

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



22 November 2024

Our Ref Baldock and District Community Forum  
2 December 2024  
Contact. Community Partnerships  
Direct Dial. (01462) 474405  
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Alistair Willoughby (Chair), Emma Rowe (Vice-Chair), Rhona Cameron, Steve Jarvis, Michael Muir, Tom Tyson and Stewart Willoughby

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY  
FORUM**

to be held in the

**BALDOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE, SIMPSON DR, BALDOCK  
SG7 6DH**

On

**MONDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 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**

| <b>Item</b> |   | <b>Page</b>       |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>1.</b>   | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  |                   |
| <b>2.</b>   | <b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b><br>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.<br><br>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. |                   |
| <b>3.</b>   | <b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS</b><br>To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships.   | (Pages 3<br>- 12) |
| <b>4.</b>   | <b>PRESENTATION - BALDOCK FESTIVAL, EVENT IDEAS</b><br>Opportunity to generate ideas, including a presentation by Baldock Festival representative.  |                   |
| <b>5.</b>   | <b>PRESENTATION - PARKING TARIFF CONSULTATION</b><br>Presented by Cllr Daniel Allen, Leader of North Herts Council.   |                   |
| <b>6.</b>   | <b>COMMUNITY UPDATE</b><br>To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team.  |                   |
| <b>7.</b>   | <b>WARD MATTERS &amp; OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS</b><br>To receive any verbal reports from Members and questions from members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.  |                   |
| <b>8.</b>   | <b>FUTURE COMMUNITY FORUMS</b><br>To discuss topics for future meetings.  |                   |

## REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY COMMUNITY FORUM)

**BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM  
DATE 2 DECEMBER 2024**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**SERVICE DIRECTORATE: LEGAL & COMMUNITY**

### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To advise the Community 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 COMMUNITY 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 Christchurch Baldock - **£1,560** towards instructor costs for Body & Soul sessions aimed at movement and exercise for retired residents in the community.

### **3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Community Grant budget for Baldock & District Community Forum 2024/25 is **£12,229**.
- 3.2 Community grant payments totalling **£10,307** have been made to date, as itemised in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The remaining budget available for community grants for the Baldock & District area for 2024/25 therefore stands at **£1,922**.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community 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 remaining Community Grant budget available is **£1,922**.

- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£1,560**.

- 5.3 If the application outlined in Appendix 2 is recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, there would be **£362** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2024-2025 financial year.

## **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**

- 10.1 The activities of the Community & Partnerships team are covered by existing budgets.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 Terms of Reference for Community Forums, Section 9 of the Council Constitution updated April 2024.

11.2 Community Grants Criteria Policy May 2023.

## **12. APPENDICES**

12.1 Appendix 1. Baldock & District Community Grant Budget 24-25

12.2 Appendix 2. Christchurch Baldock

12.3 Appendix 3. Community Updates

## **13. CONTACT OFFICERS**

### **13.1 Author**

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## BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

### SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2024/25

| <u>Original Budget</u><br><u>2024/25</u> | <u>Carry Forward Budget</u><br><u>2023/24</u> | <u>Total Funding</u><br><u>2024/25</u> | <u>Grants</u><br><u>Allocated</u> | <u>Unallocated</u><br><u>Budget</u> |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| £10,000                                  | £2,229  | £12,229                                | £10,307                           | £1,922                              |

### FUNDED PROJECTS

| <u>Project</u>  | <u>Forum Date</u> | <u>Grant Allocated</u> |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Balstock Community Interest Company</b> - Community festival                   | 17-Jun-24         | £2,000                 |
| <b>Bygrave Parish Council</b> - Defibrillator for Lower Bygrave                   | 17-Jun-24         | £1,000                 |
| <b>Respair Therapy Community Interest Company</b> - Dance Movement Psychotherapy  | 17-Jun-24         | £1,200                 |
| <b>Angels Support Group</b> - Online support groups and workshops.                | 09-Sep-24         | £1,828                 |
| <b>Creative Chefs Community Interest Company</b> - cooking sessions for children. | 09-Sep-24         | £1,912                 |
| <b>Groundwork East</b> - 'Grow It, Cook it, Share It' course.                     | 09-Sep-24         | £2,367                 |
|   |                   |                        |
|   |                   |                        |
| <b>TOTAL BALDOCK AND DISTRICT</b>   |                   | <b>£10,307</b>         |

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Appendix 2. Christchurch Baldock

=Document Control:

| Version | Issue Date | Changes          |
|---------|------------|------------------|
| 1.0     | NA         | First Draft (BE) |

|  |  |                    |          |     |
|--|--|--------------------|----------|-----|
| Reference  | 6101   |                    |          |     |
| Name of Organisation   | Christchurch Baldock   |                    |          |     |
| Organisation Type  | Faith Group  |                    |          |     |
| Ward   | All Baldock and District Wards   |                    |          |     |
| Project Type   | Movement and exercise sessions for retired residents   |                    |          |     |
| Green option considered?   | /  |                    |          |     |
| NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest  | None known.  |                    |          |     |
| Previous financial support within six years  | Received three grants in July 2023 from Baldock & District community grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body &amp; Soul towards additional equipment and meals (£375)</li> <li>• Tea &amp; Tots towards hall hirer costs (£250)</li> <li>• Holiday Club towards craft resources and props for the event (£700)</li> </ul> |                    |          |     |
| Documentation reviewed and approved*   | Safeguarding   | Yes                | Accounts | Yes |
|  | Demonstrates clear governance  | Yes                |          |     |
| Total applied for  | £1,560   | Total project cost | £1,560   |     |
| <b>Officer Summary</b>   |  |                    |          |     |
| <p>Body &amp; Soul is a group providing total fitness for retired people. The group meets weekly, holding 1.5 hour sessions at Baldock Community Centre, with 30-35 attendees participating.</p> <p>The sessions include chair exercises for the body, singing for the lungs, exercise games for the brain and social opportunities to chat and have a coffee. Chair exercises are included to help with mobility and fitness and help to prevent falls. In addition, Christchurch invite speakers to Body &amp; Soul to give advice on relevant topics, including the Fire Service, Police, Citizens Advice and the library.</p> <p>Currently, Body &amp; Soul have a fully qualified instructor that has been commissioned by the North Herts Wellbeing Team. This covers the instructor carrying out sessions until the end of 2024.</p> <p>The funding requested is to cover the cost of the current instructor over the 2025 period, for a total of 39 weeks, at £40 per session.</p> <p>The group are looking into alternative long-term options, including training a volunteer to carry out the sessions or to increase the cost per user.</p> |  |                    |          |     |

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

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### Districtwide Community Updates

- The Community Partnerships team worked with the Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day parade on 10 November 2024.
- Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 have been approved for a range of community groups across the district using money from North Herts Prosperity Fund, a pot of £210,000 funded by the UK Government.
- The Community Partnerships Team have launched the North Herts Heroes Awards. There are five categories to nominate anyone who you think deserves to be recognised for their services to our local community. The Awards will be presented at the Chairs Civic event on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Information on how to nominate is available on the [North Herts Heroes web page](#).
- Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.
- Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.
- 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

- Officers have networked at events such as the Herts County Council Annual Conference, Settle drop-in event and Hertfordshire's Trustee Conference.
- Creative Chefs, which provides fun food session for children, received £6,750 from the Prosperity Fund towards building a website to enhance their offering.
- Full list can be found here [Over £200k given to 20 groups making a difference in North Herts | North Herts Council](#)

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