

<b>PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No</b>
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**TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT – BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE – MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR TRICIA COWLEY**

**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 February Area Committee, the Baldock Town & District Partnership (BTADP) has held two Farmers Markets and a two day Italian Market which included a visit from the Ferrari Club.

The Farmers Markets continue to be popular, attracting between 20 and 25 stalls each month. In 2010, the BTADP held Farmers Markets on a two monthly basis, however in 2011 the format is to hold monthly Farmers Markets on the second Saturday of the month. As well as driving up footfall for the local businesses the Farmers Market also bring in approximately £400 per event for the BTADP.

The Two Day Italian Market was another very successful event for the BTADP with both businesses and market traders enjoying a profitable weekend. Trading was particularly good for traders thanks to the Ferrari Club

which attracted large crowds to the High Street. The March 2011 Italian Market event banked £500 for the BTADP.

All of the above events were co-ordinated by Murray Fastier, the Town Centre Manager (TCM) with support in terms of publicity and general event set up via the Baldock Community Development Officer (CDO), who attended all events to ensure they ran effectively and without problems.

Since the February Area Committee, there has been a dip in performance of the Wednesday Market. The BTADP took over the lease for the market from Wendy Faires at the start of December and by the end of the year had more than doubled the number of stalls from 4 to 10.

January, February and March are notoriously slow months for Markets and this was the case with Baldock, with a number of stalls failing to show on a regular basis during this period. Incentives such as half rent where utilised by the BTADP but the lack of steady footfall saw a number of stalls leave the Baldock Market including the Cheese Stall, Frame Stall, Handbag Stall and the Gadgets stall.

The Baldock TCM along with the Baldock CDO are attempting to bring in new stalls to the market from other areas, with future potential stalls including a new bread stall, a football merchandise stall and a pet supplies stall.

Whilst there has been a down turn in the number of stalls on the Wednesday market, it should be noted that the BTADP has already secured the £2000 rent set by D'Boignville for 2011.

The BTADP continue to make progress with the Membership Scheme Initiative and now have 30 businesses signed up. Membership contributions now secure funds in the region of £850 a month for the BTADP.

The Baldock Network Group (BNG) which was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 is also working well, attracting on average 17 people to the bi-weekly breakfast event. This group is now supported by the Baldock & District Councillors who attend each event on a rotation basis.

The BNG is another initiative instigated by the BTADP to bring in funds to the partnership so that in time it may be self-sustaining. To date 4 people have signed up to the BNG with 4 more in the pipeline. The annual subscription to the BNG is £100 for non-partnership members and £50 for partnership members.

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Big Lunch (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011)
- Farmers Market (Saturday 11 June 2011)
- Baldock Day & Farmers Market (Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011)

### **3.2 Baldock Festival 2011**

The 28th Baldock Festival came to an end on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. As with previous years, the festival ended with the Street Fair which this year had the theme 'Baldock Through the Ages'.

The Street Fair was again very popular with thousands descending on the High Street over the course of the day. There were 38 stalls trading on the day and many sold out.

The Street Fair and indeed the Baldock Festival fortnight all passed without any incident.

### **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.

Membership of the BYC is still low with meetings on average only attended by 4 members. Since the February Area Committee, the Baldock CDO has tried to recruit new members to the BYC but with no success. This pattern is unfortunately consistent with Youth Council's in some of the other towns in North Herts and it is often the case that membership fluctuates on a cyclical basis.

### **3.4 B'Fest – Be Healthy 2011**

Since the February Area Committee, there has been a great deal of activity with this event. The date and venue are now confirmed with the event taking place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Knights Templar Sports Centre. The festival has also had a change of name and focus since February with the event now called B'Fest – Be UR SELF.

The theme for this year will focus on people being themselves and not giving into Peer pressure.

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 that aim to raise awareness about drugs, alcohol and sexual health. There will also be information available on the day about road safety and safer cycling.

As stated in the February Area Committee, funding is a major issue with the 2011 event primarily because the Hertfordshire County Council's Big Spend funding stream is no longer available.

To date, the organisers of the event have managed to secure funds from the Extended Schools Partnership and Youth Connexions. The Baldock CDO has organised a free stage for the event and has negotiated a reduced rental rate for the event from the Knights Templar Sports Centre Manager. Both these measures will help to reduce the overall cost of this very worthwhile event.

The Baldock CDO has worked with Licensing on the Premises License for the B'Fest event. The application was submitted late May and is subject to a month long consultation period.

**3.5    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.

The cellar door at The Goldcrest was re-instated during February 2011 and the cellar door at The George & Dragon will be completed by mid June 2011.

**3.6    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 Contribution funds 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 possibly a 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.

Progress on this project has been held up due to staff changes at North Herts Homes (NHH). The Baldock CDO will be meeting with the new contact at NHH in June and hopes to have the Section 106 money released by early July so that the planned works can be carried out to enable young people to use the improved facilities during the summer holidays.

**3.7    Highways Work Programme**

The Highways Work Programme detailing works either carried out or planned within the Baldock & District in the current financial year, are detailed in Appendix 2. Members are also asked to identify other schemes that they would like to be considered by the Joint Member Panel.

**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    Ashwell Retailers Association**

A Fast Track Grant of £380 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Base Budget for the design and printing of the Ashwell Village Trail leaflets.

- 4.4 **Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust**  
A Fast Track Grant of £175 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Base Budget for the purchase of replacement hand tools to be used for the control of shrubs at Ashwell Quarry Nature Reserve.
- 4.5 **Radwell Social Club**  
A Fast Track Grant of £300 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Base Budget for the purchase of new kitchen equipment for Radwell Social Club.
- 4.6 **Ashwell Music Festival**  
A Fast Track Grant of £250 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Youth Development budget for the printing of leaflets for Ashwell Music Festival.
- 4.7 **Howard Gardens Social & Daycare Centre**  
A Fast Track Grant of £200 has been awarded to Howard Gardens Social & Day Care Centre to assist in the running costs of the centre which is used by Baldock residents. This award was split between the Baldock Town and Baldock East Wards with the split being £160 and £40 respectively. Baldock Town's contribution came from the preallocated Town Projects initiative pot and Baldock East's from the preallocated Clothall Common pot.
- 4.8 **Friends of Baldock Green Spaces**  
A Fast Track Grant of £100 has been paid from the Baldock Town and Baldock East Wards with the split being £76 and £24 respectively. Baldock Town's contribution came from the preallocated Town Projects Initiatives pot and Baldock East's from the Base Budget. Funding was issued to assist the group with their publicity which included the production of leaflets.
- 4.9 **Newnham Village Hall**  
A Fast Track Grant of £300 has been paid from the Arbury Ward Base Budget for the purchase of an oven for Newnham Village Hall.
- 4.10 **Weston Voluntary Nursery**  
A Fast Track Grant of £105 has been paid from the Weston & Sandon Ward Base Budget for the purchase of staff uniforms and software equipment for Weston Nursery.
- 4.11 **Wallington Church**  
A Fast Track Grant of £80 has been paid from the Weston & Sandon Base Budget for the purchase of shingle to be used on the path at Wallington Church.
- 4.12 **Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association**  
A Fast Track Grant of £500 has been paid from the Baldock Town Ward's preallocated Town projects Initiatives pot to help the Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association with the purchase of fencing.
- 4.13 **Baldock Royal Wedding Street Parties**  
A Fast Track Grant of £100 has been paid from the Baldock Town Ward Members preallocated Town Projects Initiatives pot for the set up costs of 4 street parties (Convent Gardens, Thurnhall Close, Byrd Walk and Providence Way) being held in Baldock Town as part of the Royal Wedding Celebrations.

A Fast Track Grant of £50 was also paid from the Baldock East Base Budget for the set up costs of 2 street parties (Salisbury Road and Grosvenor Road) being held in Baldock East.

4.14 **North Herts Village of the Year 2011**

Contributions of £50 each were made by the Arbury and Weston & Sandon Ward members towards the Village of the Year 2011. The Arbury Ward members contribution came from the preallocated Rural Community projects pot whilst the Weston & Sandon Ward members contribution came from the preallocated Rural Community Initiatives pot.

4.15 **Current Funding Applications**

The Baldock CDO is awaiting the completed funding application paperwork for a number of projects. These were not received in time for this report but will be processed before the Baldock & District Committee meeting scheduled for July. The projects are detailed in the table below.

Ward	Project
Arbury Ward	Funding support for Ashwell Academicals to enable them to purchase new goals for the football club. Funding to come from the Arbury Ward Members preallocated Rural Community Projects pot.
Baldock Town / Baldock East	Funding support for Baldock 1 <sup>st</sup> Scouts to enable them to purchase essential equipment including tents and lights.
Baldock Town / Baldock East	Funding support for Baldock Guides to enable them to purchase essential equipment.
Baldock Town / Baldock East	Funding support for Baldock Bowling club to enable them to purchase equipment.
Weston & Sandon	Funding support for Weston Strength & Balance class to enable them to purchase equipment.
Weston & Sandon	Funding support for the organisers of the George Orwell Festival which takes place in Letchworth and Wallington during September 2011. Funding is being applied for to help with publicity costs.
Baldock Town / Baldock East / Arbury / Weston & Sandon	Funding support for the Baldock Youth Council to assist them with the 2011 B'Festival event. Funding required to assist with the costs for publicising the event around Baldock and the villages and also for the hire of Portaloos for the day.

**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 2011/12.
- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2010/11 to the current financial year 2011/12.

## **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 acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £380 awarded to the Ashwell Retailers Association for the design and printing of the Ashwell Village Trail leaflets.
- 9.3 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £175 awarded to Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust for the purchase of replacement hand tools for use at Ashwell Quarry Nature Reserve.
- 9.4 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £300 awarded to Radwell Social Club for the purchase of new kitchen equipment.
- 9.5 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £250 awarded to Ashwell Music Festival for the printing of leaflets.
- 9.6 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £200 awarded to Howard Gardens Social & Daycare Centre to assist with the running costs of the centre.
- 9.7 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £100 awarded to Friends of Baldock Green Spaces to assist with publicity costs including the production of leaflets.

- 9.8 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £300 awarded to Newnham Village Hall for the purchase of a new oven for the hall.
- 9.9 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £105 awarded to Weston Voluntary Nursery for the purchase of staff uniforms and software equipment.
- 9.10 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £500 awarded to Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association for the purchase of fencing for the allotment.
- 9.11 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £150 awarded to the 4 streets within Baldock Town Ward and the 2 streets within Baldock East with the set up costs for street parties organised as part of the Royal Wedding Celebrations.
- 9.12 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £100 awarded to North Herts Village of the Year programme for 2011.
- 9.13 The Committee is asked to comment on the Highways Work Programme as detailed in point 3.7 above and Appendix 2. Members are also asked to identify any other schemes that they wish to be considered by the Joint Member Panel.

## **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 Hertfordshire Highways Work Programme 2011/12
- 11.2 Appendix 3 Area Committee Work Programme 2011/12

## **12. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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