

BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE 5 MARCH 2018
--

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
----------------------------------	--

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES MANAGER
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING / PROSPER AND PROTECT / RESPONSIVE
AND EFFICIENT**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy approved by Cabinet on June 14th 2016.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.
- 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 considers Grant Award of £1,500 to Baldock Community Forum CIC to help towards the costs of equipment as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee consider Grant Award of £500 to Wallington Village Hall to help toward the costs of equipment as detailed in 8.1.2.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £1,500 to Weston Cricket Club to help toward the costs of equipment as detailed in 8.1.3.
- 2.4 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £500 to Sandon Cricket Club to help toward the costs of equipment as detailed in 8.1.4.
- 2.5 That any unspent funds from the 2017/18 financial year be allocated to Community Initiatives.
- 2.6 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community 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 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 June 2016.
- 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 Corporate 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 in the course of 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 with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

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

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 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 2017/18.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years, including balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated and unallocated Area Capital Visioning Budgets available to the Committee.

7.3 Funding remaining for the Committee to allocate in the 2017/18 is summarised below:

	2016/17 Carry Forward	2017/18 Base Budget	Total
Baldock Town	£867	£4,300	£5,167
Baldock East	£954	£1,600	£2,554
Arbury	£0	1,477	£1,207
Weston & Sandon	£678	1,200	£1,878

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Update on Community Engagement & Grant Request

8.1.1 Baldock Community Forum CIC

The Baldock Community Forum is seeking financial support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of essential equipment to enable them to carry out their annual calendar of events. Equipment required includes 4 gazebos and 25 barrier fences. The group is requesting £1,500 against an overall project cost of £2k.

The Baldock Community Forum, trading as the Baldock Events Forum was set up in May 2017. The group is an unregistered charity that is made up of 3 directors, 2 event coordinators and 30 advisors. The group was set up to carry on the events previously carried out by the Baldock Town Partnership, including the Baldock Big Lunch, Baldock Beast Half Marathon, Baldock Cycle Challenge and the Baldock Christmas weekend. The equipment the group wishes to purchase will not only help with the events carried out by the Baldock Community Forum but also the other events in the town and indeed within the Baldock & District area. The application is criteria compliant and the recommendation is £1.5k. It should be noted that the group has received some funding from NHDC to assist with the set up of the group. However it should be stressed that this funding will allow for the purchase of equipment that will benefit many other groups and events within the area and not just the Baldock Community Forum.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

This organisation has not received an NHDC grant in the last five years.

8.1.2 Wallington Village Hall

Wallington Village Hall is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of additional bark chippings for the play area at Wallington Village Hall, as recommended by their recent ROSPA report. The group is requesting £500 against an overall project cost of £635.

Wallington Village Hall is a registered charity which has been operating since 1964. The group is made up of 8 Committee members and 10 volunteers. The village hall is well used for Community events, social evenings, parish council meetings, parties etc. The outside area, namely the play area is well used by the children of the village. The bark was last replaced in 2011 and for health and safety grounds it has been recommended by ROSPA for it to be replaced. The application is criteria compliant.

This organisation receives £1,286 as a Community Amateur Sports Club.

In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:
09/05/2012 Funding support for Street Party as part of Jubilee Party.. £100

Total awards: £100.

8.1.3 Weston Cricket Club

Weston Cricket Club is seeking funding support from Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of a mower to allow for the better maintenance of the pitch. The group is requesting £1,500 against an overall project cost of £3k.

Weston Cricket Club is a Community Amateur Sports Club which has been operating since 1953. The group is made of 6 Committee members. The group is looking to purchase a new mower and take on the responsibility of maintaining the cricket pitch. The group currently pay a contractor £1,500 annually for this service. The club hosts between 40-50 matches annually and has users of all age ranges from both Weston and the surrounding villages. The application is criteria compliant and this is the first Grant Award the group has received since 2011.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

This organisation has not received an NHDC grant in the last five years.

Total awards: £0.

8.1.4 Sandon Cricket Club

Sandon Strollers Cricket Club is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of a new bowling machine, a mower for the cricket table and also to connect a water supply to the table. The group is requesting £500 against an overall project cost of £1,050.

Sandon Strollers Cricket Club has been running since 1985 and serves the villages of Wallington, Sandon and Rushden. It is a friendly club that plays competitive matches against other local clubs within a 20 mile radius of the village on Sundays during the cricket season. The club also holds regular family inclusive matches including the annual Father vs Sons match on Fathers Day. The equipment will help improve the pitch and will also help attract new members. The application is criteria compliant.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:
07/12/2015 replacement of cricket net surface and run up, £500

Total awards: £500.

8.1.5 St George's Day Parade

The Baldock CO is assisting Baldock Scouts with plans for their St George's Day Parade on 22nd April. Support includes assistance with the TCPA application and Traffic Management arrangements for the day. The Parade will see the Scouts march from Tesco's, down the High Street onto White Horse Street and into the church from Sun Street.

8.1.6 Sports Therapy 4 U Charity 5km run

The Baldock CO is assisting Sports Therapy 4 U with plans for a 5km run which will be held in Baldock in September. The event is being organised by the business as part of its 10 years of operation celebrations. The race will start and finish on the grassed area of Whitehorse Street. The Baldock CO is providing advice on the course route and will assist the organisers with the necessary event paperwork as well as providing marshal support on race day.

8.1.7 Baldock Beast Half Marathon

The Baldock CO is providing event planning support to the Baldock Events Forum for the upcoming Baldock Beast Half Marathon event which will be held for the seventh time on Sunday 25th February. Support has included help with SAG paperwork, and publicity support. The Baldock CO will also provide marshal support on the day.

8.1.8 Baldock Festival

The Baldock CO is providing event support to the Baldock Festival Committee including support with licence applications, parking arrangements and paperwork as required by SAG. The Baldock CO will also provide publicity support for the festival and marshal support at the Street Festival on Saturday 19th May.

8.2 **Highways Matters**

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.

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 Section 9.8.2 (g) of Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference provides 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". The Area Committees also have delegated power under section 9.8.1 (a) & (b) to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.

9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-

- An individual may generally do
- Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.

- 9.3 Section 137 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 All Area Committees saw a 55% decrease in funding in the 2016/17 financial year. There are 4 meetings in the 2017/18 Committee cycle and members must ensure that sufficient funding is available for all meetings.
- 10.2 In 2017/18 the Baldock & District Area Committee has an overall budget of £8,600, which is split as follows – Baldock Town £4,300, Baldock East £1,600, Arbury £1,500 and Weston & Sandon £1,200.
- 10.3 As detailed in 7.3 above, members have carry forward from the 2016/17 financial year. Members are asked to spend from their carry forward prior to allocating from the 2017/18 base budgets.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Performance, 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 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

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

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - 2017/18 financial year budget sheet

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 16.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins Community Officer
Email: ashley.hawkins@north-herts.gov.uk

- 16.2 Contributors: Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant
Email: anne.miller@north-herts.gov.uk

Kerry Shorrocks, Corporate Human Resources Manager
Email: Kerry.shorrocks@north-herts.gov.uk

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

Reuben Ayavoo, Senior Policy Officer
Email: reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

Jeanette Thompson, Acting Corporate Legal Manager & Monitoring Officer
Email: jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 17.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.