

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Friday 27 May 2022

Our Ref Letchworth Committee/8 June 2022  
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Daniel Allen (Chair), Councillor Sean Prendergast (Vice-Chair), Councillor Amy Allen, Councillor Simon Bloxham, Councillor Morgan Derbyshire, Councillor Terry Hone, Councillor David Levett, Councillor Ian Mantle, Councillor Tom Plater, Councillor Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Councillor Tamsin Thomas, Councillor Phil Weeder and Councillor Sean Nolan

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE**

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,  
LETCWORTH**

On

**WEDNESDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2022 AT 7.30 PM**

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson  
Service Director – Legal and Community

**\*\*MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL  
AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION  
ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING\*\***

## **Agenda** **Part I**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES - 9 MARCH 2022, 26 MAY 2022</b> To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 9 March 2022 and 26 May 2022.	(Pages 5 - 14)
<b>3.</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS</b> Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency.  The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BID MANAGER</b> To receive a verbal presentation from the Letchworth Garden City BID Manager.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>GRANTS &amp; COMMUNITY UPDATE</b> To advise the Members on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets.  To bring to the Members' attention to recent requests received for Committee grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations.  To advise of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officers have been involved in.	(Pages 15 - 26)

To bring to the Members' attention some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

**8. WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS**

To receive any verbal reports from Members regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERNO  
ROAD, LETCHWORTH  
ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2022 AT 7.30 PM

#### MINUTES

**Present:** *Councillors: Councillor Daniel Allen (Chair), Amy Allen, Simon Bloxham, Morgan Derbyshire, Terry Hone, Ian Mantle, Sean Prendergast and Mike Rice*

**In Attendance:** *William Edwards (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), James Lovegrove (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), Claire Morgan (Community Engagement Team Leader) and Becca Edwards (Apprentice Grant Administrator)*

**Also Present:** *At the commencement of the meeting approximately 11 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

#### 23 WELCOME

*Audio recording – 23 seconds*

The Chair welcomed Members, Officers and public participants to the Committee meeting.

#### 24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Audio recording – 1 minute 05 seconds*

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Aspinwall, Gary Grindal, David Levett and Adem Ruggiero-Cakir.

#### 25 MINUTES - 8 DECEMBER 2021

*Audio Recording – 1 minute 18 seconds*

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 December 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

#### 26 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

*Audio recording – 1 minute 59 seconds*

There was no other business notified.

#### 27 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Audio recording – 2 minutes 06 seconds*

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;

- (2) 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.

## **28 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

*Audio recording – 2 minutes 30 seconds*

Sergeant Lisa Perks, from Herts Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, gave a verbal update to Members on the work being done in the Letchworth area, including:

- Reports of all crime were down slightly from 1766 last year to 1763 this year (from 1 April 2021 to 6 March 2022).
- Reports of both residential and business burglary were down, from 51 to 44 and 45 to 26 respectively. This has been attributed to making the area more inhospitable for criminals and an increase in Business Watch members.
- Theft from vehicles had reduced from 77 to 52 and the police continued to educate people around unlocked vehicles.
- Personal robbery reports were down from 7 to 6, criminal damage was down from 219 to 182 and shoplifting was down from 219 to 182.
- Reports of violence against the person, which ranged from assault to malicious communications, were up to 826 compared to 631 last year.
- The three priorities identified for the Letchworth area, which are reviewed every 6 months, were; vehicle crime, speeding and open spaces/car parks.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Terry Hone

In response to questions, Sgt Perks advised:

- With the lighter evenings and better weather it was expected that more youths would be out in town and congregating than in the winter months and this can have an increasing effect on anti-social behaviour.
- At times anti-social behaviour from young people is high and the police are working with NHDC and schools to better deal with this problem.
- Lots of patrols were taking place to try and deal with this type of crime.

The Chair advised that the BID would normally comment on crime in the town centre, but they were not able to attend this meeting. He noted that the BID were currently doing some work around this.

The Chair thanked Sgt Perks for her update.

## **29 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BID MANAGER**

*Audio recording – 10 minutes 34 seconds*

The Chair advised that the Letchworth Garden City BID Manager was unavailable to attend this meeting.

## **30 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

*Audio recording – 10 minutes 44 seconds*

Graham Fisher, CEO of the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, gave a verbal update to Members, including:

- The Foundation had begun to see the beginnings of recovery from the Covid environment, which had a huge impact on income.
- Property rental income had been down 20%, but this was now returning to normal levels and 95% of invoiced income had been returned, which is helping to improve resilience of the Foundation.
- However, there were still significant historic debts outstanding, overwhelmingly this was commercial rent arrears. As the regulations change on 25 March 2022 this will create pressure and these outstanding debts are collected.
- The Governance review had been completed and changes have been implemented. This has seen the introduction of 4 appointed trustees, who have joined from various backgrounds, filling some of the gaps in experience on the board.
- Alongside Officers at NHDC, the consultation on Letchworth Cultural Strategy had begun. This was to look at a cultural strategy within the town centre and would rely on working collaboratively with partners across the town.
- For many other places, town centre regeneration plans are centred around culture and this is being invested in heavily as part of Letchworth's regeneration plans.
- There had been £150k invested in gallery and museum services in the town, but due to the impact of Covid further funds were required and fundraising was taking place to achieve this, with a further £150k being raised last year.
- A multi-agency Town Centre Strategy Group had been set up and was gathering input from businesses. A survey of businesses had been set up and it was hoped the group would meet in April 2022.
- Housing plans were still awaiting the Local Plan, but work was continuing on the LG3 area, around Kristiansand Way, and the vision for LG1 area was being explored, with work progressing well on both of these.
- One area ring-fenced throughout the pandemic was the annual £600k grant funding. However, last year the budget was underspent by a third, representing £200k, and £54k of this was allocated to organisations who did not have the capacity to take the funds.
- This represented the wider issues and challenges facing the demand and capacity within the charity sector.
- The grant funding was really important to the charitable status of the Foundation and they would start looking at how further collaboration with partners to ensure funds are going to appropriate places.
- There was a Street Party Grant Fund due to be announced shortly, which would offer up to £700 to host a street party event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Daniel Allen

In response to questions Mr Fisher advised:

- There was a dual process with regards to funding. There was a Commissioning Group, where larger funding is given through partner organisations, such as Citizens Advice and Barnardo's.
- There is also an open access grant funds, which were themed, and applications were required for these funds.
- There would be a strategic review of the grant funding this year and this would explore whether money could be devolved to neighbourhoods, where there is little existing engagement, or through third party social action partners.

The Chair thanked Mr Fisher for his update.

*Audio recording – 21 minutes 39 seconds*

A verbal presentation was given by Nicky Young and Joy Holmes from Garden City Samba regarding their grant application, including:

- The grant funds requested were to produce training videos and some money had already been raised towards this.
- The idea started as, during the lockdown, videos were produced to allow people to learn their instruments and ensure skills were kept throughout the pandemic.
- New members have noted how helpful the videos have been and they have progressed at great speed.
- It was hoped that these new videos would cover more basic information, such as how to hold instruments, how to play and understanding conductors hand signals. These would offer support for members of the group, as well as any possible new members.
- A professional video and sound recorder was consulted, but the associated costs of these were too high for the group.
- The musical director of the group, Raz, is a professional musician and he is employed by the group. His style is all inclusive and he gives a lot of his own time to arrange gigs, access funds and promote the band.
- Raz can produce videos to a professional standard, at a fraction of the cost quoted by the professional video producer.
- The group varied in age, race and gender and aimed to be all inclusive, with discreet financial support available, if required.
- The original application was for £2285, but £1000 had been raised from elsewhere.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Daniel Allen

Councillor Terry Hone advised that he already supported this group in his position as County Councillor.

In response to questions Joy Holmes estimated that over 50% of members of the group were from Letchworth.

## **32 GRANT APPLICATION - GARDEN CITY SAMBA**

*Audio recording – 29 minutes 35 seconds*

Councillor Ian Mantle proposed and Councillor Morgan Derbyshire seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £1,285 be awarded to Garden City Samba to provide on-line training resources for new members, as outlined in 8.1.1.

## **33 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Audio recording – 30 minutes 45 seconds*

A verbal presentation, supported by a short video, was given by Bal Singh, Nav Djhaliwal and Gavin Hart from KHALSA Youth Football Academy regarding their grant application, including:



- The Academy was run by volunteers and aimed to develop young people's skills in football and coaching, as well as providing training in other areas such as photography/filming and social media skills.
- Over the last few years the work done at the Academy has been featured on national news reports (BBC, Sky, Asian TV networks) and several national newspapers have reported on the work recently.
- The Academy began as a way to tackle underrepresentation of Asians in football, but this has expanded to take on a community aspect which covers areas such as racism, anti-social behaviour, drug and knife crime and special needs support. They have also begun to deal with taboo topics within the Sikh community.
- The community work being done at the Academy had received several recognition awards, demonstrating success both on and off the pitch.
- The funds requested would go towards at Junior Football Leaders award, which helps young people to gain skills and transferrable knowledge to be used in later life.
- Looks to develop on community schemes and helps young people to understand how to put on events.
- The Academy had raised £5,500 so far and was requesting a further £2,000 from the Committee.
- The scheme was due to take place in May or June 2023, which would be the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Academy.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Mike Rice
- Councillor Ian Mantle

In response to questions Mr Singh advised:

- Futsal, literally translated, means 'football in a hall'. It uses a ball with 90% less bounce than a regular football, which allows players to manage the ball better and use both sides of the ball.
- There were around 85 attendees from Letchworth every week.

#### 34 GRANT APPLICATION - KHALSA YOUTH FOOTBALL ACADEMY

*Audio recording – 42 minutes 30 seconds*

Councillor Mike Rice proposed and Councillor Sean Prendergast seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £2,000 be awarded to KHALSA Youth Football Academy towards a young leader's project aimed at 14 to 18-year-olds, as outlined in 8.1.2.

#### 35 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*Audio recording – 43 minutes 40 seconds*

A verbal presentation was given by Tony Sinclair and Peter Bailey from Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club regarding their grant application, including:

- The Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club was long established having been at Norton Common since 1931.
- The club is small, but successful, with several local, district and national achievements, for both the men's and women's teams, over the last few years.
- Informal games between members take place, as well as competing in leagues and cups.

- Most of the attendees are from Letchworth, with some from the surrounding villages, and the majority of these are retired, as bowls does not require a need to be especially physically active.
- The grant funds would go towards replacing the ditch units which surround the green and form an important part of the game. While temporary fixes have been employed, a longer term fix is required to prevent further damage and minimise health and safety risks.
- The works would cost £1,194 and they requested £1,000 from the Committee.
- While the group is financially stable enough to support the day to day functions of the Club, financial support is required for ad hoc works such as this. The maintenance of the green costs £8k per annum and further money had to be spent on replacing kitchen items and repairing damage from vandalism.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Daniel Allen
- Councillor Ian Mantle
- Councillor Mike Rice
- Councillor Amy Allen

In response to questions, Mr Sinclair advised:

- This was to replace one section of the ditches, which was roughly 8ft. This damage had generally been caused by the ground work vehicles coming on and off the green.
- Some years ago the group took over maintenance costs of the green from the Council, but the Greenspace Team contribute £3,000 to assist with covering costs.
- There are devices in place to limit the damage done to the ditches by the ground work vehicles, but damage will still happen over time. It was hoped that the replacements would last another 70 years.

### 36 GRANT APPLICATION - LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BOWLS CLUB

*Audio recording – 50 minutes 30 seconds*

Councillor Amy Allen proposed and Councillor Simon Bloxham seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £1,000 be awarded to Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club towards purchase of broken ditch units, as outlined in 8.1.3.

### 37 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*Audio recording – 51 minutes 24 seconds*

A verbal presentation was given by Shelagh Mackey from Made with Clay CIC regarding their grant application, including:

- The group was committed to providing a positive space for all members of the community to engage with ceramics.
- There were 2 teachers at the club, supported by a further 4 volunteers, who covered jobs such as gardening, admissions and website management.
- There is specialist support offered to all attendees, whether new or existing ceramic enthusiasts.
- There is support available from the group for those with additional needs or low income and part of the ethos of the group is to make people feel that they belong in a community.

- The impact of Covid and subsequent shut down highlighted the importance of these groups.
- The group offered classes for well-being, skills development and apprentices.
- Referrals could be made to the group from outside organisations, such as Mind.
- The funds requested would be put towards new shelving for the group, which although may not sound like much, it is a vital piece of equipment for making ceramics and the current space is not enough.
- There is a desire not to raise prices for users, but want to be able to provide a service for as many people as possible.
- There were around 50 regular attendees and the vast majority of these were local to Letchworth.
- Many people have suffered over the last two years and it would be positive to be able to see them blossom knowing they have the support of a community.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Daniel Allen
- Councillor Sean Prendergast
- Councillor Ian Mantle

In response to questions, Ms Mackey advised:

- £500 had been raised so far towards the scheme, but no other grant schemes had been approached.
- Generally advertising was done through word of mouth, but people could also be referred onto the group. The group hold open days, with one planned for the 26 March, and work with other local groups to display work.
- They were based at the Vasanta Hall in Letchworth and had a long term tenure agreement at this site.

### 38 GRANT APPLICATION - MADE WITH CLAY CIC

*Audio recording – 58 minutes 52 seconds*

Councillor Sean Prendergast proposed and Councillor Mike Rice seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £2,169 be awarded to Made with Clay CIC towards the purchase of shelves, as outlined in 8.1.4.

### 39 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

*Audio recording – 59 minutes 49 seconds*

The Community Engagement Team Leader presented the report entitled 'Grants and Community Update' and noted the following:

- It was interesting to hear that the Heritage Foundation have outstanding grant funds available. She would liaise with relevant parties at the Heritage Foundation to see what support the Council can offer.
- Following the grant funds allocated at this meeting, there was £956 to carry over for 2022/23.
- £2,000 had previously been allocated to the Wilbury and Icknield School Parents Association (WISPA) and it was still hoped that the project will progress once permission

has been granted from District and County Councils. It was proposed that this money be incorporated back into the base budget.

Councillor Terry Hone commented that many people do not realise that the Heritage Foundation has a grant scheme, as it is a very unique organisation.

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed that the money is rolled over to next year for use by WISPA.

The Community Engagement Team Leader advised that was possible and would not require a vote. A representative of WISPA could be invited to a future Committee meeting to update on progress of the project.

The Community Engagement Team Leader reminded Members that the next Councillors Surgery would be on 19 March, outside Costa Coffee in town.

Councillor Terry Hone proposed and Councillor Morgan Derbyshire seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee be recommended to endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Letchworth.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) To ensure the Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of budgets. 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.

**40 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS**

*Audio recording – 66 minutes 33 seconds*

Councillor Amy Allen provided an update on the Wilbury and Icknield School Parents Association (WISPA), who had previously been allocated grant funds from the Committee and notified the Committee that planning permission for the scheme had been submitted on 9 March 2022.

Councillor Daniel Allen highlighted that the next Wilbury Community Café would be on the 12 March 2022 and invited all to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Chair

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## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,  
LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY  
ON THURSDAY, 26TH MAY, 2022 AT 7.30 PM

#### MINUTES

**Present:** *Councillors: Daniel Allen, Amy Allen, Simon Bloxham, Morgan Derbyshire, Terry Hone, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Thomas Plater, Sean Prendergast, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Tamsin Thomas and Phil Weeder*

**In Attendance:** *William Edwards (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager)*

#### 41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sean Nolan.

#### 42 ELECTION OF A CHAIR FOR CIVIC YEAR 2022/23

Councillor Ian Mantle proposed Councillor Daniel Allen as Chair, and Councillor Amy Allen seconded.

Councillor Simon Bloxham proposed Councillor Morgan Derbyshire as Chair, and Councillor David Levett seconded.

Following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Daniel Allen be elected as Chair of the Letchworth Area Committee for the Civic Year 2022/23.

#### 43 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR FOR CIVIC YEAR 2022/23

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed and Councillor Amy Allen seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Sean Prendergast be elected as Vice-Chair of the Letchworth Area Committee for the Civic Year 2022/23.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Chair

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## LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### \*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

**TITLE OF REPORT:** GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

**REPORT OF:** THE POLICY & COMMUNITIES MANAGER

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**CURRENT COUNCIL PRIORITIES:** PEOPLE FIRST

#### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To advise the Members on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Members' attention to recent requests received for Committee grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To advise of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officers have been involved in.
- 1.4 To bring to the Members' attention some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee considers allocating funding from their discretionary community budget towards the projects below:
- 2.2 **£1,000** to Culture Wood CIC towards Forest School activities aimed at adults to support mental health as outlined in paragraph 8.1.1 of the officer's report.
- 2.3 **£1,050** to Green Care at Norton CIC towards equipment for their new Social Enterprise based at Standalone Farm aimed at adults to support mental health as outlined in 8.1.2
- 2.4 That the Committee be recommended to endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Letchworth.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure the Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- 3.2 This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of budgets. 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.
- 3.3 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.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1. Delay decisions until the Committee meets in person, which is not considered the best option as many community organisations rely on such Grants.

### **5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place regarding funding proposals for Committee Funds.

### **6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

### **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 With reference to the Council's Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being.
- 7.2 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1. Letchworth Area Committee Budget spreadsheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2022/23. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years, including balances and past expenditure.

- 8. **RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS** - Councillors are at liberty to consider any amount requested in a grant application as long as the Letchworth area committee has sufficient funds in the 2022/2023 budget.



## 8.1 Grant Applications

### 8.1.1

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Culturewood CIC Ltd</b> Provide new sessions focussed on adult's mental health and well-being
<b>Sum requested</b>	£1,000
<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,300
<b>Match funding</b>	£300 Christmas Raffle
<b>Previous support</b>	Yes
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council objectives</b>	People First

This funding will be used to provide new sessions focussed on adult's mental health and well-being. Culturewood would like to be able to support adults at this difficult time. They have spoken to their current clients and there is a need for adult only sessions, focussing on improving mental health using nature - improving and supporting well-being and mindfulness outdoors.

They would like to run a series of two-hour sessions (between eight and ten sessions) with adults, at Norton Common, from June to October. The sessions would promote access to nature as the natural way to re-set after the stresses that COVID and multiple lockdowns put the community under. Included in these sessions would be learning new skills, bush-crafting and green crafts, as well as guided mindfulness exercises.

All sessions would be run by a qualified Forest School Leader and Therapeutic Wilderness Practitioner

This project will help local people over the age of 18, with a focus on adults with mental health issues, addiction issues and any other community groups that would not usually access these types of projects. This project could benefit up to 80 individuals in Letchworth and the surrounding areas in North Hertfordshire.

### 8.1.2

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Green Care at Norton CIC</b> Purchasing a Grillo G55 Walking Tractor
<b>Sum requested</b>	£1,050
<b>Total project cost</b>	£2,100
<b>Match funding</b>	£1,050
<b>Previous support</b>	Yes
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council objectives</b>	People First

Green Care are aiming to purchase a Grillo G55 Walking Tractor. They are establishing a social enterprise at Standalone Farm on a much larger parcel of land than they currently use, leading to them needing to purchase specialist machinery to be able to carry out the groundwork. They have rented approx. 0.75 of an acre for growing vegetables, with a further large area for growing cut flowers.

As the land is currently pasture, they cannot start growing anything on it without preparing the ground. A walking tractor would allow them to cultivate the land mechanically without the need for excessive hand digging, which would be physically very difficult and demoralising for their participants (approx. 15-20 at any one time who live in Letchworth and surrounding areas). To this end they are asking for NHC to make a contribution towards their purchase of a professional standard walking tractor with rotavator attachment.

In the longer term buying these items will provide good value for money in so far as without it they would have to hire these items at approximately £90.00 per day or hire sub-contractors to do the groundwork at substantial expense.

All their participants will directly benefit from this purchase as it will considerably reduce the need for challenging physical work on a large plot. By preparing the ground with a walking tractor, their participants have suitable, prepared land on which to start growing. It will also help their project to become more self-sufficient by generating most of their own income which will help guarantee their long-term future.

Indirectly, the local community will benefit as, when the group are producing fresh, local, and organic produce and ethically grown cut flowers, they will be able to offer the goods at a reasonable price to locals. Similarly, visitors to Standalone Farm from all areas of Hertfordshire and beyond will be able to purchase high quality, produce grown at the farm.

Green Care at Norton gives ongoing long-term support to vulnerable and socially excluded local residents in order to overcome social exclusion through loneliness, isolation and mental health issues. There are no time limits for how long participants can stay with them, and they value everyone's contribution and judge no-one. They adapt the sessions depending on the participant's particular needs, and have worked hard to install wide, smooth pathways on the allotment site, as well as to provide specially adapted gardening equipment, which means that participants with mobility difficulties can still attend and receive support from them.

They also support participants in the project to take the first steps into paid employment through collaboration with their partner organisations; Settle Housing Association Tenancy Support, Job Centre Plus, and Create Community Networks Foundations 4 Work programme.

They support local residents within the community who are disadvantaged or experiencing social exclusion, and give them the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, and improve their mental and physical wellbeing through attending Green Care at Norton. They are also excited to build a presence at Standalone Farm, which is a well-loved local attraction visited by many people in the local and wider communities. They hope this will give them the opportunity to engage with more people in the community and give them information about the advantages of consuming locally grown produce. By producing fruit, vegetables and cut flowers locally they are drastically reducing food miles, refrigeration costs and eradicating the need for plastic packaging on produce. Furthermore, unlike some imported cut flowers and other produce all their produce will be ethically produced without the need for harmful pesticides and herbicides for local people.

This phase of the development of Green Care at Norton will see them establishing a not-for-profit social enterprise which will be the trading arm for their more charitable work at Norton and yet still placing vulnerable and isolated adults at the heart of everything they do.

## **8.2 Community Engagement Update and previous grants awarded**

### **8.2.1 Community Engagement Team**

The team have been continuing to engage and network with local community groups and initiatives. This involved:

- Processing grants to utilise the Health Protection Board funding to assist the community's recovery following the Covid 19 Pandemic.
- Supporting various local and district wide Network Groups such as Youth Action, Food Provision, the Arts and Culture Network and the newly resurrected Jackmans Network Group.
- Facilitating the NHC Letchworth Councillors' Community Surgeries.
- Continuing to work with, and add to, the Arts Cooperative which was set up after the Arts and Culture Cabinet Panel meeting.
- Continuing to share and disseminate information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory, and non-statutory agencies.
- Attending JAG (Joint Action Group) and SAG (Safety Advisory Group) meetings to pass on and share information.
- Sharing information and assisting groups with events planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend.

- Gathering speakers and information for the Cabinet Panel for Community Engagement and Co-operative Development.
- Assisting in the organisation of the Chair's Community Recognition Awards.
- We also have a new team member, Aimee Flack, who will be covering Southern Rural.

### 8.2.2 Update on Previous Grants Awarded

- Letchworth Garden City Bowls Club – update from Peter Bailey  
North Herts Council (NHC) awarded £1,000 to support the LGC Bowls Club with repair works – 'I can confirm that the repair works to the ditch have been completed. The Club is very grateful to the Letchworth Committee for supporting this project, and to you for your assistance. Best wishes – Peter Bailey, Club Treasurer, LGC Bowls Club.



- Letchworth Corner Sports Club – update from Ian Hammond  
North Herts Council (NHC) awarded £10,000 from the Community Facility Capital Grant Fund to support the Letchworth Corner Sports Club with refurbishment works – 'NHDC generously supported us with a £10,000 grant. We are extremely pleased with the finish of the work and we now have an excellent refurbished facility for our members and guests to enjoy'. - Ian Hammond, Treasurer.

Before and after shots of the men's showers,



### 8.3 Highways Matters

- 8.3.1 This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

- 8.3.2 Any new proposals or revised schemes will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Sections 9.8.1 (a) and 9.8.1 (b) of the Council's Constitution in respect of the Area Committees' Terms of Reference, notes the following: To allocate discretionary budgets within the terms determined by the Council and to allocate devolved budgets and activities within the terms determined by the Council. This is outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in January 2020. Section 9.8.2 (h) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference notes that they may: Establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities.
- 9.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything provided that it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 9.3 Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 As outlined in Appendix 1. Letchworth Area Committee Budget spreadsheet.
- 10.2 The current 2022/23 base budget is **£11,000**, with **£956** carried forward from the 2021/22 budget. This leaves a budget available of **£11,956**.
- 10.3 The grant applications for this meeting total **£2,050** and if the Members agree the grants outlined in this report this will leave a balance of **£9,906**.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. As noted at section 8.1.2, Green Care at Norton will provide long-term support to vulnerable and socially excluded local residents to overcome social exclusion through loneliness, isolation and mental health issues, which will advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations for the participants.

### **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

### **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 The provision of a Walking Tractor will have an impact on the use of the land. As Section 8.1.2 notes, the land will be transformed into a productive area for locally grown fruit, vegetables and cut flowers which will reduce food miles, refrigeration costs plastic packaging.

### **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

### **16. APPENDICES**

- 16.1 Appendix 1. Letchworth Area Committee Budget spreadsheet

### **17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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## **18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 18.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 18.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet January 2020



**LETCHWORTH BUDGET 2022/23**

<b><u>SUMMARY/ TOTALS</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b>	<b><u>Allocated</u></b>	<b><u>Spent</u></b>	<b><u>Outstanding</u></b>	<b><u>Unallocated Budget</u></b>					
<b><u>Budget brought forward from 2021/22</u></b>	£2,956	£2,000	£0	£2,000	£956					
<b><u>Budget 2022/23</u></b>	£11,000	£0	£0	£0	£11,000					
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,956</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£11,956</b>					

	<b><u>Funding</u></b>	<b><u>Code</u></b>	<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Allocated</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Spent</u></b>	<b><u>Outstanding</u></b>	<b><u>Unallocated</u></b>	
<b>Funds Brought Forward from 2021/22</b>	<b>£2,956</b>		Wilbury & Icknield School Parents Association	£2,000	10/03/21	£0	£2,000		On Hold
							£0		
							£0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,956</b>			<b>£2,000</b>		<b>£0</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£956</b>	

	<b><u>Funding</u></b>		<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Allocated</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Spent</u></b>	<b><u>Outstanding</u></b>	<b><u>Unallocated</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
<b>2022/23</b>									
<b>Base Budget</b>	<b>£11,000</b>						£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,000</b>			<b>£0</b>		<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£11,000</b>	

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