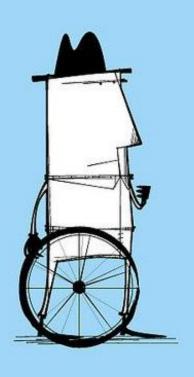
#### **Modernisation of the Town Council**

'We will transform the internal workings of the Town Council to become a more modern, innovative and forward thinking organisation with working practices that complement our priorities and benefit staff, partners and residents'.



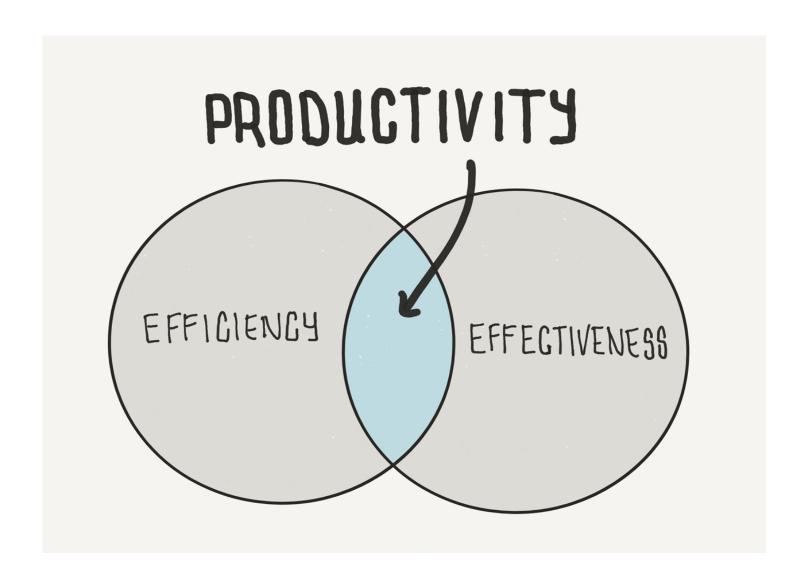
## ERRR...

## CAN'T STOP. TOO BUSY!!





## We are doing it for this...



## Our Budget 2019-2020





## Reviewing our processes...

Essential in helping us to modernise and be more productive

BUT it is a painful thing to do properly

 Our early focus was on Committees. A natural starting point as we generated hundreds of agendas and reports each year

What did we find... WASTE – time, effort, paper

## Reviewing our paper use...

 Look at where paper is essential and find ways to reduce it

• Where it isn't essential, remove it completely



# There is no such thing as a paperless Council...

But maybe you could be like us and cut paper consumption by 60% and reduced officer time by c50%- 70% on each committee.



## Reviewing our tools...

The right tools make success easier



## **Embracing Technology**







# PEOPLE

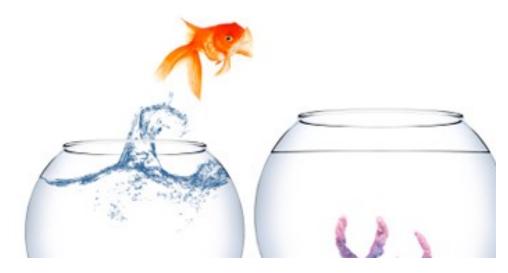
### **EMBRACERS**

 Already embraced technology. Already changed their behaviours. Already committed to reducing paper

#### HOW CAN WE HELP THEM:

 Give them the support, information and space to allow them to continue their positive habits





### **BACK-BURNERS**

- They want to embrace change.
   They want to use technology. BUT
- Don't have the skills, confidence and/or equipment. SO
- They delay change

#### HOW CAN WE HELP THEM:

 Break down the barriers that stop them from doing it now. Make them embracers

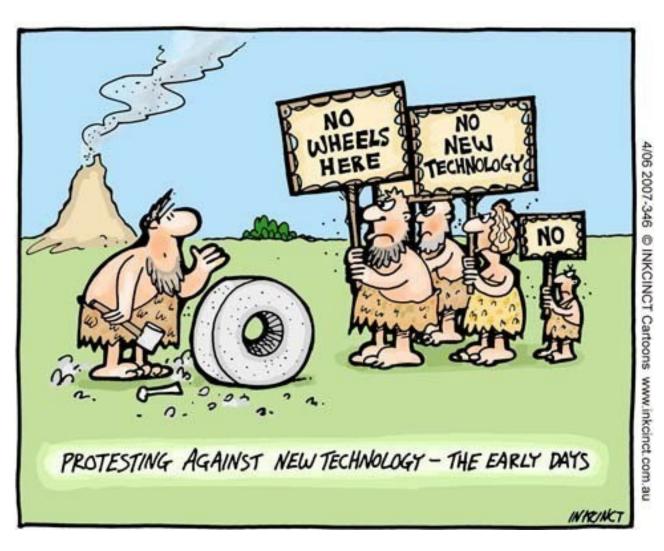


## The Uninterested

Simply don't have an interest in changing

**HOW CAN WE HELP THEM:** 

• We can't. Leave them alone!



# Modernise your thinking...

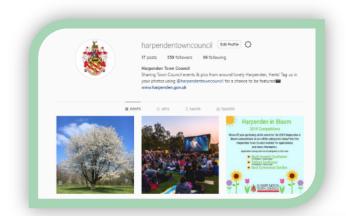
## Secured planning permission to develop the former Westfield Allotments into affordable housing

- 100% Affordable Housing Scheme
- 24 homes
- 50% available for social rent
- Remainder affordable rent and shared ownership

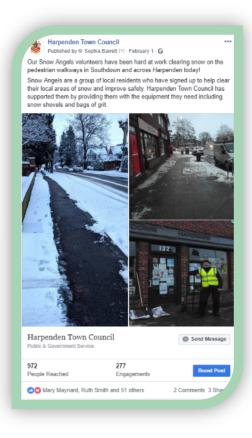




## Continuing to grow our presence & engage with residents on social media







Since April 2018, our social media channels have seen...

- 132% growth
- 800% growth
- 16.8% growth



#### Delivering the Batford Springs Nature Reserve Management Plan



Boreholes in Batford Springs



Chalk stream restoration works



In 2012, Harpenden Town Council took over the ownership of the Nature Reserve from St Albans City & District Council. Since then the Town Council has proactively invested time and money to make it an even better community asset.

#### £250,000 INVESTED SINCE 2012



#### **TREE WORKS**

Following health & safety tree surveys, priority one tree works have been completed to ensure residents can enjoy the reserve safely

#### HABITAT PROTECTION

Installed posts along Lower Luton Road to protect the meadow habitat from illegal parking



#### **BOREHOLES**

Three new boreholes added at a cost of

£40.000

£20,000 of which was funded by HMWT following a grant from Thames Water

#### ANNUAL CONSERVATION

We allocate a yearly budget of

£28,800

for conservation, with an additional £2,500 earmarked for maintence

#### CHALK STREAM RESTORATION

**Batford Springs Volunteers** 

narrowed a significant part of the chalk stream allowing for better water flow

#### THE VOLUNTEERS

Batford Springs Volunteers are vital to the reserve's success

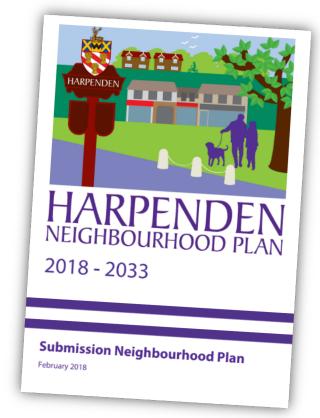
30+

volunteers currently support conservation of the reserve



## Implemented a community-led Neighbourhood Plan that provides a framework for development & growth in Harpenden





The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan referendum passed in February 2019 with 89.39% voting in favour of the plan







#### Mar 2016 -**Neighbourhood Plan Area Designated**

St Albans City and District Council formally agreed the Neighbourhood Plan Area, which comprises the Parishes of Harpenden Town and Harpenden Rural.

#### Feb 2017 - Working **Groups Formed**

Working Groups for 'Employment and Retail, 'Environment and Sustainable Design/, 'Transport and Movement'. 'Social Infrastructure and Community Facilities' and 'Housing' were formed from local residents.

#### Feb - Apr 2017 -**Baseline Report**

The Baseline Report summarises a range of background reports and evidence-based studies that informs the Neighbourhood Plan.



#### Jun - Jul 2017 - Stage 2 Engagement

Public engagement on the draft vision, objectives and policy intentions was undertaken. This included a leaflet drop. questionnaires and drop in sessions.



#### Apr - May 2017 - Develop Vision, Objectives and **Policy Intentions**

The Working Groups discussed the findings of the Stage 1 Engagement Report and analysed background evidence to create a draft vision and objectives for each theme and some policy intentions.



#### Apr-May 2017 - Stage 1 Engagement

Public engagement on Harpenden's key issues was held. This included a leaflet drop, questionnaires and drop in sessions.



#### Aug - Nov 2017 - Prepare **Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

A first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. A formal public consultation



#### Dec 2017 - Jan 2018 **Prepare and Submit** Final Harpenden **Neighbourhood Plan**

(Reg 14) was undertaken for 6 weeks. NOW, Finalise the Neighbourhood Plan incorporating comments from the consultation process and submit to St Albans City and District Council.



#### Feb-Mar 2018 -

St Albans City and District Council conduct a second formal 6 week consultation (Reg 16) on the Neighbourhood Plan.



Apr 2018 - Feb Public Consultation 2019 - Examination Referendum and Adoption



## Community Engagement was key...

#### **Engagement 1**

- Identifying the key issues in the Town
- Informing the Vision and Objectives

#### Engagement 3 (Statutory Reg 14)

- Draft Neighbourhood Plan
- Shaping the final version

#### **Engagement 2**

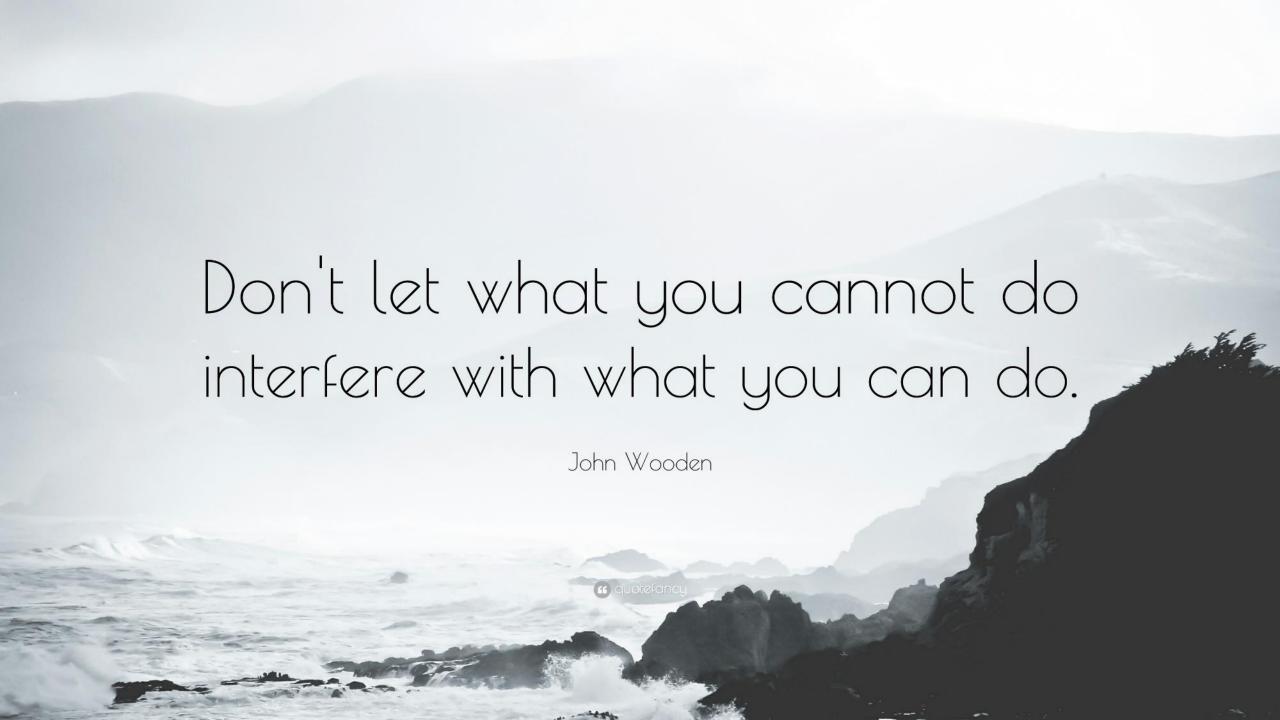
- Views on draft vision and objectives
- Exploring the policy options

#### Engagement 4 (Statutory Reg 16)

- Post submission to SADC
- Final Neighbourhood Plan

- 1. Be Realistic
- 2. Make it a corporate priority
- 3. Be Brutal
- 4. Embrace technology
- 5. Forget 'the Uninterested'
- 6. START WITH YOURSELF





Contact me...

Carl Cheevers 01582 463669

carl.cheevers@harpenden.gov.uk

