

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT – BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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 number of community events within Baldock Town Centre including a two-day Italian Market, a French market and a Farmers/Craft Market.

To maximise attendance and interest from the public for these community events, the BTP has started to supplement each event with additional activities. For the Italian & French markets, fun rides and face painting were available on the day to encourage families into the town centres, whilst for the Farmers Market, 10 craft stalls were set up to showcase local craftsmanship and produce and to enhance the community feel of the event.

All events were 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 all events ran effectively and without problems.

All events were well attended by the public and all passed without any issues for concern. A list of all events planned by the BTP is included in Appendix 1.

The Baldock TCM now has a Premises Licence in place and an electricity supply has been installed to serve the electrical feed bollards in the High Street. This will assist the TCM in potentially increasing the number of events that can be held in the town centre in the future.

The BTP website is now live and is available at www.baldocktown.co.uk The website provides details of all the community events planned for Baldock during 2010 and also includes links to the businesses and education establishments within the Baldock area. The TCM is liaising with Knights Templar school to bring in a 6 form pupil to help run the website as part of a work experience venture.

The BTP has now started to contact local businesses offering them advertising space on the website to help raise funds to enable the BTP to continue to provide events in Baldock and potentially increase the TCM post to full time position which would be in-line with the other towns in Hertfordshire.

Over the next couple of months the TCM will be approaching businesses within the Baldock Industrial estate and villages within the catchment (including Newnham, Ashwell, Weston and Sandon) to raise awareness of the BTP and to encourage businesses to join the BTP. This exercise will also be used to sell advertising space on the website.

A Baldock Town Partnership flyer has also been produced and circulated to households within the Baldock catchment area to raise awareness of the events planned for the area and to maximise community attendance. This was also used as a funding generator with a number of Baldock businesses paying to have their business promoted in the flyer.

Future events planned by the BTP include a 3-day Italian market (18th-20th June), Baldock Day (10th July) and The Big Lunch (18th July).

3.2 **The Baldock Festival**

The 27th Baldock Festival came to end on Sunday 16th May 2010. This was the biggest in scale Festival the organisers had staged with 82 events over the two-week period. (compared with 68 in 2009)

As with previous years, the festival was very popular with the vast majority of events selling out and all individual groups seeing profit increases.

There was only one real issue during the 2-week festival, which was the treatment of the grassed area on the High Street by SKANSKA a few days prior to the Medieval Day. This issue which threatened to severely disrupt the event was resolved at short notice by the Community Development Section, which financed and installed matting on the effected area to ensure the event ran smoothly.

3.3 **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 and the Baldock CDO to plan for the B'Festival 2010 which is taking place on 10th July 2010 at The Arena in Baldock.

The Youth Council submitted a bid to the 'Youth Opportunities Fund – The Big Spend' for an amount in the region of £20,000 and received funding of £10,670. This is in-line with the funding provided for the 2009 B'Festival event.

To increase the capacity of the event Youth Connexions have submitted an application to the Licensing & Enforcement for a full Premises Licence. This would allow for up to 1000 young people aged between 13 & 19 to attend on the day compared to a maximum of 500 who were able to attend in 2009.

The premises licence application is at the consultation stage until the 9th June 2010. There have been no objections to date.

The B'Festival event has also been discussed by the Safety Advisory Team. (SAT). SAT were happy with the event organisers event application with concerns only raised regarding the safe dispersal of the crowd at the end of the event. To alleviate these concerns, the B'Festival organisers will be purchasing warning signs (showing pedestrians in the road) from Herts Highways to be used at the event.

The theme for the 2010 B'Festival event is 'Be Safe'. This theme was adopted following the tragic death of Jake Chapman, a pupil from Knights Templar, who dies following an accident on his bicycle in 2009.

During April and May, Baldock Youth Council arranged a number of safety projects for young people in Baldock and the surrounding area. This included a series of driver safety workshops at Knights Templar and Fearnhill School in Letchworth and cycle safety sessions which were run at the school by Community Police Officers.

As well as the musical and sporting elements to the festival on 10 July, the Baldock Youth Council will also be continuing with their theme of safety. Activities on the day will include a crash reconstruction with the Fire Brigade, a reaction timer driver awareness exercise and a scenario showing the dangers of being a drunk pedestrian. The Sexual Health bus will also be attending the event. emphasis will be on educating young people to keep themselves safe. This will include road safety, sexual health advice, security on the internet, drug and alcohol awareness.

3.4 **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.

Following on from the Baldock Town Centre Enhancements, the Balstock organisers are looking to expand the event to include a Community Day in Baldock Town Centre on Saturday 11th September 2010.

The event is planned to run between 2pm and 7pm on the 11th September 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 CDO who have provided support and advice to this worthwhile project.

The Balstock Organisers are in the process of seeking funding from the 'Awards for all' scheme for the sum of £4,500.

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 Beer Festival

A Fast Track Grant of £500 was submitted by the Baldock Beer Festival organisers for the purchase of equipment for the music performances that would make up a large part of the community event.

The application, although considered by Town Members, wasn't approved owing to the fact that the Festival's accounts showed a surplus balance in excess of £8000. It was therefore felt that the support Area Committee Grant Funds for project funding would be inappropriate, but Members wished the Beer Festival organisers every success.

4.4 Christchurch Baldock Mother & Toddler Group

A Fast Track Grant of £500 was submitted by the Christchurch Baldock Mother & Toddler Group for the purchase of amplification equipment for delivering story time, singing time and announcements during their weekly sessions. These sessions are regularly attended by 70+ people.

4.5 Baldock Museum & Local History Society

A Fast Track Grant of £500 was submitted by the Baldock Museum & Local History Society for the production of a short video showing the positive impact that Bonder manufacturing had on the town of Baldock and the people who lived in the town and surrounding area.

4.6 Baldock Town Youth Football Club

Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1,500 to buy football kits and equipment for the under 7's and 8's teams to help them establish themselves as part of Baldock Town Youth Football Club.

4.7 Baldock Community Association

Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1,500 to buy two new environmentally friendly picnic benches for outside the Baldock Community Centre as well as a sofa to enhance the reception area of the community centre which is a well used meeting point for many group in the community.

- 4.8 B'Festival
Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1000 for the hire of temporary traffic lights and signage. This is an essential road safety solution to ensure the safety of all young people leaving the B'Festival event.

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 That the Committee acknowledges the recent fast track grant of £500 made to Baldock Beer Festival which was not approved.
- 9.3 That the Committee considers the fast track grant of £500 to Christchurch Baldock Mothers and Toddlers Group.

- 9.4 That the Committee considers the fast track grant of £500 to Baldock Museum & Local History Society
- 9.5 That the Committee considers the grant application from Baldock Town Youth Football Club for £1500.
- 9.6 That the Committee considers the grant application from Baldock Community Association for £1500.
- 9.7 That the Committee considers the grant application from the organisers of Bfest for £1000.
- 9.8 That the Committee considers the part funding of the two Herts Highways projects as listed of the NH JMP work programme – Appendix 2
- 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 Baldock Town Partnership Calendar of Events 2010
- 11.5 Appendix 5 Fast track report for Christchurch Baldock Mothers & Toddlers Group
- 11.6 Appendix 6 Grant report for Baldock Town Youth Football Club

- 11.7 Appendix 7 Grant report for Baldock Community Association
- 11.8 Appendix 8 Grant report for Bfestival
- 11.9 Appendix 9 Fast Track report for Baldock Museum & Local History Society

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 12.1 Ashley Hawkins (Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474225
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk
- 12.2 Lois Stewart, Group Accountant.
Telephone: 4566.
Email: lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk

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