



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

21 February 2025

Our Ref Baldock and Villages Community Forum
3 March 2025

Contact. Community and Partnerships Team
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To: Members of the Area Forum: 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 VILLAGES COMMUNITY
FORUM**

to be held in the

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

On

MONDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2025 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.	ECO FLEX	
4.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS There are no grant applications to consider for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community Partnerships.	(Pages 5 - 10)
5.	BALDOCK BENCHES CONSULTATION Presented by North Herts Council Town Centre Project Officer	
6.	ACTIVE COMMUNITIES Presentation by Danny Kingston from Everyone Active regarding The Active Communities followed by a Q&A.	
7.	POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM PRESENTATION Presentation by Safer Neighbourhood Team followed by a Q&A.	
8.	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 - 12)
9.	WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
10.	FUTURE COMMUNITY FORUMS To discuss topics for future meetings.	

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Agenda Item 4

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY COMMUNITY FORUM)

BALDOCK AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY FORUM
DATE 3rd MARCH 2025

***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 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

None

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Community Grant budget for Baldock and Villages Community Forum 2024/25 is **£12,229**.

3.2 Community grant payments totalling **£11,867** have been made to date, as itemised in Appendix 1.

3.3 The remaining budget available for community grants for the Baldock and Villages area for 2024/25 therefore stands at **£362**.

3.4 Due to the small remaining budget, no applications have been made to the community forum and therefore there are no recommendations for this report.

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 3.2 the remaining Community Grant budget available is **£362** available to carry forward into the 2025/26 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. There are no projects outlined in this report.

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 and Villages Community Grant Budget 24-25
- 12.2 Appendix 2. 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> <u>2024/25</u>	<u>Carry Forward Budget</u> <u>2023/24</u>	<u>Total Funding</u> <u>2024/25</u>	<u>Grants</u> <u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u> <u>Budget</u>
£10,000	£2,229	£12,229	£11,867	£362

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
Balstock Community Interest Company - Community festival	17-Jun-24	£2,000
Bygrave Parish Council - Defibrillator for Lower Bygrave	17-Jun-24	£1,000
Respair Therapy Community Interest Company - Dance Movement Psychotherapy	17-Jun-24	£1,200
Angels Support Group - Online support groups and workshops	09-Sep-24	£1,828
Creative Chefs CIC - Cooking sessions that teach children the importance of making healthy food choices	09-Sep-24	£1,912
Groundwork East - 'Grow it, Cook it, Share it course'	09-Sep-24	£2,367
Christchurch Baldock - Instructor costs for Body & Soul sessions aimed at movement and exercise for retired residents in the community	02-Dec-24	£1,560
TOTAL BALDOCK AND DISTRICT		£11,867

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Districtwide Community Updates

- 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 28 February. Films about the winners will be available on the Council's YouTube channel.
- Holocaust Memorial Day was on 27th January and to commemorate this we created a short film, with readings from Councillors and Community Faith Leaders. It can be watched through this link [Holocaust Memorial Day 2025](#)
- 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

Community Partnerships Officer Update

- New dedicated Baldock and Villages Officer started on 7th January 2025
- Attended four Parish Council Meetings
- Met with The Kaotic Angels Food Hub team on their 1st Birthday
- Have been on ward walks with Cllr A Willoughby, Cllr E Rowe, Cllr S Willoughby, Cllr T Tyson and have one booked with Cllr S Jarvis
- Investigating the possibility of setting up a monthly Baldock Community Breakfast, similar to Royston's Community Breakfast, bringing the business community together

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