

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



4 September 2024

Our Ref Southern Rural Community Forum 12  
September 2024  
Contact. Community Partnerships Team  
Direct Dial. (01462) 474405  
Email. [community@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:community@north-herts.gov.uk)

To: Members of the Committee: Councillors David Barnard (Chair), Claire Strong (Vice-Chair), Joe Graziano, Dominic Griffiths, Caroline McDonnell, Ralph Muncer, Lisa Nash, Steven Patmore, Louise Peace, Vijaiya Poopalasingham, Paul Ward and Laura Williams

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

to be held in the

**CODICOTE PEACE MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET,  
CODICOTE, SG4 8XE**

On

**THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> 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.  <b>Community Governance Review</b> The Council resolved to commence a Community Governance Review for the whole district which focuses on parish level arrangements.  The first stage of the review is to consult, and the council is inviting residents, parish councils and any interested parties to have their say on current arrangements as well as suggestions for future arrangements via a survey which is open until <b>7 October</b> .  There is a dedicated webpage on the Council's website titled 'Community Governance Review' which includes a link to the survey.  Please can I encourage you to complete the survey. If anyone has any queries regarding the Consultation, please email <a href="mailto:CommunityGovReview@north-herts.gov.uk">CommunityGovReview@north-herts.gov.uk</a>	
<b>3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS</b> To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships.	(Pages 5 - 16)
<b>4. COMMUNITY UPDATE</b> To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team.	(Pages 17 - 18)

**5. PRESENTATION - EVERYONE ACTIVE**

Presentation by Everyone Active on their Active Communities sessions.

**6. WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.

**7. FUTURE COMMUNITY FORUMS**

To discuss topics for future meetings.

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

SOUTHERN RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM  
DATE 12 SEPTEMBER 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 Angels Support Group Hitchin - **£2,232** towards their 1:1 service, providing individualised support for families of children with autism and ADHD.
- 2.4 Groundwork East - **£1,982** towards Wild Play sessions for families, focusing on outdoor learning.
- 2.5 Offley and Stopsley Cricket Club - **£2,214** towards the purchase of bowling machines with auto feeders, a set of additional balls and a mobile cricket cage.

#### 3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Grant base budget for Southern Rural Community Forum 2024/25 is **£16,555**.
- 3.2 No budget has been allocated to date in 2024/25, leaving **£16,555** available to allocate for community grants.

#### 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 Community Grant budget available is **£16,555**.

- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£6,428**.

- 5.3 If the applications outlined in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 are recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, there would be **£10,127** 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 positive environmental implications associated with Groundwork East's grant application. They will be helping the community to gain a better awareness

around collective impacts/responsibilities on the environment, topics will include reducing food miles, recycling green waste etc.

## **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 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. Southern Rural Community Grant Budget 24-25

12.2 Appendix 2. Angels Support Group Hitchin

12.3 Appendix 3. Groundwork East

12.4 Appendix 4. Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club

12.5 Appendix 5. Community Updates

## **13. CONTACT OFFICERS**

### **13.1 Author**

Laura Hartley – Community / Partnerships Officer  
Email: [laura.hartley@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:laura.hartley@north-herts.gov.uk)

### **13.2 Contributors**

Ellie Hollingsworth, Policy and Strategy Officer  
Email: [ellie.hollingsworth@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.hollingsworth@north-herts.gov.uk)

Ian Couper, Service Director: Resources  
Email: [ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk)

Tim Everitt, Performance & Risk Officer  
Email: [tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk)

Antonio Ciampa, Accountancy Manager  
Email: [Antonio.Ciampa@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Antonio.Ciampa@north-herts.gov.uk)

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**SOUTHERN RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2024/25**

<b><u>Original Budget</u></b> <b><u>2024/25</u></b>	<b><u>Carry Forward Budget</u></b> <b><u>2023/24</u></b>	<b><u>Total Funding</u></b> <b><u>2024/25</u></b>	<b><u>Grants</u></b> <b><u>Allocated</u></b>	<b><u>Unallocated</u></b> <b><u>Budget</u></b>
£13,700	£2,855	£16,555	£0	£16,555

**FUNDED PROJECTS**

<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Forum Date</u></b>	<b><u>Grant Allocated</u></b>
<b>TOTAL SOUTHERN RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM</b>		<b>£0</b>

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Appendix 2. Angels Support Group Hitchin

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Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6064		
Name of Organisation	Angels Support Group Hitchin		
Organisation Type	Registered Charity		
Ward	Across Southern Rural area		
Project Type	One-to-one support service		
Green option considered?	/		
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
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes	Yes
Total applied for	£2,232	Total project cost	£3,529
<b>Officer Summary</b>			
<p>Angels Support Group Hitchin provide support and guidance to parents/carers/siblings of children who are diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their associated conditions.</p> <p>Based in Hertfordshire, they provide individualised, professional expertise and advice. They work alongside parents to build understanding of their children’s conditions, their rights, ensuring their needs are met at home, at school, and in the community. Their key aim is to maximise the individual potential of each child and young person.</p> <p>They are applying for funding to part-fund their one-to-one service supporting families for a year providing direct, individualised support via phone calls, emails, zoom meetings and support at meetings with professionals. The method of delivery is determined by the needs of the parents/carers, and it can involve Angels staff attending in-person meetings at schools or with other professionals. The service involves 5 members of staff with specialist training providing weekly support to parents/carers.</p> <p>Last year 415 families received support through one-to-one service, receiving 686 hours of support. 156 of those families were from North Herts and 18 of those were from Southern rural Postcodes.</p> <p>They are contributing £815 through community fundraising and £482 from the National Lottery, Tesco Stronger Starts and Masonic Charitable Foundation.</p> <p><b>Below is a breakdown of the funding they are applying for from the other Community Forums. Costs have been worked out in proportion to how many attendees they expect from each area, based on previous year’s figures.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baldock Community Forum - £1,828</li> <li>• Hitchin Community Forum - £1,940</li> <li>• Letchworth Community Forum - £1,502</li> <li>• Royston Community Forum - £1,063</li> </ul>			

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

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Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6070		
Name of Organisation	Groundwork East		
Organisation Type	Registered Charity		
Ward	Knebworth		
Project Type	Wellbeing project for families		
Green option considered?	/		
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
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes	
Total applied for	£1,982	Total project cost	£1,982
<b>Officer Summary</b>			
<p>Groundwork East takes practical action to create a fair and green future in which people, places, and nature thrive. They support local communities and businesses to build capacity and resilience to tackle hardship, achieve a just transition to net-zero and help nature recover in a way that reduces inequality and leads to better work and healthier, happier lives.</p> <p>They are applying for funding for their Wild Play sessions. These sessions focus on the benefits of outdoor play. Sessions encourage families to take their learning outdoors to get more active as a family, increasing their levels of physical activity and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The courses aim to bring people together, building stronger relationships in and across communities by providing the opportunity for families to come together to learn and play alongside each other, creating a positive peer group and extending community friendship circles. It also aims to strengthen family relationships through confident, exciting play opportunities, encouraging a life-long enjoyment and positive associations with being outdoors.</p> <p>The sessions will take place at Knebworth House, where they have an established partnership and have previously delivered these courses in the grounds. They predict up to 24-36 beneficiaries for each of the 4 sessions.</p> <p><b>Below is a breakdown of the funding they are applying for from the other Community Forums. Costs have been worked out in proportion to how many attendees they expect from each area.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letchworth Community Forum - £2,367</li> <li>• Baldock &amp; District Community Forum - £2,367</li> <li>• Royston Community Forum - £2,367</li> <li>• Hitchin Community Forum - £2,367</li> </ul>			

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## Appendix 4. Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club

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Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0		First Draft (BE)

Reference	6065			
Name of Organisation	Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club			
Organisation Type	Club			
Ward	Offley			
Project Type	Purchase of new equipment			
Green option considered?	/			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None known.			
Previous financial support within six years	/			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	No - awaiting robust safeguarding policy	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£2,214	Total project cost	£4,026	

### Officer Summary

Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club is a vibrant and active community cricket club, serving the local community. The club offers a range of opportunities for people of different ages and abilities.

The club are applying for funding towards the purchase of bowling machines with auto feeders, a set of additional balls and a mobile cricket cage.

As the Cricket club is growing year on year, they are now in a position to add a Junior section for the coming seasons. Having this equipment will not only give better quality training to current players, but it also hopes to attract more players into the club and accommodate the capacity for these additional players.

They are contributing £906 from the club's reserves and £906 has been granted by Offley Parish Council.

They will be looking to promote this project via their social media channels and through the local parish magazine 'The Village Voice'.

**There is an in principle agreement for funding for forum recommendation. The funding will only be released when a robust safeguarding policy had been agreed and is in place**

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## Districtwide Community Updates

- 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.
- The team have a budget of £210,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to use for applications for grant funding of between £5,000 and £20,000. The deadline for applications is midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Successful applicants should receive funding by the end of October, to be spent by end of March 2025.

## Area Community Updates

- Have met with local village halls, groups and Parish Councils to discuss future projects, any internal funding streams and external opportunities to support them.
- Continuing to attend Parish Council meetings to make closer links with the parishes.
- Attended the Hertfordshire Community Transport Virtual Volunteer Fair to learn more about transport and volunteer opportunities locally.
- Welcome to arrange ward walks with Local Councillors to learn more about local groups and issues in their area.

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