

**Cllr Sue Nicholls, District Councillor Report
Buckland and Chipping Parish Council
March 2025**

1. East Herts Council/Solar Together Scheme

The latest joint East Herts and Solar Together scheme is now open for applications. This is a group-buying scheme for solar panels, optional battery storage and EV charge points and retrofit battery storage for those who have already invested in solar panels.

There is more information available on the East Herts Council website - just type in Solar Together in the search bar to find the page which has a link to the Solar Together website where you can register for the scheme for free.

Closing date for applications is 4 April.

[Solar Together launches in Hertfordshire - offering residents affordable renewable energy sources | East Herts District Council](#)

2. East Herts Governance Review next stage

The draft recommendations in the Governance Review have now been approved by full council. As a reminder, the review looks at creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes and towns, the naming of parishes - including the recommendation to change the name of Cottered Parish Council to Cottered and Throcking and the style of new parishes/town councils and electoral arrangements for parishes/town councils including which might include:

- the ordinary year of election
- the number of councillors to be elected; and
- the changing of
- the warding (if any) of the parish/town councils - including both Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth Town Councils

The next stage in the process is the public consultation which opened on 3 March and runs until 12 May 2025. Final recommendations will be decided on by the Community Governance Review working group in May and June and the final recommendations will be published in July.

Details of the consultation, a link to the response form and relative documents are a dedicated page on the East Herts website.

[Community Governance Review | East Herts District Council](#)

3. Changes to bin collection in East and North Herts

You might have heard that there are changes happening to bin collections in East and North Herts later this year. The changes to the number of bins, what is collected and frequency of waste collection will take place on 4th August with new bins being delivered to properties in May in readiness for the changes and to coincide with the new waste contract and service provider changes which happen then.

The changes are being brought about for a number of reasons including:

- achieving new government targets aimed at residents to recycle 60% of our household waste
- help meet new government requirements to collect and recycle food waste and cardboard & paper separately
- to help offer a more sustainable and efficient waste collection service, reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to help with decarbonisation

The implementation of changes that were voted on by East Herts members back in 2022.

The new arrangements will mean that households have more bins and the additional bins that will be provided for every household are:

- a 23l brown outside food waste caddy and 5l kitchen food waste caddy, ready for the new food waste collection service
- a new 180l purple-lidded bin for non-recyclable waste

The main changes to collection are that

- black-lidded general waste bin will become your mixed recycling bin
- blue-lidded bin will be used for cardboard and paper
- there will be a smaller purple lidded non-recyclable waste bin
- it will be now possible to put loose plastic bags and wrapping into the black-lidded mixed recycling bin instead of having to take it to supermarkets
- and non-recyclable waste, mixed recycling and cardboard and paper bins will move to a three-week collection cycle

Bin collection days may change but information will be sent out to households ahead of 4 August and stickers will be issued to label bins to help make the transition easier.

Households who have special circumstances and already need extra capacity are being written to discuss their need for a larger bin and households who might need a larger bin but don't already have an arrangement for reasons such as

- larger household with 6+ permanent residents
- homes with two or more children under 36 months
- adults using incontinence items/with medical needs

are able to request a larger bin through the dedicated East Herts website page that has been set up for the changes and there is also a link to an FAQ page which has further information.

[Bin Collection Changes | East Herts District Council](#)

[FAQs Bin Collection Changes | East Herts District Council](#)

People in flats and households with communal waste will receive a 140-litre outside food waste caddy, and individual kitchen caddies, which should not be used until 4 August

Cllr Sue Nicholls

17 March 2025