



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

13th March 2026

Our Ref Baldock and Villages Community Forum
23 March 2026
Contact. Community and Partnerships Team
Direct Dial. 01462 474207
Email. community@north-herts.gov.uk

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 LIBRARY, SIMPSON DRIVE, BALDOCK.
HERTFORDSHIRE SG7 6DH**

On

MONDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2026 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Alajooz
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.	OPENING REMARKS	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
3.	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.	
4.	POLICE CRIME DATA STATISTICS PRESENTATION Presentation by Sgt. Champion and Insp. Lant regarding the crime data for Baldock and the Villages.	(Pages 5 - 8)
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Governance. Community Partnership Officer to update members with the current budget information. St. Mary's Ashwell grant application. NHCVS Grant application presented.	(Pages 9 - 14)
6.	OSBOURNE COURT CARE HOME PRESENTATION Presentation by Esher Williams from Osbourne Court Care Home.	
7.	REVIVEL PRESENTATION Presentation by Richard Meredith-Hardy about the work of Revlvel.	
8.	RENTERS' RIGHTS ACT PRESENTATION Presentation by NHC Officer Frank Harrison about the Renters' Rights Act 2025.	
9.	BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE DESIGN CODE: BOLLARDS Councillor A Willoughby to raise a possible change to the town centre design code for Baldock. To be followed by an in principle vote.	

- 10. GROWING BALDOCK Q&A**
The Urban and Civic Team will be available for questions.
- 11. PERSONAL TRAVEL BUDGETS CONSULTATION**
Information regarding the Hertfordshire County Council consultation on Personal Travel Budgets.
- 12. WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**
To receive any verbal reports from Members and questions from members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.
- 13. 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 15 - 16)
- 14. FUTURE COMMUNITY FORUMS**
To discuss topics for future meetings.

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Baldock Area Committee Meeting

23/03/26

Crime Data

Compares 01/04/25 – 09/02/26 with 01/04/24 – 09/02/25

All Crime

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	559	590	-14.8%
Weston & Sandon	77	51	+51%
Arbury	121	113	+7.1%
North Herts	5875	6387	-8%
County	73008	70599	+3.4%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 42.97

Ave Daily Crimes – 19

Burglary Residential - Home

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	10	5	+100%
Weston & Sandon	1	0	+100%
Arbury	1	5	-80%
North Herts	148	149	-0.7%
County	1631	1603	+1.7%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – Not available

Ave Daily Crimes – N/A

Burglary Residential-Unconnected (sheds, etc.)

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	2	1	+100%
Weston & Sandon	0	3	-100%
Arbury	3	8	-62.5%
North Herts	61	50	+22%
County	825	861	-4.2%

No crimes per 1000 of population data available currently

Burglary Business & Community

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	3	10	-70%
Weston & Sandon	5	9	-44.4%
Arbury	3	5	-40%
North Herts	91	96	-5.2%
County	762	902	-15.5%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 0.66

Ave Daily Crimes – 0

Theft From Motor Vehicle

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	11	11	0%
Weston & Sandon	8	1	+700%
Arbury	3	8	-62.5%
North Herts	164	153	+7.2%
County	2303	2372	-2.9%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 1.18

Ave Daily Crimes – 1

Robbery Personal

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	1	2	-100%
Weston & Sandon	1	0	+100%
Arbury	1	1	0%
North Herts	25	42	-40.5%
County	498	640	-22.2%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 0.18

Ave Daily Crimes - 0

Violence Against the Person (Victim Based)

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	273	291	-6.2%
Weston & Sandon	25	21	+19%
Arbury	43	29	+48.3%
North Herts	2466	2666	-7.5%
County	28507	26422	+7.9%

Assaults without Injury = 159 this year. 147 last year

Assaults with Injury = 77 this year. 87 last year.

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 18.09

Ave Daily Crimes - 8

Stalking & Harassment

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	56	73	-23%
Weston & Sandon	6	5	+20%
Arbury	19	13	+46.2%
North Herts	829	875	-5.3%
County	9653	8335	+15.8%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 6.16

Ave Daily Crimes – 3

Criminal Damage/Arson

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	57	67	-15%
Weston & Sandon	12	4	+200%
Arbury	15	8	+87.5%
North Herts	560	582	-3.8%
County	6000	5953	+0.8%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 4.07

Ave Daily Crimes – 2

Shoplifting

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	29	35	-17%
Weston & Sandon	-	-	-
Arbury	5	14	-64.3%
North Herts	462	683	-32.4%
County	7432	8496	-12.5%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 3.39

Ave Daily Crimes – 1

Drugs Possession

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	10	9	+11.1%
Weston & Sandon	1	1	0%
Arbury	1	2	-50%
North Herts	135	121	+11.6%
County	1927	1628	+18.4%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 0.98

Ave Daily Crimes – 0

Public Order

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	24	27	-11.1%
Weston & Sandon	3	4	-25%
Arbury	5	11	-54.5%
North Herts	381	412	-7.5%
County	4823	4555	+5.9%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 2.8

Ave Daily Crimes – 1

Possession of Offensive Weapons

Year	This Year	Last Year	% Change
Baldock	4	4	0%
Weston & Sandon	1	0	+100%
Arbury	0	0	N/A
North Herts	61	45	+35.6%
County	732	623	+17.5%

North Herts

Crimes per 1000 of Population – 0.46

Ave Daily Crimes – 0

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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	£5,495	£3,467

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
First Garden Cities Homes - Venue and entertainment for the No Limits Social Club	18th June 2025	£1,475
Avenue Park Sports and Social Club - resolving issues with plumbing in WC	15th September 2025	£1,020
Weston Luncheon Club - hire of village hall to host the Luncheon Club	15th September 2025	£500
Resolve - key worker staff members who run group therapy and key work sessions	8th December 2025	£1,000
The Rotary Club of Baldock - new, more sustainable Christmas lights for Baldock town centre	8th December 2025	£1,500
TOTAL BALDOCK AND DISTRICT		£5,495

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Appendix 2 – St. Marys Church Ashwell

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	CG-154		
Name of Organisation	St. Marys Church Ashwell		
Organisation Type	Church		
Ward	Arbury		
Project Type	Wellbeing		
Green option considered?	N/A		
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	N/A		
Previous financial support within six years	N/A		
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes	Yes
Total applied for	£1,480	Total project cost	£1,480
Officer Summary,			
<p>St Mary’s Church Ashwell is seeking this grant to ensure the continuation of our much-valued community exercise sessions, formerly supported by the Garden House Hospice HUB scheme.</p> <p>These sessions have become a lifeline for Ashwell residents, and the grant will directly fund a qualified professional instructor to keep them running safely and effectively.</p> <p>A dedicated group of volunteers is stepping forward to run the HUB, and St Mary’s Church is proud to empower them. St. Marys are providing the financial management needed to hold and administer funds securely, overseeing essential safeguarding and DBS requirements, and offering governance support whenever needed.</p>			

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

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=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	CG-257			
Name of Organisation	North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Service Ltd			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward	Arbury, Baldock East, Baldock West, Weston and Sandon			
Project Type	A Volunteer Fair in Baldock Town Centre to support the North Herts Year of Volunteering.			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	N/A			
Previous financial support within six years	Funding agreements from NHC: 21/22 - 20,800 22/23 - £21,216 23/24 - £26,640 (which includes a one off extra £5k for a volunteer conference) 24/25 - £22,073 25/26 - £22,514 NHPF October 2024 - £14,622			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,000	Total project cost	£1,000	
Officer Summary,				
<p>North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Services Ltd (NHCVS) are the only local infrastructure organisation supporting and connecting the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector across our area.</p> <p>Volunteers are one of the quiet forces that make Baldock work, often unseen, but out there in all weathers, 365 days a year, and deeply relied upon. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, VCFSE groups report that volunteering has become harder to sustain and grow, even as demand for their services continues to rise. This reflects a national trend.</p> <p>Therefore, NHCVS are seeking funding towards their Baldock Volunteer Fair in Baldock Town Centre in May or June 2026, which will form part of their 'Year of Volunteering Campaign'.</p> <p>NHCVS are leading the Year of Volunteering Campaign, which will be a 12-month programme running from April 2026 to April 2027, with strategic partners Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and North Hertfordshire Council. This is not a recruitment drive, it is a coordinated, district-wide programme to make volunteering more accessible, flexible and sustainable.</p> <p>Working alongside local groups, the programme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and help reshape volunteering roles to better reflect how people live now 				

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

- Encourage volunteering among under-represented groups, including young people, older people, men, disabled people, families, those from minority backgrounds and new arrivals to Hitchin
- Promote the personal benefits of volunteering, including improved wellbeing, confidence, gaining new skills and social connection

The funds will be used for:

- Venue hire £150
- 3 x 10ft by 3ft street banners £120
- 3 x Pull up roller banners £180
- Flyers and posters £200
- Staff costs £350

In summary, a relatively small investment enables a coordinated, high-visibility intervention that supports multiple organisations simultaneously, building long-term volunteering capacity and contributing to a more resilient community in Baldock.

NHCVS are also applying for £1,500 from the Hitchin Forum and £1,000 from Royston Forum to run similar events in Hitchin and Royston.

Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Herts Heroes Awards judging process is now complete, and the winners have been selected. They will be celebrated at the awards event on Thursday 19 March, where they will be recognised as outstanding individuals who make a positive difference in our local community. • The new Community Grants Application platform launched on 17 November. The application form can be found here Community grants North Herts Council. If councillors or organisations would like any guidance on this, please speak to the Community Partnerships Officer or get in touch with the team via community@north-herts.gov.uk. • There were a huge number of Grants this quarter, possibly a record number, with a total of 27 being presented across all five Community Forums. • We continue to co-ordinate various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and the Green and Growing Group. • We continue 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baldock Community Centre Association have come to an agreement with Baldock Community Centre Association 2025 led by Brent Copsey. The aim is for the running of the Community Centre to transfer to the new group on 1st April 2026. The centre will be renamed the Baldock Community Hub. • Meeting with Osbourne Court Care Home. They are offering a variety of different free groups, meetings and space to the local community. They have also offered to provide free dementia training to our local police officers. • Urban & Civic and I are currently looking for businesses who can attend and provide input to the Growing Baldock Advisory Forum meetings. The meetings are normally online quarterly for one hour. Between us, we have approached many businesses, but whilst they are all interested, none have come forward to commit time to attend the meetings. • Parish Council meeting attendance. I have attended 35 to date @ 9 March 2026, of which 8 have been this year. • I continue to increase my knowledge across the whole District by becoming involved in various Network Groups. • I have attended the Carbon Literacy Course and am working towards becoming accredited. • I attended the Village Halls and Community Building Conference 2026 on 5th March. This year's theme is around Health & Wellbeing for this year's conference. • I am working on a Community Centre project across the whole of North Herts. Aiming to improve communication and sharing of best practices between each of the centres, fostering a culture of supporting each other. • Confirmation to Councillors that I am available for meetings or ward walks if that would be beneficial.

