

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UPDATES FROM ORGANISATIONS

### Update from Baldock Town & District Partnership

The Baldock Town and District Partnership have been extremely busy and active throughout the town over the last 2 years.

We have instigated and continue to hold monthly Farmers and Craft Markets, again there have been regular marketing and promotion costs associated with this, both newspaper and localised poster/leaflet drops.

We assumed control of the Wednesday Charter Market December 2010 and have run an extensive marketing campaign to try to boost up the attendance for the market with local newspaper advertising and a blanket leaflet drop around Baldock and the local villages.

We have purchased 2 pop up gazebos at a total cost of £1600, these have been instrumental in assisting our marketing as they are, and have been available for use for local charity/community groups as a free of charge stall for any promotion increased awareness.

There have been a number of celebration days held in Baldock throughout the year, the Big Lunch (June), Baldock Day (July) and the Christmas Fair Celebration weekend, all were extremely successful community celebrations.

We have increased the Christmas illuminations around town with last year lighting erected in the trees on the High Street, we have plans to do likewise to the big tree on Tesco Roundabout and also the trees on Whitehorse Street, this will greatly improve the festive spirit around the Town. The Cost to date for this is £500.00 with another £500 forecast for this year.

We have set up a regular breakfast network group which has been very successful we meet bi-weekly at Zeus Hotel and Restaurant at 7.00am, there are currently 18 financial members and average 15 people attending each meeting, again there has been promotion/marketing expenses incurred with overall income from membership and meeting charges averaging £100per month

We have income streams in place from local businesses for membership to the BT&D Partnership amounting to £1000 per month. With Income from market's and event's averaging £500/month.

Murray the town Centre Manager is currently employed 4 days a week and we are keen to secure him with a full time in the near future.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Update from Baldock Festival Association**

The aims of Baldock Festival are to provide affordable entertainment for all ages and tastes in the community of Baldock and surrounding areas during the first two weeks in May. We also organise carol singing round the Christmas tree. Other groups (i.e. Town Partnership, Bfest, Balstock, St Mary's Church, Catholic Church) use our market stalls at their events for a minimum charge to cover running costs.

We produce 6,000 programmes for the Festival fortnight which are delivered free to every home in Baldock and some of the surrounding villages as well as Letchworth Tourist Information Centre and David's Bookshop. We also send programmes out through the Library Service to towns in the area.

The MOU grant helps with the escalating printing costs of the programme and provide good street entertainers for the whole day at the Festival Street Fair.

Baldock Festival 2012 will run from Friday 4th May to Sunday 20th May. The MOU grant will allow us to continue to run events at an affordable price, so that everybody has the opportunity to take part in the Baldock Festival.

Baldock Festival would like to thank the Baldock and District Committee for awarding the grants to us in the past and hope that they feel able to continue to do so in the future.

### **Update from Baldock Seniors Group**

The club meets once a week for two hours in the Community Centre. The cost of the hall used is £20 an hour which we pay annually and the MOU money contributes to this. We are likely to face a rent increase next year. The centre is central for members and many attend the lunch club run from the centre on the same day. The centre provides excellent kitchen facilities and has toilet facilities for the disabled and able bodied. The coffee bar and lounge is also a useful facility.

We regularly have between 24 and 28 members attending weekly ( 32 paid up members in all) and try to provide a different activity each week. We arrange a few outings a year on days other than club days and hire transport for these. Over the past year we have visited local garden centres, Clacton, the pantomime at Gordon Craig, Southwold, Hatfield House, a mystery trip and Ashwell Cottage Garden.

Activities over the past year have included a variety of games and quizzes, visiting speakers , information giving sessions from such as RNIB, Council for Voluntary service, Age UK, Oakhouse Foods, Karaoke sing-a-longs, craft activities and demonstrations, 'a taste of France' , Bochia with Adult Care Services, visits to a local primary school, Christmas lunch and party.

We are keen to foster links with the younger generation and are making contact with both St Mary's and Hartsfield primary schools. We hope that there may be some interest from students at Knights Templar also to join us this year in some way. The biggest challenge we face as well as finding the rent money is transport and the future of the Friends of Baldock mini bus is of real concern to us. Being able to get to the club by a bus that caters door-to-door for our less mobile members makes all the difference to their being able to attend and maybe mix with others in a social way.

## APPENDIX 3

We contribute to the bus in a small way at the moment but are concerned that the upkeep and management of the bus will cost more in the future.

### **Update from Baldock Town Twinning Association**

The Baldock Town Twinning Association (BTTA) has used the annual grant of £300 from NHDC to help fund its activities for Baldock's twin towns of Eisenberg and Sanvignes-les-Mines. However, the value of this grant has been partially offset by payment of £172.00 to Herts County Council for 3rd-party liability insurance.

The majority of our income has come from members' subscriptions and fund-raising social events, as detailed in the attached documents. In addition we have produced for the past few years a calendar of Baldock town. The 2011 edition illustrated the changes that have been created by the refurbishment of the town centre; the 2012 edition, now published, covers "Places to refresh body and soul" in Baldock, featuring 12 such venues and with a directory of all places to eat and drink in the town. The total gross income raised in 2010 by all such activities amounted to ca £2,220.

For 2012 we have invited both twin towns to visit Baldock together, so as to provide each of them with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Olympic Games in London. The total budget for this event is ca £15,000. Our twin towns have accepted this invitation with enthusiasm and have contributed a total of £6,600 towards the extra expenditure involved.

Members have so far also contributed £768 as a special supplement to the annual subscription, and Herts County Council has made a one-off grant of £1,000. Extra fund-raising has been undertaken and we will make economies elsewhere, e.g. in other visit costs.

### **Update from Ashwell Village Museum**

The Ashwell Village Museum is a voluntarily run registered charity. Its core purpose is to collect material towards a history of Ashwell and its immediate neighbourhood. It has gained Full Accreditation under the national Museums Libraries and Archives Council scheme.

Last year we had 1600 paying visitors plus many local members. 400 of these came as pupils on organised school visits. We have been making a conscious effort to reach out into the community, 'break down the doors' of the museum and open the collection to a wider audience.

This is being achieved through:

The **community archive website and online catalogue.**

[www.ashwellmuseum.org.uk](http://www.ashwellmuseum.org.uk) We now receive many enquiries from all over the world, but also gather information from a wide range of people.

**Local and Family History Resource Centre** which provides on-site facilities to a growing band of researchers. The centre offers as much material and data as we can amass about Ashwell (and a great many other places) Helpers meet twice a week to codify, update and expand the resources.

## APPENDIX 3

**Reminiscence Boxes.** These are now available to be borrowed and used by relevant groups to stimulate the memory and encourage conversation.

**Topic Box.** Loan objects and documentation designed for primary education, to be used in schools or in the museum.

The Friends Association organises helpers to open the museum, to look after special parties, to tidy the building and many other necessary duties. They run a series of very popular lectures and coach trips throughout the year. About 50 local volunteers help on a regular basis.

Our income now does not cover our basic running costs. The cost of insurance and power has risen out of all proportion. We find we are now dependent on the income generated from our annual fund raising event 'Ashwell at Home' to maintain the status quo rather than using it to move the museum forward. So although we are dependent on all the financial help we can obtain we do provide a service that reaches out to all sections of the community and is respected in the wider world.

### **Justification for Memorandum of Understanding from Baldock Retirement Sewing Club**

Our group is for retired people, we have two classes a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It started as a dress making class but now includes embroidery and knitting. We also take on projects at the moment such as knitting 'prem-baby jackets for Lister Hospital and hats and scarves for the troops in Afghanistan. The grant is used to help pay the rent on the Guide Headquarters in Meeting House Lane, Baldock where we hold our classes.