

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

**Meeting held at The Community Centre, Simpson Drive, Baldock
on 19 February 2007 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: *Richard Tiffin (Area Planning Officer), Stuart Izzard (Senior
Community Development Officer (Youth)) and Donna Levett
(Committee & Member Services Officer).*

99. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

100. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

101. MINUTES – 15 January 2007

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2007 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

102. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

103. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items presented under public participation.

104. CHAMPION NEWS

The Senior Community Development Officer (SCDO) advised the Committee that he had met with other senior officers to discuss the Community use of Baldock Town Hall. There was a deadline for the group to submit their business case to the Authority before the end of summer.

Although on track re timescale there was not a great deal to report with regards to the progress on the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme. However, recently the consultants had commenced on the consultation process relating to design stage. The Committee noted the success of the recent Urban Design Workshop and felt that the afternoon session was of great value with comments and suggestions feeding into the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme.

The SCDO thanked Councillors: M. Weeks, M. Muir and M. Kirkland for their attendance at the Town Centre Partnerships meeting on Monday 12th February 2007 and confirmed that there would be an annual grant of £9,000 with a further £5,000 in 2007-2008 as start-up costs. The Committee supported the proposal for the Royston Town Centre Manager to be employed in Baldock on a part-time basis and expressed a wish that this should happen as soon as possible. Also, the Committee noted and passed its congratulations to a member of the Baldock Town Centre Partnership who had individually raised the magnificent sum of £3,000 from local businesses towards the cost of Christmas lights for Baldock in 2006.

The SCDO confirmed that local events during North Hertfordshire Book Festival would be at the Orange Tree public house and the Community Centre. Also, publication of a small booklet on archaeological finds from Clothall Common was in the pipe line and the SCDO would assist with promotion of the events.

The SCDO advised the Committee that the funding for part of the work at Clothall Village Hall would be sourced from the Council's Parish Amenity & Capital Improvement Fund and Wren's Landfill Tax Fund. The SCDO concluded his report with an update on small projects at Clothall common, Baldock Bowls Club and Ashwell Stores.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Baldock and District Committee endorsed the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for the promotion of greater community capacity and well being;
- (2) That the Senior Community Development Officer be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Baldock and District Committee with an update on the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme;

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To keep members of the Baldock and District Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in the Baldock and District Area.

105. BALDOCK AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGET 2006-2007

The SCDO advised the Committee that there were no grant applications for determination and reminded Members that all remaining balances should be pre-allocated by 31 March 2007 with confirmation that pre-allocated funds could be vired if projects did not proceed. The SCDO requested that Members should email their suggestions for grant funding as soon as possible. Councillor M. Weeks indicated that Hertfordshire Highways had put forward a bid for £1000 to part fund the waiting restriction works in Pond Lane area.

The SCDO advised that the Senior Tree Officer wished to be advised on the completion of works in Clare Crescent and Nightingale Way, and sought the Committee's views on the re-enforcement of grass verges in Baldock. Councillor M. Muir advised the Committee that he had discussed with the Senior Tree Officer the absence of two trees from the planting scheme in Hitchin Road. The Committee acknowledged that additional works such as pollarding and new trees would require funding.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current expenditure and balance of the Development and Area Visioning Budget as set out at Appendix A be noted;
- (2) That the Senior Community Development Officer be requested to seek accurate costings of recent new trees and associated works and report back to the next meeting of the Baldock and District Committee to be held on 2 April 2007.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To allow the Baldock and District Committee continue with its support to local voluntary organisations and further the aims and strategic priorities of North Herts District Council.

106. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications presented for determination.

107. PLANNING APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT

The Area Planning Officer confirmed that no appeals had been lodged and two appeals had been determined since the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2007.

Appellant;	Mr P. Jarman
Address:	The Stables, Cedar House, Green End, Sandon.
Description:	Unauthorised use of a cartilage building as a self-contained dwelling. Ref. 05/00376/1ENF
Decision:	Appeal DISMISSED on 23 January 2007 and Enforcement Notice upheld with variations.
Method:	Hearing.

Appellant; Mr and Mrs Walton
Address: Land adjacent to 4 Icknield Way, Baldock.
Description: Erection of two storey two bedroomed linked dwelling.
Ref. 06/0052/1
Decision: Appeal DISMISSED on 29 January 2007.
Method: Written representations.

The Area Planning Officer confirmed that an Enforcement Notice had been served on a caravans parked at Harepark Farm, Slip End where caravans used during the construction phase of the Baldock Bypass. The Harepark Farm Manager had assured the officer that these temporary dwellings would be removed in the next few weeks.

The Area Planning Officer advised the Committee that in response to an Enforcement Notice served in Radwell the person concerned had denied any residential use and the building was for commercial use only. The Area Planning Officer confirmed that he would monitor this use or non use.

The meeting closed at 7.56 p.m.

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Chairman