

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE
(Baldock, Arbury and Weston and Sandon Wards)**

**Meeting held at The Community Centre, Simpson Drive, Baldock
on 26 September 2005 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: *Councillors I.J. Knighton (Chairman), M.E. Weeks (Vice-Chairman), G.C. Hollands, S.K. Jarvis, and A.D. Young.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Chief Engineer, Area Planning Officer, Community Development Officer (Baldock Area and Youth) and Committee and Member Services Officer.*

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M.R.M. Muir, who was at a Licensing & Appeals Committee hearing.

40. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2005 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor G.C. Hollands expressed his disappointment at the response of Cabinet regarding the recommendations made at the last meeting of this Committee, in relation to Minute number 31 – Draft Baldock Town Centre Strategy for Consultation. The Chairman suggested that the matters of concern should be raised again when the Strategy returned for further consultation.

41. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

42. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor A.D. Young declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 - Baldock & District Area Committee Development and Area Visioning Budgets 2005/2006 – with regard to the grant application for lighting improvements at Avenue Park, Baldock, as his daughters played in a netball team that used the court there. Councillor Young reserved his right to speak and vote in relation to this matter.

Councillor I.J. Knighton declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 - Baldock & District Area Committee Development and Area Visioning Budgets 2005/2006 – with regard to the grant application for lighting improvements at Avenue Park, Baldock, as his daughter played in a netball team that used the court there. Councillor Knighton reserved his right to speak and vote in relation to this matter.

43. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were presented for consideration by the Committee under public participation.

44. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER REVIEW – MEMBER CONSULTATION

The Chief Engineer presented a report of the Head of Environmental Services to the Committee, which invited Members of the Committee to input their local knowledge of existing waiting restriction issues to inform a review of traffic regulation orders, as required by Section 4 of the NHDC Car Parking Strategy. He suggested that the most appropriate method for passing on proposals, suggestions and observations would be to submit them to him in writing, either by post or by e-mail, before the deadline of Christmas 2005.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Chief Engineer stated that any proposed changes would result in full consultation with local residents before they would be implemented. He also confirmed that, whilst priority was given to the representations made by residents, those received from businesses would also be given consideration. He also stressed the importance of ensuring that the impact of the Bypass on vehicular numbers and movements in the town be considered, and that the review be carried out in partnership with the development of the Baldock Town Centre Strategy.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Members of the Committee would give consideration to the appropriateness of existing waiting restrictions in their area and provide the Chief Engineer with their views and observations before Christmas 2005;
- (2) That the Chief Engineer be requested to commence work on the Parking Strategy for the whole Baldock & District area, in conjunction with the development of the Baldock Town Centre Strategy to ensure consistency;
- (3) That, when conducting the review, the Chief Engineer be asked to give consideration to the potential impact on traffic within the town by the Baldock Bypass, and to take into account the outcome of Hertfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable all views and observations to be incorporated into the Traffic Regulation Order review, as required in the adopted Car Parking Strategy.

45. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for Baldock presented a report of the Head of Community Development to the Committee, which advised them of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for Baldock since the meeting of the Committee held on 15 August 2005, and brought to their attention some important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

The Community Development Officer for Baldock informed the Committee that the Baldock Fair would be arriving in town in the early hours of the morning on Sunday 2 October 2005. The High Street would be shut for Sunday morning, then operating as a one-way street until the morning of Wednesday 5 October 2005.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Community Development Officer for Baldock confirmed that, as previous attendance at the previous Local Development Framework consultation event had been so poor, another session would be held at Baldock Community Centre on Monday 17 October 2005, starting at 7 p.m. Whilst this had been advertised as only being for Baldock residents, he stated that residents from the rural areas of the Baldock & District area were welcome to attend this event as well, instead of the event in Royston as advertised.

The Community Development Officer informed the Committee that Hertfordshire County Council had informed him of a celebration planned in the tunnel of the new Bypass for December (exact date to be agreed). He stated that the proposal was that one side of the tunnel would be used for parking and the events planned would be held in the other side of the tunnel. This event would precede the opening of the Bypass, which was now predicted to open in early February 2006.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Head of Community Development be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for Baldock to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Baldock communities be endorsed;

- (3) That the Officers organising the Local Development Framework consultation events be asked to ensure provision was made for the residents of the rural areas surrounding Baldock to attend the event in Baldock on 17 October 2005.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in Baldock.

46. ANNUAL GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2004/05

The Community Development Officer for Baldock presented a report of the Head of Community Development to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with 5 additional grant applications that had been received. He also informed the Committee that the Head of Community Development had advised that any unspent monies in the Committee's budget at the end of the financial year would be returned to central funds.

RESOLVED: That the current expenditure and balance of the Development Budget be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) The report was intended to apprise Members of the financial resources available to this Committee. It drew attention to the current budgetary situation, assisted in the effective financial management of the Committee's budget and ensured actions were performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance contained in the Grants procedure;
- (2) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

47. GRANT APPLICATION – ROTARY CLUB OF BALDOCK

RESOLVED: That the sum of £3,000 be awarded to the Rotary Club of Baldock as a financial contribution toward the renewal and installation costs associated with the provision of the town's Christmas lights, such monies to be taken from the Committee's budgets as follows:

£750 to be awarded from the Baldock East Discretionary Budget
£2,250 to be awarded from the Baldock Town Discretionary Budget

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

48. GRANT APPLICATION – BALDOCK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED: That the sum of £750 be awarded to the Baldock Allotment Association as a financial contribution toward the creation and installation costs associated with the provision of an accessible plot for disabled holders at the North Road site in Baldock, such monies to be taken from the Baldock Town Discretionary Budget.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

49. GRANT APPLICATION – BALDOCK YOGA GROUP

RESOLVED: That the sum of £300 be awarded to the Baldock Yoga Group as a financial contribution toward the cost of transporting elderly and disabled members to the weekly sessions via the Baldock Community Bus, such monies to be taken from the Baldock Town Discretionary Budget.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

50. GRANT APPLICATION – WESTON CRICKET CLUB

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Weston Cricket Club as a financial contribution toward the creation and installation costs associated with the provision of a new artificial wicket for the club's Colts section and additional repair works required to the main Square, such monies to be taken from the Weston & Sandon Ward Discretionary Budget.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

51. GRANT APPLICATION – AVENUE PARK, BALDOCK – NETBALL & TENNIS AREA

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,500 be awarded as a financial contribution toward the provision of floodlights in the games area in Avenue Park to enable sports to be played during the winter evenings, such monies to be taken from the Committee's budgets as follows:

- £250 from the Arbury Ward Discretionary Budget
- £250 from the Baldock East Ward Discretionary Budget
- £1,000 from the Baldock Town Ward Discretionary Budget

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

52. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the following planning application made by the Hertfordshire County Council:

Reference Number	Description of Development and location
05/01136/1CM	Childrens Home adjacent Land South of New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock Outline application for new children's home (all matters reserved except means of access)

This application would be determined by the County Council, but NHDC was afforded the opportunity to comment as a consultee.

RESOLVED: That the following comments to be forwarded to the County Council in response to its formal consultation be endorsed:

- a) The District Council would ask the County Planning Authority to consider very carefully the views and concerns of local residents and consultees in the process of determining the application.
- b) The District Council is of the view that the case for the conversion of the existing buildings of local importance has not been adequately made. In this regard the District Council would ask the County Planning Authority to make every effort to preserve the existing farm buildings in their current form rather than resort to demolition as the only option.
- c) The District Council cautions the County Planning Authority to consider fully the impact of the proposed new floodlit all-weather playing surface at Knights Templar School on the amenities of the proposed children's home.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the County Planning Authority consider the impact and issues relating to the proposed location of the new children's home.

53. PLANNING APPEALS

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that no planning appeals had been lodged or determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 15 August 2005.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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Chairman