

Communities Team

Hitchin - claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462-474226

- Funding sourced via Hitchin Youth Trust to re-start a weekly Youth Club on Westmill. Waiting for Youth Connexions to set up and supply necessary staff.
- Provided advice to Mind In Mid Herts on suitable town centre venue for North Herts outreach service, Christchurch. Also looking for start up funding from HAC.
- Assisting Youth Connexions with North Herts Youth Council – Youth Conference held on 11th December. Now looking to recruit more members to the Youth Council.

Baldock - Sue.hardy@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462-474830

- The Christmas craft fair and French Market 5th & 6th December, very well attended.
- Ashwell Parish Council seeking approval to utilise s106 / UU funds for the Parish Room & Cricket Club.
- The Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre group – Varied programme, group working on operational policies. - New boiler to be fitted January.

Royston - ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462-474225

- Supported 3rd Royston Means Business Christmas Market event on 12th Dec co-ordinating the traffic management & road closure. Well attended, but poor weather.
- Support 2nd Royston Santa Run. Set up course, signage and co-ordinated marshals. Poor weather but over children and adults taking part.

Letchworth - claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462-474226

- Voluntary Committee at Grange Youth Wing have all resigned. Investigating Youth Connexions taking over the facility to sustain the service.
- Jackie's Drop-In Centre has been given notice by LGCHF to vacate St Michaels House as it is currently under offer for redevelopment. They have offered the group alternative accommodation in the annex to the former Grammar School building, Westview House. Support being given re funding sources to cover £30k of fit works required to make the facility fully operational. Main issue hinged around only being offered a short term lease, which limits the funding options.
- New Town Centre Manager has been employed by the BID – FT Jan 2016.
- Funding advice / support to Letchworth RFC.

Southern Rural & Parishes - stuart.izzard@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462-474854

- Parish Challenge Panel to oversee this year's Rural Grants Fund awards - 27 projects being awarded just over £30k in total. Meeting Wed 16th Dec.
- Clothall Village Hall outstanding 2 external projects nearing completion, Trustees to hold meeting in the New Year to seek help in managing / operating the Hall.
- Funding advice / support to, Dacre Rooms, Kimpton; Ickleford Village Hall; Barley Playground Group; Friends of St Kats, Ickleford; Codicote Playground Group; Offley Recreation Centre; Kimpton Folk Festival & Gt Ashby Community Garden Project.
- Rural Schools Ceramic & Pottery Project – part of BBC's Get Creative arts initiative ended on 11th Dec. Schools inc Reed, Barley, Breachwood Green & St Pauls Walden - 424 children took part over the year long programme.

Policy

- Policy team are drafting PREVENT guidance for NHDC staff. This will be a more hands on guide to be read in conjunction with numerous central government PREVENT documents. The NHDC guidance will aim to clearly show what to do when concerns of radicalisation are raised.

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Active Communities and Safeguarding

- Hertfordshire County Council has confirmed that year two of the Public Health District Offer is financially secure and NHDC will receive a second £100k as originally planned. However payments will now be staged, 1/3 in January 16, 1/3 in April 16 and 1/3 in April 17. Projects have been adjusted accordingly.
- Public Health District year one projects enter their final phase, ending around April 2016. A full evaluation will be available next year.
- Get Active North Herts, funded with £250k from Sport England, begins a three year programme in January 2016.
- Training for staff and members on the Prevent agenda (counter-terrorism and extremism) will be delivered in house from early 2016.
- Safeguarding Children level one training is available to all staff and members in January-March 2016 and has been promoted through MIS.
- Helen.rae@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462 474333

Community Centres & Halls

- Rural grant proposal for £10k being made for Wallington Village Hall to replace windows. To be considered at the Parish Challenge Panel on 16/12/15.
- Westmill C.C. new build. Generally going well although due to issues with the demolition of the existing garages handover date now likely to be in Feb 2016. The WCA are still to agree and sign lease for new premises.
- Bancroft Hall. Several regular hirers now left due to planned closure / demolition. Four regular hirers remain. Date of closure tbc ref opening of HTH.
- Hitchin Tennis Club power. This is linked to the demolition of Bancroft Hall. Investigations ongoing with UK Power Networks et al on most cost effective solution. Work to be in conjunction with new supply to Children's Splash Park.
- C.C. Lease renewals. Somewhat of a hiatus on progress with Walsworth and Coombes. However the group operating the Mrs Howard Hall indicated it might accept a full repairing lease subject to discussion and agreement of terms.
- Mrs Howard Hall thermal efficiency improvements. Likely application re circa £20k of s106 Community Halls Contributions in the New Year once the new lease is agreed. Listed Building Consent granted.
- Jackmans C.C. Library enhancement. L.A.C. agreed release of a further circa £14.4k of Community Halls S106 Contributions to complete the project.
- Baldock C.C. Youth Wing enhancement. Release of circa £44k s106 Community Halls Contributions agreed with the Planning Dept. Funds ring fenced for the project due to start in the spring of 2016.

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