

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

**Meeting held at The Community Centre, Simpson Drive, Baldock
on 7 November 2005 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: *Project Co-Ordinator (Community Safety), Principal Planning Officer, Area Planning Officer, Community Development Officer (Baldock Area and Youth) and Committee and Member Services Officer.*

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

55. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2005 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

56. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

57. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor M.R.M. Muir declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 – Planning Applications: 76 Icknield Way, Baldock – as the applicant was his next-door neighbour. Councillor Muir reserved his right to speak and vote in this matter.

58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

**59. CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 'ALCOHOL FREE' ZONES
ACROSS NORTH HERTS**

The Project Co-Ordinator (Community Safety) presented a report of the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance to the Committee. This report detailed the policy background to evidencing the need for, and progressing where deemed appropriate, the implementation of alcohol free zones across the District. The purpose of this report was to request the Committee's approval to proceed with consultation with Ward Councillors and the public to ascertain the levels of on-street drinking affecting their local area. He drew particularly drew the Committee's attention to the evidence of events and identified problem areas for Baldock, outlined in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.4.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the evidence of the levels on-street drinking affecting the Baldock and District area be noted;
- (2) That the proposed consultation to consider the implementation of alcohol-free zones in the Baldock and District area given the evidence presented and in light of the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet recommendations be approved;
- (3) That officers be requested to provide the following information in writing to the Committee within two weeks of the meeting:
 - a) the nature and extent of the consultation process;
 - b) the ratification process for evidence received from members of the public;

- c) the difficulty of making changes to the extent of the zone where required;
and
 - d) the possibility of designating the whole of Baldock as an alcohol-free zone.
- (4) That the sum of £600 be allocated from the Committee's Discretionary Budget towards the initial cost of informing the public of a formal consultation taking place by public notice in local newspapers. Such monies should be split proportionally between the Baldock Town Ward £455 (76%) and Baldock East Ward £145 (24%) rounded to the nearest £5.00

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The figures included within the report showed that there was a level of on-street drinking taking place in each of the district's towns, including an element of anti-social behaviour which was drink-related.

60. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for Baldock presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services 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 26 September 2005, and brought to their attention some important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

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 particular thanks of the Committee be given to the Community Development Officer for Baldock in recognition of the time and effort put into the organisation and smooth-running of the Baldock Fair.

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

61. BALDOCK AND DISTRICT AREA VISIONING UPDATE REPORT

The Community Development Officer for Baldock presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services which updated the Committee on the progress on Area Visioning projects within the Baldock and District area. The report also presented the Committee with a revised and updated Action Plan detailing the current projects, committed expenditure and seeking their approval on committing the remaining financial balances to further projects and initiatives.

The report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services included two appendices:

- a) Appendix 1, which outlined the latest scheme developments and progress with Baldock and District Area Visioning implementations; and
- b) Appendix 2, which outlined the latest scheme developments and progress with Baldock and District Area Visioning implementation where North Hertfordshire District Council could have an influence.

The Committee expressed their concern in relation to the report that was commissioned from consultants about potential use of the trapped land created by the Baldock Bypass, as detailed in paragraph 4.3.2 of the report. Whilst the report was circulated to Members at the time, it did not go through the formal process of Committee and Council endorsement, and presentation to the Hertfordshire County Council for consideration and implementation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the progress on Area Visioning made to date be noted;
- (2) That the potential to access a central Visioning fund by rural Wards be noted;
- (3) That the unallocated revenues Visioning monies in the sum of £10,615 be allocated to rural Visioning projects, to be split and rounded to the nearest £5.00 as follows:
 - a) Arbury Ward: £ 5,945 (56%)
 - b) Weston & Sandon Ward: £ 4,670 (44%)
- (4) That, in view of the lower expenditure from Visioning funds to rural Wards in the last two years, any additional projects that the rural Wards may need additional funding for will be considered by the Baldock Town and Baldock East Wards for a grant from their discretionary budgets;
- (5) That any monies allocated to the Baldock and District area from the Baldock Bypass project be considered for allocation to both rural and urban wards in the area;
- (6) That an update on the Babbie Consultant's report in relation to the potential use of land associated with the development of the Baldock Bypass be brought to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 12 December 2005.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) This report was part of the implementation and review process for Area Visioning, in which Area Committees were advised of progress and were asked for their comments.
- (2) The Area Committee was also in a position to commit resources from its Development Budget and its allocation of Area Visioning funds to implement its priorities for action.

62. ANNUAL GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2004/05

The Community Development Officer for Baldock presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with one additional grant application that had been received.

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.

63. GRANT APPLICATION – BALDOCK BOWLS CLUB

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,500 be awarded to the Baldock Bowls Club as a financial contribution toward the renewal and installation costs associated with the provision of a heating system for the group's Clubhouse. Such monies will be allocated from the following discretionary budgets:

- a) Baldock East Ward: £ 360 (24%)
- b) Baldock Town Ward: : £1,140 (76%)

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.

64. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control as submitted to the Committee in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
05/00840/1	76 Icknield Way, Baldock Change of use from B1 to residential to provide a three storey building comprising 8 x 2 bed flats	GRANTED (see (a) below)
05/01228/1	Radwell Animal Feeds, The Barn, Great North Road, Radwell Erection of single storey building for B8 use, following demolition of existing industrial building. Use of associated land as paddock (as amended by drawings received on 24 October 2005)	GRANTED (see (b) below)

(a) **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That, in relation to planning application reference 05/00840/1, planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control.
- (2) That an informative be inserted into the Decision Notice for this planning application to ensure that the grass verge areas adjacent to the site be maintained and, where necessary, reinstated to ensure their retention for the benefit of the site and neighbouring properties.

- (b) **RESOLVED:** That, in relation to planning application reference 05/01228/1, planning permission by **GRANTED** subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control and 6, more specific, highway conditions in lieu of condition 11 of the report.

65. PLANNING APPEALS

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following planning appeal had been lodged since the meeting of the Committee held on 26 September 2005:

Appellant	Mr J. Evans
Reference number	03/00709/1
Address	43 Letchworth Road, Baldock
Proposal	Outline application (landscaping reserved) for the erection of a two bedroomed detached bungalow
Method	Written representations

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following appeals had been determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 26 September 2005:

Appellant	Mr P. Castle
Reference number	05/00238/1HH
Address	42 Station Road, Ashwell
Proposal	Timber garage

Decision	Split decision – (permission granted by LPA for a two storey element) appeal dismissed for timber garage
Appellant	Mr J. McNally
Reference number	05/00428/1
Address	Land between Rainbow End and Field Cottage, Treacle Lane, Rushden
Proposal	Detached house with double garage
Decision	Appeal dismissed

The meeting closed at 9.17 p.m.

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Chairman