

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Publication Date 16/01/24

Our Ref Letchworth Area Forum 24 January 2024
Contact. Community & Partnerships
Direct Dial. (01462) 474209
Email. community@north-herts.gov.uk

To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Tom Plater (Chair), Sean Prendergast (Vice-Chair), Amy Allen, Daniel Allen, Simon Bloxham, Mick Debenham, Terry Hone, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Daniel Marsh, Sean Nolan, Tamsin Thomas and Phil Weeder

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE LETCHWORTH AREA FORUM

to be held in the

VIRTUAL

On

WEDNESDAY, 24TH 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 - 15 MARCH 2023 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Letchworth Area Committee held on the 15 March 2023.	(Pages 5 - 10)
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 11 - 28)
6.	PRESENTATION - COST OF LIVING Presentation by Citizens Advice North Herts about the Cost of Living and the support available.	
7.	PRESENTATION - COST OF LIVING Presentation by Create Community CIC about the Cost of Living and the support available.	
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.	

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERONON ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY, SG6 3JF
ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2023 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Councillor Daniel Allen (Chair), Councillor Sean Prendergast (Vice-Chair), Amy Allen, Morgan Derbyshire, Ian Mantle, Tom Plater, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Tamsin Thomas, Phil Weeder and Sean Nolan*

In Attendance: *Aimee Flack (Assistant Community Engagement Officer), James Lovegrove (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager) and Eleanor Hopcraft (Committee, Member & Scrutiny Officer)*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting approximately 4 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 1 minute 7 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Levett, Terry Hone and Simon Bloxham.

86 MINUTES - 14 DECEMBER 2022

Audio Recording – 1 minute 24 seconds

Councillor Daniel Allen as Chair proposed, Councillor Amy Allen seconded and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 December 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

87 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 2 minutes 13 seconds

There was no other business notified.

88 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 2 minutes 18 seconds

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (2) 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.

- (3) The Chair advised for the purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.

89 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY - UPDATE

Audio recording – 3 minutes 12 seconds

The Chair invited PS Lisa Perks from Hertfordshire Constabulary to present. PS Perks thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- Crimes in Letchworth for the year 01/04/22-12/03/23 totaled 2,600 compared to 1,718 in the previous year. This was an increase of nearly 20%.
- North Hertfordshire saw a 7.5% increase in crime and County overall saw a 2.7% increase.
- Residential burglary had increased by 17% in Letchworth, 6.3% in North Hertfordshire and 2.3% County-wide.
- There had been a 140% increase in business burglaries in Letchworth. North Hertfordshire had seen cases increase to 143 from 96 previously.
- OWL messaging was being used to communicate with residents, as well as collect evidence of criminal activity, including instances of cuckooing.
- Theft from motor vehicles had increased by 49% in Letchworth. North Hertfordshire had seen an increase to 284 cases from 242.
- There was a large increase in Wilbury Ward, with 16 cases this year compared to 5 previously.
- Personal robbery in Letchworth had increased to 14 cases from 6, and North Hertfordshire had seen a decrease to 53 from 58 cases last year.
- Violence against persons decreased in Letchworth to 844 cases from 845. North Hertfordshire also saw a decrease to 2,281 from 2,370.
- Criminal damage and arson had increased in Letchworth to 232 from 188 previously. North Hertfordshire had also seen an increase to 795 compared to 616 last year.
- Shoplifting had increased to 182 cases from 92 in Letchworth, and North Hertfordshire had seen an increase to 453 from 300 cases previously.
- Incidents of drug possession had decreased to 41 from 56 in Letchworth and public order offences had increased to 137 from 129.
- Possession of offensive weapons in Letchworth had increased to 17 cases from 12.
- Priority areas were set every 3 months, and the current priorities were theft from motor vehicles including catalytic converters and number plates, speeding in Norton Road and unlawful use of e-scooters.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Daniel Allen
- Councillor Tamsin Thomas
- Councillor Tom Plater

In response to Member's questions, PS Perks advised:

- The end of COVID restrictions could explain the crime increase in Letchworth.
- Theft from motor vehicles was a county-wide issue. Arrests had been made by on-road policing units and the police were working to educate residents on securing catalytic converters and numberplates.
- The cuckooing system, safeguarding vulnerable people and the use of plain-clothes officers was how drug crimes were being dealt with currently.
- It would be ideal to have more patrols, however Police Officer recruitment and retainment issues were affecting this currently.

90 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 16 minutes 25 seconds

The Chair invited Aimee Flack, the Assistant Community Engagement Officer, to update Members on Budgets. Ms Flack thanked the Chair, and provided the following update:

- The 2022/23 base budget was £11,000 with £2,956 carried forward from 2021/22. This gave a total budget of £13,956.
- The Committee had awarded £11,814 in grants this year, with £2,142 left.
- The grant applications for the meeting on 15 March 2023 totalled £1,858, which if granted, would leave £284 to carry forward into 2023/24.

Councillor Tom Plater commented that representatives from Letchworth BID were not in attendance tonight and asked the Chair for an update of their work.

The Chair advised that the BID had not been invited, and advised that the BID had recently appointed a new manager.

The Chair invited Raymond Wilson from Green Care, Norton CIC to present. Mr Wilson thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- Hydroponics units would provide vulnerable adults the opportunity to grow produce indoors.
- This would benefit those unable to go outdoors and participate in rigorous gardening.
- The units did not use compost, and were economical to run.
- Dehydration units would reduce food waste, and meant produce could be stored for longer.
- Previously, ovens were used to dry out produce and flower petals for confetti and potpourri which took a long time. The dehydration units would make this process quicker.
- The people that the CIC worked with were long-term unemployed. This project would give them basic business, economic and horticultural skills.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Daniel Allen
- Councillor Sean Nolan
- Councillor Sean Prendergast

In response to the Member's questions, Mr Wilson advised:

- The walking tractor previously funded by the Committee allowed larger areas to be cultivated quicker than using manual tools.
- Green Care had donated to foodbanks previously, however most foodbanks preferred non-perishable items.
- There were about 25 active users of the organisation, and the organisation had worked with over 50 people since their inception.

In response to the question from Councillor Prendergast, Mr Wilson advised that the entire project would total £898, with £200 of the cost coming from their reserves.

Councillor Tom Plater proposed that the Committee increase the grant funding to £898 and this was seconded by Councillor Sean Prendergast, and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocated £898 to Green Care at Norton CIC towards equipment for the next phase of their development as outlined in paragraphs 8.1.1-8.1.7 of the officer's report.

Mr Wilson thanked the Committee of their support of the organisation and the interest Members had taken in the organisation.

N.B. The Chair and Councillor Amy Allen declared an interest in Letchworth Garden Shed, and left the Chamber at 20:04. During this time the Vice-Chair, Councillor Sean Prendergast acted as Chair of the meeting.

The Chair invited Angela Bell, from Letchworth Garden Shed to present. Ms Bell thanked the Chair, gave a presentation and advised:

- The organisation were opening a Library of Things in May 2023, which would allow members to borrow tools, equipment and appliances at low costs instead of buying items outright.
- It was expected that in the first year of the library would save 32 tonnes of carbon emissions.
- One in five households in Letchworth were living in poverty, and the Library of Things would allow people to do tasks and fun activities.
- There were currently 40 other libraries in the UK, and the Letchworth branch hoped to have 300 stock items for opening.
- Part of the grant funding would go towards second-hand shelving at the Library.
- At least five skills workshops would be run a year, with four repair days, where residents could bring items for repair at no charge.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Tom Plater
- Councillor Sean Nolan

In response to the Member's questions, Ms Bell advised:

- The Library of Things would be situated on Leys Avenue.
- Members would be asked to vote on what skills session they would like to see run at the Library.
- First aid training would be provided for all the volunteers..
- A paid part-time manager may be appointed dependent on funding.

Councillor Tom Plater proposed and Councillor Ian Mantle seconded, and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocated £1,160 to Letchworth Garden Shed towards shelving units and repair day equipment as outlined in paragraphs 8.1.8-8.1.12 of the officer's report.

N.B Councillors Daniel Allen and Amy Allen re-entered the Chamber at 20:15.

91 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio recording – 46 minutes 35 seconds

The Chair invited Aimee Flack, Assistant Community Engagement Officer, to present. Ms Flack thanked the Chair, gave a verbal presentation and advised:

- The Community Conference was fully booked. This conference was being put on by North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Service and Letchworth Heritage Foundation, assisted by North Hertfordshire District Council. The conference led on from a survey published that aimed to find out what challenges community groups were facing.
- The main challenges identified from the survey were spiralling overheads, service demand, reduced income and increased pressure on funders, which would be discussed further at the conference.
- The North Hertfordshire Heroes Awards Ceremony recognised five individuals for their service and can be viewed on the Council's YouTube Channel.

The Chair thanked the Community Engagement team for organising the North Hertfordshire Heroes Events and congratulated the Letchworth winners.

Councillor Tamsin Thomas proposed and Councillor Amy Allen seconded, and following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee endorsed the actions taken by the Community Engagement Team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Letchworth.

92 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording – 49 minutes 28 seconds

Councillor Ian Mantle advised that the lease at Mrs Howard Hall had been agreed with a voluntary organisation. The Hall was run by volunteer teams with a professional manager. The Hall was a valuable community facility, and the new lease brought stability so it could continue serving the community for years to come.

The Chair commented that Mrs Howard Hall was a real benefit to Letchworth, and was happy to hear it was stable.

Councillor Sean Nolan advised that he had attended a settle Community Day on the Jackman's Estate and encouraged other Members to attend these events, should they have the opportunity.

The Chair advised that the recent traffic issues on the Grange Estate were caused by emergency works coinciding with planned works.

The Chair advised Members about the Outside Organisations survey sent out by Committee Services, and asked Members to fill in the survey for every organisation they represented.

The Chair advised that the Letchworth Councillors Community Surgery was on 18 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY AREA FORUM)

LETCHWORTH AREA FORUM DATE 24 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 Cruse - **£1,360** towards funding on for a Bereavement Support Group to be held in Letchworth. The group would be held once a month for a total of 6 months.
- 2.4 Friends of Norton Common - **£2,165** towards the cost of new equipment for members.
- 2.5 GreenCare - **£500** towards the cost of 500 vegetable plug plants and a fruit cage to expand their production of vegetables at their Standalone Farm site so that they can increase their vegetable sales and thus become more self-sufficient.
- 2.6 Home-start Herts - **£2,060** towards the cost of funding support for a family currently waiting for support in Letchworth, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support.
- 2.7 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 Letchworth Area Forum 2023/24 is **£11,000**

- 3.2 The grant budget carried over from 2022/23 is **£84**.
- 3.3 Grants from Wilbury & Icknield Schools Parents Association and Garden City Samba, totalling **£2,600**, have been repaid.
- 3.4 **£1,884** has been allocated to date in 2023/24, leaving **£11,800** 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 **£11,800**.
- 5.2 If the applications outlined in Appendix 2 are recommended and approved, there would be **£4,215** 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. Letchworth Community Grant Budget 23-24

12.2 Appendix 2. Cruse

12.3 Appendix 3: Friends of Norton Common

12.4 Appendix 4. GreenCare

12.5 Appendix 5. Home-start Herts

12.6 Appendix 6. Resolve

12.7 Appendix 7. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

13.1 Author

Danny Pearson – Community & Partnerships Officer

Email: danny.pearson@north-herts.gov.uk

13.2 Contributors

Reuben Ayavoo, Policy & Communities Manager

Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

Claire Morgan, Community & Partnerships Team Leader

Email: claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk

Antonio Ciampa, Accountancy Manager

Email: antonio.ciampa@north-herts.gov.uk

Rebecca Webb, HR Services Manager

Email: rebecca.webb@north-herts.gov.uk

Tim Everitt, Performance & Risk Officer

Email: tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

LETCHWORTH AREA FORUM

SUMMARY BUDGET POSITION 2023/24

<u>Original Budget 2023/24</u>	<u>Carry Forward Budget 2022/23</u>	<u>Grants Repaid*</u>	<u>Total Funding 2023/24</u>	<u>Total Grants Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>
£11,000	£84	£2,600	£13,684	£1,884	£11,800

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
North Herts 50 Plus Forum - advertising & minibus hire	05-Jul-23	£884
Headway Hertfordshire - peer support group sessions	05-Jul-23	£1,000
TOTAL LETCHWORTH AREA FORUM		£1,884

*** Grants Repaid in 2023/24:**

Grant Recipient	Grant Value
Wilbury & Ickneild Schools Parents Association	£2,000
Garden City Samba (GCS)	£600

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2: Cruse

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6024			
Name of Organisation	Cruse			
Organisation Type	Registered charity			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
Project Type	Bereavement 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	£1,360	Total project cost	£1,360	
Officer Summary				
<p>Cruse provides free, specialist bereavement support for local adults, children, and young people (this application does not relate to children, and young people however), irrespective of how or when a bereavement occurred.</p> <p>They would like to spend funding on a Bereavement Support Group to be held in Letchworth. The group would be held once a month for a total of 6 months. Each group session lasts around 1½ hours. They would require funding for refreshments; very possibly room hire; volunteer travel and CPD costs; and administration/helpline costs.</p> <p>The group will be held on a weekday morning. They hope to use the same venue as for previous groups - the Broadway Hotel, in Letchworth once a month for 6 months. This hotel is situated in the town centre, a few minutes' walk from the train station and bus stops.</p> <p>Group sessions give people battling with loneliness and social isolation the opportunity to meet other local people going through similar experiences and to talk openly and honestly about their feelings and how they are adjusting to living without their loved one. This form of support can be extremely empowering for bereaved people, enabling them to form long-lasting friendships and support networks for when their support ends.</p> <p>Often this also results in local informal support groups forming amongst peers, supporting one another through WhatsApp groups and physical activities, e.g. coffee morning or Walk & talk groups, enabling clients to improve physical as well as mental wellbeing.</p>				

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3: Friends of Norton Common

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6025			
Name of Organisation	Friends of Norton Common			
Organisation Type	CIO			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
Project Type	New equipment for members			
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	£2,165	Total project cost	£2,165	
Officer Summary				
<p>Friends of Norton Common host volunteer activities on the common that range from building a boardwalk, a bridge, replacing old seats, clearing paths, renovation of woodland, repairing hedges, clearing of fallen trees etc building a wildlife pond, and maintaining streams. They have a lock up shipping container in the car park.</p> <p>Much of their tool stock is showing its age, the majority being purchased at the inception of the group in 2007. They need to replace almost all of it to maintain the quality of work required. New tasks such as replacement of benches and boardwalks require additional tools. In addition, PPE is essential for the group and is being continually replaced as it wears out or is supplied to new joiners.</p> <p>The need for this activity is determined by the GAP plan which contributes to winning the Green Flag award. Residents of Letchworth Garden City and beyond who use Norton Common for leisure activities and the fauna and flora of this part of North Hertfordshire who find a home there.</p> <p>Their role is to maintain and improve the common as a facility to enable visitors such a runners, dog walkers, toddler groups and the forest school to enjoy the common. They value their volunteers who are of all ages and abilities, and newcomers are always welcome.</p> <p>The friend's contribution to the common assists with the long-term health of the whole space. During the time they have been active the common has regularly attained Green Flag status. Their work substantially reduces council spending and provides a pleasant green space for the residents. Regular maintenance such as coppicing, clearing streams, scrub clearance and the planting of trees are ensuring Norton common will thrive for the residents and the fauna and flora of North Herts.</p>				

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 4: GreenCare

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6026			
Name of Organisation	GreenCare			
Organisation Type	CIC			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
Project Type	Social and therapeutic horticulture			
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	2020/21 – Disability access provision - £2,500 2020/21 – Polytunnel and shed - £2,052 2022/23 - Equipment for the next phase of their development - £898			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£500	Total project cost	£613	
Officer Summary				
<p>GreenCare's project aims to support and bring about positive changes in the lives of adults living with loneliness, unemployment or who are socially excluded through mental illness, learning difficulties or deprivation. Based on three different sites across Letchworth Garden City, participants work alongside volunteers to grow their own food and flowers.</p> <p>Participants benefit from having a safe and secure place to make friends, learn and develop skills, and enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of getting moving outside. They run several sessions each week, with Ray Wilson, the project director leading the planning and practical running of the sessions, along with volunteers who give what time they can. The project is free to participants and no volunteers are paid for their time. Neither do they pay any rent for their sites having negotiated with the landowners.</p> <p>They take referrals from a variety of professionals including the Jobcentre, settle housing association, Create Community Network, NHS Community Mental Health, and others, as well as self-referrals, meaning they have no barriers to someone accessing our support.</p> <p>They also have a larger section of land on Standalone Farm, Letchworth, in partnership with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. They have established a large growing area on this site, giving their participants the opportunity to gain valuable skills such as larger-scale commercial growing of food and flowers, as well as marketing, pricing of items, floristry, architectural landscaping plus an understanding of a social enterprise business venture. They are hoping this will bring a vital source of income to Green Care at Norton, enabling us to support more people and is in fact enabling our participants to take a step towards work.</p> <p>They would like to expand their production of vegetables at their Standalone Farm site so that they can increase their vegetable sales and thus become more self-sufficient. To do this from April to July 2024 they would like to purchase approx. 500 vegetable plug plants from an online supplier (Rocket Gardens, Cornwall) representing a wide variety of produce, which will provide a succession of vegetables throughout the season. They would also like to similarly develop soft fruit production on their Standalone Farm site and to that end would like to purchase a fruit cage to protect fruit from birds and butterflies etc.</p>				

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 5: Home-start Herts

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6027			
Name of Organisation	Home-start Herts			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
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	2018/19 - £5,000 support families in need.			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£2,060	Total project cost	£2,060	
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 Letchworth.</p> <p>With this funding they would be able to support one family currently waiting for support in Letchworth, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support.</p> <p>The family has multiple complex needs, requiring a variety of support. The mum needs help to build her confidence and her self-esteem so that she can be the parent she wants to be, to give her children the best start in life. The mum will benefit from being matched with a volunteer Family Mentor who is experienced in coping with Autism, and she can also be signposted for further support.</p> <p>This vulnerable family is struggling and needs support with the complex issues they are facing. The wellbeing of Mum and her three children is being detrimentally affected. HSH offers early intervention, because they know children's future outcomes are impacted in these desperate situations.</p> <p>Through a tailored 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 in the surrounding of their own home, where they feel safe and secure, 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 children. They are also applying for funds from the Baldock and Hitchin Area Forums.</p>				

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 6: Resolve

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6013			
Name of Organisation	Resolve			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
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	2019/20 – Area Grant – New premises - £5,000			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	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 Baldock, Royston, and Hitchin Area Forums.</p>				

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

This page is intentionally left blank

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"> • Meeting with the Jackmans Community Centre. • Attending the Letchworth - What is your part to play in the future of Letchworth? hosted by Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. • Working with settle and their new designated officer for Jackmans and The Grange. • Helping Hong Kong Connect with their Chinese New Year Market 2024 event. • Meeting with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, Garden Square Shopping Centre, and Letchworth BID as part of the Town Centre Strategy Group.

This page is intentionally left blank