

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No
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TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT – BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE – MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 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 & District Partnership

Since the July Area Committee, there has been the July and August Car boot Sales (29th July & 26th August) and the rescheduled Baldock Day (11th August). A detailed summary of Baldock Day is included later in this report.

July Car Boot Sale

The Car Boot Sale was a new initiative set up by the Baldock Town & District Partnership this year as an income generator. The first Car Boot Sale was due to be held in April but this was postponed due to poor weather. The event was held in May but was again postponed in June. The July Car Boot was supported by 7 traders. At the time of writing this report the August Car Boot Sale had not taken place. A verbal update will be made at the September Area Committee meeting.

Markets

It has recently been brought to the attention of the Baldock CDO that the BTP financial situation has been hampered in 2012 partially due to the poor weather that has affected the take up of market stalls at both the weekly market and the monthly farmers market. It has been estimated that the loss of income from the markets so far in 2012 is around £3000.

The Baldock Town Centre Manager (TCM) will be attending other local markets over the coming months to try and bring in new stalls for both markets in Baldock.

The weekly Wednesday market continues to operate although there are now only 6 regular stalls. It was reported in the July report that the Baldock TCM had been successful in finding a replacement fish stall for the Wednesday market. This trader has since moved on citing poor footfall, but the TCM is hopeful of bringing in a new provider in the next month. The TCM has though been successful in bringing in a meat stall.

Membership Scheme & BNG

Since the July Area Committee Report, there has unfortunately been a dip in businesses signed up to the Membership Scheme. Since the July Report, monthly income generated from the Membership Scheme has dropped from £1000 to £750.

The Baldock TCM will be approaching businesses in the coming months to boost take up of the Membership Scheme. During September the Baldock TCM will be speaking with businesses in Baldock and the Industrial estates, with businesses in the Villages being approached during October.

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.

Events

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Beast Big Brother Half Marathon Challenge (25th November TBC)
- Baldock Christmas Weekend (Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December)

3.2 Baldock Day

The annual Baldock day event was held in Baldock High Street and White Horse Street on Saturday 11th August. This event was due to be held in July but was postponed due to poor weather.

As well as the usual monthly Farmers Market, Baldock Day 2012 also included numerous community stalls as well as a host of sporting events including netball and golf target challenges and a BMX stunt show. There was also face painting, a punch and judy show, a barbecue and numerous inflatables available on the day for the whole family to enjoy.

The events on the High Street were well supported by the residents of Baldock with many stalls selling out on the day. The event was also a success for local businesses who experienced increased footfall on the day

and also local sporting groups who were able to boost their profile and recruit new members.

Whilst the events on the High Street were well received, the activities on White Horse Street were poorly attended. This lack of support for events on White Horse Street has been an issue with previous events including the Baldock Christmas weekend and the Baldock Chartered Fair.

To combat this the Baldock Town Centre Manager (TCM) is aiming to run several White Horse Street only events in the future which will not be competing with the High Street for footfall. The Baldock TCM is working with the Baldock CDO to hold a Halloween themed event in White Horse Street in October.

The Baldock CDO was in attendance throughout Baldock Day, assisting with the event set up and take down. There were no issues on the day and the event passed without incident.

3.3 **The Baldock Beast Big Brother Challenge**

It was reported in the July Report that following the success of the first Baldock Beast Half Marathon, the Baldock CDO was now in negotiations with the Baldock Town & District Partnership (BTADP) and Endurorunning.com to bring a second half marathon event to the Baldock Area.

The Baldock Beast Big Brother Challenge (BBBBC) would be an entirely new course which would start and finish at an industrial unit just outside Newnham and take in the villages of Bygrave, Ashwell, Hinxworth and Caldecote.

This event would be an important income generator for the BTADP and also an event that would raise the profile of local villages.

As detailed in the July Report the original plan was for the BBBBC to be a joint venture between the BTADP and Endurorunning.com with both companies sharing the responsibilities and the subsequent profits from the event.

Unfortunately this is no longer the arrangement as Endurorunning have since pulled out of the venture citing workload constraints.

The Baldock CDO is now liaising solely with Endurorunning.com and North Herts Road Runners (NHRR) to secure a suitable course for the BBBBC so that this important income generator for the BTADP can still go ahead.

Whilst it is disappointing that Endurorunning are unable to provide full support to this event, their limited involvement ensures that all money generated goes to BTADP.

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.

This event was originally planned for October but will now take place in November (25th Nov TBC) so as to allow for the event to be effectively publicised.

3.4 **Balstock Community Fun Day**

The Balstock Community Fun Day will be held in Baldock High Street on Saturday 8th September 2012.

The Baldock CDO assisted the event organisers with their Event Plan Applications and Risk Assessment paperwork which were submitted to the North Herts Safety Advisory Group (SAG) at the end of August for consideration. Any concerns raised by SAG will be addressed prior to the event on the 8th September.

The Baldock CDO has assisted 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.

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

3.5 **Nightingale Park Fun Day**

The Baldock CDO has been assisting the Nightingale Residents Association with the planning for their fun day which will be held on Sunday 2nd September at Nightingale Park. The Baldock CDO has helped with licensing issues and publicising the event around Baldock. A verbal update on this event will be presented at the September Baldock & District Area Committee meeting.

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 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 16a) is in place for the event. This will be advertised in The Comet Newspaper during late August 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.

The Baldock CDO submitted the Event Plan and Risk Assessment for the Baldock Fair to SAG in early September. Any concerns raised by SAG will be addressed prior to the Fair pulling into Baldock on 1st October 2012.

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 Cemetery Group**
A Fast Track Grant of £250 was awarded to the Baldock Cemetery Group to assist with the printing costs of the questionnaire to be used for the consultation exercise. This funding came from the Baldock Town Members preallocated Town Projects Initiatives pot.
- 4.4 **Caldecote Church Friends**
A Fast Track Grant of £320 was awarded to Caldecote Church Friends to help with the purchase of equipment including 3 pop up gazebos, tables and chairs. This funding came from the Arbury Ward Members 2012/13 Base Budget.
- 4.5 **Hinxworth Parish Council**
A Fast Track Grant of £170 was awarded to Hinxworth Parish Council to assist with the purchase of salt bins for the village. This funding came from the Arbury Ward Member's preallocated Rural Community Projects pot.
- 4.6 **Balstock Community Fun Day**
A Grant Award of £750 was made to the Balstock Music Festival to assist with costs including insurance, equipment hire, security and publicity materials.
- 4.7 **Baldock Town Partnership**
Members are asked to consider grant funding of £1,000 to the Baldock Town Partnership to assist with costs of publicising the upcoming events of the Partnership including the 2nd Baldock Beast Half Marathon and the Baldock Christmas Weekend event.
- 4.8 **Current Funding Applications**
The Baldock CDO is awaiting the completed funding application paperwork for the following projects. These were not received in time for this report but will be processed once the appropriate paperwork is received.. The projects are detailed in the table below.

Ward	Project
Arbury	Funding support for Ashwell United Reform Church to assist with the purchase of tables and chairs for the venue.
Baldock Town	Funding support for North Herts Crusaders to assist with the purchase of equipment for this newly formed Rugby League Team.
Baldock Town	Funding support for Baldock Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of equipment for the club.
Baldock Town	Funding support for Nightingale Residents Association to assist with the cost of St John Ambulance who will be attending the Nightingale Park Fun Day on Sunday 2 nd September 2012.

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 £250 to the Baldock Cemetery Group to assist with the printing costs of the questionnaire being produced for the consultation exercise..
- 9.3 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £320 to Caldecote Church Friends to assist with the purchase of equipment including 3 pop up gazebos, tables and chairs.
- 9.4 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Fast Track Grant Award of £170 to Hinxworth Parish Council to assist with the purchase of salt bins for Hinxworth village.
- 9.4 The Committee is asked to acknowledge the recent Grant Award of £750 to the organisers of the Balstock Community Fun Day to assist with costs including insurance, equipment hire, security and publicity materials.
- 9.5 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1,000 to the Baldock Town Partnership to assist with costs of publicising the upcoming events of the Partnership including the 2nd Baldock Beast Half Marathon and the Baldock Christmas Weekend event.

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 Baldock Town Partnership.

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

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13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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