

**TO BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**TITLE OF REPORT :** CHAMPION NEWS & FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER – COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER

**1. SUMMARY**

- 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. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards within the Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Committee acknowledges the recent Grant Award of £650 to Baldock Allotments Association to cover the costs for the replacement of a small section of fencing across the car park at the North Road site.
- 2.4 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £1000 to Balstock Musical Festival to assist with the costs for putting on the Balstock Family Fun Day, including publicity costs, security costs, St John Ambulance costs and public liability insurance costs for the provision of inflatables and fun fair rides.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

- 3.2 This report is intended 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 Policy.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Production of this report is a requirement of the 'Priorities for the District' in which the Community Development Officer is required to produce a formal report to the Area Committee 6 occasions per annum in line with the Civic Calendar.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However in the course of debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items raised within this report.

#### **5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

- 5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies / groups has taken place with regard to the funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary Development Funds.

#### **6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

#### **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 Area Committee Budget Spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the 2013/14 financial year.
- 7.2 Members are asked to note that the Small Area Grant Award of £160 has been added to the Baldock East Ward Budget in this financial year. In 2014/15 the Small Area Grant will be added to the Baldock Town Ward Budget and it will be added to the Arbury & Weston & Sandon Ward Budgets in 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively.
- 7.3 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2012/13 including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and un-allocated budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.4 This report has been produced to keep Members informed of the work of the Community Development Officer for Baldock. This is a requirement of the

Corporate Plan in which the Community Development Officer is required to produce a report for members on 6 occasions per annum.

- 7.4 The Committee acknowledges the recent Grant Award of £650 to Baldock Allotments Association to cover the costs for the replacement of a small section of fencing across the car park at the North Road site.
- 7.5 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £1000 to Balstock Musical Festival to assist with the costs for putting on the Balstock Family, including publicity costs, security costs and public liability insurance costs for the provision of inflatables and fun fair rides.
- 7.6 Members are asked to note the funding applications currently being considered as detailed in the table below.

Ward	Project
Weston & Sandon	Funding Support for Clothall Village Hall Committee for the purchase of tables and chairs for the venue*.
Arbury	Funding support for Caldecote Church Friends for the purchase of new website software
Baldock Town	Funding support for the Friends of Hartsfield School Committee to assist with the costs for providing Paediatric First Aid Training courses to parents and helpers at Hartsfield School.

\* tables and chairs from other facilities recently closed by the authority have been provided to the Clothall Village Hall trustees to enable them to demonstrate that the hall is now finished and ready to open. However, funding of just in excess of £6,000 is being retained by the authority pending their submission of proof of expenditure on the building (as required by Audit and planning for s106 elements). We are therefore seeking approval of this grant but only to be paid out *subject to those requirements being fulfilled very shortly.*

## 8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

### 8.1 Baldock Town & District Partnership

The Baldock Town & District Partnership (BTADP) has held two events since the June Area Committee. These were the June Farmers Market and the Baldock Cycle Challenge.

#### **Farmers Markets**

The monthly Farmers Market returned to Baldock High Street in March following a winter break. As with last year, the format has remained the same with the monthly market being held on the second Saturday of each month.

As with the April and May Farmers Markets, the June market was a great success and was supported by 17 stalls. This was the biggest market of the

year with both stall holders and local eateries benefiting from the increased footfall.

### **Weekly Markets**

The weekly market continues to operate with 7 regular stalls.

### **Events**

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Day (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013)
- Balstock Family Fun Day (Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013)
- Ashwell 10k (Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013)

## **8.2 Baldock Cycle Challenge**

The second Baldock Cycle Challenge was held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and was supported by 198 riders. (101 riders in 2012). The ride passed without incident and generated in the region of £2k for the Baldock Town Partnership.

The Baldock CDO was in attendance throughout the ride, assisting both in the ride registration, marshalling of a checkpoint and take down of all event signage.

The BTADP would like to thank all those members who provided administrative and marshal support to this years event.

## **8.3 Sale Drive**

The Baldock CDO continues to work closely with colleagues from Planning, Grounds Maintenance and Highways on a project to improve pedestrian safety at a path behind Sale Drive by improving the lighting in the area.

Following Members recommendation in the June 2013 Baldock & District Area Committee for the council to proceed with the adoption of the land, the Head of Policy & Community Services has spoken with relevant officers and managers in order to progress this matter. Investigations into ownership of the relevant land areas, progress to date with regard to adoption and the assessment of costs of completing these works are underway and the Head of P&CS will report back to Baldock and District AC members shortly in this regard.

## **8.4 Baldock Fair**

The Baldock CDO has commenced planning for the Baldock Fair 2013 and has submitted all necessary paperwork to Hertfordshire Highways to ensure that the TTRO is in place for the Fair's arrival.

The Baldock CDO has also assisted with the drafting of the Baldock Fair Event paperwork which was circulated to the North Herts Safety Advisory Group (NHSAG) during late June 2013. Any issues raised by NHSAG will be addressed by the Baldock Fair organiser.

The Baldock Fair will be operating on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013 between the hours of 3pm and 1030pm. The Baldock CDO and the

Community Development Manager will be in attendance to oversee the pull on and take down of the Baldock Fair.

#### **8.5 Baldock Cellar Hatches**

Members will recall that the Baldock CDO was working with colleagues in Planning during 2012 to re-install the cellar hatches to the Goldcrest and George and Dragon Public Houses in Baldock.

Work was originally completed during the summer months of 2012 but further work was required as both replacement hatches were leaking and therefore not fit for purpose.

The Baldock CDO has been liaising with the cellar hatch providers during the last couple of months and following several site visits and negotiations can confirm that both hatches will be replaced by end of July 2013.

#### **8.6 Ashwell 10k**

Planning is well underway for the latest running event of the BTADP. The Ashwell 10k will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September and will use the same start and finish location as the Ashwell Half Marathon.

This event, which is another income generator for the BTADP is expected to attract in the region of 300 runners, generating in the region of £4k for the partnership.

#### **8.7 Baldock Town Hall**

Agreement has been reached for the terms of transfer of the Baldock Town Hall, and relevant lease documents now signed by both the BTHG and NHDC. A timeline for entry to the premises, works to be carried out by NHDC, by the group/contractors etc is now under development in order that areas of the town hall can be brought into operation shortly. A range of events are being planned, more details of which can be found on the group's website. Officers continue to assist with the Arts Council grant application for the Fireside Festival.

### **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 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.

9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 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.

9.3 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.

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

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 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 2013/14.
- 10.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2012/13 to the current financial year 2013/14.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no risk entries that have been recorded on Covalent, the Council's Performance & Risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.3 The projects which comprise the Community Development Officers' workload, and area committee funding assigned to community projects are assessed to ensure that they are as inclusive as possible to members of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied, although equalities implications and opportunities are identified in the relevant section at paragraphs 12.

## **14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

## **15. APPENDICES**

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet.

15.2 Appendix 2 – Area Committee Work Programme 2013/14.

15.3 Appendix 3 – Grant Report for Balstock Family Fun Day.

## **16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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## **17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.