

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Publication Date 30/05/2025

Our Ref Baldock and Villages Community Forum
9 June 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. HERTFORDSHIRE SG7 6DH**

On

MONDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2025 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Director – Governance

****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	(Pages 3 - 12)
4.	BIN COLLECTION - WHAT'S CHANGING	
5.	GROWING BALDOCK UPDATE - URBAN & CIVIC	
6.	WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
7.	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team.	
8.	FUTURE COMMUNITY FORUMS To discuss topics for future meetings.	

REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY COMMUNITY FORUM)

BALDOCK AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY FORUM MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: GOVERNANCE

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 Governance (formerly 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 Governance (formerly Community & Partnerships) on the grant applications detailed below.
- 2.3 First Garden Cities Homes - **£1,475** towards the cost of the Venue and the Entertainment at the No Limits Social Club for 8 months.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Grant budget for Baldock Community Forum 2025/26 is **£8,962**, which includes **£362** carried forward from the 2024/25 budget.
- 3.2 Community grant payments totalling **£0** have been made to date, as shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The remaining budget available for community grants for the Baldock area for 2025/26 therefore stands at **£8,962**

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 (now Governance) 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: Governance. 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 **£8,962**.
- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£1,475**
- 5.3 If the application outlined in Appendix 2 is recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Governance (formerly Community & Partnerships), there would be **£7,487** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2025/2026 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 March 2025.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1. Baldock and Villages Community Grant Budget 25-26
- 12.2 Appendix 2. First Garden Cities Homes
- 12.3 Appendix 3. Community Updates

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2025/26

<u>Original Budget</u> <u>2025/26</u>	<u>Carry Forward Budget</u> <u>2024/25</u>	<u>Total Funding</u> <u>2025/26</u>	<u>Grants</u> <u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u> <u>Budget</u>
£8,600	£362	£8,962	£0	£8,962

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
TOTAL BALDOCK AND DISTRICT		£0

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=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6113			
Name of Organisation	First Garden Cities Homes (FGCH) – No Limits Social Club			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Baldock East / Baldock West			
Project Type	Community Engagement and Socialisation for Isolated Residents			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	N/A			
Previous financial support within six years	None			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	No*	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,475.00	Total project cost	£2,505.00	
Officer Summary				

First Garden Cities Homes (FGCH) wish to run a Community Engagement event for 8 months which is aimed at, but not limited to, retired people who may be isolated. It is an afternoon event with refreshments and live music where people can talk, dance and create new connections in their community. Their aim is to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, ability, background, or circumstances, can participate in a safe, secure, and enjoyable environment.

It has previously been running under the name Young at Herts, which was restricted to the over 55's, but is now being expanded to include people of any age. It is a very well run and extremely popular event with between 60 and 100 people in attendance each month.

FGCH are requesting £1,475 towards 8 months of hall hire and the cost of the entertainment, they will be contributing the other £1,030 to enable the events to take place.

To make the project sustainable, they have recently introduced a small charge of £3 per person to build reserves and cover event costs going forward.

The activity provides an affordable and accessible way for those on a low income to socialise and connect with their community.

**There is an in-principal agreement in place. The funding would only be released when a robust safeguarding policy has been received.*

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Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Grants Policy was updated in March 2025. Some changes to be aware of include changes to the minimum amount that can be applied for, the maximum amount that can applied for and that Business Improvement Districts (BID's) can no longer apply as they have access to other funds via UKSPF. Please read the criteria in full on the NHC grants webpage Community grants North Herts Council. • 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
<p>The Community Partnerships Officer Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to attend Parish Council meetings to make closer links with the parishes and local groups. • Visited Young at Herts to discuss their Grant Application and to see their work in progress. • Attended a Body and Soul meeting at Baldock Community Centre to conclude the grant monitoring process. I thoroughly enjoyed my morning with the group who were very welcoming. • Working on the minutes from the Baldock Community Association meeting from 19th May. • Went to the Settle consultation for the possible upgrades to Nightingale Park. • Please feel free to arrange any meetings or ward walks with the Community Partnerships Officer to learn more about local groups and issues in your area.

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