



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

02 December 2022

Our Ref Letchworth Committee/14 December
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, GERNON
ROAD, LETCHWORTH**

On

WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 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

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	MINUTES - 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 21 September 2022	(Pages 5 - 12)
3.	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS 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.	
4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS 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.	
5.	LETCHWORTH HERITAGE FOUNDATION - SOLAR PANEL POLICY To receive a presentation on the updated solar panel policy from Letchworth Heritage Foundation.	
6.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
7.	LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BID MANAGER To receive a verbal presentation from the Letchworth Garden City BID Manager.	
8.	GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE REPORT OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITIES MANAGER To advise the Members on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets.	(Pages 13 - 22)

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.

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

9. 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, GERONON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, SG6 3JF
ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Councillor Daniel Allen (Chair), Amy Allen, Morgan Derbyshire, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Tom Plater, Tamsin Thomas, Phil Weeder and Sean Nolan

In Attendance: Edward Leigh (Senior Transport Policy Officer), Danny Pearson (Assistant Community Engagement Officer) and Louis Mutter (Committee, Member & Scrutiny Officer)

Also Present:

At the commencement of the meeting approximately 4 members of the public, including registered speakers.

56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 0:55

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sean Prendergast, Terry Hone and Adem Ruggiero-Cakir.

57 MINUTES - 8 JUNE 2022

Audio Recording – 1:15

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 June 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

58 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 2:18

There was no other business notified.

59 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 2:26

- (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.

60 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 3:20

A verbal presentation was given by Ms. Agata Kisicka on behalf of Nova Wellness CIC regarding their grant application, including the following key points:

- Ms. Kisicka is one of the directors of Nova Wellness CIC;
- Nova Wellness is a relatively new company, having been founded just over a year ago;
- Provide group therapeutic sessions both in Stevenage as well as in the local community of Hertfordshire;
- Also provide individual therapy such as acupuncture, chiropractic and massages; any excess profits from these sessions are reinvested in the community through community outreach events;
- The grant funding will be for group therapy sessions, which include: guided meditation, community acupuncture, qigong, mindful movement exercises and other massage therapies;
- Sessions aim to improve the well-being of community members;
- Now on the list of the social prescribing team in Hertfordshire; which has started referring clients to Nova Wellness events;
- The Committee granted grant funding to Nova Wellness last year for 4 wellbeing sessions in collaboration with Create Community Hub; actually delivered 6 after realising how beneficial they were.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor David Levett
- Councillor Tom Plater

In response to questions raised from Members, Ms. Kisicka advised:

- The funding will benefit 60 people; but it doesn't mean they will have just the one session. Most people who come to the sessions come to more than one;
- The application is for four sessions and three additional informal events; so slightly more than just 4 sessions.
- Can have up to 20-25 people per session;
- Participants would attend 2-3 sessions.

The Chair sought advice from the Assistant Community Engagement Officer on funding grants, to which he advised that usually Area Committees can go up to about £2000, knowing the budget isn't huge and has to last until the new year; he also reminded the Committee that full funding could be granted should Members wish.

Councillor Ian Mantle commented that the requested grant is too big a percentage of the total grant budget, while it is a worthy cause its not proportionate considering the other applicants. Councillor Mantle proposed that the Committee provide a smaller grant rather than the full amount, of £1500.

Councillor David Levett agreed with Councillor Ian Mantle's comment but felt £1000 would be more suitable.

Councillor Tom Plater echoed the suggestions of Councillor Mantle and Levett but instead felt half of the grant, £1700 would be suitable.

61 GRANT APPLICATION - NOVA WELLNESS CIC

Audio Recording: 18:15

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

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1,500 be awarded to Nova Wellness CIC for help bringing holistic well-being therapy events to Letchworth.

62 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio Recording: 20:05

A verbal presentation was given by Ms. Hannah Lane on behalf of NCT North Herts regarding their grant application, including the following:

- Ms. Lane is a volunteer for the NCT North Herts branch;
- A national charity which supports new parents through the first 1000 days of parenthood;
- The NCT is best known for providing anti-natal courses across the country;
- The charity has a network of branches with around 5000 volunteers, providing support in form of groups and events in the local area;
- The local branch offers four baby and toddler groups, a sling and nappy library, first-aid courses and other events;
- One of the groups on offer is a breastfeeding and post-natal support group which takes place every first and third week at the Mrs. Howard Memorial Hall;
- Also runs a Hitchin version of this group on the second and fourth week;
- Each baby café is run by an NCT qualified, paid for, breastfeeding counsellor; plus a volunteer to provide support;
- Offers parents a social situation to discuss issues and meet others;
- Approx. 60-70 parents have attended the group; avg. of 5-8 people per session;
- Usually the NCT covers the cost through fundraising; but due to the pandemic the reserves have depleted.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor David Levett
- Councillor Daniel Allen

In response to questions from Members Ms. Lane advised:

- She did not have the exact details of the amount of reserves NCT North Herts had but could find out;
- The breastfeeding support network has been running for 4 years; it was originally in Baldock.

63 GRANT APPLICATION - NCT NORTH HERTS

Audio Recording: 25:50

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

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £920 be awarded to NCT North Herts for their breastfeeding and postnatal support group.

64 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio Recording: 26:40

A verbal presentation was given by the Assistant Community Engagement Officer on behalf of The Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living regarding their grant application, this included:

- The Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living provide wellbeing classes for all ages; a counselling service, therapy clinic, addressing mental health and wellbeing for young people and teachers with Mindfulness programmes, a wellbeing programme aimed at older people with mobility problems and more;
- Seeking funding for a disability ramp to provide access to their classroom building;
- Rail will benefit anyone who has difficulty mounting steps, people with mobility problems, wheelchair users and mothers with pushchairs;
- Planning on seeking the remaining funding for their own users and from fundraising events; from local supermarkets which have generously funded them in the past and from several grant making trusts that fund small capital projects such as this one.

Councillor David Levett commented that he used to run an engineering company that provided handrails. The projected cost is far higher than what it should be. All the components required to do this together with fitting the handrail come to about £980.

Councillor Amy Allen suggested that, in light of the comments by Councillor Levett, the committee should offer a deferment on this application, to allow the applicants to check their figures and get a better quote.

65 GRANT APPLICATION - THE LETCHWORTH CENTRE FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Audio Recording 30:50

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

RESOLVED: That the grant application be deferred to a later meeting of the committee in order to clarify Member's concerns.

66 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio Recording: 31:30

Before the grant application began Councillor Daniel Allen declared a Pecuniary Interest in that he was Father Christmas in the Imajica Theatre Company Christmas Panto. As such, he and Councillor Amy Allen were to leave the room for the remainder of this item.

As the Vice-Chair of the Committee was not present, a temporary Chair was to be elected.

Councillor Tamsin Thomas proposed and Councillor David Levett seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tom Plater become temporary Chair to facilitate the remainder of the item.

A verbal presentation was given by Ms. Samantha Hough on behalf of Imajica Theatre Company CIC regarding their grant application which included:

- Imajica Theatre creates interactive immersive musicals written with younger audiences in mind but enjoyed by all ages;
- As specialists in relaxed theatre, they adopt a multi-sensory approach to performances. The group use British Sign Language in their choreographies and help develop important life skills in young people which they transpose in everyday life;
- There will be 10 performances over 5 days of their brand-new Christmas Musical show 'Rosie Reindeer and the Christmas Wish';
- The funding provided will be used to provide 50 free tickets per performance to families on low incomes and with SEND needs.

In response to a question from Councillor Tom Plater, Ms. Hough explained that the CIC always invites the Scouts to be involved. This panto will have a tuckshop run by the scouts in order to fundraise the 25th Scouts Jubilee. Hoping that the events in future can be in cooperation with charities that pass out food .

67 GRANT APPLICATION - IMAJICA THATRE COMPANY CIC

Audio Recording: 37:45

Councillor Morgan Derbyshire proposed and Councillor Phil Weeder seconded and, following a vote it was:

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1,340 be awarded to Imajica Theatre Company CIC towards their Community Panto 2023 project.

Following the end of this item, Councillor Daniel Allen and Amy Allen returned to the room. Councillor Thomas proposed and Councillor Phil Weeder seconded and, following a vote it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Daniel Allen be reinstated as Chair.

68 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BID MANAGER

Audio recording: 40:05

The Chair reported that Letchworth Garden City does not have a BID Manager, so are unable to attend this meeting. He wished them luck in hiring for this position and hoped they will be present at the next meeting of the Letchworth Committee in December.

69 CONSULTATION ON NORTH HERTS DISTRICT LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Audio Recording: 40:52

Before the commencement of this item Councillor Sean Nolan declared an Other Interest in that he works for the company that provides this consultation but that as advised by the Monitoring Officer he could still participate as he is not involved in the department which are facilitating it and has had no involvement.

The Senior Transport Policy Officer presented the report entitled Consultation on North Herts District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and highlighted the following key points:

- The LCWIP is a very detailed set of ideas for improving the safety and convenience of cycling and walking in the towns of North Hertfordshire and between Hitchin and Stevenage;

- The plan will eventually incorporate rural areas as well, but the resources available mean they are looking at the towns to begin with;
- Government funding is reliant on having a detailed plan for infrastructure; by developing this plan with stakeholder groups and following a consultation, it will provide the basis for Hertfordshire County Council to make funding applications to Active Travel England;
- The Consultation starts on Monday 26th September and will run for 6 weeks;
- The Senior Transport Policy Officer will be attending a number of engagement events during the consultation period to answer questions and help understand how to engage;
- One of the engagement events that needs to be organised will be in Letchworth, as there is no Town Talk presently in the area, if any Members have any suggestions for suitable venues and dates please let the Senior Transport Policy Officer know.
- Consultation responses can be made here: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LCWIP-NorthHerts>

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Sean Nolan
- Councillor David Levett

In response to questions the Senior Transport Policy Officer advised:

- The plans were developed with the emerging Local Plan in mind as well as taking schemes from the Growth and Transport Plan which had been recently adopted;
- Ideally the event in Letchworth would take place before the 31st October

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

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

(1) Notes the report;

(2) Be encouraged to, individually and through the Area Committee, respond to the North Hertfordshire District LCWIP consultation draft attached at Appendix 1, and encourage residents and local organisations to do so too.

70 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording: 50:55

The Assistant Community Engagement Officer presented the report entitled Grants and Community Update and highlighted the following key points:

- The 2022/23 base budget was £11,000 with £956 carried forward from the last year's budget;
- £2050 was granted at the last meeting, leaving a budget of £9906;
- Following from the grants provided today, the budget sits at £6146 for the remainder of the civic year;
- Have resurrected a couple of network groups; which had moved online due to COVID; this works well as we are able to do these network groups in the morning; the Jackmans Network Group and the Grange Network Group are along those resurrected;
- Recently had an Arts & Culture Network Group which was very well attended; Stuart Sapsford was invited to present on their new Culture Strategy;
- Also been asked to be part of a webinar for North Herts CVS on a short online presentation to highlight local support available for Ukrainian refugees, available from 27th September;

- Team are developing youth democracy activities for Primary School Children to celebrate Local Democracy Week.

Councillor Ian Mantle proposed and Councillor Tom Plater seconded and, following a vote, it was:

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

71 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording – 57:10

Councillor Amy Allen gave information on the Wilbury Community Café, which meets every second Saturday of the month at 10:00am, it is free of entry and welcomes any organisations, charities or start-up businesses to have a table to promote anything they are more than happy to accommodate. The next cafe will be on the 8th of October

Councillor David Levett gave information on the Letchworth Beer, Food & Music Festival is on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th of September at 11-5pm

Councillor Daniel Allen reported that The Grange Community Fun-day event is on Sunday the 2nd of October from 1:30pm-5:30pm at the Grange Community Centre.

Councillor Daniel Allen also commented that the Grange Community Action Day was very successful with Settle, the Police, Citizens Advice and the Fire Brigade did various bits of work around the Grange.

The meeting closed at 8.29 pm

Chair

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LETCWORTH COMMITTEE 14th December 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, SUSTAINABILITY, A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

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 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 **£1,980** to Hong Kong Connect towards their English Language Course as outlined in paragraphs 8.1.1-8.1.6 of the officer's report.
- 2.3 **£1,424** to The North Herts African and Caribbean Community towards funding to provide a year of subsidised and free events and activities for the whole community to learn about African and Caribbean history and culture as outlined in paragraphs 8.1.7-8.1.13 of the officer's report.
- 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 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 Grants Policy as agreed by Cabinet in July 2021.
- 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. There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However, during debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items included within this report.

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

Applicant	Hong Kong Connect
Project	English Language Course
Sum requested	£1,980
Total project cost	£4,740
Match funding	£1,000 Members fees £1,760 Hall Hire will be free
Previous support	£2,500 from NHDC pump priming budget was paid to North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum to establish Hong Kong Connect. Paid out in January 2022.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	People First A Brighter Future Together

8.1.2 There are many new Hong Kong citizens who have settled into Letchworth Garden City and the surrounding area. Language is the biggest barrier for this group which prevents them integrating with the wider British society. The group members would like to set up an English language class so that they can learn English in a non-confrontational community venue with people in a similar situation i.e. the BNO (British Nationals Overseas) Hong Kong people. This project will aim to help them in their adaptation and acculturation into British culture and the English language.

8.1.3 The group would like to use the funds applied for to pay for English language tutor. There will be two classes weekly, which both last three hours.

8.1.4 The course will initially be running for three months, from January to March 2023 (school Spring Term), which consists of 11 weeks. The sessions will help approximately 50 people.

8.1.5 The proposed project is good value for money as they need minimal cost to set up this project, they have secured a classroom at the Icknield Centre free of charge. Volunteers will set up, monitor and supervise the project. They have a partner organisation to provide free resources.

8.1.6 Promotion will be through word of mouth, their website and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp etc.

8.1.7

Applicant	The North Herts African and Caribbean Community
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Project	Providing a year of subsidised and free events and activities for the whole community to learn about African and Caribbean history and culture.
Sum requested	£1,424
Total project cost	£3,675
Match funding	£251 Current Account Contents £2,000 Tickets for Community Events
Previous support	Yes, in 2020
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	People First A Brighter Future Together

- 8.1.8 As part of their Beyond Black History Month project, the group aim to put on various events and activities for the whole community to learn about African and Caribbean History and Culture. Some events would be free and others subsidised to encourage strong attendance. Events planned include:
- 8.1.9 “Mind Your Black” - mental health creative writing and mindfulness workshops focused on discussing the effects of racial discrimination, crime and crime prevention on the African and Caribbean community. The public and professionals will be invited to come together and work in groups to discuss the issues.
- 8.1.10 Celebration and research events designed to bring people from African Diaspora cultures together to discuss issues that affect their particular minority group. Local stakeholders will be invited in a bid to re-establish links between professionals and the public. The group hope to empower the community to have a voice within local decision making.
- 8.1.11 Black history and culture held in the community, held alongside workshops to enable attendees to discuss the topics in a supportive environment.
- 8.1.12 Windrush Arts and Crafts Week. A group of children and young people will be involved in a creative project that will result in an art installation in honour of the HMT Empire Windrush. The participants will be taught about the history of the Windrush generation, with direct first-person accounts of their experiences coming to the “Mother Country”. The installation will be displayed at an annual fundraiser for the North Herts. African and Caribbean Lunch Club. They hope to run this activity in partnership with the North Herts Museum and Hertfordshire libraries.
- 8.1.13 They have also approached the Hitchin Area Committee for £1,424.

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:

- To celebrate Local Democracy Week and Parliament Week in October/November, the team supported councillors in visits to schools for assemblies and Q&A sessions.
- Facilitating the NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries and exploring the idea of themed Town Talks. For example, the next Hitchin Town Talk will be focus on the Churchgate public consultation.
- Supporting various local and districtwide network groups including the Jackmans Network Group, the Grange Network Group, Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and the newly resurrected Green and Growing Group.
- The team are co-ordinating a hybrid event for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January 2023.
- The team supported the Letchworth Remembrance Day event on 13th November 2022.
- 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.
- Attending the Letchworth Town Centre Strategy Group meeting set up by Letchworth Heritage Foundation.
- Sharing information to community contacts that can help with the current Cost of Living Crisis and sharing information about local warm hubs.
- Delivering and promoting The Snowman Trail in North Herts. Sculptures based on the classic film The Snowman were installed on November 17th (working closely with Wild in Art, Hitchin Bid and Cala Homes). Letchworth artist Sarah Graham decorated one of the statues.

8.2.2 Update on Previous Grants Awarded

- **National Childbirth Trust (NCT) North Herts – Letchworth Bumps and Babies – update**

National Childbirth Trust (NCT) North Herts was awarded £920 towards their local breastfeeding and postnatal support group Letchworth Bumps and Babies, which meets twice a month throughout the year at Mrs Howard Memorial Hall.

NCT Herts North Baby Cafe Letchworth – ‘We are hugely pleased to have been awarded a grant by the local council to support our breastfeeding and postnatal support group in Letchworth, it means we can continue to run the group for the local community for the next year at least. The group may help someone breastfeed for longer than they may have hoped, or just prevent a new parent feeling isolated at a difficult time.’ – Hannah Lane, NCT Events, Publicity and Social Media Coordinator.



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 July 2021. 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 2022/23 base budget was **£11,000**, with **£2,956** carried forward from the 2021/22 budget. **£3,760** was granted at the last Committee meeting and grants awarded to date total **£7,810**. This leaves a budget available of **£6,146**.
- 10.3 The grant applications for this meeting total **£3,404** and if the Members agree the grants outlined in this report this will leave a balance of **£2,742**.

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.

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.

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 There are no pertinent Environmental implications associated with any items within this report.

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 July 2021.

LETCWORTH BUDGET 2022/23

<u>SUMMARY/ TOTALS</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>				
<u>Budget brought forward from 2021/22</u>	£2,956	£2,956	£2,956	£0	£0				
<u>Budget 2022/23</u>	£11,000	£4,854	£4,854	£0	£6,146				
Total	£13,956	£7,810	£7,810	£0	£6,146				

	<u>Funding</u>		<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	
<u>Funds Brought Forward from 2021/22</u>	£2,956		Wilbury & Icknield School Parents Association	£2,000	10-Mar-21	£2,000	£0		
			Culturewood CIC - forest school	£956	08-Jun-22	£956	£0		Total Grant £1000 - £44 from 2022/23 base budget
Total	£2,956			£2,956		£2,956	£0	£0	

<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Funding</u>		<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Base Budget	£11,000		Culturewood CIC - forest school	£44	08-Jun-22	£44	£0		Total Grant £1000 - £956 from 2021/22 carry forward budget
			Greencare Norton - Walking Tractor	£1,050	08-Jun-22	£1,050	£0		
			Nova Wellness CIC - wellbeing therapy events	£1,500	21-Sep-22	£1,500	£0		
			NCT North Herts - breastfeeding & postnatal support	£920	21-Sep-22	£920	£0		
			Imajica Theatre Company CIC - community panto	£1,340	21-Sep-22	£1,340	£0		
Total	£11,000			£4,854		£4,854	£0	£6,146	

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