

HITCHIN COMMITTEE	
11 th January 2011	
*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No.

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR TRICIA COWLEY

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.

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 School Surgeries

The School surgeries took place the week beginning Monday 6th December. Members were 'grilled' on a number of issues including Churchgate, Town Hall, icy pavements and dog fouling.

The next school surgeries will be held in the week beginning Monday 21st March 2011.

3.2 North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

A surgery took place on Wednesday 24th November, 2010. The next one will be held on Wednesday 26th January, 2011 from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

3.3 Queen Mother Theatre Appeal

The Appeal Committee have raised more than £250,000 to pay for the Youth Wing Project, which is £50,000 more than the original target. The Youth Wing Appeal Committee have now disbanded and handed over responsibility to the Bancroft Players. The Committee wanted to thank all those who have contributed to the Appeal and it is anticipated that the Youth Wing will be completed by the end of this year with an opening ceremony in Spring 2011.

3.4 Mill FM

An update from the Mill FM project has been circulated to Members. This update refers to the launch and broadcasting in August 2010, and future plans for the project in partnership with Soundbase. Regular updates will be received from the project as it progresses.

3.5 **Youth Spend**

Three applications have been received so far for the Youth Spend funding. The closing date for applications is 31st December, 2010. The Youth Spend event will take place on Saturday 29th January 2011 at Sub Zero starting at 12.30pm. Members will receive a programme and information about the applications in early January.

3.6 **Bancroft Afro Caribbean Lunch Club**

A Councillors Surgery took place on Friday 3rd December, 2010. A number of issues were raised including icy roads and pavements. The next Surgery will be held on Friday 4th March, 2011.

3.7 **Walsworth Festival**

The organisers of the 2011 Walsworth Festival have arranged two fund raising events prior to the Festival, scheduled to take place on Sunday 22nd May. The first fund raising event is a Table Top sale at Walsworth Community Centre on Saturday 5th February and the second a Quiz Night on Friday 1st April 2011, also at the Community Centre.

3.8 **ROTW**

An initial meeting has taken place between the organisers of the Festival and the regulated authorities, to discuss issues that arose in 2010 and steps for a smooth and successful Festival in 2011. A series of meetings will be scheduled including meetings with various community groups.

3.9 **Vaisakhi 2011**

With the proposed closure of Cambridge Road, due to the major bridge scheme taking place from 28th February to 27th May 2011, the organisers of Vaisakhi have been requested to consider an alternative route, or postponement of the event owing to the diversionary route being part of the actual route which is used for the procession. The organisers are now considering options.

3.10 **Hitchin Area Work Programme**

The updated Hitchin Area Committee Work programme is attached as Appendix C.

3.11 **Highways Work Programme**

The updated Highways Work Programme is attached as Appendix D.

4. **FINANCE REPORT**

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets and the Visioning Budgets

4.2 The Committee's updated Annual Grant and Development Discretionary Budget spreadsheet is attached as Appendix A.

4.3 The Committee is asked to consider the level of grant award to be made to The Caldicott Youth Clubs – Appendix B.

4.4 The Member query raised at the November 2010 Area Committee meeting, Minute 75, regarding possible allocation of the funds within the Capital Visioning Budget to alternative capital schemes has been investigated and an update has been supplied to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Committee.

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 have been consulted on relevant grant applications.
- 7.2 Ward Members have been consulted in connection with projects that have been 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 The Caldicott Youth Clubs – Appendix B

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 – The Caldicott Youth Club Grant Report
- 10.4 Appendix C - Hitchin Area Committee Work Plan 2010/2011
- 10.5 Appendix D - Highways Work Programme 2010/2011

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

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