



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Publication Date

Our Ref Baldock and District Area Forum / 11
September 2023

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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Tom Tyson (Chair), Councillor Alistair Willoughby (Vice-Chair), Councillor Juan Cowell, Councillor Steve Jarvis, Councillor Michael Muir and Councillor Michael Weeks

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE BALDOCK AND DISTRICT AREA FORUM

to be held in the

**BALDOCK METHODIST CHURCH, WHITE HORSE STREET,
BALDOCK, SG7 6QB**

On

MONDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 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 - AREA COMMITTEE 20 MARCH 23 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Area Committee held on the 20 March 2023.	
3. 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.	
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships.	
5. GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team.	(Pages 3 - 14)
6. PRESENTATION - COST OF LIVING Presentation by Citizens Advice North Herts and Letchworth, Hitchin & Baldock Foodbank about the Cost of Living and the support available. Followed by Q&A.	
7. WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
8. FUTURE AREA FORUMS To discuss topics for future meetings and discuss the virtual winter meetings.	

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

**BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA FORUM
DATE 11 SEPTEMBER 2023**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: LEGAL & COMMUNITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT THE AREA FORUM:

- 2.1. Considers and notes the information within this report.
- 2.2. Makes recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on the grant applications detailed below.
- 2.3. Friends of Brandles - £1,950 requested to purchase gardening equipment, tools and storage for their outdoor adventure classroom as outlined in Appendix 2.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The community grant base budget for Baldock & District Area Forum 2023/24 is £5,000.
- 3.2 The grant budget carried over from 2022/23 was £4,065.
- 3.3 The budget available for community grants for the Baldock & District area stands at **£7,740.**

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, an Area Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.8(b)(ii)A 5 of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That decision will be subject to a 5 clear working day call-in period,

following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

- 4.2 Other issues raised in this report are for information and noting and therefore no direct legal implications arise.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 and under item 3.3 the Community Grant budget available is **£7,740**.

- 5.2 If the application outlined in Appendix 2 is recommended this would provide a total of **£1,950**. Leaving **£5,790** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the financial year.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk Management, 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.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 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.

- 7.2 Community Grant funds are 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.

8. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

10. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. The activities details of the Community / Partnership team are covered by existing budgets.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Terms of Reference for Area Forums, Section 9 of Council Constitution updated May 2023.
11.2 Review of Grant Policy, Cabinet July 2021.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Baldock Community Grant Budget

12.2 Appendix 2 – Friends of Brandles

12.3 Appendix 3 – Community Update

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

13.1 Author

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BALDOCK AREA FORUM BUDGET 2023/24

CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2022/23

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated or Pending Approval	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
BALDOCK TOWN	£1,874	£636	£636	£0	£1,238					
BALDOCK EAST	£750	£265	£265	£0	£485					
ARBURY	£792	£238	£238	£0	£554					
WESTON & SANDON	£649	£186	£186	£0	£463					
Total	£4,065	£1,325	£1,325	£0	£2,740					

2023/24 BUDGET

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated or Pending Approval	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
BALDOCK TOWN	£2,400	£0	£0	£0	£2,400					
BALDOCK EAST	£1,000	£0	£0	£0	£1,000					
ARBURY	£900	£0	£0	£0	£900					
WESTON & SANDON	£700	£0	£0	£0	£700					
Total	£5,000	£0	£0	£0	£5,000					

BALDOCK TOWN	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Funds Brought Forward from 2022/23	£1,874			Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	£120	17-Jul-23	£120	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock -Holiday Club	£336	17-Jul-23	£336	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	£180	17-Jul-23	£180	£0		
Total	£1,874				£636		£636	£0	£1,238	

BALDOCK TOWN	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
2023/24 Base Budget	£2,400									
Total	£2,400				£0		£0	£0	£2,400	

BALDOCK EAST	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Funds Brought Forward from 2022/23	£750			Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	£50	17-Jul-23	£50	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock -Holiday Club	£140	17-Jul-23	£140	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	£75	17-Jul-23	£75	£0		

Total	£750				£265		£265	£0	£485	
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BALDOCK EAST	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
2023/24 Base Budget	£1,000									
Total	£1,000				£0		£0	£0	£1,000	

ARBURY	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Funds Brought Forward from 2022/23	£792			Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	£45	17-Jul-23	£45	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock -Holiday Club	£126	17-Jul-23	£126	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	£67	17-Jul-23	£67	£0		
Total	£792				£238		£238	£0	£554	

ARBURY	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
2023/24 Base Budget	£900									
Total	£900				£0		£0	£0	£900	

WESTON & SANDON	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Funds Brought Forward from 2022/23	£649			Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	£35	17-Jul-23	£35	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock -Holiday Club	£98	17-Jul-23	£98	£0		
				Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	£53	17-Jul-23	£53	£0		
Total	£649				£186		£186	£0	£463	

WESTON & SANDON	Funding			Project	Allocated or Pending Approval	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
2023/24 Base Budget	£700									
Total	£700				£0		£0	£0	£700	

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Appendix 2 – Friends of Brandles

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6000			
Name of Organisation	Friends of Brandles			
Organisation Type	Club			
Ward	Baldock & District			
Project Type	Gardening equipment, tools and storage for our outdoor adventure classroom.			
Green option considered?				
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None			
Previous financial support within six years	None			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1950	Total project cost	£2002	

Officer Summary

Friends of Brandles fundraise for different activities and equipment for children with social, emotional and behavioural issue, operating from Brandles School.

The funding will be used to buy gardening equipment, tools and storage for their outdoor adventure classroom. All students will have the chance to use and benefit from the area, learning about gardening and growing their own vegetables. It will also be a chance for students to work together, developing social and life skills. The group are hoping that this will encourage families to grow whatever they are able to at home.

Friends of Brandles are looking to start clearing the area at the end of September to the beginning of October, dependent on the arrival of funds, in preparation to begin the garden. The aim is for the outdoor adventure classroom to be used daily by the students.

Friends of Brandles are also looking into the students having a market stall to sell the produce they grow and also opening the garden during PTA events.

If awarded this is subject to receiving a signed copy of the PTA constitution.

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Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Policy & Strategy team have drafted the criteria for the Community Investment Fund with support from the Community Partnerships team. Looking to launch the fund at the beginning of September.• The first meeting of the Wellbeing networking group was held on July 19th.• Commencing planning of the North Herts Heroes awards, which will be launched in November.• Working in partnership with Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse on the Youth Showcase event which will be held on 30 September.• Supporting the Samarivans charity art project.• Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.• Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.• Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.• Sharing and disseminating information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory and non-statutory agencies.
Area Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Community & Partnerships officer has met with some community groups in the Baldock area and is keen to meet more groups.• The Community Partnership officer has also attended a police walk around Baldock Town• Arranging ward tours with Councillors• Attending Baldock community forum meetings relating to the Baldock Expansion- discussing green infrastructure, community uses and transport.• Upcoming events: Baldock Cycle Challenge – Sunday 17th September Baldock Fireworks – Sunday 5th November Baldock Eco Fest is looking to be held on 25th November.

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