

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 £363 to North Herts Centre of Voluntary Services Furniture Link to assist with the purchase of a new van for the transportation of furniture.
- 2.3 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £1,000 to Balstock Music Festival Committee to assist with the publicity, printing, insurance, first aid and security costs for running the weekend community event on Baldock High Street.
- 2.4 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £1,500 to Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the publicity, printing, first aid, event lighting costs as well as a contribution towards the cost of fireworks for the Baldock Firework event at Hartsfield School.
- 2.5 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £418 to 1st Ashwell Brownies to assist with the purchase of a flag, an activity parachute and the printing of the Brownie handbook.

- 2.6 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release via Delegated Authority of £300 to Caldecote Church Friends for the purchase of external lighting and a replacement key.
- 2.7 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release via Delegated Authority of £240 to Hinxworth & Edworth Village Hall Management Committee for printing and publicity costs for the first ever Hinxworth Horticulture and Grand Fete event which will be held on Saturday 6th September.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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 £363 to North Herts Centre of Voluntary Services Furniture Link to assist with the purchase of a new van for the transportation of furniture..
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- 7.10 Members are asked to note the funding applications currently being considered as detailed in the table below:

Ward	Project
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*.

- *This grant is still 'agreed in principle' but awaiting confirmation from the Trustees of financial spend on the project to date. The hall is complete and furnished with tables/chairs from the closure of Hitchin Town Hall and Jackman's Community Centres, but we have yet to gain confirmation that it is available to the local community for use, one of the terms of original award.*

8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

8.1 Baldock Town & District Partnership Updates

Weekly Markets

The weekly market continues to grow with 9 regular stalls now in attendance (compared with 7 cited in June Champs News). As part of a trial, the market has relocated from the car park to the pavement areas from Mansfield Road downwards. The feedback from traders and residents has been positive, with traders benefitting from increased footfall. At its new location, the Baldock Town Partnership (BTP) is confident of attracting new stalls for the market in the future.

The Baldock CDO is liaising with Parking Services to produce a parking permit for market traders. Currently traders are parking on the grass, but to protect the grass from damage, all traders will be asked to park in the car parks available and display their permit.

Baldock Town Guide

The Baldock Town Guide is now available as a pdf on the BTP website and is also available in hard copy in businesses locally.

Baldock Town Manager Position

The Baldock Town Manager position was terminated during July 2014 and the roles of the Town Centre Manager's position are now being managed by the Directors of the BTP as part of a 6 month interim arrangement.

Events

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Farmers Market (Sat 13th & 14th Sept 2014)
- Baldock 10k (Sun 14 Sept 2014)
- Baldock Firework Show (Sat 25th Oct 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; Barratts solicitors are still to be instructed, but the NHDC legal team will continue to request a progress update regularly.

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 returned for a fourth time to Baldock High Street on Sunday 1st June. This year's event was a great success with over 400 people attending. As well as being a wonderful community event, the Baldock Big Lunch also drove footfall for many local businesses.

8.4 **Baldock Cycle Challenge**

The Baldock Cycle Challenge returned to Baldock and the villages for a third time on Sunday 22nd June and proved to be the most popular to date, with more than 200 riders taking up the challenge.

As well as being an income generator for the BTADP, this event also raised the profile of Baldock and villages and also drove footfall for the businesses involved in the event.

8.5 **Baldock 10k**

The Baldock 10k will be returning for a second time on Sunday 14th September. The Baldock CDO has been supporting the BTP in the planning for this event and has assisted in the race permit application and the safety paperwork as required by the North Herts Safety Advisory Group. The Baldock CDO will also co-ordinate the marshals for the event.

Following the termination of the Town Centre Manager role, certain elements of the Baldock 10k, including race admin will be outsourced.

Entry for the Baldock 10k opened mid July and there are currently 75 runners entered into the race. Whilst it is unlikely that the entry will match that achieved in 2013, a field of around 150-175 is expected.

8.6 **Balstock Music Festival**

Balstock Music Festival will be returning to Baldock High Street for a fourth year during September 2014. Whilst the format for this event is unchanged, the duration has increased from one to two days, to allow for more local bands to showcase their talents in the town. The Baldock CDO has supported the organisers through the planning of this event and assisted with the licensing and health and safety paperwork requirements.

8.7 **Baldock Fair**

The Baldock Fair will be returning to Baldock High Street on the 2nd to 4th October. The Baldock CDO has secured the relevant TTRO for the event and

will support the Baldock Fair organisers with the planning and publicity for this year's event. The Baldock CDO will also liaise with the North Herts Safety Advisory Group on behalf of the Fair organisers to ensure the smooth running of the event in 2014.

8.8 **Ashwell Half Marathon**

Due to changes within the BTP, the Ashwell Half Marathon will no longer be an event in the BTP Calendar.

This event will still be run in the future but will be managed by Baldock Rotary as an annual fundraiser. The Baldock CDO will support the Baldock Rotary with the planning of the race which is expected to be held during April 2015.

8.9 **Baldock Firework Display**

The Baldock Firework Display will be held for the second time on Saturday 25th October. The event will again be held in the grounds of Hartsfield School and promises to be even bigger in 2014. As well as the fireworks there will also be a laser show to accompany the activities at Hartsfield which will again include live music, funfair rides and a range of food vendors. The Baldock CDO is supporting the BTP with the planning of this event and will assist with event promotion in the villages.

8.10 **Highways Matter**

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 2014/15.
- 15.3 Appendix 3 – Grant Application for Furniture Link
- 15.4 Appendix 4 – Grant Application for Balstock Music Festival
- 15.5 Appendix 5 – Grant Application for Baldock Town Partnership.
- 15.6 Appendix 6 – Grant Application for 1st Ashwell Brownies

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 16.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins (Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474225
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk
- 16.2 Contributors: Shah Mohammed, Assistant Accountant
Telephone: 01462 474 4240
EMail: shah.mohammed@north-herts.gov.uk

Liz Green, Head of Policy & Community Services
Telephone: 01462 474230
Email: liz.green@north-herts.gov.uk

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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