

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS & 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 during the past month.
- 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 Youth Council**

The Youth Council met again on January 13th with 8 members attending. There was discussion of the balance of types of retail shop in the town centre, and considerable support was expressed for an additional drop-in centre for young people to complement the opening times of The House: there was no wish to compete with that valuable resource. The potential uses of the open space at the foot of Fish Hill were also discussed.

- 3.1.1 The next meeting of the Youth Council is scheduled for March 10th, when it is hoped to discuss involvement in an inter-generational event in Baldock.

3.2 Citizenship

The first session in this year's cycle of Citizenship classes took place on Monday January 14th at Studlands Rise First School. As usual the CDO will collate results and report back to the Committee at the end of the cycle.

3.3 Angel Pavement

Work began on the appointed date and has progressed on schedule. The CDO has visited the site during the works and endeavoured to resolve different viewpoints of some of the actions taken.

A meeting of the Angel Pavement Working Party has been scheduled to place on March 1st to sign off the project and to finalise financial details: an update will be provided at the meeting.

3.4 Members' Surgery

The recent Surgery on February 12th was held in the newly completed Angel pavement. Nine members of the public sought assistance on 10 topics. These included three Highways issues, one of which concerned parking obstructive to emergency access in Princes Mews, two opposing the changes in policy over

burials in North Hertfordshire, and one regarding the issuing of parking permits to market traders.

Two passers-by commented on the visual improvement to Angel Pavement, one saying that she had initially opposed the idea.

CDO has consulted with the Fire Service over Princes Mews, and the Station Commander has confirmed that parking is an issue there: at the time of writing CDO is investigating appropriate action.

Other Highways issues have been passed to HCC Highways by the Chairman.

3.5 Other Work

- 3.5.1 CDO has assisted in the preparation of reports towards the Rural Grants Fund 2010/11 round with the Member Panel scheduled to sit Tuesday 1st March.
- 3.5.2 CDO assisting with the establishment of a Royston branch of the North Herts. 50+ Forum.
- 3.5.3 CDO assisted the ASB Officer in locating a source of funding to facilitate transport to enable continuation of a young person's studies.
- 3.5.4 CDO attended a recent meeting of the Coombes Community Centre Management Committee, and is endeavouring to co-ordinate meetings to promulgate best practice and facilitate appropriate courses of action given the current financial climate.
- 3.5.5 CDO has continued to support Royston First in pursuit of its agreed objectives, minuting meetings etc.
- 3.5.6 CDO attended the opening of the refurbished Barkway Reading Room.
- 3.5.7 CDO continues with NHDC website maintenance on Community Development issues as necessary.
- 3.5.8 CDO looking at possible routes of unlocking received funds from Planning Contributions in-conjunction with the CDM and the Town Council.

4. FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee budgets is enclosed as Appendix A.
- 4.2 A grant application has been received from Royston & District Town Twinning Association for a French visit to Parliament, and is attached as Appendix B.
- 4.3 A grant application has been received from Electralites Majorettes for sign-writing on an event trailer, and is attached as Appendix C.
- 4.4 A grant application has been received from The House Youth Drop-In Centre for rental support, and is attached as Appendix D.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2010/11.

6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2009/10 to the current financial year 2010/11.

6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances relating to allocated Visioning Budgets available within the Royston & District area.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

8.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.

8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies / groups has taken place with regard to the funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

9.2 Members are asked to allocate the remaining budget funds from the 2010/11 area base budget before the end of the current financial year.

9.3 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £499 to the Royston & District Town Twinning Association for a French visit to Parliament.

9.4 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £500 to the Electralites Majorettes for sign-writing on an event trailer.

9.5 The Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1,250 to The House Youth Drop-In Centre for rental support.

9.6 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.

10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

10.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and Strategic Priorities of the Council.
- 10.4 The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by members of the community.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A - Area Committee Development Budget Spreadsheet.
- 11.2 Appendix B – Grant report for Royston & District Town Twinning Association.
- 11.3 Appendix C – Grant report for Electralites Majorettes.
- 11.4 Appendix D – Grant report for The House Youth Drop-In Centre.

12. CONTACT OFFICER

- 12.1 Alan Fleck, Community Development Officer. Ext: 4274.
Email: Alan.Fleck@north-herts.gov.uk.
- 12.2 Lois Stewart, Group Accountant. Ext 4566
E Mail: lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk