

19 January 2024

Our Ref Hitchin Area Forum 30 January 2024
Contact. Community / Partnerships Team
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Ian Albert (Chair), Clare Billing (Vice-Chair), Raj Bhakar, Val Bryant, Sam Collins, Elizabeth Dennis, James Denselow, Keith Hoskins MBE, Chris Lucas, Nigel Mason, Richard Thake, Dave Winstanley and Daniel Wright-Mason

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE HITCHIN AREA FORUM

to be held in the

HITCHIN TOWN HALL, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN, SG5 1HX

On

TUESDAY, 30TH 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.	MINUTES - 28 MARCH 2023 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Hitchin Area Committee held on the 28 March 2023.	(Pages 5 - 12)
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 13 - 26)
6.	HITCHIN BID TOWN CENTRE UPDATE To receive a verbal update from the Hitchin BID Manager on their work in Hitchin town centre.	
7.	TOWN TALK Introductory presentation on Transport from Cllr Ruth Brown, Executive Member for Planning and Transport, followed by Q&A.	
8.	WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
9.	FUTURE AREA FORUMS To discuss topics for future meetings.	

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HITCHIN COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE CHRISTCHURCH, BEDFORD ROAD, HITCHIN, SG5 1HF
ON TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2023 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Councillor Ian Albert (Chair), Councillor Clare Billing (Vice-Chair), Val Bryant, Sam Collins, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, James Denselow, Keith Hoskins, Chris Lucas, Nigel Mason and Richard Thake*

In Attendance: *Becca Edwards (Community Partnerships Officer) and Eleanor Hopcraft (Committee, Member & Scrutiny Officer)*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting approximately 8 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 1 minute 26 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Raj Bhakar.

103 MINUTES - 8 DECEMBER 2022

Audio recording – 1 minute 37 seconds

Councillor Ian Albert, as Chair proposed and Councillor Keith Hoskins seconded, and following a vote, it was:

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

104 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 2 minutes 3 seconds

There was no other business notified.

105 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 2 minutes 5 seconds

(1) 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.

106 HITCHIN BID - UPDATE

Audio recording – 2 minutes 18 seconds

The Chair invited Tom Hardy, Hitchin BID Manager, to present. Mr Hardy thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- The business plan was running until April 2024.
- Meetings were running about what businesses would like to see from the BID and their operations.
- Visit Hitchin was now being used for the public, BID was used for businesses.
- The BID were working with Andrew Figgis on the future of the prosperity fund and new funding options.
- Bench wood was being replaced around town, with bollards and railings being repainted.
- £12,500 H-Town Pounds were spent over Christmas, with around £6,000 still in circulation to spend in 34 independent businesses.
- A new community piano would be introduced into the marketplace on 8 April 2023 and would be spray painted.
- Action Hitchin would fundraise for future town projects.
- Rhythms of the World was now defunct and the working group would decide what to do with assets on 10 April 2023.
- The shop vacancy rate in Hitchin was 2%, with many lets seeming empty due to landlords using them as storage or earmarked for development.
- The Hitchin Information Centre was selling lots of merchandise, including Hitchin Football Club merchandise.
- Floral displays would be set up in the first week of June.
- The Christmas lighting application had been started. The catenary wires that hold up the lights needed replacing as they were found to be unsafe during inspection. The cost of replacement was estimated at £10k.
- Ghost walks were sold out until April, and were looking to add more dates alongside introducing historic walks.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Keith Hoskins
- Councillor Clare Billing
- Councillor James Denselow
- Councillor Nigel Mason
- Councillor Chris Lucas
- Councillor Val Bryant
- Councillor Sam Collins

In response to the questions, Mr Hardy advised:

- Shop vacancies were advertised on central commercial websites.
- Landlords had to decide if posters and wrapping could be put on their lets.
- There were 20 businesses on the waiting list for town units.
- The Poundland and M&Co unit was owned by an international company.
- The independent businesses in Hitchin did better than expected over the Christmas period, however increased bills and rent were challenges.

In discussion of the replacement of the catenary wires, Councillors Thake, Hoskins and Albert commented that they could be approached for some of their County Locality Budget to help with the costs.

107 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY - UPDATE

Audio recording – 26 minutes 38 seconds

The Chair invited PS Guy Westwood of Hertfordshire Constabulary to present. PS Westwood thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- Hitchin Urban crimes for 2022/23 totalled 1,973 compared to 1,819 in 2021/22.
- North Hertfordshire crimes increased to 6,433 compared to 5,559 previously and County wide crimes totalled 75,459 crimes compared to 73,516 last year.
- Residential burglaries in Hitchin Urban decreased to 51 from 66 previously. North Hertfordshire and County had both seen an increase.
- The OWL system was being used to keep the public informed.
- Business and commercial burglaries had increased to 31 incidents from 27 last year in Hitchin Urban. North Hertfordshire and County had also seen an increase.
- Theft from motor vehicles in Hitchin Urban had increased to 81 incidents from 63 previously, with North Hertfordshire and County overall increasing.
- Motor vehicle thefts mostly comprised of catalytic converters, and the increase was likely caused by the increased prices of precious metals.
- Personal robbery in Hitchin Urban had decreased to 9 from 12 previously. North Hertfordshire had also seen a decrease to 28 from 33 last year.
- County wide had seen an increase in personal robbery and patrols had been increased.
- Violence against persons had decreased in Hitchin Urban to 660 from 664 previously. North Hertfordshire and County had also seen a decrease.
- Criminal damage in Hitchin Urban had increased to 314 incidents compared to 187 previously. Most incidents were in Bearton Ward, with work ongoing in the area and around the town.
- Criminal damage had also increased in North Hertfordshire and county wide.
- Shoplifting in Hitchin Urban had increased to 170 compared to 136 previously. North Hertfordshire and County had also seen an increase.
- Drugs possession incidents in Hitchin Urban had decreased to 67 compared to 85 previously. North Hertfordshire and County incidents had also decreased.
- Public order offences in Hitchin Urban had decreased to 120 from 131 previously. North Hertfordshire and County offences had also decreased.
- Possession of offensive weapons in Hitchin Urban had increased to 16 incidents from 14 last year. North Hertfordshire and County had decreased.
- The priorities were due to be renewed in April. The current priorities were residential burglary, speeding on St. Michael's and Stotfold Roads and anti-social behaviour in open spaces.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Richard Thake
- Councillor Sam Collins
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg
- Councillor Clare Billing
- Councillor Chris Lucas
- Councillor Val Bryant

In response to questions from Members, PS Westwood advised:

- There were 22 different crime ratings which made it difficult to break down crime data.
- There were no direct links to crimes and residents at the Lord Lister Hotel.
- School years groups were linked to shoplifting, access to alcohol which would fuel anti-social behaviour.
- County lines crimes were not as high as expected.
- One problem that came from Nitrous Oxide canisters was littering. As the effect of Nitrous Oxide was short, it was not expected to contribute anti-social behaviour.

- There were many different categories of theft, therefore figures were categorised into general for the Committee.
- Safety of women was discussed at the Priority Setting Forum. The priorities mentioned previously were set by surveying the County.

Members took part in a discussion around Violence against women in Hitchin and North Hertfordshire. The Chair concluded that this was an important concern, and that it would be taken as an action point for forthcoming meetings.

Members thanked PS Guy Westwood for his work on the Safer Neighbourhood Team, particularly for his work in Hitchin.

108 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 61 minutes 40 seconds

The Chair invited Becca Edwards, Community Partnerships Officer to update Members on budgets. Ms Edwards thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- The 2022/23 base budget was £11,000, with £775 carried forward from 2021/2022. This gave a total of £11,775.
- The grants awarded to date totalled £6,679, which left £5,096.
- The grant applications for the meeting totalled £3,981, which if awarded, would leave £1,205 to carry forward into 2023/24.
- At the time of the grant applications, the locality budgets were used up or inaccessible, and applicants were advised not to approach County Councillors for funding.

The Chair invited Mari Stevenson of Buzzworks to present. Ms Stevenson thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- Buzzworks was a non-profit charitable organisation set up in 2007.
- The education centre worked with a wide-range of groups to engage and educate on the environmental health and wellbeing of bees.
- The grant would go towards engagement, and inspire community importance of bees.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Sam Collins
- Councillor Val Bryant
- Councillor Clare Billing

In response to questions from Members, Ms Stevenson advised:

- A grant had been awarded to purchase a television screen, which would be linked to the cameras and microscopes.
- There were two types of hives at the education centre.
- The centre was based at Old Hale Way.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed and Councillor Clare Billing seconded, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocated £932 to Buzzworks resources to help deliver educational sessions as outlined in paragraphs 8.1.1-8.1.4 of this report.

The Chair invited Karen Grant of Friends of Whitehill and Highbury Schools to present. Ms Grant thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- The organisation was a registered charity supporting Whitehill and Highbury schools.
- A priority for the organisation was to build community of schools, which was important post-pandemic.
- Current equipment was old and not fit for purpose.
- The funding application was for new gazebos, which would be needed for pre-loved uniform sales.

In response to the question from Councillor Sam Collins, Ms Stevenson advised that the organisation was working with other schools to arrange pre-loved uniform pop-ups over summer.

Councillor Sam Collins proposed and Councillor Nigel Mason seconded, and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocated £459 to Friends of Whitehill and Highbury Schools towards four gazebos as outlined in paragraphs 8.1.5-8.1.9 of this report.

The Chair invited the Community Partnerships Officer to present on behalf of Red Media Love CIC, who thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- Red Media Love CIC was a media company, specialising in films and exhibitions.
- The CIC had been to the Committee previously for £2,500 grant.
- The applicant was unable to attend and did not provide a written statement.
- The Singh Sabha football exhibition was due to take place between 8 August 2023 and 3 September 2023.

In response to the question from Councillor Ian Albert, the Community Partnerships Officer advised that Community Partnerships had advised the applicant to approach other sources of funding, including Kick It Out. The applicant had decided not to approach other sources.

The following Members took part in discussion:

- Councillor Sam Collins
- Councillor Clare Billing
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg
- Councillor James Denselow
- Councillor Richard Thake
- Councillor Keith Hoskins
- Councillor Ian Albert

Following discussion Councillor Sam Collins proposed to defer the grant application to a later meeting of the Committee. This was seconded by Councillor James Denselow, and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the grant application from Red Media Love CIC be deferred to a later meeting of the Committee, so that further funding can be explored by the applicant with the support of Officers.

109 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio recording – 89 minutes 40 seconds

The Community Partnerships Officer presented the report entitled 'Grant Applications and Community Update' and advised that:

- The Community Partnerships team had been supporting a network of asylum seekers in Hitchin. Many local groups were involved to support families.
- The Community Conference held last week was a very positive event.
- The North Hertfordshire Heroes Awards took place at the beginning of March, with five people from the district being recognised. The event was available to view on the North Herts Council YouTube channel.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed, Councillor Clare Billing seconded, and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee agreed that any unspent funds from the 2022/23 financial year be allocated to the Hitchin Area Committee budget for the 2023/24 period.
- (2) That the Committee endorsed the actions taken by the Community Engagement Team to promote greater community capacity and well-being.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available 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) 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.

110 CHURCHGATE PROJECT UPDATE

Audio recording – 91 minutes 35 seconds

The Chair advised Members that a briefing note covering the progress of the Churchgate Projects had been sent out prior to the meeting and invited Councillor Keith Hoskins to present this to the Committee. Councillor Hoskins advised that:

- The Council was in the process of looking to appoint advisors.
- The survey responses were collated and should be available soon.
- An advisory group would be set up by 4 May 2023.

In response to the question from Councillor James Denselow, Councillor Hoskins advised that historical consultations and themes could be included on the Churchgate page on the North Hertfordshire District Council website.

111 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording – 94 minutes 59 seconds

The Chair reminded Members to complete the Outside Bodies Survey sent out by Committee Services. If Members were appointed to multiple organisations, a survey would have to be filled out for each organisation.

The Chair advised that Members were invited to the Hitchin Town Twinning Reception on 19 May 2023 at the Museum.

Councillor Chris Lucas noted that a homeless woman was outside of the venue. Councillor Val Bryant provided an update on the situation and advised that support had been offered by the Council.

112 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Audio recording – 97 minutes 47 seconds

Councillor Richard Thake commented that the Hitchin BID Light display was of great importance to the town, and Committee should consider offering support for new equipment.

Audio Recording of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.19 pm

Chair

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Agenda Item 5

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

HITCHIN AREA FORUM
DATE 30 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. Friends of Whitehill and Highbury Schools - **£2,000** towards funding football goals.
- 2.4. Home-Start Hertfordshire - **£2,058** to support a family in Hitchin with weekly 1:1 home-visiting support.
- 2.5. Resolve - **£1,500** towards the costs of their key workers who take group and individual casework.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 There is total resource of £16,096 for Hitchin area Community Grants in 2023/24. Community grant payments totalling £7,341 have been made to date, as itemised in Appendix 1. The remaining budget available for community grants for the Hitchin area for 2023/24 therefore stands at **£8,755**.

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 paragraph 3.1 and detailed in Appendix 1, the remaining Community Grant budget available is **£8,755**.

- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£5,558**.

- 5.3 If the applications outlined in Appendixes 2, 3, and 4 are recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, there would be **£3,197** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 23-24 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 details 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. Hitchin Community Grant Budget 23-24
- 12.2 Appendix 2. Friends of Whitehill and Highbury Schools
- 12.3 Appendix 3. Home-start Herts
- 12.4 Appendix 4. Resolve
- 12.5 Appendix 5. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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HITCHIN AREA FORUM

SUMMARY BUDGET POSITION 2023/24

<u>Original Budget</u> <u>2023/24</u>	<u>Carry Forward</u> <u>Budget 2022/23</u>	<u>Total Funding</u> <u>2023/24</u>	<u>Total Grants</u> <u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u> <u>Budget</u>
£11,000	£5,096	£16,096	£7,341	£8,755

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
Buzzworks	28-Mar-23	£932
Friends of Whitehill School	28-Mar-23	£459
Hitchin BID - Christmas lights	04-Jul-23	£2,000
North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum - 25th anniversary event	05-Sep-23	£2,000
Sadie Centre - defibrillator and cabinet	05-Sep-23	£850
Strathmore Fun Club - additional toys, equipment and materials	05-Sep-23	£1,100
TOTAL HITCHIN AREA FORUM		£7,341

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Appendix 4: Friends of Whitehill and Highbury Schools

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Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6023			
Name of Organisation	Friends of Whitehill and Highbury Schools (FOWHS)			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Highbury			
Project Type	School			
Green option considered?	Goals should last many years			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None			
Previous financial support within six years	£459 in March 2023			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£2,000	Total project cost	£3,000	
Officer Summary				
<p>Friends of the Whitehill and Highbury Schools would like to purchase a pair of robust freestanding weatherproof aluminium football goals on wheels for use at Whitehill School.</p> <p>Whitehill has a very inclusive and wide-ranging sports curriculum, and regularly fields boys, girls and mixed teams across all age groups in football fixtures against other Hitchin and North Herts schools. They also have strong links with North Herts School Sport Partnership, and recently hosted KS1 Multi Skills festival for over 100 children.</p> <p>The current goals have to be used in fixed positions in the field and are set up and packed away for each match. The goals they would like to buy would give more flexibility to adjust the pitch size to better suit the age group and abilities as needed. This is in keeping with the Whitehill ethos that all children will have the opportunity to represent the school at sport if they wish to do so.</p> <p>The goals would also be available for use by community groups that use the school site, such as Cubs and Beavers, and also to Hitchin Holiday Camps who use the school site during school holidays.</p> <p>Their intention is that these goals will last for many years, rather than choosing a cheaper option which would be less robust and may require replacement sooner. Also, high-quality equipment that will cope with high levels of usage by enthusiastic children.</p>				

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

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Appendix 5: Home-start Herts

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6022		
Name of Organisation	Home-start Herts		
Organisation Type	Registered Charity		
Ward	Covers whole of Hitchin		
Project Type	Family support		
Green option considered?	N/A		
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None that we are aware of.		
Previous financial support within six years	N/A		
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes	
Total applied for	£2,058	Total project cost	£2,058
Officer Summary			
<p>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. 3 of the families waiting for support are located in Hitchin.</p> <p>With this funding they would be able to support one family currently waiting for support in Hitchin, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support. The initial visit was conducted by the Volunteer Manager to identify the needs of the family.</p> <p>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 from a trained and skilled volunteer Family Mentor.</p> <p>Their early intervention, preventative model provides significant social value and exceptional return on investment; it is well evidenced that early interventions are effective in reducing the number of families and children that go on to need high cost interventions from service such as children’s services, mental health services, youth offending provision, education welfare and others. The average cost for a child to be in care for 1 week is nearly £2k – that does not include the huge financial effects of the community in the future. Source: https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Children-in-care1.pdf</p> <p>Their total budgeted income target for 2023/24 is £475,000 which is generated through five income streams of grants, corporate, fundraising events, statutory and donations. They are also applying for funds from the Letchworth and Baldock Area Forums.</p>			

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

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Appendix 4: Resolve

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Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6012			
Name of Organisation	Resolve			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Various			
Project Type	Key workers and core service costs.			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None known			
Previous financial support within six years	None			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,500	Total project cost	£165,000 (Running costs for one year)	

Officer Summary

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.

Currently there are no statutory or community drug and alcohol treatment day services in North Herts, north of Stevenage, other than Resolve.

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.

It costs £1,230 pa for each client supported. Support can involve multiple weekly interventions (groups, individual keys work sessions, counselling and acupuncture) that can last many months.

In 2022/23 Resolve supported 122 clients from their specialist centre in Letchworth Garden City. Clients come from a range of places in North Herts but also from Stevenage and beyond. During this period 26 clients resided in Hitchin.

*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.• North Herts Heroes winners were chosen earlier this month. The winners will be celebrated at the Chair's Civic event on 1st March 2024.• The Community Partnership Team worked with Letchworth BID to help deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day event.• 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
<p>Reshuffle of Community Partnerships Officers meaning that a new Officer is focusing on Hitchin.</p> <p>The Community Partnerships Officer has had introductory meetings with Cllrs, local initiatives, groups and organisations which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ward walks/meetings with Cllr Hoskins, Cllr Dennis, Cllr Wright-Mason and Cllr Mason.• Meeting with Secretary of Churches Together in Hitchin.• Meeting with Hitchin BID Manager.• Visited Hitchin Food Rescue Hub and due to visit Hitchin Pantry.• Attended Hitchin Forum AGM meeting. <p>Also attended local events which include Ron's Plot's - <i>Food for life get-together</i> and Settle's <i>Westmill Place Festival</i>.</p> <p>The Officer has started chairing our Westmill Network meetings, an opportunity for local residents, groups and initiatives to share updates and discuss projects. Recent updates include a new Free Hertfordshire Health Walk in Westmill. Also Create Community and Settle are working in partnership to have monthly hubs for Settle residents at Westmill Community Centre.</p> <p>North Herts Museum have a new exhibition of work by one of the most original and influential photographers of the 20th Century, Diane Arbus ExhibitionsNorth Hertfordshire Museum (northhertsmuseum.org)</p>

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