

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTERNSHIPS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 advise the Committee of the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee's delegated funds.
- 1.4 For the Committee to confirm the level of assistance to be awarded to Triangle Community Garden – Appendix B.

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 King George V Playground**

The design proposals for the renovation of the children's play provision at King George V Playing Fields, will be available for consultation at the play area between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 3rd June, 2010. They will also be available during the Play Rangers activities on that day at 3pm at the playing field.

Schools surrounding the King George V Playing fields have also been notified and an invitation has been given to them to have an officer come in to school to discuss the proposals with the young people.

3.2 Town Talk

Notes and any actions arising from the last Town Talk, held on Tuesday 9th March 2010 are attached as Appendix C.

3.3 Cadwell Lane/Hitchin Residents Alliance

The next meeting of the above will be held on Tuesday 15th June, 2010, when it is hoped that the results from the enquiry will be available.

3.4 North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

The next Surgery to be held at the Forum will be on Wednesday 30th June 2010, from 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Members will be asked for their availability.

3.5 Westmill Steering Group/Westmill Community Association

The AGM for the Westmill Community Association takes place on Tuesday, June 22nd 2010 at 7.30pm and all involved with the Steering Group are invited to

join with the Association at this meeting.

A flyer has been designed, with the support of Community Development, and will be distributed around Westmill to invite the residents to the AGM and encourage participation in the Association and the proposed move to the new Community Centre in John Barker Place.

3.6 Hitchin Health Awareness Day

The 2010 Health Awareness Day takes place on Hitchin Market Place on Saturday 19th June, 2010 from 10am – 3.30pm.

3.7 Vaisakhi 2010

The 2010 Vaisakhi procession took place on Saturday 17th April, 2010. The procession went well with no incidents. A debrief will be held and plans for the 2011 procession will start soon.

3.8 Hitchin Work Plan

The updated Hitchin Work Plan is attached as Appendix D. Could Members consider any projects they would like included for 2010/2011 please?

3.9 Councillors' engagement in Schools

The Councillors' engagement session in schools during the Spring term were successful with a number of issues being raised by the young people, particularly how young people are treated by some shops in Hitchin.

The Summer term dates are, The Priory School Monday 21st June, Boys School Tuesday 22nd and Girls School Wednesday 23rd. All take place 12.30pm - 1.30pm. Members will be asked for their availability.

3.10 Voice of Hitchin Youth

The Voice have stopped meeting for the moment because of exam pressures. The next meeting will be Monday 5th July 2010, when recruitment will be on the agenda as only two members will be left when the rest move on to University and other areas.

A volunteer has been found to update and maintain the website which will make a big difference getting information out to young people.

3.11 Highways Work Programme

The updated Highways Work Programme is attached as Appendix E.

3.12 Walsworth Festival

Walsworth Festival took place on Sunday May 23rd 2010. An oral update will be given at the meeting.

3.13 Hitchin in Bloom

The Comet newspaper is hosting a Hitchin in Bloom Award which will be open to everybody to take part in under various categories, such as Best Front Garden, Best School Gardens and Young Gardener at Home (under 16), amongst others.

The Comet are looking for sponsors for this Award and have requested Hitchin Area Committee to consider this.

Members comments welcome.

3.14 Over 50's Forum

The launch of the Over 50's Forum in Hitchin took place in April and attracted a small number of participants who will now form part of the larger North Herts District Forum. The aim of the Forum is to involve older people in decision making and

influence policy both locally and nationally in matters such as transport, housing, community care and much more.

3.15 **Time Bank**

A meeting took place at the Purwell Community Building regarding the launch of the Purwell Time Bank. This is a North Herts CVS initiative beginning initially in one area in Letchworth and Hitchin. The aim of Time Bank is an exchange of skills such as dog walking, ironing, gardening and DIY amongst the long list of possible skills and it is hoped to involve all the local community including schools, community groups and individuals. The Time Bank will be co-ordinated by the CVS and a steering group of residents and organisations has been formed to support this in Purwell.

3.16 **Hitchin Boys School**

Two young pupils from the Boys School have requested support from Hitchin Area Committee and Hitchin Town Centre Initiative for their local business promotion event which they plan to hold in Hitchin Market Place on Saturday 7th August from 10am – 4pm.

The two Year 9 pupils are doing this as part of a school project, organising and hosting an event. It is hoped that the event can take place at an estimated cost of £1,500, most of which is for advertising and printing.

Members comments welcome.

3.17 **Charlton Society**

The residents of Charlton have now formally constituted the Society and Priory Ward have supported the Society with a small grant.

3.18 **St Michaels Community Centre**

St Michaels Community Association hold their AGM on Tuesday 8th June, 2010 and in a bid to attract more members to the Committee, Community Development has supported the group in the design and print of a flyer that they will distribute round the area.

4. **FINANCE REPORT**

4.1 The budget sheets are attached as Appendix A.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

5.2 There are no legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications that have not been specified in the main body of the report.

7. **CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

7.1 Ward Members will be consulted about relevant grant applications.

7.2 Ward Members have been consulted in connection with projects that have been
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carried forward from previous years.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.
- 8.2 That the Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure and balances carried forward from the Visioning, Development and Ward budgets.
- 8.3 That the Committee consider the level of funding to be awarded to Triangle Community Garden – Appendix B.
- 8.4 That the Committee formally allocate the £3,250 to Hitchin Swim Centre for the extended swimming hours at the Outdoor Pool, agreed at the meeting on 9th March, 2010.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and Strategic Objectives of the Council.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix A - Annual Grant and Development Discretionary Budget Update
- 10.2 Appendix B - Triangle Community Garden Grant application
- 10.3 Appendix C - Town Talk Notes 9th March 2010
- 10.4 Appendix D - Hitchin Committee Work Plan 2010/2011
- 10.5 Appendix E - Highways Work Programme 2010/2011

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