

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No
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TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT – BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE – MONDAY 16th JULY 2012

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 May Area Committee, there has been a variety of events held in Baldock. There was the Big Jubilee Lunch (3rd June), the monthly Farmers market (9th June) and the Baldock Cycle Challenge (24th June). A detailed summary of the Big Jubilee Lunch and the Baldock Cycle Challenge is included later in this report.

The June Farmers market was well supported with 18 traders in attendance offering a wide range of products including flowers/plants, fruit & veg, homemade pies, breads, chutneys and fresh meat. This event continues to thrive in Baldock with traders and local businesses enjoying good footfall.

The Baldock Community Development Officer (CDO) supports the Farmers market events both by producing the Advance Notice materials, attending the event and assisting with the stall set up and take down.

Markets

The weekly Wednesday market continues to operate although as reported in the May Area Committee Report is still being hampered by poor weather.

The Baldock Town Centre Manager (TCM) has been successful in finding a replacement fish stall for the market and has also found a new fruit and vegetable stall to replace the current provider who is retiring in July.

Membership Scheme & BNG

Since the May Area Committee Report, there have been 2 new additions to the membership scheme. The Membership scheme now has 38 members, securing approximately £1,000 in revenue per month for the BTADP.

The BTADP is hoping to double the amount of businesses on the membership scheme during the summer months, with one of the directors of the Partnership planning to visit businesses on the Industrial estate and in surrounding villages to sell the membership package.

The Baldock Network Group (BNG) meets on alternate Tuesday mornings at Zeus Hotel and continues to thrive. The group currently has 26 members and generates approximately £4,000 income for the BTADP each year.

Monthly Car Boot Sales

The first Car Boot sale took place in Baldock High Street on Sunday 26th May. Ten traders turned up on the day which was encouraging for the first event. Unfortunately due to poor weather the car Boot Sale for June was cancelled.

Events

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Balstock Community Fun Day (Saturday 8th September)
- Baldock Beast Big Brother Half Marathon Challenge (October TBC)
- Baldock Christmas Weekend (Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December)

3.2 Baldock Bike Challenge

After months of planning the Baldock Cycle Challenge finally took place on Sunday 24th June 2012. This event was co-ordinated by the Baldock Community Development Officer (CDO) with support from the Stevenage & North Herts CTC and the Baldock Town & District Partnership (BTADP).

This was the first ever cycle event for Baldock and was well supported by approximately 150 riders who took on the challenging 25 or 58 mile course through Baldock and the many villages that feed into it including Clothall, Weston, Wallington, Rushden, Sandon, Bygrave, Newnham, Caldecote, Ashwell and Hinxworth.

This event which was developed as an income generator has secured £1,200 for the BTADP. The event also helped to raise the profile of local villages and village pubs and tea rooms.

As with all new events there were a few issues on the day that will be rectified for future bike events in Baldock. These included problems with ride numbering on the day and some confusion experienced by riders on the course due to insufficient directional signage.

The Baldock CDO and BTADP would like to extend a big thank you to members of the Baldock & District Area Committee for their support of the event both financially and with marshalling on the day.

3.3 **The Big Jubilee Lunch**

The Big Jubilee lunch was held on Baldock High Street and White Horse Street on Sunday 3rd June and as with previous years, despite the poor weather, was a resounding success with around 400 people sitting down to lunch together.

3.4 **Baldock Day**

The annual Baldock Day event will be held on Saturday 14th July 2012 in Baldock High Street & White Horse Street. This event, which marks the anniversary of the completion of the Baldock enhancement scheme is now into its third year.

As we are in London Olympic year, this year's Baldock Day will have a sporting theme. There will be mountain bike stunt displays throughout the day, as well as karate and Zumba demonstrations. There will also be netball, football and golf challenges throughout the day and opportunities for people to take on rowing and exercise bike challenges.

For the less energetic there will also be a farmer and craft market, dog agility, fun fair rides, face painting, live music and a barbecue.

This event had not taken place at the time of writing this report. A verbal update will be presented at the July Baldock & District Area Committee meeting.

3.5 **The Baldock Beast Big Brother Challenge**

Following the success of the Baldock Beast Half Marathon in March, the Baldock CDO is in early negotiations with the BTADP and Endurorunning.com to bring a second half marathon to the Baldock area.

As with the Baldock Beast, the Baldock Beast Big Brother Challenge (BBBBC) will be an income generator for the BTADP and also an event that will raise the profile of local villages.

The BBBBC is an entirely new course which will start and finish at an industrial unit just outside Newnham. The Baldock CDO has secured the use of this land through negotiations with the landlord Tim Farr. This is a perfect location for the race with ample parking for all competitors and space for portaloos, the race gantry and numerous gazebos that will be utilised for the event. The event, its management plan, location suitability and risk assessment for the day will be compiled in due course and submitted to the Council's Safety Advisory Group, which includes representation by Herts Highways, Herts Constabulary, fire and rescue as well as NHDC licensing and events planning officers.

The course will take runners through country lanes to Bygrave, Ashwell, Hinxworth and Caldecote.

For this event the BTADP will be working in partnership with Endurorunning in a profit share arrangement. Endurorunning will be responsible for the course selection, the risk assessment, the race permit application and race signage whilst the BTADP will manage the administration side of the event.

As with the Baldock Beast, entry for the race will be £16 affiliated and £18 unaffiliated.

As well as the Half Marathon course, the event may also include a 1 or 2-mile family fun run. Costings for this are still to be confirmed.

3.6 **Balstock Community Fun Day**

The Baldock CDO and the BTADP are working closely with the Balstock organisers on the 2012 event which will take place from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th September.

Balstock is now into its seventh year and is a very popular event for the town. It is a free music event that is financially very important to the numerous pubs of Baldock.

As well as the pub events, for the last two years the Balstock organisers have also held a Community Fun Day in Baldock High Street. Last year's event was attended by approximately 250 people and the organisers are expecting even more in 2012, thanks to an impressive line up of bands including Blonde Louis who will be the Headline act.

As with last year, the 2012 event will include live music from local talent between 2pm and 8.30pm, as well as numerous activities for all the family including gladiator joust, inflatable boxing, bouncy castles, face painting, an ice cream stall and a barbecue run by the local Scouts.

This year Balstock is raising money for the Baldock Town Hall Group. Last year's event raised over £2,000 for Help for Heroes.

The Baldock CDO will be assisting the group with any licensing issues as well as any health and safety implications. The Baldock CDO will also assist with the publicity drive for this event around Baldock and the villages and will be in attendance on the day to ensure the event runs smoothly and without incident.

The Balstock Organisers have submitted a funding application to the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with publicity costs and Public Liability Insurance. This is detailed in Appendix 3 of this report.

3.6 **Baldock Chartered Fair 2012**

The Baldock Fair will be returning to Baldock again in October. The fair will pull onto Baldock at midnight on Monday 1st October and will be trading on Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th October. The Fair will close the High Street by 6am on Friday 5th October.

The Baldock CDO has been liaising with Hertfordshire Highways to ensure that the TTRO (temporary traffic regulation order) is in place for the event. This will be advertised in The Comet Newspaper during July and September.

The Baldock Fair 2012 will be using the same foot plan as previous years.

The Baldock CDO will assist Abbotts Amusements with the advance warning letters to those residents and businesses affected by the Fair. These will be delivered to those affected on two occasions during September and October.

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 **Salisbury Road Jubilee Street Party**
A Fast Track Grant of £25 was awarded to the organisers of the Salisbury Road Jubilee Street party to help pay for bunting, paper plates, cups and serviettes. This funding came from the Baldock East Ward Member's 2012/13 Base Budget.
- 4.4 **The Rowans Jubilee Street Party**
A Fast Track Grant of £25 was awarded to the organisers of The Rowans Jubilee Street party to help pay for bunting, paper plates, cups and serviettes. This funding came from the Baldock Town Ward Members 2012/13 Base Budget.
- 4.5 **Pinnocks Lane Jubilee Street Party**
A Fast Track Grant of £25 was awarded to the organisers of the Pinnocks Lane Jubilee Street party to help pay for bunting, paper plates, cups and serviettes. This funding came from the Baldock Town Ward Members 2012/13 Base Budget.
- 4.6 **Providence Way Jubilee Street Party**
A Fast Track Grant of £25 was awarded to the organisers of the Providence Way Jubilee Street party to help pay for bunting, paper plates, cups and serviettes. This funding came from the Baldock Town Ward Members 2012/13 Base Budget.
- 4.7 **Baldock Town Partnership**
A Fast Track Grant of £500 was awarded to the Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the publicity and printing costs for the Baldock Cycle Challenge event. This funding came from the Baldock Town, Baldock East, Arbury and Weston & Sandon Members in the usual split.
- 4.8 **Baldock District Guide Association**
A Fast Track Grant of £390 was awarded to the Baldock District Guide Association to assist with the purchase of a new water heater and for electrical work to be carried out at the Guide Headquarters at Meeting House Lane. This funding came from the Baldock Town preallocated Town Projects pot.

4.9 **Saracens Cricket Club**

A Grant of £500 was awarded to Saracens Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of equipment and also to cover the costs of essential coaching training for its members. This funding came from the Baldock Town 2012/13 Base Budget and the Arbury 2012/13 Base Budget.

4.10 **Balstock Community Fun Day**

Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1,000 to the Balstock Music Festival to assist with costs including insurance, equipment hire, security and publicity materials.

4.11 **Current Funding Applications**

The Baldock CDO is awaiting the completed funding application paperwork for the following project. This was not received in time for this report but will be processed once the appropriate paperwork is received.. The project is detailed in the table below.

Ward	Project
Arbury	Funding support for Caldecote Church friends to assist with the purchase of equipment including 3 pop up gazebos, tables and chairs.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which includes discretionary grant aid/financial support. However, this does not include grants for district wide activities.

5.2 Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Council has power to do anything which it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. This would apply on the basis that financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations improves the economic, social or environmental well-being of the District or part of it.

5.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

5.4 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

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 2012/13.

- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2011/12 to the current financial year 2012/13.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The local MoUs are managed by the Community Development Officer as part of the regular work programme.
- 7.2 The great majority of the voluntary and community projects that are funded by the Council have equality and social inclusion as a key objective of their purpose. Such projects work very closely with and for the more disadvantaged and potentially socially excluded within our communities.
- 7.3 All activities undertaken by the Council, its committees, Community Development officers or agencies working on its behalf are to be conducted in accordance with the NHDC Corporate Equality Strategy and relevant Equalities legislation.

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 £25 to the organisers of the Salisbury Road Jubilee Street Party.
- 9.3 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £25 to the organisers of The Rowans Jubilee Street Party.
- 9.4 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £25 to the organisers of the Pinnocks Lane Jubilee Street Party.
- 9.5 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £25 to the organisers of the Providence Way Jubilee Street Party.
- 9.6 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £500 to Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the publicity and printing costs for the Baldock Cycle Challenge.
- 9.7 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award

of £390 to the Baldock District Guide Association to assist with the purchase of a new water heater and for electrical work to be carried out at the Guide Headquarters at Meeting House Lane.

- 9.8 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Grant Award of £500 to Saracens Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of equipment and also to cover the costs of essential coaching training for its members.
- 9.9 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1,000 to Balstock Music Festival to assist with costs including insurance, equipment hire, security and publicity materials.

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 2012/13
- 11.3 Appendix 3 – Grant Report for Balstock Music Festival.

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

- 12.1 Ashley Hawkins (Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474225
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk

Contributors;

- 12.2 Liz Green
Head of Policy and Community Services

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 Community Governance Reviews – Full Council Meeting 25th February 2010.