

4 January 2024

Our Ref Baldock and District Area Forum 15
January 2024
Contact. Community / Partnerships Team
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Tom Tyson (Chair), Alistair Willoughby (Vice-Chair),
Juan Cowell, Steve Jarvis, Michael Muir and Michael Weeks

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE BALDOCK AND DISTRICT AREA FORUM

to be held in the

VIRTUAL

On

MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 2024 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. 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.	
3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships.	
4. 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 - 16)
5. WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
6. FUTURE AREA FORUMS To discuss topics for future meetings.	

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

BALDOCK AREA FORUM
DATE 15 JANUARY 2024

*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 budget.
- 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 Home-start Herts - **£2,060** for funding towards allowing them to support a family currently waiting for support in Baldock, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support.
- 2.4 Resolve - **£1,500** for funding towards the costs of their key workers who take group therapy sessions and individual casework; acupuncture and counselling therapy costs and operational running costs including IT and premises costs.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The community grant base budget for Baldock Area Forum 2023/24 is **£5,000**.
- 3.2 The grant budget carried over from 2022/23 is **£4,065**.
- 3.3 **£3,276** has been allocated to date in 2023/24, leaving **£5,789** available to allocate for community grants.

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 **£5,789**. It has been confirmed that grant payments have been made for all those grants allocated in this financial year.

5.2 If the applications outlined in Appendix 2, which equate to £3,650, are recommended and approved, there would be **£2,229** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2023-24 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 of the Community & Partnerships 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 Community grants Criteria Policy May 2023.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1. Baldock Community Grant Budget 23-24
- 12.2 Appendix 2. Home-start Herts
- 12.3 Appendix 3: Resolve
- 12.4 Appendix 4. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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BALDOCK AREA FORUM

SUMMARY BUDGET POSITION 2023/24

<u>BALDOCK AREA FORUM</u>	<u>Original Budget 2023/24</u>	<u>Carry Forward Budget 2022/23</u>	<u>Total Funding 2023/24</u>	<u>Grants Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>
BALDOCK TOWN	£2,400	£1,874	£4,274	£1,572	£2,702
BALDOCK EAST	£1,000	£750	£1,750	£655	£1,095
ARBURY	£900	£792	£1,692	£590	£1,102
WESTON & SANDON	£700	£649	£1,349	£459	£890
TOTAL BALDOCK AREA FORUM	£5,000	£4,065	£9,065	£3,276	£5,789

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FUNDED PROJECTS

BALDOCK TOWN

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grants Allocated</u>
Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	17-Jul-23	£120
Christchurch Baldock - Holiday Club	17-Jul-23	£336
Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	17-Jul-23	£180
Friends of Brandles - Gardening equipment, tools and storage for outdoor adventure classroom	11-Sep-23	£936
TOTAL BALDOCK TOWN		£1,572

BALDOCK EAST

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grants Allocated</u>
Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	17-Jul-23	£50
Christchurch Baldock - Holiday Club	17-Jul-23	£140
Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	17-Jul-23	£75
Friends of Brandles - Gardening equipment, tools and storage for outdoor adventure classroom	11-Sep-23	£390
TOTAL BALDOCK EAST		£655

ARBURY

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grants Allocated</u>
Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	17-Jul-23	£45
Christchurch Baldock - Holiday Club	17-Jul-23	£127
Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	17-Jul-23	£67
Friends of Brandles - Gardening equipment, tools and storage for outdoor adventure classroom	11-Sep-23	£351
TOTAL ARBURY		£590

WESTON & SANDON

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grants Allocated</u>
Christchurch Baldock - Tea & Tots and Tea & Tinies	17-Jul-23	£35
Christchurch Baldock - Holiday Club	17-Jul-23	£98
Christchurch Baldock - Body & Soul	17-Jul-23	£53
Friends of Brandles - Gardening equipment, tools and storage for outdoor adventure classroom	11-Sep-23	£273
TOTAL WESTON & SANDON		£459

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Appendix 2: Home-start Herts

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6018			
Name of Organisation	Home-start Herts			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Covers the whole of Baldock			
Project Type	Family support			
Green option considered?	/			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None that we are aware of.			
Previous financial support within six years	/			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£2,060	Total project cost	£2,060	
Officer Summary				

Home-Start Hertfordshire (HSH) are engaged with 21 families across North Hertfordshire. 14 are receiving active support and a further 7 have had their initial assessment and are waiting for support to commence. One of the families waiting for support is located in Baldock. With this funding they would be able to support the family currently waiting for support in Baldock, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support.

HSH offers early intervention, because they know children's future outcomes are impacted in these desperate situations.

Through a tailored support package, support is delivered by a trained and skilled volunteer Family Mentor. The Family Mentor will visit the family in their own home, where they feel comfortable in their own surroundings. The family will be provided with weekly support for 2-3 hours, for up to 9 months.

Their Family Mentor will build a trusted relationship with the family so that they can learn to face the challenges they are experiencing, learn some coping strategies and help mum build her confidence to support her child and her unborn baby, so that she can provide them with the best start in life.

During the period of waiting for a volunteer Family Mentor, the family will be supported through telephone calls from a Volunteer Manager. During this time the family will be signposted to other appropriate sources of support within the Community.

They are also applying for funds from the Letchworth and Hitchin Area Forums.

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

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Appendix 3: Resolve

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6011		
Name of Organisation	Resolve		
Organisation Type	Registered Charity		
Ward	Covers the whole of Baldock		
Project Type	Treatment and rehabilitation		
Green option considered?	/		
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None that we are aware of.		
Previous financial support within six years	/		
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes	
Total applied for	£1,500	Total project cost	£165,000
Officer Summary			
<p>Resolve supports the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from substance / alcohol misuse problems. Resolve's primary aim is to assist clients to move to a manageable positive lifestyle, contributing to and enhancing the communities within which they live.</p> <p>They operate from Welwyn Garden City and Letchworth Garden City and clients come from many areas of Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Funding is being requested towards the costs of key workers who take group therapy sessions and individual casework; acupuncture and counselling therapy costs and operational running costs including IT and premises costs.</p> <p>They are also applying for funds from the Letchworth, Royston, and Hitchin Area Forums.</p>			

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

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Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Community Investment Fund has now closed. There was an oversubscription of three times the amount of allocated funds available, with those scoring highest from initial assessment progressing to recommendation by the panel on 18 January 2024.• Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.• Launch of the North Herts Heroes awards, nominations close 7th January. The Awards ceremony will take place at the Chair's Civic event on Friday 1st March.• 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.• A reshuffle of the Community Partnerships team in October means that some officers now cover different areas.• Holocaust Memorial Day is on 27 January 2024. North Herts Council are holding an event to mark the day on Friday 26 January 2024 at 1pm. This will be a hybrid event that can be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel or attended in person. If you would like to attend, please email the Community Partnership Team for more details.• Worked with Hitchin Rotary Club to help successfully deliver the Youth Showcase event.• The Community Partnership Team worked with The Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to help deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day event.
Area Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ward walk with Cllr Alistair Willoughby & local police officer.• Working with the Baldock Community Centre.• Working with settle as they plan for works on Nightingale Park.• Working with the Church Street businesses to reinstate a missing tree.• Meeting with Baldock Events Forum, Nightingale Park Wildlife Garden, Baldock Library amongst other groups/ organisations in the new year.

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