

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



26 February 2024

Our Ref Hitchin Area Forum 5 March 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, 5TH MARCH, 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. HITCHIN BID TOWN CENTRE UPDATE To receive a verbal update from the Hitchin BID Manager on their work in Hitchin town centre.	
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 - POLICE UPDATE Presentation by North Herts Safer Neighbourhood Team.	
7. TOWN TALK To hear a written update about Churchgate read by the Forum Chair, 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.	

Agenda Item 5

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

HITCHIN AREA FORUM
DATE 5 March 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 Hertfordshire - **£2,058** towards the cost of funding support for a family currently waiting for support in Hitchin, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support and operational running costs.
- 2.4. North Herts College - **£1,050** towards delivering a community event called 'The Big Draw' on 29th October for local families and members of the public.

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 £10,841 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 **£5,255**.

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 **£5,255**.

- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£3,108**.

- 5.3 If the application outlined in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 is recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, there would be **£2,147** to carry forward into the 2024/25 budget, subject to approval from Cabinet.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Good risk management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

- 6.2 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. Home-start Herts
- 12.3 Appendix 3. North Herts College
- 12.4 Appendix 4. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

13.1 Author

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HITCHIN AREA FORUM

SUMMARY FINANCIAL 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>Grants Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u> <u>Budget</u>
£11,000	£5,096	£16,096	£10,841	£5,255

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
Friends of Whitehill and Highbury School - football goals.	30-Jan-24	£2,000
Resolve - key workers and core service costs.	30-Jan-24	£1,500
TOTAL HITCHIN AREA FORUM		£10,841

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Appendix 2: Home-start Herts

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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	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. This funding would support 1 of those families in need of support.</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.</p> <p>Home-start Herts receive referrals from agencies such as Social Services to fill gaps in provision and work one on one with families in a more intensive way than the statutory authorities can. This vulnerable family is struggling and needs support with the complex issues they are facing. HSH offers early intervention, because they know children’s future outcomes are impacted in these desperate situations. The cost to support one family for up to 9 months is £2,058.</p> <p>Through a tailored package, support is delivered by a trained and skilled volunteer Family Mentor. 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 in the surrounding of their own home. Here they feel safe and secure, so that they can learn to face the challenges they are experiencing, learn some coping strategies and help parents build their confidence to support their children.</p> <p>They have successfully received funds from the Baldock Area Forum (£2,060) and are also applying for funds from the Letchworth Area Forum (£2,060). Across all three Area Forums they are asking for £6,178.</p>			

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

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=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6033			
Name of Organisation	North Herts College			
Organisation Type	College			
Ward	Walsworth			
Project Type	Community event for families and members of the public			
Green option considered?	Using recycled materials for one of the activities			
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	Due to be reviewed at the time of writing the report, will send policy when reviewed.	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,050	Total project cost	£1,870	
Officer Summary				
<p>North Herts College plan to deliver a community event called 'The Big Draw' on 29th October, 10.30 – 2.30pm, as part of the Big Draw Festival national campaign.</p> <p>The event will be at their Hitchin Campus, where local families and members of the public will be invited to take part in a range of creative activities. Sessions will be led and run by staff and students, including pizza decorating, mask making, large scale collaborative art, and art with recycling.</p> <p>They will utilise materials and services they already have within the departments (such as bowls, paint equipment, printing etc) and only request funding for consumables such as paints, pens, ingredients and 'takeaways' such as the masks. They will use recycled materials for one of the activities, asking students/staff to bring in materials in the run up to the event.</p> <p>Funding is requested for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Draw Membership • Pizza decorating or other related food activity • Art materials (including facepainting supplies) • Drawing materials • Google Ads • Promotional materials • Local artist to deliver a workshop • Refreshments for staff/student helpers and exhibitors 				

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

The college ran their first Big Draw event in October 2023 which was extremely popular, welcoming over 200 people throughout the day. Feedback from attendees was very positive, and parents welcomed a community event for their children in the school holidays.

£520 is being contributed towards this project from the College's Community Engagement budget. Also £300 has been confirmed from Herts County Council Locality Budget.

Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Community Investment Fund has now closed. Successful grant applicants have been informed.• Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.• The winners of the North Herts Heroes awards have all been contacted and filming is underway. 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 Westmill, 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.• The Community Partnership Team met with the Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to discuss this year's Letchworth Remembrance Day Parade and how they can recruit more members from across North Herts.
Area Community Updates
<p>Community/Partnerships Officer is continuing to build up connections with local groups/organisations in Hitchin, such as Rotary at Hitchin Tilehouse, Hitchin Pantry and Queen Mother Theatre.</p> <p>North Herts Museum Camden Town to Garden City: work by Gilman, Gore and Ratcliffe 9 March – 30 June 2024 A major exhibition of paintings and drawings by three artists who worked in Letchworth in the years before the First World War, with loans from museums across the country including Tate, the Government Art Collection and the National Museum of Wales.</p> <p>HCC's Bus Service Improvement Plan: Public Consultations on Local Schemes until Sunday 17 March 2024</p> <p>As part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), Hertfordshire County Council is proposing to give buses greater priority on two roads in Hitchin to shorten journey times and make them more reliable. The aim is to encourage more people to use buses, which make more efficient use of limited road space, and to support the sustainable growth of Hitchin.</p> <p>The two schemes in Hitchin are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new southbound bus lane along the A600 Bedford Road• A new northbound bus lane on B656 Queen Street, upgrades to bus stops and new pedestrian crossings <p>Public Consultation</p> <p>There is a four-week consultation, ending on Sunday 17 March, for you to review and feed back on the proposals. You can find more information online at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed maps and visualisations• Survey• General info about all Hertfordshire schemes

You can also talk to officers at two in-person sessions:

- Hitchin British School Museum Monday 11 March 3.30 – 7pm

If you have any questions about the proposals or would like a paper copy of the survey, please contact BSIPBusPriority@hertfordshire.gov.uk.