

Growing up in Hartford

Share your ideas!

At Hartford Parish Council, we want children and teenagers to feel safe, welcome and happy in the village. Find out how we are supporting young people, and share your ideas with us.

What matters to young people

In 2025, we met with some students, aged 11–16, at Hartford CofE High School, to find out what matters to young people in the village.

The students said Hartford is calm and friendly, and they like the playgrounds and nature reserve... but they also said it can be lonely, because traffic makes it hard to play outside and meet friends. When we asked what would improve Hartford for young people, four themes came up:

1. More social activities and community events
2. More places to hang out, play sport and relax
3. Safer walking and cycling routes
4. More nature and green spaces.

Here's what we are doing in response.

More fun social events

At Hartford Parish Council, we run several community events - including Picnic in the Park and Christmas Light Up - and we support Hartford's Christmas Fayre.

To build on this, we have created a new online directory of local sports, arts and social clubs, to help young people find fun new activities.

We are also supporting Hartford NSPCC to run three clubs:

- A weekly art club for 11–16 year olds
- A monthly outdoor play session for children, called Let's Play
- Craft sessions for children in the school holidays.

Visit www.hartfordparishcouncil.org.uk for more information.

Better places to hang out

At Hartford Parish Council, we look after several outdoor spaces including:

- Grange Park (the big village park, with a playground, outdoor gym, table tennis area and cricket pitch)
- Lees Park (a small playground on Parker Avenue, near Hodge Lane)
- The Green Field (the big grassy area behind the Chester Road shops)

To improve these areas, we added the following facilities in 2025:

- New play panels at Grange Park
- New football goalposts and picnic benches on the Green Field
- A new French Boules-style court behind Hartford Village Hall.

Safer walking and cycling

Roads and paths in Hartford are managed by Cheshire West and Chester Council. We've asked for a 20mph speed limit along Chester Road to make it safer for young people going to school, and we await a response. (We also asked for more pedestrian crossings, but this request was turned down).

In the meantime, we have installed a cycle shelter on the Green Field, and we are supporting Hartford Cycle Hub by giving them a space at the Green Field Pavilion.

More nature, more green

Nature matters to young people - and we agree. Since 2025, we have:

- Planted 1000+ trees and bushes in the village, helped by local students
- Added more flower and herb beds to the village centre
- Installed solar panels on the Green Field Pavilion
- Stopped using pesticides on our green spaces
- Given Marshall's Arm volunteers a grant to help manage the nature reserve.

Share your ideas

Got any ideas for how we can improve Hartford for young people?

We'd love to hear from you. Visit www.hartfordparishcouncil.org.uk or email clerks@hartfordparishcouncil.org.uk