x3			<b>3</b>
Town centre crèche for while parents shop			1x3			<b>3</b>
Ensure planning provision links with HCC			1x3			<b>3</b>
Promote walking, cycling and to improve health, sustainable transport and leisure and recreation				1x2	1x1	<b>3</b>
Provide theatre/cultural centre in town centre				1x2		<b>2</b>
Eastern strategy for housing and accessibility				1x2		<b>2</b>
Stimulate local employment opportunities and specific businesses					2x1	<b>2</b>
Rethink how to run community centres				1x2		<b>2</b>
Plan for allotments and opportunities for people to sell their goods locally				1x2		<b>2</b>
Improve landscaping design - new roads to have significant verges and trees				1x2	1x1	<b>3</b>
Improved urban design				1x2		<b>2</b>

Re-use brownfield sites					1x1	1
All towns to receive a share of housing growth					1x1	1
Define quality space					1x1	1
Dacorum or Herts Bank					1x1	1
Encourage innovative transport solutions					1x1	1
Recycling business and school waste					1x1	1
Better roads in Maylands					1x1	1
Resist incremental loss of green space through small scale development					1x1	1
Provide direct access to Maylands from M1 slip way					1x1	1
Access to and by emergency services					1x1	1
Early years support for children and parents					1x1	1
Gypsy & Traveller Sites - Consider existing unofficial Gypsy and Traveller sites coming forward as well as brownfield					1x1	1

\*Total score is calculated by giving an issue points for each time it was mentioned on a priority board. 5 points are given for each time it appeared on Priority board 1, 4 points for each time it was on Priority board 2, 3 points for each time it was on Priority board 3, 2 points for each time it was on Priority board 4 and 1 point for each time it was on Priority board 5.

The priority summary table groups the key priorities according to what was written on the Priority boards 1 to 5. The number of times an issue was raised on each priority board is shown in the table above and each issue is then given a total score.

The table above highlights the top 5 priorities suggested by workgroup attendees. The top priority for Hemel Hempstead and the Borough is for an improvement to public transport. This includes improving links to places, improving frequency of services and making the service more affordable. The second priority is to protect and enhance all green wildlife spaces and green corridors, including linking up existing green corridors through the town. The third priority is to provide suitable affordable housing for the demographic range with a mix of type and tenure.

Sustainably designed neighbourhoods were also sought for the growth strategy, which should include a variety of shops, services and facilities for children and young people as well schools. Provision of appropriate infrastructure alongside new development was also an important consideration, including upgrading any existing infrastructure.

## 8. Other Comments

An attendee suggested we make available the Dacorum Environmental Forum Water Group's web address to all of the attendees to raise the awareness of water issues within the Borough. The web address is as follows:  
<http://www.dacenvforum.org.uk/defwg/>

## 9. What happens next?

A summary of the issues raised at this workshop and a plan of how we will be taking these comments forward are in a separate document covering all seven place workshops. Many of the comments made during the workshops can be considered further through the formulation of the Local Development Framework, whilst others need to be passed to other departments within the Council or to external authorities such as Hertfordshire County Council. We have tried to group comments under particular categories simply for presentational purposes; as such, not every specific comment will have an action. We have however forwarded all specific comments to the department/organisation in question.

## 10. Attendees

Mr	John	Allen	
Mr.	Lillian	ANDREASEN	WOODHALL FARM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Cllr	Brian	Ayling	
Ms	Terri	Bailey	PIXIES HILL JMI SCHOOL
Mr.	John	Baldwin	Leverstock Green Village Association
Ms	Anna	Barnard	Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council
Mr	BOB	BENNETT	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH
Mr	Paul	Biswell	ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL
Mr	Stewart	Blake	Lime Walk Primary School
Mr	Tim	Bourne	Church of England
Ms	Jacqui	Bunce	East & North Herts & West Herts PCTs
Mr	Philip	Bylo	St Albans District Council
Mrs.	Claire	Covington	
Mrs.	Francoise	Culverhouse	Picotts End Residents Association
Mr	George	Edkins	HIGHTOWN PRAETORIAN HOUSING ASSN
Mrs.	Yvonne	Edwards	
Mr.	GRUFF	EDWARDS	THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (HERTS)
Mr	Julian	Groves	West Herts College
Cllr	Fiona	Guest	Chaulden & Warners End Ward
Mrs.	Pam	Halliwell	DBC
Mr	Roger	Hands	BOXMOOR TRUST
Mr	Andy	Hardstaff	CMS
Mr	Paul	Harris	FOE HEMEL HEMPSTEAD & DISTRICT
Mr	Ross	Herbert	
Mr.	Martin	HICKS	HERTS BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE
Ms.	Victoria	Hopkirk	Picotts End Residents Association
Mr.	Nick	Knox	ARRIVA THE SHIRES

Mr	Peter	Lamprill	
Mr.	Peter	Lardi	Longdean Park Residents Association
Mrs.	Margaret	Lewis	Brockwoods Primary School
Mr.	David	Mahon	Hemel Hempstead Police Station
Mr	Paul	Mason	British Waterways
Mr.	Clive	Matthews	Community Safety and Crime Reduction Unit
Cllr	Mike	Moore	
Cllr		Pedlow	
Ms	Sue	Prowse	
Rev.	John	Quill	Church of England
Mr	Graham	Richardson	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH
Ms	Elizabeth	Rushton	West Herts College
Ms	Ann	Ryan	
Mr	Khalid	Sadiq	Lime Walk Primary School
Miss.	Lizzy	Savage	
Mr	Mervyn	Sellick	Picotts End Residents Association
Mr	John	Silvester	
Rev.	Norman	Spink	Churches Together
Mr	Phil	Stanley	
Mrs.	Chris	Taylor	
Cllr	Nick	Tiley	
Ms	Mandy	Wharfe	WESTBROOK HAY SCHOOL
Cllr	John	Whitman	
Ms	Sarah	Wiles	West Herts Hospitals
Mr	Roy	Wood	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Mr.	Matthew	Wood	HCC CORPORATE SEVICES
Cllr	Colette	Wyatt-Lowe	