Appendix 7 – Renovation of estate buildings

The Council estate contains a number of buildings and areas which are in need of renewal and renovation to maximise their potential benefit to the Community as a whole. This scheme aims to transform them into viable, attractive and useful facilities.

Among them is Churchgate Shopping centre has a central open-air walkway linking the Market Square and Biggin Line, with the central parade of shops former the central shopping centre. This provides an important pedestrian route and public realm, as well as supporting the retail outlets, many of which are let to independent outlets for which Hitchin is well known for.

The shopping centre was constructed in the mid 1970's and the previous owners had not invested in the asset. The Council acquired the leasehold interest in 2022 to become direct landlord of the shops. The walkway would benefit from cleaning and decorating the canopies, improved pigeon control measures, installing improved decorative lighting and taking over responsibility from the County Council Highways; installing large flower beds (similar to those already around Hitchin) within the Churchgate Shopping Centre.

These works would play an important part in revitalising this area of town for the benefit of residents, visitors and the retail business.

There are also several Community Halls and venues which require remedial work to enable them to function properly.

The total amount of this work is yet to be costed, however a proposal is being worked on by Phil and the team subject to Cabinet approval.

This proposal responds to the following elements of the criteria:
Investment Priority - Communities and Place
Theme - Thriving Places
Sub -theme - High streets and town centres improvements
Outputs/Outcomes – OP2,3,5,8 and OC4,5

This information was provided by the Estates Team - Phil Doggett.]