

18 June 2024

Our Ref Southern Rural Community Forum 27
June 2024

Contact. Community Partnerships
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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

**ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL, 82 ARLESEY ROAD, ICKLEFORD,
HITCHIN, SG5 3TG**

On

THURSDAY, 27TH JUNE, 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. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS There are no grant applications to consider for recommendation to the Executive Member for Community Partnerships.	(Pages 3 - 10)
4. COMMUNITY UPDATE To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Partnerships Team.	(Pages 11 - 12)
5. PRESENTATION - THE LOCAL PLAN Presentation by the Southern Rural Councillors followed by a Q&A.	
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.	

REPORT (FOR NOTING BY COMMUNITY FORUM)

**SOUTHERN RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM
27 JUNE 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 advise the Forum of the activities and schemes in which Community & Partnerships officers have been involved in and some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months. See appendix 3.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

None

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Grant base budget for Southern Rural Community Forum 2024/25 is **£13,700**.
- 3.2 The grant budget carried over from 2023/24 is **£2,855**.
- 3.3 The budget available for Community Grants for the Southern Rural area stands at **£16,555**.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community Forum (formerly 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 2 and under item 3.3 the Community Grant budget available is **£16, 555**.

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 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 23-24
- 12.2 Appendix 2. Community Forums - Opening Funding 24-25
- 12.3 Appendix 3. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

13.1 Author

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SOUTHERN RURAL 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>
£8,700	£2,231	£10,931	£8,076	£2,855

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
Kimpton Parish Council - refurbishment of Kimpton pavilion	22-Jun-23	£1,000
Offley Parish Council - benches for Offley Recreation Centre	22-Jun-23	£610
Holwell Parish Council - furniture for events	21-Sep-23	£1,928
Resolve - key workers and core service costs	11-Jan-24	£500
Wymondley Parish Council - playground equipment	11-Jan-24	£1,500
St Paul's Walden Nursery - new classroom flooring	14-Mar-24	£2,538
TOTAL SOUTHERN RURAL AREA FORUM		£8,076

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AREA FORUMS

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2024/25

<u>Area Forum</u>	<u>Original Budget 2024/25 *</u>	<u>Carry Forward Budget 2023/24 **</u>	<u>Total Funding 2024/25</u>
Baldock	£10,000	£2,229	£12,229
Hitchin	£16,000	£2,147	£18,147
Letchworth	£16,000	£652	£16,652
Royston	£11,000	£1	£11,001
Southern Rural	£13,700	£2,855	£16,555

* Original budget for each forum includes one-off additional amount of £5,000 for 2024/25.

** Carry forward budget amounts subject to Cabinet approval.

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Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under Delegated Decision the action was made to change the name of Area Forums to Community Forums.• Member inductions have taken place at which the Community Partnerships team introduced themselves to new members.• Dr Bike - North Herts Council received £2,000 from Active Travel England to support people getting back on their bikes. We have partnered with Dr Bike to provide free cycle maintenance at events around North Herts. This is being arranged by Edward Leigh.• Team members worked with North Herts & Stevenage CVS and Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation to successfully deliver the All About Us community conference on 21 May.• 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 – the Police are invited to all 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
<p>Community Partnerships Officer update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to attend Parish Council meetings to make closer links with the parishes, also including Great Ashby Community Council.• Visited Hexton St Faith's Church to learn more about them and advise on grant funding.• Met with Wymondley Community Garden to find out more about the group and local area.• Visited Knebworth Community Library to hear about they connect with the community and what runs in the library.• Attended a Parish, Town and Community Councils' Conference run by Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership. The focus was around 'Live Longer Better' aimed at getting people more active into their later years.

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