

From Stage Shows, Birthdays, to Weddings and Fitness Classes!

Rates are charged by the hour	Civic Centre	Whitehill Centre	The Pavilion
Larger hall	£25.00	£20.00	£18.00
Smaller hall	£20.00	£18.00	
Committee room	£10.00		
Whole venue	£45.00	£28.00	
Kitchen	£ 5.00	Free (shared)	Free

Double time is charged for hours after 10pm and bank holidays. Reduced rates for regular hirers also available. A damages deposit is required for all bookings. Hire of tables, chairs, parking are all included free in the price.

Want to make a booking?

Please contact the Bookings Clerk:

- 01438 716706
- bookings@welwynpc.org.uk
- <http://www.welwynhalls.com/>

Or pop in to our offices on Lockleys Drive, Welwyn on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9am-1pm

Welwyn Parish Council runs a number of affordable venues which are available for hire throughout the year.

These range from Welwyn Civic Centre which has a stage and catering facilities for large events through to the Whitehill Centre which is perfect for Children's parties and just metres away from our play areas.

Check our notice boards throughout the Parish to find out what local groups are up to and get involved!

Contacting the Council and your Councillors

Oaklands & Mardley Heath Councillors

Mark Castle	300146
Colin Hukin	714396
Marjorie Otty	840018
Colin Wright	718213

Digswell Councillors

Jan Khan	716920
Peter Neville	714394

Welwyn Councillors

Magdalene Benson	714774
John Blackburn	717806
Karen Mason	716667
Bill Morris	715164
Dennis Spruce	840821

To email your councillor just use:
cllr.initial.surname@welwynpc.org.uk
for example cllr.m.otty@welwynpc.org.uk

You can write to any of the councillors, or visit
Welwyn Parish Council offices
Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 9am and 1pm

admin@welwynpc.org.uk **01438 716667**
www.welwynpc.org.uk

Welwyn Parish Council
Parish Centre
Lockleys Drive
Welwyn
Hertfordshire, AL6 9NT



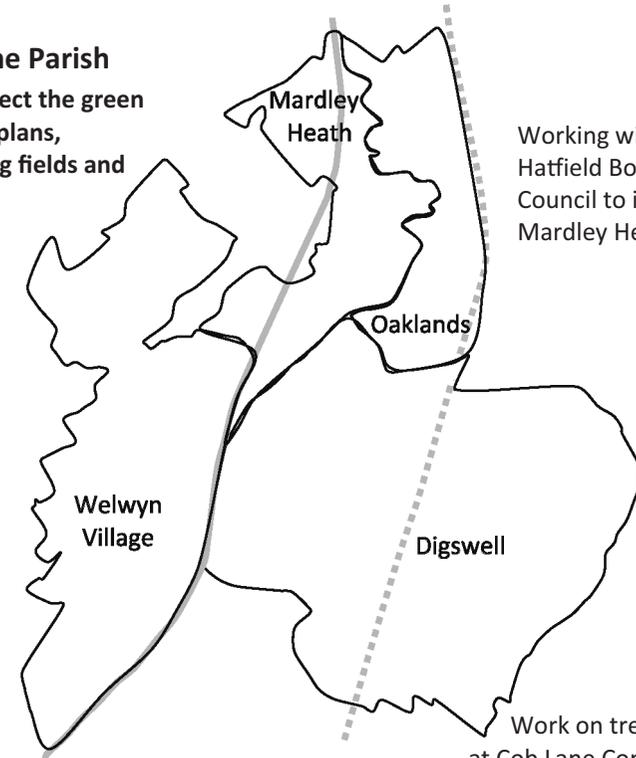
Welwyn Parish Council 2017-18

*Serving the communities of
Welwyn, Oaklands & Mardley Heath and Digswell*

Across the Parish

Worked to protect the green belt, scrutinise plans, maintain playing fields and cemetery

Working with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to improve Mardley Heath



Supported local businesses with free parking and community groups with reduced hall hire rates

Work on tree maintenance at Cob Lane Common and a share of the maintenance of Burnham Green

How we use your Parish precept

Every year a portion of your Council Tax, called the Parish Precept, goes to support your parish council. This leaflet explains how we use that money and a bit more about your Council Tax bill. Full budget data is available on our website or for more details please contact one of your local councillors (see back page). Find out more at:

Welwyn Parish Annual Assembly – 7.30pm
25th May 2017 in Welwyn Civic Centre, AL6 9ER

	Precept per Band D property*	Total precept (Tax income)	Other income (Fees and charges)	Total Budget (Overall turnover)
2015/16 Audited	£ 82.11	£345,342.29	£152,092.36	£497,434.65
2016/17	£ 84.61	£361,353.29	£149,362.14	£510,515.43
2017/18	£ 85.80	£381,951.24	£147,474.97	£529,426.21

At the end of 2014/15 our accounts showed that we did better than anticipated.

Income is down but costs are up?

The Council has been preparing a five year budget now for several years which has helped us to improve the accuracy of our forecasts. What we found has been that often we were over-budgeting income in some areas, while others, for example the Cemetery, were highly variable. This change reflects a cautious position and we hope our income will be higher but some of it may depend on grant applications.

A large number of our costs are outside of our control, such as changes in national legislation which have increased our insurance and staffing costs. Others such as maintenance contracts for boilers etc have steadily increased faster than inflation due to the age of equipment. We always try to renegotiate better terms.

Where possible the council is actively investing to save. This has seen us launch a new website and transition to primarily electronic bookings, rather than spending money on postage.

New areas of opportunity and activity

The Council has also taken on some new areas of activity in Burnham Green, which was previously maintained by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, and also Cob Lane Common. This reflects local demands placed upon Welwyn Parish Council and builds on our work with regards to keeping parking free for example.

Christmas Lights and Community Support

We have again had sterling support from Welwyn Festival Committee, local councillors and other local volunteers to not only get the lights up in a wider area, but also to include individually lighting trees. Putting the lights up with volunteers alone has saved around £4,500 compared to previous years- that's £1 per Band D property.

The tree was again sponsored by Netherdown Ltd with a large contribution from Linden Homes as well as many other local business.

For 2016 Welwyn Parish Council are working to try and increase coverage.

*Why can't I find this exact number on my Council Tax bill?

This is because the Parish Council works out how much it needs to operate first. Then Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council applies any Council Tax Support Grant it wishes to provide and divides the amount by the number of Band D equivalent properties that it thinks it will be able to get to pay Council Tax.

What happens to money we don't spend?

At the end of each year because of unexpected events we will sometimes use more or less money than planned. For example this year:

Overspends - Like the wind blowing down the fence at Whitehill Playground or clearing up fly-tipping at the Cemetery.

Underspends - Where we've saved money on telephones or doing things in-house. At the end of the year all of that unspent money is placed either in to our General Reserves, or Ear Marked Reserves which are allocated for specific tasks. Equally of course if we need to spend more than we had come in from the precept and our fees and charges we have to use some, or even all, of those reserves.

New Costs for local residents

As well as reducing the Council Tax Support Grant which was originally £14,509 reduced last year to £6,433.71, and reduced for the 2017/18 year to £2,746.49. This in real terms increases the precept per D band property by £2.64.

Special Expenses

These costs are levied on local residents for services within the parish boundaries.

This includes Digswell Playing Fields, Danesbury, Singlers Marsh, Mardley Heath, allotments and the Civic Centre. The net cost to Welwyn Residents in 2017/18 is £10,931.00. The cost per D band property is £2.46. Welwyn Parish Council has no control over these costs and has sought to try and help identify ways to make savings.

Election Boundaries

The request to reconfigure the internal Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council wards has also meant that in future Oaklands will be split from Mardley Heath so that residents will elect 2 councillors for Oaklands, 2 for Mardley Heath in addition to the 2 for Digswell and 5 for Welwyn Village. This significantly increases the chances of an election and, as Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council charged residents £1,190 for the notification of the elections in 2015 (they were uncontested!) Welwyn Parish Council has had to increase the budget provision to cover such costs which are estimated to be over £10,000 for the whole Parish.