

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held as a Virtual Meeting  
on Tuesday, 29th September, 2020 at 7.30 pm

### 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Hitchin Committee meeting that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online and advised that there was the opportunity for the public and press to listen and view proceedings.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Voting.

The Chair, Councillor Ian Albert, started the meeting proper.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kay Tart and Richard Thake.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (4) The Chair advised that the report of the Hitchin BID Manager had been moved up the agenda to take place before public participation and grant applications.
- (5) The Chair advised that the Grants and Community Update had been moved up the agenda to follow public participation.

### 5 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

Mr Tom Hardy, Hitchin BID Manager, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding the issues and activities in the Hitchin BID area.

The Chair thanked Mr Hardy for his presentation.

**6 PUBLISH PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN FUN CLUB**

Ms Lisa King, Hitchin Fun Club, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application.

The Chair thanked Ms King for her presentation.

**7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - STRATHMORE FUN CLUB**

Ms Lisa King, Strathmore Fun Club, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application.

The Chair thanked Ms King for her presentation.

**8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NORTH HERTS AFRO CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

Mr Tony Williams, North Herts Afro-Caribbean Community, thanked the Chair for inviting him to address the Committee regarding the activities of the NHACC.

The Chair thanked Mr Williams for his presentation.

**9 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**RESOLVED:** That the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin be endorsed.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.
- (3) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

**10 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN FUN CLUB**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £900 be awarded to Hitchin Fun Club to assist with the cost of art, sport and cleaning equipment.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

**11 GRANT APPLICATION - STRATHMORE FUN CLUB**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £1000 be awarded to Strathmore Fun Club to assist with the cost of new sports and outdoor equipment.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

## 12 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

The Chair led a discussion regarding ward issues and outside organisations.

Members gave updates on the following:

- Charnwood, the Dell, the River Walkway – Councillor Keith Hoskins MBE
- Vandalism of the picnic benches in King George V Playing Fields – Councillor Simon Harwood
- Community Centres – Councillor Mike Hughson
- Traffic Surveys – Councillor Judi Billing MBE

The Chair invited the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer to update the committee on arrangements for Remembrance Sunday in Hitchin.

## 13 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they advise himself, officers or the Committee Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** That the following items be discussed at future meetings of this committee:

- Protecting Priory Field
- Air Quality Update
- Hitchin Station Access
- Fair Trade Town status
- Churchgate Centre

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To keep the Hitchin Committee apprised of issues affecting the Hitchin area.