BALDOCK COMMITTEE
04 OCTOBER 2021

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF: THE POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES: BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets

1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Committee grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations

1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement Officer has been involved in.

1.4 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee be recommended to consider allocating funding from their discretionary community budget towards the project below.

£2538 to Baldock District Guides to assist with costs for replacing the guttering and fascias on the Baldock Guide Hut and adding additional guttering to the porched area as outlined in 8.1.1.

2.2 That the Committee be recommended to endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Baldock.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Officer.

3.2 This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.

3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1. There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However, during debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items included within this report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects

5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place regarding funding proposals for Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 With reference to the Council's Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being. Under the current grant criteria there is no upper limit outlined for grant funding to be allocated which can be decided at the Committee's discretion.

7.2 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1. Baldock Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2021/22. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year, including balances and past expenditure.

7.3 Funding available for the Committee to allocate during 2021/22 is summarised below:

	2020/21 Carry Forward	2021/22 Base Budget	Total Budget
Baldock Town	£2,148	£2,400	£4, 548
Baldock East	£1,142	£1,000	£2,142
Arbury	£60	£900	£960
Weston & Sandon	£357	£700	£1,057
	£3,707	£5,000	£8,707

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

Applicant	**Baldock District Guides**
Project	Funding support to assist with replacement guttering at the Guide Hut on Meeting House Lane, Baldock.
Sum requested	£2,538
Total project cost	£2,688
Match funding	£450 pending from the HCC Locality Budget of Cllr Michael Muir. and Cllr Steve Jarvis has committed £150 from his HCC Locality Budget
Previous support	None
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objective:	Build thriving and resilient communities

The Baldock District Guide group is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Committee to cover costs for all new guttering and fascia boards on the building and additional guttering for the porch area at Meeting House Lane. These works are needed urgently as there is a real danger of leaking leading to flooding and damp issues at the building.

Baldock District Guides is a registered charity. Baldock Guides have been operating from their current venue at Meeting House Lane since the early 1970's. The Committee is made up of 5 Volunteer Committee Members and 13 Volunteers. As well as being a venue for Girl Guiding the building is also used by a Senior Citizens Sewing Club. There are currently 47 girls and 44 adults registered with the Guide Association. This is the

first time that the group has approached the Baldock & District Committee for funding. The group is usually self-sufficient but like most groups they have been affected by the Pandemic which has severely limited opportunities for fundraising. The group has £500 from their reserves that they could use for the project but given the ongoing Pandemic and the uncertainty on what the winter months might bring they are hoping to secure all funding via other sources. They have match funding in place from Councillor Steve Jarvis's HCC Locality Pot and funding pending from Cllr Michael Muir's HCC Locality Budget and potential support from Baldock Rotarians. The Baldock & District Committee has £8707 left to allocate across the remaining meetings of the financial year albeit this application is more applicable to the Baldock Town, Baldock East and Weston and Sandon wards only as Arbury has its own Guide Group. The application is criteria compliant.

8.1.2 **Future Grants**

The Baldock Community Engagement Officer (CEO) has been working with a number of groups / organisations who are seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Committee. Due to several factors these applications were not able to be tabled at the October meeting so have been deferred until a future meeting. Details of the applications are included in the table below:

Group	**Project**	**Funding Requested**
Baldock Run Talk Run	This is a group for people who wish to use running to help with mental health and is part of a bigger family nationwide. Funding is requested for hoodies / t-shirts, marketing initiatives and promotional materials.	The group is looking for £750.
Baldock vs Coronavirus Support Group	This group is seeking to assist those who have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. This might include counselling support, careers advice and financial assistance. This group will provide a crucial service in Baldock in the aftermath of the Pandemic	Funding requested to be confirmed
NESSIE (North Herts Emotional Support in Schools Service)	This group is seeking funding support to provide an urgent counselling service to vulnerable children and families needing support following the latest lockdown. NESSIE is currently	Funding requested is still to be confirmed but will be split between Baldock, Hitchin and Letchworth Committees based on the families being supported within each area. This group has been

	inundated with requests for support in Baldock, Letchworth and Hitchin. This is high-end need where the children have neurodiversity and have experienced trauma.	signposted to the Health Protection Board Covid Recovery Fund by the Baldock Community Engagement Officer. If successful in gaining funding the group will not need to approach the Baldock & District Committee.
Baldock Menopause Group	This group is seeking funding support to assist with room hire costs and publicity costs.	Funding requested is still to be confirmed.
Ashwell Tennis Club	This group is seeking funding support to assist with costs for a new clubhouse. The group will be submitting an application once it has the necessary planning permissions in place. As this is a private club it will not be able to apply for S106 monies.	Funding requested is still to be confirmed.

8.2 Community Engagement Updates

8.2.1 Baldock Big Lunch

The Baldock Big Lunch was due to be held for a ninth time on Sunday 4th July but was unfortunately cancelled just a week before the event due to the ongoing Pandemic and concerns about social distancing.

Following the cancellation of the Baldock Beer Festival and Baldock Festival, this was a huge blow for the Baldock Events Forum and their calendar of events for 2021.

The Baldock Community Engagement Officer (CEO) had been assisting the Baldock Events Forum with the planning for this event and the paperwork as required by the North Herts Safety Advisory Group.

Tickets for the event had sold out which shows how popular this event is for the residents of Baldock.

8.2.2 Baldock Cycle Challenge

After several postponements due to the Pandemic, the Baldock Cycle Challenge was finally held for a ninth time on Sunday 5th September. The Baldock CEO was heavily

involved in this event. As well as co-ordinating the social media publicity for the event, the Baldock CEO was also responsible for the signage of the 60-mile course, organised the ride information packs, liaised with the checkpoint venues and was the marshal co-ordinator on the day. The Baldock CEO was also required to provide urgent marshal assistance at a road closure on event day.

The event was well supported with a record number of 250 riders taking part. As well as being a wonderful community event the event also helped drive footfall for the local businesses in particular the numerous cafes of the town.

8.2.3 Baldock 5km Rat Run

The Baldock Rat Run 5km returned to Baldock for a third time on Sunday 12th September. This event is organised by Samantha Holland form SportsTherapy4U with support from the Baldock Events Forum, North Herts Road Runners and the Baldock CEO. This is a charity event which raises money for the Garden House Hospice.

Pre event support was provided by the Baldock CEO in the form of support with event paperwork for SAG, support with the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order Application (TTRO), Traffic Management (TM) Signage arrangements and the ordering of trophies and medals.

Several days before the event the Baldock CEO was on hand to assist the event organisers with a fly tipping issue and a fallen tree which if not resolved would have prevented the event from taking place. This was a great example of multi-agency partnership working with NHDC's Ground Maintenance Team, NHDC's Enforcement Team, NHDC's Waste Team, Hertfordshire Highways and Urbaser all pulling together at short notice to resolve both issues to ensure the event could be held safely.

The Baldock CEO also provided marshal support on race day. The event was supported by around 170 runners and raised around £1500 for the Garden House Hospice.

8.2.4 Baldock Chartered Street Fair

The Baldock Chartered Street Fair will be returning to Baldock at the start of October. The Fair will pull on to the High Street at midnight on Friday 1st October and will be operating on Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th October.

The Baldock CEO has assisted the organisers with all paperwork required by the North Herts SAG including the Covid-19 Risk Assessment and has also liaised with Herts County Council on the TTRO and TM arrangements for the event.

The Baldock CEO has also organised all the pre-event advanced warning letters for all businesses and residents of the town who will be affected by the Fair's arrival.

On the weeks building up to the Fair the Baldock CEO will be arranging the suspension Notices for the town to ensure vehicles are not left in the town and will also be arranging the removal and storage of any street furniture that needs to be removed to allow the

Fair to set up.

The Baldock CEO will be in attendance on the evening of the 1st October to oversee the arrival of the Fair and to liaise with the Traffic Management Company to ensure all runs smoothly. The Baldock CEO will organise the Safety walk round of the fair with the Police and other emergency services prior to the event opening to the public on 2nd October.

8.2.5 Future Events for 2021

The Baldock CEO will continue to work with the Baldock Events Forum and other organisations with their planned events for the remainder of 2021. Support will include advice with event paperwork, support with Event Plan documentation, that is required by North Herts SAG and support with the set up and take down of events as required. Detailed in the table below are the current dates for events planned in 2021.

Date	Event
Saturday 2nd to Monday 4th October	Baldock Chartered Street Fair
Sunday 31st October	Baldock Beast Half Marathon
Sunday 7th November	Baldock Community Fireworks
Saturday 4th December	Baldock Christmas Fayre

8.2.6 Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre

The Baldock CEO continues to liaise and support staff at Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre with the Phase 2 works at the building. At the various stages of the works the Baldock CEO will arrange the release of funds as part of the buildings full repairing lease arrangement. Phase 2 of the project is due to be completed by 2023. The new flooring for the first floor has now been completed. The next project for the group under Phase 2 is to address penetrating damp on the walls in the main Hall and Gallery. The group is currently seeking quotes for the works and it is envisaged that the works will be carried out in January 2022. The group is also looking to replicate the old Fire Station Doors. They have already received advice on this from a Structural Engineer and will seek Landlord consent from NHDC. The Baldock CEO will assist the group to identify funding streams for this project.

8.2.7 Ashwell Recreation Ground

The Baldock CEO is assisting Ashwell Parish Council to find funding for new play equipment for the recreation ground. The Baldock CEO has identified £26k from S106 Play Space that can be utilised for this project. The Baldock CEO will be meeting with the Parish Council in the coming months to move this project forward.

8.3 **Highways Matters**

8.3.1 This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

8.3.2 Any new proposals or revised schemes will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Sections 9.8.1 (a) and 9.8.1 (b) of the Council's Constitution in respect of the Area Committees' Terms of Reference, notes the following:- To allocate discretionary budgets within the terms determined by the Council and to allocate devolved budgets and activities within the terms determined by the Council. This is outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in January 2020. Section 9.8.2 (h) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference notes that they may:- Establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities.

9.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything provided that it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.

9.3 Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 Committee budget 2020/21.

10.2 The agreed base budget for this financial year is £5,000. Combined with the carry forward amounts from the 2019/20 financial year, the Committee has £8,707 left to allocate across the 3 remaining meetings.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, 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.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1. 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.

12.2. Area committee funding is 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.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix 1 - 2020/21 financial year budget sheet.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

17.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins, Community Engagement Officer for Baldock & Royston
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk ext.4225

Contributors: Reuben Ayavoo, Policy & Community Engagement Manager
Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4212

Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant
Email: Anne.Miller@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4374

Yvette Roberts, Legal Officer
Email: Yvette.roberts@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4310

Joanna Keshishian , HR Operations Manager
Email: jo.keshishian@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4314

Tim Everitt, Performance & Risk Officer
Email: tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4646

Georgina Chapman, Policy Officer
Email: georgina.chapman@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4121

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.

18. 2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet February 2020.