



**North
Herts
Council**

Councillor Ralph Muncer
*Member of North Hertfordshire
District Council for Kimpton*

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18 July 2022

**REPORT TO KIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2022**

Raising Proposed Closure of Kimpton Surgery at Southern Rural Committee

At a Meeting of the Southern Rural Committee held on 30 June 2022 I highlighted the proposed closure of Kimpton Surgery. In my speech to the Committee I stated that *“a decision to close the Surgery would force individuals to travel elsewhere, most likely to either Welwyn, Wheathampstead or Harpenden, in order access their GP and other Medical Services. The closure would also have a more pronounced impact upon older and vulnerable individuals as well as those who rely on public transport, of which services to alternative locations are infrequent”*. Since that meeting I have been informed that Bridge Cottage Surgery will formally close the Kimpton Surgery on 31 August 2022, and I’m seeking urgent clarification from both Bridge Cottage Surgery and the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (formally the CCG) as to any alternative provision which could be commissioned for residents in Kimpton.

Lobbying Transport Secretary on London Luton Airport Expansion

I recently attended an event in Central London and took the opportunity to speak with Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP highlighting my concerns over the proposals to expand Luton Airport as well as issues that residents in Kimpton are currently facing as a result of Airport Operations such as Noise Pollution and Traffic Congestion.

Out on Patrol with NHDC Environmental Crime Team

I was pleased to go out on Patrol with an Officer of the NHDC Environmental Crime Team and see first-hand the vital work that the Team does to protect our environment and tackle fly-tipping across North Hertfordshire. I found it to be an incredibly informative experience which increased my knowledge of both the process that Officers use as well as the challenges when dealing with this Offence.

Voting against NHDC Proposed Warding Arrangements at Full Council

As the Parish Council is aware the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has launched a public consultation which will run until 9 August 2022 inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards for North Hertfordshire.

NHDC has decided to make a submission to the Boundary Commission and Councillors were asked to vote on the proposals at a Meeting of Full Council on Thursday 14 July

2022. Under this proposal the Warding Arrangements for Kimpton would change and the Parish would be merged with Codicote Village Parish Ward to form a new Ward of ‘Codicote and Kimpton’ represented by two Councillors. I can report to the Parish Council that I voted against these proposals and in a speech to the Council stated “*the best way to ensure that the interests of our Rural Communities are suitably represented would be to make Single Member Wards the default option in these areas. Whilst I acknowledge that this will not always be possible due to the Legislative Criteria, it is an option that I strongly urge the Boundary Commission to investigate as I believe it would reinvigorate our local democracy, provide for more effective accountability and safeguard the interests and identities of local communities*”.

Signing Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of NHDC

It was a real privilege to attend the Armed Forces Week Flag Raising Ceremony at County Hall alongside Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Members of Hertfordshire County Council and Officers from Permanent Joint Headquarters Northwood and others. Marking ten years since it was originally signed I was proud to add my signature to the rededication of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of NHDC, signalling our continued commitment to the Armed Forces Community in our County.

Meeting with Members of the Save Our White Horse Campaign and NHDC Officers

I recently arranged and mediated a meeting with Members of the Save Our White Horse Campaign and Senior Officers at NHDC to discuss and highlight issues which have previously been raised with me. I’m pleased that progress has been made on this issue and I will continue to support this local campaign.

Attending Ukrainian Refugee Drop In Event

I attended an informative Drop In Event hosted by Bim Afolami MP that brought together Ukrainian Refugees and their Hosts with those who are assisting and co-ordinating the Ukrainian Response. It was wonderful to speak with many individuals and organisations about their experiences and it was great to see a number of local families at the event.



**CLLR RALPH MUNCER
MEMBER OF NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR KIMPTON**