

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 November Area Committee, the Baldock Town & District Partnership (BTADP) has held one event which was the 3 day Christmas Extravaganza that ran from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th December 2011.

The weekend event started on the Friday with the BTADP Christmas dinner at the Baldock Community Centre. This was well supported with over 70 attending on the night. The event made a profit of £300.

On Saturday and Sunday Baldock High Street was transformed into a winter wonderland with an ice rink, Italian market and many food and craft stalls being set up in the town.

A publicity drive which included posters and flyers being distributed to schools, businesses and local shops by the Baldock CDO ensured that the event was enjoyed not only by residents of Baldock but also those from the surrounding villages of Ashwell, Bygrave, Hinxworth, Radwell, Sandon, Rushden, Wallington and Weston.

Footfall was up for High Street businesses during the weekend festivities and the majority of stalls sold out on the day.

Unfortunately, cold weather prevented the ferris wheel, dodgems and several inflatables from attending over the weekend. The event ran at a loss of approximately £1k and the BTADP expect the short fall to be met through profits from the Farmers Market and other events that had been held in the town throughout the year.

This event was co-ordinated by Murray Fastier, the Town Centre Manager (TCM) with support in terms of publicity and general event set via the Baldock Community Development Officer (CDO), who attended both days to ensure that the events ran effectively and without problems.

The BTADP took over the management of the Market Rite for the Chartered Wednesday Street Market from Wendy Fairs at the start of December 2010. As a direct result and encouragement from the TCM recent Markets have doubled in size from 4 to 9 stalls and all seems to be working well in the Market's relocated position in the High Street Car park.

The TCM is currently in negotiations with the market managers and stall holders at the Hitchin and Biggleswade markets with an endeavour to attract further stalls to Baldock from March onwards.

As part of the Wednesday Market, the BTADP offers local community groups and charities free usage of a market stall. This facility has been used by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds who sold 4 memberships on the day. Other groups interested in using the free stall are the Battle of Britain Locomotive Society, TRUST (the recycling unit saving timber) and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Since the November Area Committee report, the BTADP have doubled the number of businesses on the Membership Scheme Initiative. This scheme has been set up to enable the BTADP to continue to provide events in Baldock and also to enable the TCM post to move to a full time position.

There are now 25 businesses signed up to the Membership Scheme with businesses in Weston and Ashwell now also contributing. There are 23 Gold members (£20 per month), 1 diamond member (£155 month) and 1 Platinum member (£165 a month). Total Membership contributions now secure funds in the region of £800 a month for the BTADP.

A new initiative for the BTADP is the Baldock Network Group. This will be launched on Tuesday 1st March 2011 and will allow local businesses to network over breakfast on alternate Tuesday mornings at the Zeus Hotel. The cost per member per meeting will be £10 and an annual subscription of £100 will be requested from each business represented once the number of businesses involved reaches 20. This again will help raise essential income for the BTADP.

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Network Group launch (1st March 2011)
- Farmers Market (12th March 2011)
- Italian Market & Ferrari Club (26th -27th March 2011)
- Farmers Market (9th April)

A full list of the BTADP events for 2011 is included in Appendix 3 of this report.

3.2 **Baldock Youth Council**

The Baldock Youth Council (BYC) continues to meet on alternate Tuesday's at the Youth Wing in Baldock. The group is run by Youth Connexions in partnership with the Baldock CDO.

The BYC currently has 6 members with the make up of the group being a good mix of gender and age ranges. The Baldock CDO is looking to boost membership of the group with invitees to other local clubs and groups including the Scouts, Guides, Knights Templar School Council and those that attend the Asheteria Drop in Centre in Ashwell.

A launch event is planned for the BYC in April 2011. Baldock CDO will advise members on the timings of this event once they have been agreed.

3.3 **B'Fest – Be Healthy 2011**

The Baldock CDO with Youth Connexions and the Baldock Youth Council have started planning for the 2011 B'Fest – Be Healthy event. The provisional date for this years event is Saturday 16th July 2011 with the likely venue being Knights Templar Sports Centre. The format for the event will be along the lines of previous years and will include football and rounders tournaments, live music, promoting local bands and numerous stalls promoting healthy messages.

A major concern re staging an event this year will be securing funding, primarily because the Hertfordshire County Council's Big Spend funding stream is no longer available. The Baldock CDO will investigate other possible funding streams to try and secure a working budget that's available for promoting the event.

3.4 **Balstock Event 2011**

The Baldock CDO is again providing support and advise to the organisers of the Balstock event. The event will be held in Baldock on Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September 2011.

3.5 **Baldock Issues Group**

The Baldock group entitled 'BIG' was launched in October 2010 and will meet on a bi-monthly basis. The group is currently made up of representatives from Youth Connexions, Extended Schools, the Primary Care Trust and the Police. The group is also seeking involvement from other partner organisations including the Fire Service and St Mary's Church.

It is hoped that 'BIG' will work to address youth issues in Baldock and will also feed into the NH Children's Trust Partnership.

3.6 **Reinstatement of Cellar doors**

The Baldock CDO has been working closely with North Hertfordshire District Council's Planning Department to reinstate the cellar doors at the old Goldcrest Hotel and the former George and Dragon Public House.

As part of the Baldock enhancement works both cellar doors were tarmaced over. This measure was carried out on health and safety grounds to avoid trip hazards.

Listed building consent has now been granted for the cellar door reinstatement at the George and Dragon Public House and work on both buildings should be completed before the end of February 2011.

3.7 **Nightingale Park – Community Safety project**

The Baldock CDO has been working closely with North Herts Homes (NHH) on a community safety project at Nightingale Park in Baldock. Approximately £3k of Section 106 / Planning Contributions has been identified as a potential source of capital and match funding is also available from NHH.

The scheme will include the lining out of the basketball court, the marking out of a street scene that can be used for both cycle training and pedestrian safety, a hopscotch game, snakes and ladders game and a possible new swing for older children in the park area. This scheme is a diversionary project which endeavours to provide alternative activities for young people rather than engaging in anti-social behaviour. This scheme is currently being considered by Planning and it is hoped that funds will be released in the next couple of months.

3.8 **Grassed areas along Baldock High Street**

The Baldock CDO is investigating with colleagues in Planning and Grounds a permanent solution to the grass problem in Baldock High Street. In particular we are focusing on the last 4 grassed areas along the High Street towards Mansfield Road. These are the areas that have been worst affected in the last 12 months by both the weather and the events run by the Baldock Town & District Partnership and the Baldock Fair. One possible solution being investigated is the use of mesh matting. However, it is unknown at this stage whether this solution will allow for suitable drainage or whether it will be able to take the weight of vehicles and equipment that is erected on the grass.

3.9 **Remaining budgets available to Baldock & District Ward Members and the allocation of funds for projects in 2011/12**

As well as the funding applications being discussed at Baldock & District Area Committee in February 2011, there are a number of fast track grants waiting to be processed.

Detailed below are the remaining funds available to Ward Members in both Preallocated Budgets and the 2010/11 Base Budget. The figures highlighted below are based on the funds remaining and take into account the recent grant recommendations already requested by Ward Members to the Baldock CDO.

Members are asked to note that remaining budget funds from the 2010/11 area base budget must be spent or allocated to a project before the end of the current fiscal year. In addition, any existing funds that have been allocated for more than 2 years and are not likely to be drawn down, should be

reviewed and Members consider potential reallocation to other projects/schemes that are likely to proceed within the 2011/12 Committee cycle.

Projects / Funds to consider:

- **Baldock Town** - Town Projects Initiatives 17/3/08
- **Baldock East** - Clothall Common 17/3/08
- **Arbury** - Rural Youth Developments Project 7/2/08

Detailed below are the remaining base and preallocated budgets by Ward:

Baldock Town

Town Project Initiatives	2264
Town Centre Enhancement Works	4030
Community Initiatives	374
Over allocation from Base Budget	-49
	<u>6619</u>

Baldock East

Clothall Common - Environmental Projects uncommitted	67
Base Budget	14
	<u>81</u>

Arbury

Rural Youth Development Projects	534
Base Budget	2029
	<u>2563</u>

Weston and Sandon

Rural Youth Development Projects	11
Base budget	796
	<u>807</u>

3.10 Highways Joint Member Panel

The Joint Member Panel have identified two potential schemes for the Baldock area. These are as follows:

- A507 Baldock – Radwell – New footpath – estimated cost £10,000
- Weston Way – Baldock – Footway link – feasibility study – estimated cost £6,600

As stated already, the above schemes are only potential schemes and are included here for Members information only. Exact costings and requested funding from JMP, Area Committee and County Council Locality budgets are not yet available.

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 **Hinxworth Archery Group**
A Fast Track Grant of £107 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of a Arrow Finder for Hinxworth Archery Club.
- 4.4 **Ashwell Village Trust**
A Fast Track Grant of £140 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Base Budget for the purchase of a Beehive Composter for Ashwell Cottage Garden.
- 4.5 **Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club**
A Fast Track Grant of £300 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of two netball posts and nets for Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club.
- 4.6 **Ashwell Badminton Club**
A Fast Track Grant of £250 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of equipment for Ashwell Badminton Club.
- 4.7 **Ashwell Cycle Club**
A Fast Track Grant of £200 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of grass track tyres for Ashwell Cycle Club - Youth Section.
- 4.8 **Ashwell Youth Cricket Club**
A Fast Track Grant of £400 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of a Catching Cradle for Ashwell Youth Cricket Club.
- 4.9 **Hinxworth Village Hall**
A Fast Track Grant of £300 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of tables for Hinxworth Village Hall.
- 4.10 **Ashwell Cycle Club**
A Fast Track Grant of £400 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the purchase of a junior bicycle for Ashwell Cycle Club for use on the grass track.
- 4.11 **2nd Baldock Scout Group**
A Fast Track Grant of £495 has been paid from the Baldock Town & Baldock East Ward budgets in the usual split for equipment for 2nd Baldock Scout Group. Baldock Town's contribution came from the preallocated Town Projects Initiatives pot (£376.20) whilst the contribution from Baldock East came from the preallocated Youth Initiatives pot (£118.80).

- 4.12 **Baldock Town & District Partnership**
A Fast Track Grant of £500 has been paid from the Baldock Town & Baldock East Ward budgets in the usual split for the purchase of a laptop for the Baldock Town & District Partnership's Town Centre Manager. Baldock Town's contribution came from the preallocated Town Centre Enhancements pot (£380) whilst the contribution from Baldock East came from the 2010/11 Base Budget (£120).
- 4.13 **Merry Go Round Under 5s Playgroup**
A Fast Track Grant of £400 has been paid from the Baldock Town Ward Members preallocated Town Projects Initiatives pot for the purchase of a laptop for Merry Go Round Under 5s Playgroup.
- 4.14 **Magic Moments Nursery**
A Fast Track Grant of £250 has been paid from the Baldock Town & Baldock East Ward budgets in the usual split for the purchase of a printer and software for Magic Moments Nursery. Baldock Town's contribution came from the preallocated Town Projects Initiative pot (£190) whilst the contribution from Baldock East came from the 2010/11 Base Budget (£60).
- 4.15 **Wallington Play Area**
A Fast Track Grant of £500 has been paid from the Weston & Sandon 2010/11 Base Budget for the purchase of safety bark for Wallington Play Area.
- 4.16 **Sandon Sports Club**
A Fast Track Grant of £400 has been paid from the Weston & Sandon Ward Member's preallocated Rural Developments Projects pot for new windows for Sandon Sports Club.
- 4.17 **Bygrave Bell Ringers**
A Fast Track of £205 has been paid from the Arbury Ward 2010/11 Base Budget for the purchase of tables and music stands for Bygrave Bell Ringers.
- 4.18 **Knights Templar School**
Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1338 to enable Knights Templar School to purchase wireless microphones and a amplifier for use by the school and community groups within Baldock and the surrounding villages.
- 4.19 **Equipment for Asheteria Drop in Centre**
Members are asked to consider grant funding of £700 for the Asheteria Drop in Centre to enable them to purchase essential equipment including a pool table, television, games console and games for the club. With Committee approval the Arbury Ward member has agreed to fund this project to the full amount from his preallocated Rural Youth Development pot.
- 4.20 **St Mary's Church Youth Worker**
Members are asked to consider grant funding of £2000 towards the salary, expenses and room hire charges for the St Mary's Youth Worker.

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 1 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 Members are asked to allocate the remaining budget funds from the 2010/11 area base budget before the end of the current financial year.
- 9.3 Members are asked to review and consider the potential reallocation of any existing funds that have been allocated for more than 2 years, as detailed in 3.8 of this report.
- 9.4 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £107 awarded to the Hinxworth Archery Club for the purchase of an Arrow Finder.
- 9.5 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £140 awarded to Ashwell Village Trust for the purchase of a Beehive Composter.

- 9.6 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £300 awarded to Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club for the purchase of two netball posts and nets.
- 9.7 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £250 awarded to Ashwell Badminton Club for the purchase of nets and other equipment.
- 9.8 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £200 awarded to Ashwell Cycle Club – Youth Section for the purchase of grass track tyres.
- 9.9 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £400 awarded to Ashwell Youth Cricket Club for the purchase of a Catching Cradle.
- 9.10 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £300 awarded to Hinxworth Village Hall for the purchase of tables.
- 9.11 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £400 awarded to Ashwell Cycle Club for the purchase of a junior bicycle.
- 9.12 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £495 awarded to 2nd Baldock Scouts Group for the purchase of equipment.
- 9.13 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £500 awarded to the Baldock Town & District Partnership for the purchase of a laptop.
- 9.14 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £400 awarded to Merry Go Round Under 5s Playgroup for the purchase of a laptop.
- 9.15 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £250 awarded to Magic Moments Nursery for the purchase of a printer and software.
- 9.16 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £500 awarded to Wallington Play Area for the purchase of safety bark.
- 9.17 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £400 awarded to Sandon Sports Club for the purchase of new windows.
- 9.18 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £205 to Bygrave Bell Ringers for the purchase of tables and music stands.
- 9.19 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1338 to Knights Templar School for the purchase of microphones and an amplifier.
- 9.20 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £700 to the Asheteria Drop in Centre for the purchase of equipment.
- 9.21 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £2000 to St Mary's Church for the salary, expenses and room hire costs of the Youth Worker.

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 Priorities 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 Area Committee Work Programme 2010/11
- 11.3 Appendix 3 Baldock Town & District Partnership Calendar of Events 2011
- 11.4 Appendix 4 – Grant report for Knights Templar School
- 11.5 Appendix 5 – Grant report for equipment for Asheteria Drop in Centre
- 11.6 Appendix 6 – Grant report for St Mary's Church Youth Worker

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: 01462 474566
Email: lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk