

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No
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TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.
- 1.3 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Development Discretionary Grant Funding made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.4 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

3.1 Baldock Town Partnership

Since the last Area Committee, the Baldock Town Partnership (BTP) have held a three-day Italian Market. The event was well attended by people in Baldock and proved successful for the Italian market traders who will be back in Baldock for a two-day market as part of the town's Christmas events.

This event was co-ordinated by Murray Fastier, the Town Centre Manager (TCM) with support in terms of publicity and event set up provided by the Baldock Community Development Officer, who was also in attendance to ensure that the event ran effectively and without problems.

The Italian Market was the first organised event to use electricity from the bollards in the Town Centre. Charges for the electricity have been built into the overall cost for organisers holding events in Baldock.

As mentioned in the last Area Committee report, the BTP has introduced a membership scheme which offers local businesses advertising space on the website and on publicity materials.

Businesses can sign up to a Gold, Silver or Bronze membership with the pricing being £20 per month for gold, £10 per month for silver and £20 annually for bronze. To date, the BTP has confirmed 4 gold memberships, 3 memberships are from businesses in the town centre, whilst 1 membership relates to a business on the Baldock Industrial estate.

Money gained from the Membership scheme will raise funds to enable the BTP to continue to provide events in Baldock and potentially increase the Town Centre Manager (TCM) post to a full time position.

Over the coming months the TCM will be approaching businesses both in Baldock Town Centre, the Baldock Industrial Park and the villages within the Baldock & District area to promote the Town Centre Partnership, recruit your businesses to the partnership and get businesses to sign up to the membership scheme.

At the request of Committee, the TCM will also approach businesses in Stotfold.

- Future events planned by the BTP include Baldock Day (10th July)
- The Big Lunch (18th July)
- Open weekend- countrywide Olympics celebration (23-25th July)
- Baldock Farmers Market (21st August)
- Balstock Music Festival (10-12th September 2010).

3.2 **Baldock Youth Council**

Since the last Area Committee the Baldock Youth Council (BYC) have been meeting on a weekly basis with staff from Youth Connexions, Baldock Fire Service, Baldock Police and the Baldock CDO to plan for the B'festival 2010 which is taking place on Saturday 10th July 2010 at The Arena in Baldock.

The organisers have now secured a Premises Licence for the B'Festival which will allow an increase in the possible capacity for the event from 500 to 1,000 people.

As previously mentioned, the North Herts Safety Advisory Team raised concerns about the safety of young people going to and from the venue and requested that a traffic management solution be investigated.

This matter has now been resolved with Assured Highways Solution, providing road safety and traffic management solutions on the day which have been approved by Hertfordshire Highways. Two Way temporary traffic lights, signage and barriers will be put in place to safeguard young people coming to and leaving the event. This solution was financially achieved via the Baldock Area Committee Grant Award and the Baldock Youth Council have asked that I pass on their thanks to the Committee for funding this.

An invitation has been sent to all Baldock Area Committee members as well as the Chairman of the Council to come along on the day to the B'Festival event.

The BFestival event has been widely publicised both on the local radio and in the local papers and posters and flyers have also been circulated. At the request of the Area Committee, the Baldock & District Community Development Officer has ensured that the event has been advertised through flyers and posters in Radwell, Newnham, Hinxworth, Ashwell, Sandon, Rushdon, Wallington and Weston.

A small number of noise complaints were received during the 2009 B'Festival from local residents. To alleviate this problem, the BYC will be distributing advance notice flyers to households in close proximity of the event.

3.3 **Balstock Event**

The Balstock event is a music event that has been running for the last 5 years in Baldock. The event is organised and run from the Engine Public House.

The event is planned to run between 2pm and 7pm on the 11th September 2010 and will include an open air concert in the town centre that will showcase some of the local musical talent in the area. There will be a 'Battle of the Bands' competition along with numerous other events and community stalls which the organisers hope will lead to a fun day out for all the family.

The Balstock Organisers hold regular meetings with the TCM and the Baldock & District CDO who have provided support and advice to this worthwhile project.

The Balstock Organisers will be attending the North Herts Safety Advisory Team meeting in July for advice on running the event. They have already met with Environmental Health who provided advice on the location of the stage for the Community Day event on the 11th September 2010. Following this meeting the positioning of the stage has been moved from outside Pepper Court to a position in front of the War Memorial.

Pepper Court and other households in close proximity to the concert will receive an advance notice flyer about the event and will be invited to attend the Engine Public House on the day of the event to receive a free drink or burger.

This event will be covered by the Baldock Town Centre Manager's Premises Licence.

3.4 **Local Democracy Week**

Local Democracy Week (LDW) this year takes place week beginning 11th October, 2010, with the main Youth Question Time event to be held at Fearnhill School in Letchworth on a day that still needs to be confirmed.

In addition, following feedback from last year's event, it has been agreed to hold 'Mini' Youth Question Times in all the four towns prior to the main event in LDW.

This will give the opportunity for more young people to be involved and also endeavour to gather perhaps generic questions and issues to be raised at the main event. It is also hoped that there will be more exchange between the pupils from the various participating schools.

In Baldock the 'Mini Youth Question Time will take place at Knights Templar School at a date yet to be confirmed in September.

The Baldock & District CDO is liaising with Sarah Barker the Deputy Head at the School on this project. Sarah co-ordinated the event in 2009 and will be advising on a date hopefully before the end of the school summer term.

A representative from both political parties represented on the Baldock & District Area Committee will be invited to join the panel along with other representatives from organisations within the Baldock area, including Garry Leask from Youth Connexions and Murray Fastier, the Baldock TCM.

Baldock members will be advised on the date and timings of the event in due course.

3.5 **Community Safety Initiative in Baldock**

Section 106 money has been made available for a Community Safety Initiative in Baldock.

In consultation with the Community Safety Team, the Baldock Industrial Estate was identified as the most worthwhile area to fund a project.

The Baldock Industrial Estate is regularly targeted for vandalism by young people in the area. Numerous incidences have been reported with the main problem being window smashing and damage to the inside of businesses.

The Baldock & District CDO has met with a representative of Brown and Lee who manages the common land at the Industrial estate. A possible solution being investigated is the possible installation of a key padded entrance at the rear of the Industrial estate and a possible CCTV camera.

This solution is currently being discussed at the Baldock Industrial estate with directors from Baldock Industrial Estate Limited.

4. **FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED**

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets and the Visioning Budgets.

4.2 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee Development Budget is enclosed as Appendix 1.

4.3 **Baldock Town Partnership**

In the minutes from the June 2010 Baldock Area Committee, a contribution of £1,000 was proposed and seconded by Members for the Baldock Town Partnership (BTP).

As this request was outside of the grant process the Baldock & District CDO was asked to investigate the matter further.

Members are therefore asked to consider initiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the BTP for the period up to 31st March 2012 .

Members are asked to consider the award of the MOU and the amount to be

granted annually, following the presentation received by the Committee from James Lunnon (Chair of the BTP) and Murray Fastier (TCM) who will outline the projects and events that the BTP has planned for the next two years.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding is detailed for Members information in Appendix 4.

4.4 **Highways Work Programme – Proposed Crossing at Weston Way**

In the minutes from the June 2010 Baldock Area Committee, the Committee agreed to contribute £500 towards a feasibility study for the proposed crossing at Weston Way, Baldock. As highlighted in Appendix 2, the amount requested from Highways for this project from the Area Committee was £1100.

The £500 contribution offered by Baldock Area Committee has not yet been processed due to concerns raised by Highways, who have said that without the full contribution being awarded, the scheme would have to be raised at the July JMP to see whether the panel would approve the additional funds to move the scheme forward.

4.5 **Baldock Town Youth Football Club**

The grant application from Baldock Town Youth Football Club (BTYFC) was discussed at the June Baldock & District Area Committee and was deferred with the Baldock & District CDO requested to seek clarification from the applicant on whether the funding was to be used for a team within the Club, or the Club as a whole.

The CDO has liaised with the applicant and can confirm that the grant will be used to fulfil the needs of the Club in general and that monies will be used for replacement balls and equipment across the whole club.

4.6 **Caldecote Church Friends**

A Fast Track Grant of £250 was submitted by Caldecote Church Friends to enable them to produce publicity materials to promote events taking place at the Church during the course of the year. This was approved with full payment coming from the 2010/2011 Development Ward Budget from the Arbury Ward Member.

4.7 **North Herts Over 50's Forum**

A Fast Track Grant of £250 has been submitted by the North Herts Over 50s Forum for recruitment initiatives to get more people on the 50+ Forum.

4.8 **Team Baldock FC**

Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1000 to buy football kit and equipment for a newly created football team in Baldock that caters for children aged 12-13 in Baldock and the surrounding area.

4.9 **Balstock Music Festival**

Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1500 for Balstock Music Festival which is a Community Day of Music and stalls in Baldock High Street. Funding is required to cover the cost of security for the event, the purchase of public liability insurance and advertising.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.
- 5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2010/11.
- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2009/10 to the current financial year 2010/11.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies / groups has taken place with regard to the funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets.
- 9.2 The Committee is asked to consider the award of an Memorandum of Understanding to the Baldock Town Partnership.
- 9.3 The Committee is asked to advise on the funding proposal to Herts Highways for the feasibility study for a proposed crossing at Weston Way, Baldock.
- 9.4 The Committee is asked to reconsider the grant application from Baldock Town Youth Football Club for £1,500 which was deferred from the June 2010 Area Committee meeting.
- 9.5 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent fast track grant award of £250 awarded to Caldecote Church Friends.
- 9.6 That the Committee considers a fast track grant award of £250 to North Herts

Over 50s Forum.

- 9.7 That the Committee considers the grant application for £1,000 from Team Baldock FC.
- 9.8 That the Committee considers the grant application for £1,500 from Baldock Music Festival.
- 9.9 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Baldock & District Area.

10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.
- 10.2 This report is intended simply to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation, assists in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget and ensures actions are performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance in the Grants procedure.
- 10.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and Strategic Objectives of the Council.
- 10.4 The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by members of the community.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 Hertfordshire Highways Work Programme update
- 11.3 Appendix 3 Area Committee Work Programme 2010/11
- 11.4 Appendix 4 Memorandum of Understanding for Baldock Town Partnership
- 11.5 Appendix 5 Grant report for Baldock Town Youth Football Club
- 11.6 Appendix 6 Fast Track report for North Herts Over 50s Forum
- 11.7 Appendix 7 Grant report for Team Baldock Football Club
- 11.8 Appendix 8 Grant report for Balstock Music Festival

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

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