

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



17 June 2022

Our Ref Southern Rural Committee/30 June 2022  
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor George Davies (Chair), Councillor Mandi Tandi (Vice-Chair), Councillor David Barnard, Councillor Faye S Frost, Councillor Ian Moody, Councillor Ralph Muncer, Councillor Lisa Nash, Councillor Sam North, Councillor Claire Strong and Councillor Terry Tyler

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE**

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON  
ROAD, LETCHWORTH**

On

**THURSDAY, 30TH 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>WELCOME</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>MINUTES - 3 MARCH 2022, 26 MAY 2022</b> To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on the 3 March 2022 and 26 May 2022	(Pages 5 - 12)
<b>4.</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>5.</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>6.</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>GRANTS &amp; COMMUNITY UPDATE</b> REPORT OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY MANAGER  To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets.  To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Committee grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations, including:	(Pages 13 - 34)

- Holwell Parish Council
- River Hiz Conservation Group

To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officers have been involved in.

To bring to the Committee's 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 3

## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON  
ROAD, LETCHWORTH  
ON THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2022 AT 7.30 PM

#### MINUTES

**Present:** *Councillors: Councillor Faye S Frost (Chair), Councillor George Davies (Vice-Chair), Ian Moody, Sam North, Claire Strong and Mandi Tandi*

**In Attendance:** *Claire Morgan (Community Engagement Team Leader), Becca Edwards (Policy and Community Engagement Trainee) and Louis Mutter (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer)*

**Also Present:**

*At the commencement of the meeting approximately 5 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

#### 73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Audio recording – 1:20*

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bishop, David Barnard, Lisa Nash and Terry Tyler

#### 74 MINUTES - 21 OCTOBER 2021

*Audio Recording – 1:42*

Councillor Faye Frost, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Mandi Tandi seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 October 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

#### 75 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

*Audio recording – 2:23*

There was no other business notified.

#### 76 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Audio recording – 2:32*

- (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.

## 77 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

*Audio Recording: 3:08*

Sergeant Guy Westwood, Hertfordshire Constabulary, provided Members of the Committee with an update on crime and police matters in the Southern Rural area. This included:

- The Neighbourhood team has been split into three teams across North Herts, which has freed Alan Clarke up to do work behind the scenes;
- The Police priorities used to be set every three months, they are now set every 6 months with a 3 month review;
- The three priorities are: Fly tipping, Residential burglary and Speeding;
- Fly-tipping always comes up and remains a priority in this area;
- Covert cameras are being placed in regular fly-tipping spots;
- Residential burglary was a priority to focus on as the team believed there would be an increase of crimes due to the public returning to work;
- Would have expected all crime to increase from previous year due to lockdown;
- Hertfordshire as a whole has seen an crime increase of 4.3%. North Herts has seen a 1.5% decrease. Southern Rural has seen a 13% decrease in all crimes, from 890 last year to 774 this year;
- 19% decrease in arson and criminal damage;
- 35.8% decrease in public order offences;
- 33.6% decrease in theft;
- 37.3% decrease in vehicle offences;
- 50% decrease in theft from motor vehicles;
- 60% decrease in business burglaries;
- 50% decrease in racially aggravated crimes; 2 this year;
- 57% decrease in shoplifting;
- Increase in hate crimes – could be down to encouragement to report it;
- 110 hate crimes this year compared to 96 last year;
- Sex offences have increased from 23 last year to 49 this year, a 113% increase;
- Business robberies have increased from 0 last year to 1 this year. Personal robberies have increased from 3 to 4;
- Residential burglary has seen a 55% increase, 31 this year and 20 last year;
- Drug offences have seen an increase from 20 to 26;
- Theft of motor vehicles have increased by 33%. 18 offences to 24;
- Fraud crimes are not included in these figures, as where the crime is reported is usually not where it is originally happening;
- The team have been asking members of public to report any non-emergency reports on an Echo Link;
- Police priorities are directly influenced by consultations with the public, through Echo Link reporting and OWL surveys.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Faye Frost
- Councillor Sam North
- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Mandi Tandi
- Councillor George Davies

In response to questions, Sergeant Guy Westwood advised:

- Plain clothed police officers have been assisting in Offley to focus on drug offences;
- Members of public might not think there is a police presence when unmarked police vehicles are patrolling;
- The team will post on social media when the priorities are reassessed;
- Over the last 5 years the team size has stayed the same; Covid has been a problem but numbers have remained;
- The team does liaise with the Bedfordshire police team, can be difficult to get them to engage with a problem they don't see as a priority;
- The OWL survey and Echo Link is where information is gathered as well as a Member's meeting;
- The Bedford Road camera van is not affiliated with the Neighbourhood team;
- Personally handing the speeding letters to members of the public is a good way of preventing further offences;
- Individual wards crime statistics can be provided outside of the meeting;
- Anecdotal evidence can always be reported.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Guy Westwood for his report and for his team's work in the area.

## **78 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Audio recording – 46:15*

Councillor Moody announced that he was declaring a registration of interest on the item due to being a member of Codicote Tennis Club, and was therefore not able to debate or vote on the grant application.

Maxine Sanders, Codicote Tennis Club, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application and gave a presentation including:

- Since submitting the application the Club has received feedback from the Low Carbon Workspace Grant, which rejected their application due to not meeting the CO2 thresholds;
- Had applied to the Codicote Parish Council and they were unable to support the application due to a lack of budget funds;
- Applied to Luton Airport Community Grant which is still in early stages;
- Limited ability to run fundraisers due to Covid;
- The component parts of the existing halogen lights are becoming obsolete;
- The LED lights proposed are more environmentally friendly, cheaper to operate and don't require an ongoing maintenance cost.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Sam North
- Councillor Faye Frost
- Councillor Claire Strong

In response to questions Maxine Sanders advised:

- The Club has £10,000 of their own money as well as £1000 from County Councillor Richard Thake's locality budget the rest is needed from grant applications;
- The floodlights are used all year, including the final hour in the evening before closing during summer months;

The Chair thanked Codicote Tennis Club for their presentation.

Elaine Derrick and Alison Maple, Pirton Joycare, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application, and gave a presentation including:

- Joycare received charitable status and was thought to last 3-4 years. 20 years later Pirton Joycare is a valued part of Pirton village life;
- The organisation organises lunches at local pubs, monthly shopping trips and occasional outings;
- The organisation also transports people to medical appointments, to pick up prescriptions and pick up shopping;
- Joycare are hosting a Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea party on Thursday 2 June for the elderly community;
- The tea party provides an opportunity for the elderly community to get together and build new relationships following two years of Covid lockdowns.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Sam North

In response to questions Elaine Derrick and Alison Maple advised:

- Joycare has an email distribution list of current members, a village magazine as well as a Facebook page.

The Chair thanked Pirton Joycare for their presentation.

Peter Johnson, Pirton Players, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application and gave a presentation including:

- Pirton Players is an amateur dramatic group;
- They put on plays and musicals; at least two a year;
- The proposal is for a lighting control desk, meaning the operator can control the lights on stage;
- The new lighting desk also provides a lot more facilities than the older one has;
- LED lights are a lot more versatile, it allows different colours to be used during a play.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Faye Frost

In response to questions Peter Johnson advised:

- The board cost £1500 and the LED lights cost £1500;
- County Councillor David Barnard put in an application 2 years ago and it failed;

The Chair thanked Peter Johnson for his presentation.

The Chair informed to the Committee that Lisa Lathane was unable to attend the Committee, and read out a written statement on behalf of Preston Parish Council in respect of their grant application. Points in the statement included:

- The application is for a grant of £526.80 for a new cabinet for the defibrillator;
- The defibrillator is housed in a cabinet in the Red Lion carpark;
- The cabinet needs to be replaced as it is getting old;
- The cabinet needs to be on an electrical circuit to be kept warm at winter;



- The Parish Council will be paying for the installation of the cabinet;
- Preston has a lot of visitors from walkers and cyclists.

## 79 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

*Audio Recording: 1:09:55*

The Community Engagement Team Leader presented the report entitled Grant and Community Update along with Appendix 1 – 2021/22 financial year budget sheet and drew attention to the following:

- It was stated in the report that Codicote Tennis Club had received £8000 throughout 2015/16 when they had actually received \$2000;
- The last grant funding application they received was for £3500 for artificial turf two years ago.
- There is very little section 106 funding available.

It was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee endorse the actions of the Community Engagement Team to promote greater community capacity and wellbeing in the Southern Rural area.

## 80 GRANT APPLICATION: CODICOTE TENNIS CLUB

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Sam North
- Councillor Faye Frost
- Councillor Claire Strong

Councillor Faye Frost, as Chair proposed and Councillor Claire Strong seconded and, following the vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee **DEFER** consideration of this application to until the next meeting.

**REASON FOR REFERRAL:** To allow officers and the applicant to further explore financial options beside grant funding to support the project and, to consider the grant application after the allocation of the 2022/23 budget.

## 81 GRANT APPLICATION: PIRTON JOYCARE

Councillor Claire Strong proposed and Councillor George Davies seconded and, following the vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of **£750** be awarded to Pirton Joycare towards an event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee for over 60's as outlined in 8.1.2 of the officer's report.

## 82 GRANT APPLICATION: PIRTON PLAYERS

Councillor Claire Strong proposed and Councillor Faye Frost seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of **£1500** be awarded to Pirton Players towards the purchase of LED stage lighting equipment and control desk as outlined in 8.1.3 of the officer's report.

**83 GRANT APPLICATION: PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Sam North
- Councillor Faye Frost
- Councillor George Davies

Councillor Faye Frost, as chair, proposed and Councillor Sam North seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of **£527** be awarded to Preston Parish Council towards the purchase of a cabinet for a defibrillator as outlined in 8.1.4 of the officer's report.

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

*Audio recording – 1:27:15*

Members had no updates on Ward Matters or Outside Organisations.

The meeting closed at 8:59 pm

Chair

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## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### HITCHIN COMMITTEE

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

### MINUTES

**Present:** *Councillors: Ian Albert, Judi Billing, Raj Bhakar, Val Bryant, Sam Collins, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, James Denselow, Keith Hoskins, Chris Lucas, Nigel Mason, Kay Tart and Richard Thake*

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

#### 58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Audio recording – 31 minutes 03 seconds*

*N.B There is no separate audio recording of this meeting. Time stamps refer to the recording of Annual Council on the 26 May 2022.*

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clare Billing.

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

Councillor Judi Billing proposed and Councillor Keith Hoskins seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Ian Albert be elected as Chair of the Hitchin Area Committee for the Civic Year 2022/23.

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

Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded and, following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Clare Billing be elected as Vice-Chair of the Hitchin Area Committee for the Civic Year 2022/23.

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm

Chair

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## SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE 30 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, SUSTAINABILITY, A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

#### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee be recommended to consider allocating funding from their discretionary community budget towards the projects below.
- 2.2 **£1,211** to Holwell Parish Council towards chairs, tables, cooker and fridge/freezer for new Pavilion as outlined in 8.1.1.
- 2.3 **£569** to River Hiz Conservation Group towards conservation work of Ickleford's Chalk Stream 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 Southern Rural.

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

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is 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 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. 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. Southern Rural Area Committee Budget spreadsheet, which relates to the Committee budget balances for 2022/23. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year, including balances and past expenditure.

## 8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Councillors are at liberty to consider any amount requested in a grant application if the committee has sufficient funds in the 2022/2023 budget.

### 8.1 Grant Applications

#### 8.1.1

<b>Applicant Project</b>	<b>Holwell Parish Council</b> Tables, chairs, cooker and fridge/freezer for new pavilion
<b>Sum requested</b>	<b>£1,211</b>
<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,710.36
<b>Match funding</b>	£500 Parish Precept
<b>Previous support</b>	2020: £744 for noticeboard from NHC Community Grant 2016: £200 for noticeboards from NHC Community Grant Currently receiving a capital grant of £50,000 towards Pavilion.
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council objectives</b>	<b>People First</b>

8.1.2 Holwell Parish Council are responsible for maintaining services for the village, recreation ground, play area, hedge and tree cutting and litter picking. They also maintain noticeboards and public buildings.

8.1.3 They are asking for funding towards tables, chairs, cooker and fridge/freezer for the new pavilion.

8.1.4 They predict that the Pavilion will be used by a number of clubs and already have a cricket club and youth football teams that wish to make use of the venue. They hope the pavilion will also be used by the Mother and Toddlers Group as the pavilion is on the recreation ground and a safe environment for play. Other clubs they hope will use the facility are youth clubs, book clubs, children's parties, exercise clubs etc.

8.1.5 The village does not have a centre as such, so the new pavilion will provide a warm and welcoming place to play and meet up with others in the village, something which was not possible in the old delapidated pavilion as it did not have heating and a safe and clean environment. The Parish Council also intend to hold their Parish Council meetings there.

8.1.6

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>River Hiz Conservation Group (RHCG)</b>
<b>Project</b>	Conservation of Ickleford's Chalk Streams
<b>Sum requested</b>	<b>£569</b>
<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,555
<b>Match funding</b>	£706.05 Parish Council £100 Farmer Landowner £30 resident £150 pending from Ickleford Common Holders
<b>Previous support</b>	2021: £2000 NHC Pump Priming Grant
<b>NHDC Policy met</b>	Yes
<b>Council objectives</b>	<b>People First</b> <b>Sustainability</b>

8.1.7 The aims and activities of the RHCG are:

- To maintain and improve the river quality and habitats to protect the associated rare flora and fauna.
- To include Ickleford's Chalk Stream as a village amenity now and for future generations, informing and involving the local community in projects.
- Providing ways to enable residents to share and report incidents of pollution.
- Sharing with local agencies re: saving water and enhancing the local environment.

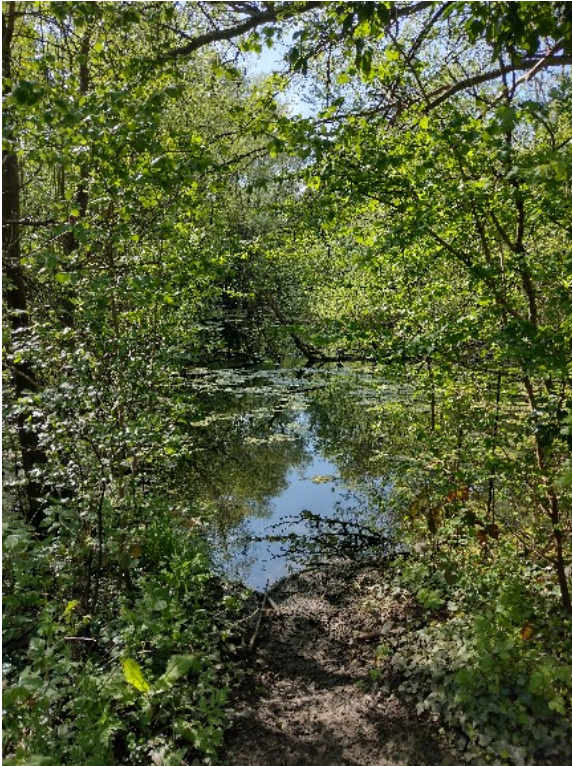
8.1.8 The group follow the River Hiz Restoration Plan as set out by the Living Rivers Officer of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. There are only about 200 chalk streams in the whole world. 85% of them are in Southern England and North Herts have three, which join up to make the River Hiz which flows through Ickleford. The group has joined the Chalk Aquifer Alliance to share information and lectures with other groups that are working to protect Hertfordshire's chalk streams throughout the country and beyond.

8.1.9 RHCG are asking for funding towards carrying out ongoing seasonal projects throughout the year/s relating to the River Hiz and its tributaries within Ickleford parish. For this they need to pay for:

- Required trained supervision of river projects, i.e. licenced chainsaw user, trained First Aider (including Covid precautions), Wildlife Trust expertise. Annual Public Liability insurance for all projects
- Materials for riverbank protection.
- Additional equipment for volunteers to enable river-related projects.

8.1.10 Projects are defined by the time of year and must consider the nesting season (birds, other animals, fish spawning). Invasive plant species removal is seasonal. See Appendix 2 for their calendar of Conservation Activities.





Photographs taken by Assistant Community Engagement Officer when visiting in April.

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

### **8.2.1 Community Engagement Team**

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

- Contacting Parish Councils in Southern Rural Area to gauge interest in creating a forum to meet quarterly on zoom to discuss issues and challenges.
- 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, Arts and Culture and the newly resurrected Green and Growing Group.
- 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.
- Gathering speakers and information for the Cabinet Panel for Community Engagement and Co-operative Development.

### 8.2.3 Update on Previous Grants Awarded

#### 8.2.4 Down the Woods CIC – update from Caroline Langley

North Herts Council awarded £890 in March 2021 to support Down the Woods with costs towards Forest School-type sessions for adults - "We had an amazing time with our adults on their Forest School sessions. The 8 participants enjoyed learning how to identify trees and plants and creating a soothing balm with a plant called plantain. They learnt to light fires and cook over a campfire resulting in a jacket potato feast! We worked on crafting with nature making pens and keyrings. Then enjoyed the quiet and still of the forest with some guided meditation."



### 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. Southern Rural Area Committee budget 2022/23
- 10.2 The current 2022/23 base budget is **£8,700**, with **£222** carried forward from the 2021/22 budget. This leaves a budget available of **£8,922**.
- 10.3 The grant applications for this meeting total **£1,780** and if the Members agree the grants outlined in this report this will leave a balance of **£7,142**.

## **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.

### **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 Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The application for River Hiz Conservation Group and the related actions have been considered and on balance it is likely that positive environmental impacts will outweigh and outnumber any negative impacts. Improving river quality and habitats will help to protect associated rare flora and fauna which will have a positive effect on the environment. It is therefore suggested to proceed with ‘No major change’ to the actions. Please see the attached Appendix 3. Environmental Impact Assessment for further information.

### **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 – Appendix 1 SR Area Committee budget sheet 22-23  
Appendix 2 – Appendix 2 RHCG Calendar of Conservation Activities  
Appendix 3 – Appendix 3 River Hiz Conservation Group Environmental Impact Assessment

### **17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

- 17.1 Author:

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- 17.2 Contributors:

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- 17.2.4 Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant  
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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.

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**SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022/23**

<b>SUMMARY/ TOTALS</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>					
CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2021/22	£222	£0	£0	£0	£222					
BASE BUDGET 2022/23	£8,700	£0	£0	£0	£8,700					
TOTAL	£8,922	£0	£0	£0	£8,922					

<b><u>2020/21</u></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 Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2021/22	£222						£0		
	£222			£0		£0	£0	£222	

<b><u>2022/23</u></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 Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
BASE BUDGET 2022/23	£8,700						£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
	£8,700			£0		£0	£0	£8,700	

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<b>JANUARY</b> <b>Trout spawning – 01 Nov / 01 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation / reedbed management</li> <li>✗ in-river maintenance / restoration</li> <li>✓ Surveys – mink, riverfly</li> </ul>	<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>Trout spawning – 01 Nov / 01 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation / reedbed management</li> <li>✗ in-river maintenance / restoration</li> <li>✓ Surveys – mink, riverfly</li> </ul>	<b>MARCH</b> <b>Spawning course fish – 15 Mar / 15 Jun</b> <b>Bird nesting – 01 Mar / 31 July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation</li> <li>? in-river maintenance / restoration – use caution to limit disturbance</li> <li>✓ Surveys – mink, riverfly</li> </ul>	<b>APRIL</b> <b>Spawning course fish – 15 Mar / 15 Jun</b> <b>Bird nesting – 01 Mar / 31 July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation</li> <li>? in-river maintenance / restoration – use caution to limit disturbance</li> <li>✓ Invasive species removal</li> <li>✓ Surveys – water vole, mink, riverfly</li> </ul>
<b>MAY</b> <b>Spawning course fish – 15 Mar / 15 Jun</b> <b>Bird nesting – 01 Mar / 31 July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation</li> <li>? in-river maintenance / restoration – use caution to limit disturbance</li> <li>✓ Invasive species removal</li> <li>✓ Surveys – water vole, mink, riverfly</li> </ul>	<b>JUNE</b> <b>Spawning course fish – 15 Mar / 15 Jun</b> <b>Bird nesting – 01 Mar / 31 July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation</li> <li>✓ in-river maintenance / restoration</li> <li>✓ Invasive species removal</li> <li>✓ Surveys – water vole, mink, riverfly</li> </ul>	<b>JULY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation</li> <li>✓ in-river maintenance / restoration</li> <li>✓ Invasive species removal</li> <li>✓ Surveys – water vole, mink, riverfly</li> </ul>	<b>AUGUST</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ coppicing / brash processing</li> <li>✓ infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>✓ Pond creation</li> <li>✓ in-river maintenance / restoration</li> <li>✓ Invasive species removal</li> <li>✓ Surveys – water vole, mink, riverfly</li> </ul>

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>? coppicing / brash processing – use caution for late nesting birds</p> <p>✓ infrastructure maintenance</p> <p>✓ Pond creation</p> <p>✓ in-river maintenance / restoration</p> <p>✓ Invasive species removal</p> <p>✓ Surveys – water vole, mink, riverfly</p>	<p>✓ coppicing / brash processing</p> <p>✓ infrastructure maintenance</p> <p>✓ Pond creation</p> <p>✓ in-river maintenance / restoration</p> <p>✓ Invasive species removal</p> <p>✓ Surveys – mink, riverfly</p>	<p><b>Trout spawning – 01 Nov / 01 Mar</b></p> <p>✓ coppicing / brash processing</p> <p>✓ infrastructure maintenance</p> <p>✓ Pond creation</p> <p>✗ in-river maintenance / restoration</p> <p>✓ Surveys – mink, riverfly</p>	<p><b>Trout spawning – 01 Nov / 01 Mar</b></p> <p>✓ coppicing / brash processing</p> <p>✓ infrastructure maintenance</p> <p>✓ Pond creation</p> <p>✗ in-river maintenance / restoration</p> <p>✓ Surveys – mink, riverfly</p>



**NB\*\* if there are water voles, their burrows have the same level of protection as the animal itself and survey should be carried out whilst planning work to ensure they are not damaged.**

Calendar of conservation activities has been prepared by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to help inform volunteer activities along the rivers of Hertfordshire. Contact [Sarah.Perry@hmwt.org](mailto:Sarah.Perry@hmwt.org) for further guidance.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS SECTION**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **1.0 What is meant by Environmental Implications?**

In May 2019, North Herts Council declared a Climate Emergency. As part of that motion it was agreed that '***officers would ensure that, as the Council's policies are routinely reviewed, specific consideration is given to how policies and our related decisions and actions, affect our contribution to climate change, and where necessary, update these policies to reduce our impact wherever possible.***'

This guidance provides a means to undertake this specific consideration when reviewing policies and any related decisions and actions.

The revised report template will carry this additional section for completion by officers:

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

***14.2. Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The actions have been considered and there are no relevant adaptations as impacts are expected to be environmentally positive.***

If the report has identified environmental impact, then this guidance assists the author to articulate them in a uniform manner.

#### **2.0 Identifying who is responsible for the Environmental Implications Assessment**

The person identified to undertake the Environmental Implications Assessment should be the person with whom responsibility for evidencing need to change a policy or service decision rests.

It is advisable that assessment should only be taken by council officers in their relevant policy/service areas. This will ensure that proper ownership of the analysis is maintained, that there is sufficient knowledge of the service itself, and any results of the analysis inform future service development and improvement.

#### **3.0 Conducting an Environmental Implications Analysis and Assessment**

The assessment and its principles apply to existing as well as new and proposed policies. In order to be most effective, any Environmental Implications Assessment should begin with analysis during policy development or at the early stages of a policy review, considering its possible effects well in advance of implementation. The assessment form includes example questions to help guide your consideration of the environmental impact of the policy.

#### **3.1 Undertaking analysis: what environmental information can I use?**

The analysis you undertake will inform your assessment. It is important that information about the projected impact of the policy is appropriate, factual and reliable.

If you do not have environmental information about a particular policy, consider whether you need to fill these information gaps by surveys or other engagement or stakeholder meetings. This may include, in the longer term, questions included in the District Wide or Citizens Panel surveys, for example, or the making use of community events to test agreement with a policy

decision that clearly impacts our contribution to climate change. You might also consider engaging with environmental organisations.

### **3.2 The findings**

Having reviewed your analysis and assessment, there are four main steps that you can take with regard to any proposal you are making:

**No major change** – The analysis demonstrates that the policy is robust, and the evidence shows no potential of adverse impacts.

**Adjust the policy** – This involves taking steps to remove barriers or to better promote a reduction in the impact on the environment. It can mean introducing measures to mitigate the potential effect.

**Continue the policy** – This means adopting your proposals, despite any adverse effect or missed opportunities to reduce the impact on the environment.

**Stop and remove the policy** – If there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you will want to consider stopping the policy altogether.

### **4.0 Monitoring and review**

**Assessment is an ongoing process that does not end once a policy has been agreed or implemented.** Service provision, demographics, and the physical environment may change, or new options to reduce an adverse effect could become apparent. This does not mean repeating the analysis, but using the experience gained through implementation to check the findings and to make any necessary adjustments.

Consider:

- How you will measure the effects of the policy
- When the policy will be reviewed and what could trigger an early revision
- Who will be responsible for monitoring and review
- What type of information is needed for monitoring and how often it will be analysed
- How to engage stakeholders in implementation, monitoring and review

### **5.0 Publication**

It is recommended that the Council should publish information on environmental analysis alongside the policy or decision that it refers to. Arrangements have been made to ensure that reference to environmental analysis appears in all formal committee reports on the corporate template.

## Environmental Implications assessment

<b>1. Name of activity:</b>	<i>River Hiz Conservation Group to carry out River Hiz Restoration Plan.</i>				
<b>2. Main purpose of activity:</b>	<i>To maintain and improve the river quality and habitats to protect the associated rare flora and fauna.</i>				
<b>3. List the information, data or evidence used in this assessment:</b>	<i>Qualitative information from River Hiz Conservation Group, analysed by the Policy and Community Engagement Team.</i>				
<b>Area of Potential Impact</b>	<b>Examples to Consider (non-exhaustive)</b>	<b>Neutral (X)</b>	<b>Negative (X)</b>	<b>Positive (X)</b>	<p><i>Describe the contribution/impact on the area that the decision may have - assess whether this impact is a negative or positive or neutral one.</i></p> <p><b>Negative: What are the risks?</b></p> <p><b>Positive: What are the benefits?</b></p>
<b>1. Impact on greenhouse emission and support adaption to the effects of climate change</b>	Will energy needs be met through renewable sources?			X	<b>Negative</b>
	Will it reduce emissions through retrofitting new technology?				
	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel?				<b>Positive</b>
<b>2. Use of natural resources including water and energy</b>	Will it reduce water consumption?			X	Improving river quality and habitats will help to protect associated rare flora and fauna which will have a positive effect on climate change.
	Will it reduce energy consumption?				<b>Negative</b>
					<b>Positive</b>

					They collect local fallen trees and brash to use for river projects. Sharing with local agencies re saving water & enhancing the local environment.
3. Minimisation of flood risks to the area (i.e. promotion of SUD's. protect surface and ground water quality)	Will it minimise flood risk from all sources of flooding?  Will it reduce property damage due to storm events/ heavy rainfall by improving flood resistance and flood resilience?	X			<b>Negative</b>
					<b>Positive</b> As the group's work is conservation of the chalk stream, assume this would be monitored.
4. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity	Will it protect, enhance and increase biodiversity and protect habitats?  Will it improve access to and promote educational value of sites of biodiversity interest?			X	<b>Negative</b>
					<b>Positive</b> Improving river quality and habitats will help to protect associated rare flora and fauna. Projects will consider nesting season.
5. To improve Air Quality  (air quality describes how polluted the air we breathe is)	Will it improve air quality?  Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants?	X			<b>Negative</b>
					<b>Positive</b>
6. To reduce need to travel, the use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as	Will it encourage increased walking, cycling and use of public transport?  Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than a car?	X			<b>Negative</b>
					<b>Positive</b>

<i>encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport</i>					
--	--	--	--	--	--

<i>7. To reduce waste production and increase recycling, recovery and reuse of waste</i>	Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?	X			<b>Negative</b>
	Will it reduce household waste?				
	Will it reduce construction waste?				<b>Positive</b>
	Will it increase recovery recycling and re-use?				
<i>8. To enhance the public realm and street improvements</i>	Will it reduce litter?			X	<b>Negative</b>
	Will it enhance the quality of public realm?				
					<b>Positive</b>
					To include Ickleford's Chalk Streams as a village amenity now and for future generations, informing & involving the local community in projects. Providing ways to enable residents to share & report incidents of pollution.
<i>9. To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space</i>	Will it improve open space?			X	<b>Negative</b>
	Will it improve landscape character?				
	Will it minimise development on Greenfield sites?				
					<b>Positive</b>

					The aim of the RHCG's plan is to improve the chalk stream, therefore improving open space and landscape character.
<i>10. To reduce noise and impact of noise</i>	Will it reduce noise pollution from vehicles?	x			<b>Negative</b>
					<b>Positive</b>



6.0 Results			
	Yes	No	
Were positive impacts identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 positive impacts were identified
Were negative impacts identified (what actions were taken)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7.0 Consultation, decisions and actions			
Describe the decision on this activity (refer to section 3.2)			
To put this grant forward to be considered by the Southern Rural Committee			
List all actions identified to address/mitigate negative impact or promote positive impact			
Action	Responsible person		Completion due date
PR regarding the grant award and the environmental benefits	Aimee Flack		01/10/22
When, how and by whom will these actions be monitored?			
Aimee Flack as part of monitoring the usage of the grant (October 2022 and July 2023)			
8.0 Signatures			
Assessor (report author):			
Name: Aimee Flack		Signature** Aimee Flack	
Validated by (line manager):			
Name: <b>CLAIRE MORGAN</b>		Signature** Claire Morgan	
Forward to the Corporate Policy inbox: <a href="mailto:corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk">corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk</a>			
Signature** Georgina Chapman			
Assessment date: <b>30/05/2022</b>		Review date: <b>31/10/22</b>	

**\*\* Please type your name to allow forms to be sent electronically.**

**A copy of this form should be forwarded to [corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk) and a duplicate filed on the council's report system, alongside any report proposing a decision on policy or service change.**

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