

TITLE OF REPORT: COMMUNITY UPDATE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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 Communities 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 Spread sheet attached as Appendix 1
- 2.2 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £500 to Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the cost of hiring an artificial ski slope for the Baldock Christmas Event on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December 2014.
- 2.3 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £1,000 to Baldock Town Youth Football Club to assist with the production of plans and fees associated with the refurbishment of the Baker's Field pavilion.
- 2.4 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £500 to Rushden & Wallington Parish Council to assist with the cost of purchasing a new wooden notice board for Rushden village Hall.
- 2.5 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £350 to Ashwell Music Festival to assist with the printing and publicity costs associated with the festival.
- 2.6 The Committee considers a Startup Grant Award of £150 to Hinxworth Young People, a new youth club facility for the village

- 2.7 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release of £1,500 to the Baldock Town Partnership for fireworks and other costs associated with the Baldock Firework event.
- 2.8 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release of £1000 to the Balstock Music Festival for costs associated with putting on the Balstock Community Weekend, including publicity costs, insurance costs, security costs.
- 2.9 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release of £418 to 1st Ashwell Brownies for the purchase of a flag, a parachute for team building games and the printing of the Brownie handbook.
- 2.10 The Committee acknowledges the recent start up grant funding release via Delegated Authority of £150 to Baldock Wonderers, a new group set up for the over 55s in Baldock.
- 2.11 That the Committee considers awarding support funding in relation to any potential Highways schemes, provided they align with the NHDC Medium Term Financial Strategy, and as proposed and discussed under section 8.11 of this report.
- 2.12 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Communities 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 Communities 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 of 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 Communities 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 Committee debate, 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 Communities' Officer This is a requirement of the 'Priorities for the District' in which the Community Officer is required to produce a report for members on 4 occasions per annum.
- 7.4 The Committee considers the Grant Award of £500 to Baldock Town Partnership to assist with the cost of hiring an artificial ski slope for the Baldock Christmas Event on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December.
- 7.5 The Committee considers a Grant Award of £1,000 to Baldock Town Youth Football Club to assist with the production of plans and fees associated with the refurbishment of the Baker's Field pavilion.
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- 7.9 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release of £1,500 to the Baldock Town Partnership for fireworks and other costs associated with the Baldock Firework event.
- 7.10 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release of £1,000 to the Balstock Music Festival for costs associated with putting on the Balstock

Community Weekend, including publicity costs, insurance costs, security costs.

- 7.11 The Committee acknowledges the recent funding release of £418 to 1st Ashwell Brownies for the purchase of a flag, a parachute for team building games and the printing of the Brownie handbook.
- 7.12 The Committee acknowledges the recent start up grant funding release via Delegated Authority of £150 to Baldock Wonderers, a new group set up for the over 55s in Baldock.
- 7.13 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.

8. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCEME DETAILS

8.1 Baldock Town & District Partnership Updates

Since the September Area Committee, the Partnership has held the Baldock 10k, assisted with the Balstock Community Fun weekend and co-ordinated the Baldock Firework event. Updates on all of these events are included later in this report. As well as the above listed events, the Partnership also continues to run and manage the Baldock Weekly market, the monthly Farmers Market, the Baldock Network Group and the Baldock Networking lunches.

Weekly Markets

As reported in September, the Weekly market is now located on the paved areas of the High Street from Mansfield Road downwards. This move has proved very successful with the market now flourishing with 12 regular stall holders now trading, compared with just 5 when the market was trading from the Memorial car park.

Baldock Monthly Market

The monthly market continues to be popular in Baldock with more than 10 traders attending each event. Footfall continues to be strong for this event.

Events

Future events planned by the BTADP include:

- Baldock Partnership Christmas Dinner (Fri 28th November 2014)
- Baldock Christmas Weekend – (Sat 6th – Sun 7th December 2014)

- Baldock Beast 2015 – (Sun 15th February 2015)

8.2 **Sale Drive**

NHDC Legal Team continue to work with the developer to secure the adoption of the land from Barratt Homes to Hertfordshire Highways; senior NHDC officers are in discussion with BDW homes to stress that this transfer should take place as soon as possible, and that their previous decision not to engage a legal adviser has caused delays thus far..

Funding for the works has been forwarded to Highways and they have been added to the Highways Work Programme, but cannot be carried out until the land adoption has been completed.

8.3 **Baldock 10k**

The Baldock 10k was held for only the second time on Sunday 14th September and was supported by just under 200 runners, compared with 220 runners for the race in 2013. The race passed without incident and was well supported by residents of all the villages along the route.

8.4 **Balstock Music Festival**

Balstock Music Festival returned to Baldock on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September. This was the fourth year of the festival and the 2014 event was the most popular to date, providing two days of entertainment for all ages. As well as driving footfall for the local shops, pubs and restaurants, the event also raised thousands of pounds for a Downs Syndrome charity.

8.5 **Baldock Fair**

The Baldock Fair returned to Baldock High Street and White Horse Street for three days of fun on the 2nd to 4th October. The Baldock CO and Communities Manager were in attendance for the pull on and take down of the event, which again passed without incident.

8.6 **Baldock Firework Display**

The Baldock Firework Display was held for the second time on Saturday 25th October. The event was again held in the grounds of Hartsfield School and was supported by around 1300 spectators from Baldock and the surrounding villages. This was slightly down on the attendance from 2013 when around 1750 attended. The firework display was enjoyed by all who attended with much positive feedback posted on Facebook and other social media. The event passed without incident. As well as being an income generator for the Partnership, the event also raised funds for the Friends of Hartsfield School.

8.7 **Baldock Town Partnership Festive Events**

The Baldock Town Partnership will be kicking off the festive period with their Christmas Dinner Party at The White Horse Pub on Friday 28th November. The event will include a three course dinner with wine and a disco for £35 per head. The Baldock Partnership cordially invite all Baldock and District Committee members to the event and ask that all interested contact the Chair of the Partnership to arrange payment.

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December the Baldock Town Partnership will be holding its annual Baldock Christmas Weekend Event. As well as the usual farmers/craft stalls, there will be an international food court, funfair rides catering for all ages and for the first time ever in Baldock, an artificial ski slope. The Baldock Town Partnership have submitted a funding application

to the Baldock and District Committee to assist with the cost for bringing the ski slope to the town.

The Baldock Communities Officer is working with the Partnership on this event and will assist with the promotion of the event as well as the planning and the required paperwork for the event to the North Herts Safety Advisory Group.

8.8 Baldock Beast Multi-terrain Half Marathon 2015

The Baldock Beast will be returning for a fourth time on Sunday 15th February 2015. This is the Baldock Town Partnership's flagship event and another 500 runners are expected to take part again in 2015.

Entry for this race has just opened with more than 20 people already signed up.

The Baldock Communities Officer will help to co-ordinate the race on behalf of the Partnership and will also be race director on the day.

8.9 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 grants/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 as a body 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 Communities 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 Spread sheet.
- 15.2 Appendix 2 – Area Committee Work Programme 2014/15.
- 15.3 Appendix 3 – Grant Application for Baldock Town Partnership
- 15.4 Appendix 4 – Grant Application for Baldock Town Youth Football Club
- 15.5 Appendix 5 – Grant Application for Rushden & Wallington Parish Council.
- 15.6 Appendix 6 – Grant Application for Ashwell Music Festival
- 15.7 Appendix 7 – Grant Application for Hinxworth Young People

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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