



Waltham Abbey

Waltham Abbey is a civil parish in Epping Forest District in Essex, England. Located approximately 14 miles north-northeast of central London and adjacent to the Greater London boundary, it is a partly urbanised parish with large sections of open land in the Metropolitan Green Belt.

Waltham Abbey is a recent renaming of the ancient parish of Waltham Holy Cross. Aside from the town of Waltham Abbey, it includes the hamlets of Claverhambury, Fishers Green, Holyfield, Sewardstone and Upshire, and the village of High Beach. The local council is Waltham Abbey Town Council.

Waltham Holy Cross was an ancient parish in the Waltham hundred of Essex. The parish adopted the Public Health Act 1848 in 1850 which created the Waltham Holy Cross local government district and a local board of health. In 1894 this district became Waltham Holy Cross Urban District, governed by an urban district council. The parish ceased to have any role in local government, aside from election of the board of guardians. After 1930 as a designated urban parish it had only nominal existence. The parish was within the Metropolitan Police District and part of the review area of the Royal Commission on Local Government in Greater London; however, it did not form part of the proposed Greater London area, because it was entirely within the Metropolitan Green Belt and had limited connection to the London built-up area.

On 1 April 1974 the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District was abolished and combined with other local government districts to form the Epping Forest District. The urban district council was replaced with Epping Forest District Council.

A limited number of former boroughs and urban districts were permitted to retain limited local government powers as successor parishes. Waltham Holy Cross civil parish gained a parish council and became used for local government again. The parish was initially known as Waltham Holy Cross, but by resolution of the new parish council it was renamed Waltham Abbey and the status of a town was adopted, with the parish council becoming Waltham Abbey Town Council.

The Enfield Island Village area was transferred from the parish, to the unparished area of Enfield in Greater London in 1994. The parish ceased to be part of the Metropolitan Police District in 2000 and came within the area of Essex Police that year.

The local council is Waltham Abbey Town Council. The town hall is located on Highbridge Street in the town of Waltham Abbey. There are eleven councillors elected from five wards.