

Repton Ward

Autumn 2022



Ashford Borough Councillor **newsletter** Cllrs. **Matthew Forest & Bernard Heyes**

Dear resident,

The **copper beech tree** that was alleged to be causing subsidence damage to Grade II listed Repton Manor **has been saved** from being felled thanks to an agreement from Ashford Borough Council to fund the **installation of a root barrier**.

The tree, estimated to be between **120-150 years old** lies just nine metres from Repton Manor, which is over 400 years old and, according to the Historic England listing entry, has sections dating from the 15th, 16th 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries.

The copper beech was implicated in a tree root subsidence claim from the manor's insurers, and, following further investigations, an application had been made to fell the tree to prevent further damage. However, a **significant number of objections** and a local petition were received against this.

Thanks to a request from both ward members, the application to fell the beech was heard by Planning Committee on 16 February 2022 the committee voted to defer any decision subject to the investigation of alternative action.

Matthew & Bernard



"After listening to the concerns of residents and meeting the owners of Repton Manor I made representations to the Planning Committee to plead for the preservation of this historic landmark tree. I am delighted that an amicable solution has finally been found and this magnificent tree has been preserved." - **Cllr. Bernard Heyes**

"I am so pleased that we have been able to find an alternative solution to felling the tree. It is important that we try to protect not just our historic buildings but our natural heritage which are both highly valued by residents as local landmarks. The installation of a root barrier will enable this beautiful and important tree to remain an integral part of the landscape of Repton Park." - **Cllr. Matthew Forest**

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I am honoured to be a Councillor for Repton Ward and am always happy to listen to residents' views and concerns.

I recently assisted with a planning issue in Repton Park and resolved a boundary problem in Orchard Heights.

As a councillor for Repton Ward I was delighted to attend a celebration to mark the **first anniversary of Repton Court**. These spacious one and two bedroom accessible apartments for the over 55s are run by the **West Kent Housing Association**. They provide a secure and social environment enjoyed by all the residents.

At the last **Remembrance Day** I had the honour to represent Repton Ward with the Mayor to commemorate the dead of both World Wars at the memorial in Ashford. This service was followed by an **exhibition put on by the catering students at Ashford College**. The students did a magnificent job of providing a meal reminiscent of the times when rationing was still around at the end of World War II.

I still have some **money left in my Councillor's Community Grant Fund** so if you feel that your group, club or other community activity would qualify please contact me for further details.

Bernard



In another incredibly busy year, my ward member grant has been helping many local organisations, including **1st Repton Scouts** who I supported with **£800 towards new camping equipment**. Don't forget you can help local organisations by playing the **Ashford Community Lottery**. From every £1 ticket you buy, **60p will go to local good causes in Ashford Borough** and improving our community. www.ashfordcommunitylottery.co.uk

I've supported a local CIC called Nest & Grow in providing a **Parent & Child Activity Club** with a contribution of **£500**. You can find out more about their work at www.nestandgrow.co.uk/pace.



In August I officially opened the **Hothfield Triangle Trail**, a new accessible path that **Kent Wildlife Trust** created, opening up this beautiful area to people of all abilities. Funded by Ashford Borough Council as part of its commitment to encouraging people of all backgrounds and capabilities engage in **healthy outdoor activities**, and enjoy the exceptional countryside and natural environment.

I had a fantastic time joining residents for a **Platinum Jubilee celebration** at our Coffee Corner on Repton Avenue, and was happy to provide the sound equipment and a little DJing! The café is now participating in the "Chatter & Natter" scheme, **so don't feel alone—pop in for a natter**.

I've also been working with the Community Safety Unit & local PCSO to help **tackle anti-social behaviour** in the Waitrose car park. I'm delighted to say that the store have **now installed barriers** which are locked at night to help prevent this.

Matthew

Cllr Forest 2022 Ward Grants:

1st Repton Scouts	Camping Equipment	£800
Repton Connect	1st Aid Training for Volunteers	£499
Revelation Ashford	Cultural Projects	£500
Nest and Grow	PACE	£500
306 Squadron Cadets	Sports Equipment	£400

