

TITLE OF REPORT : GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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 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 budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards within the Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet attached as Appendix 1
- 2.2 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £1,015 to Radwell Village Hall Committee to assist with the purchase of new gate posts and additional works to footway.
- 2.3 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £415 to Home Start to assist with the costs for running an 8 week summer programme with families focusing on Healthy Lifestyle. Costs to include venue rental, staff costs and equipment costs.
- 2.4 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £200 to North Herts Samaritans to assist with the purchase of CCTV for their offices to improve safety.
- 2.5 The Committee confirms support of a Grant Award of £500 to the Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the First Aid cost for British Red Cross to attend the Baldock Beast Half Marathon.
- 2.6 The Committee confirms support of a Grant Award of £415 to the Hinxworth Allotment Association from Arbury Ward Budget to assist with the purchase of a shed for storing gardening equipment.

- 2.7 That the Committee considers awarding support funding in relation to any potential Highways schemes as proposed and discussed under section 8.10 of this report.
- 2.8 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Baldock & District Area.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is 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 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 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 4 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 funding proposals for Area Committee 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 2014/15 financial year.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year 2013/14 including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and un-allocated budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 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 'Priorities for the District' in which the Community Development Officer is required to produce a report for members on 4 occasions per annum.
- 7.4 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £1,015 to Radwell Village Hall Committee to assist with the purchase of new gate posts and additional works to footway.
- 7.5 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £415 to Home Start to assist with the costs for running an 8 week summer programme with families focusing on Healthy Lifestyle. Costs to include venue rental, staff costs and equipment costs.
- 7.6 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £200 to North Herts Samaritans to assist with the purchase of CCTV for their offices to improve safety. This project is district wide with all Area Committees being asked for funding for the project.
- 7.7 The Committee confirms support of a Grant Award of £500 to the Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the First Aid cost for British Red Cross to attend the Baldock Beast Half Marathon.
- 7.8 The Committee confirms support of a Grant Award of £415 to the Hinxworth Allotment Association from Arbury Ward Budget to assist with the purchase of a shed for storing gardening equipment.
- 7.9 Members are asked to note the funding applications currently being considered as detailed in the table below.

Ward	Project
Baldock Town	Funding support for Avenue Park Committee to assist with the cost for installing a stair lift at the venue.
Baldock Town / Baldock East	Funding support for St Marys Church Hall to assist with cost for DDA improvements, including a chairlift.
Baldock Town / Baldock East	Funding support for Baldock Community Centre to assist with cost for enhancement works and DDA improvements to the Youth Wing building.
Weston & Sandon	Funding Support for Clothall Village Hall Committee for the purchase of tables and chairs for the venue.

Arbury	Funding support to Wolverley House in Ashwell for the purchase of a carpet bowls set for the residents.
Arbury	Funding support to Hinxworth Village Hall Committee to assist with costs for running a village open day. Funding will be used for the printing of posters and programmes and also for paying for entertainers to support the event.

7.10 Members are asked to note the award of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the seven organised detailed below. This is the final award under the current 3 year MoU arrangements which was subject to 7.1% annual decrease.

Organisation	2014/15 Award
Baldock Seniors Club	£1,040
Baldock Festival	£820
Ashwell Village Museum	£260
Baldock Town Twinning Assoc	£240
Rotary Club of Baldock	£750
Retirement Sewing Club	£320
Baldock Town Partnership	£1,860

8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

8.1 Baldock Town & District Partnership

The Baldock Town & District Partnership (BTADP) has held two events since the March Area Committee, namely the April and May monthly Farmers Markets. An update on this event is provided below.

Farmers Markets

The monthly Farmers recommenced in March but after a positive showing in March and April, the May event was very disappointing with only 5 stalls in attendance. The May Farmers Market coincided with the Women's Cycle Tour passing through Baldock and it was disappointing that not more stalls attended as footfall was extremely good. Expected poor weather was the reason cited for low attendance from stall holders. The Baldock Town Centre Manager has been tasked with increasing stall take up at the Baldock Farmers Market but this has proved difficult to achieve.

Weekly Markets

Since the March meeting, there has been positive developments with the weekly market with 4 new stalls now on board, bringing the total of weekly stalls to 7, compared with just 3 previously. New stalls are cheese, bric a brac, new fruit and vegetable and apple cottage juice & cider. The Baldock Town Centre Manager (TCM) is hoping to secure further stalls in the run up to the summer months.

Baldock Town Guide

The Town Guide which was originally due to be completed and circulated in December 2013, has been delayed further and is now likely to be produced and circulated in June/July 2014. It has not yet been determined the

circulation of this publication although a pdf version will be available to all from the Baldock Town Partnership website in due course. This delay has led to several complaints from those businesses who signed up to the project in October 2013.

Baldock Town Manager Position

As of May 2014, the position of Baldock TCM has moved to a part time role of 20 hours per week. As well as the change in hours, the TCM's work focus will now be on supporting the local businesses, managing the weekly and farmers market as well as co-ordinating the Baldock Network Group and managing the BTADP website. Less focus will be on running the sporting events, which will be managed by volunteers and possible outsourcing to external organisations.

Events

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Big Lunch (Sun 1st June 2014)
- Baldock Farmers Market (Sat 14 June 2014)
- Baldock Cycle Challenge (Sun 22nd June 2014)

8.2 Sale Drive

The Baldock CDO has now received a formal quote from Hertfordshire Highways for the installation of adequate lighting and the formalising of the footpath at the rear of Sale Drive. S106 monies have been identified for this project.

NHDC Legal and Property Teams are currently looking to secure the adoption of the land from Barratt Homes to Hertfordshire Highways.

On successful completion of the land adoption, funds will be released to Hertfordshire Highways so that the project can be added to the 2014/15 work programme.

8.3 Baldock Big Lunch

The Big Lunch will be returning for a fourth time to Baldock High Street on Sunday 1st June. The Big Lunch is a nationwide initiative set up by the Eden Project that encourages people to sit down together for lunch. It has proved a massive success in building community relations both nationally and in Baldock.

As with previous years, people will have a choice of foods to choose from including barbecue, carver, fish and chips, ploughman's or an Indian curry. Cost will be £7 adult and £3 for children. As well as the food, there will be live music throughout the day as well as face painting and inflatables for the children. It is hoped that this event will again attract in the region of 400 people.

8.4 Avenue Park Disability Discrimination Act Improvements Project

The Baldock CDO is liaising with Graham Woods at Avenue Park in a project to install a stair lift at the venue. Draft costings for the project have been received with the overall cost for stair lift installation and refurbishment work to the stairwell in the region of £6.5k. There will be no planning or building regulations needed for this project.

The Avenue Park Committee have part funding for the project and will be pursuing funding for the remainder from Baldock Area Committee, HCC Locality funding and also S106 in the next couple of months.

8.5 **Baldock Festival**

The 31st Baldock Festival was held over a fortnight in May and was again successful. The majority of events over the two week festival sold out and the Baldock Street Fair was one of the biggest the town has seen. The Baldock CDO was involved throughout the festival and assisted with the event publicity, the event plan that was shared with North Herts Safety Advisory Group and the parking arrangements for the event.

NHDC staff supported the Baldock Festival Book Fair event by donating books for the activity. Their support helped to raise £700 for the Garden House Hospice.

8.6 **Baldock Cycle Challenge**

The Baldock Cycle Challenge will return to Baldock and the villages for a third time on Sunday 22nd June. This year's event will follow the same format and course as last year, with riders required to stop at numerous checkpoints in order to successfully complete the course.

The Baldock CDO has been involved in promoting this race and also securing both the checkpoints for the event and the marshals to ensure the event runs smoothly and safely.

A new edition for the ride in 2014 is the inclusion of a sportive ride option whereby rather than stop at checkpoints riders simply complete the course in the fastest time possible. This option will appeal to the more serious cyclists and those in training for serious races.

Entry for this event opened in early May and whilst take up so far has been slow a field of around 150-200 is expected.

As well as being an income generator for the BTADP this event will also raise the profile of Baldock and villages and also drive footfall for the businesses involved in the event.

8.7 **Highways Matters**

It was agreed that a section entitled 'Highways Matters' is included within the Area Champion's News Report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed schemes.

Any new proposals will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration, who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

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 include 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 In the past few years there has been no inflationary allowance to the main Area Committee Budget and the 2014/15 baseline budget has stayed the same as the previous year.
- 10.2 The former MoU Budget is subject to a 7.1% reduction each year through to financial year 2015/16.

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. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th 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 Application for Radwell Village Hall Committee
- 15.4 Appendix 4 – Grant Application for Home Start
- 15.5 Appendix 5 – Grant Application for North Herts Samaritans

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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