

**North Herts Council
BALDOCK AREA FORUM**

Meeting held on Zoom – Monday, 15 January at 7:30pm

NOTES

Present:

Cllr Tom Tyson (Chair), Cllr Alistair Willoughby (Vice Chair), Cllr Steve Jarvis.

In Attendance:

*Danny Pearson (DP) (Community and Partnerships Team Officer) –
Aimee Flack (AF) Technical Support (Community and Partnerships
Officer)*

Also present:

*At the commencement of the meeting there was 1 member of the
public, and 4 registered speakers.*

Meeting Started at **7:33pm**

1. Chair's Announcements

Cllr Tom Tyson welcomed everyone in attendance.

- Highlighted that it's an informal, inclusive meeting to share ideas.
- Members were reminded they are making recommendations and not decisions for grant applications.
- Highlighted that in accordance with Council policy the meeting was being recorded. The recording would be available both on the Council's YouTube channel, as well as on the Council's ModGov site alongside the documents from this meeting.

Apologies for absence: *NONE*

2. Public Participation – Grants

Danny Pearson, the Community and Partnership Officer, updated Members of community grant budgets.

Cllr Alistair Willoughby announced that as NHC Executive Member for Community and Partnerships he would be unable to vote.

Home-start Herts – Suzy Moody presented.

Home-start Herts asked for **£2,060** for funding towards allowing them to support a family currently waiting for support in Baldock, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support. Home-Start Hertfordshire are engaged with 21 families across North Hertfordshire. 14 are receiving active support and a further 7 have had their initial assessment and are waiting for support to commence. One of the families waiting for support is located in Baldock. With this funding they would be able to support the family currently waiting for support in Baldock, with weekly, 1:1 home-visiting support.

They are also applying for funds from the Letchworth and Hitchin Area Forums.

Proposed by Cllr Tom Tyson and seconded Cllr Steve Jarvis.

Unanimous vote in favour of providing £2,060 to Home-start Herts.

Cllr Tom Tyson thanked Suzy Moody for the presentation.

Resolve – Laura Hyde presented.

Resolve asked for **£1,500** for funding towards the costs of their key workers who take group therapy sessions and individual casework; acupuncture and counselling therapy costs and operational running costs including IT and premises costs.

Resolve supports the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from substance / alcohol misuse problems. Resolve's primary aim is to assist clients to move to a manageable positive lifestyle, contributing to and enhancing the communities within which they live.

They operate from Welwyn Garden City and Letchworth Garden City and clients come from many areas of Hertfordshire.

They are also applying for funds from the Letchworth, Royston, and Hitchin Area Forums.

Proposed by Cllr Tom Tyson and seconded Cllr Steve Jarvis.

Unanimous vote in favour of providing £1,500 to Resolve.

Cllr Tom Tyson thanked Laura Hyde for the presentation.

3. Information Note: Grants & Community Update

Danny Pearson, Community and Partnerships Team Officer, gave a presentation on the Community Update. Most of which can be seen in the report. These included:

Districtwide Community Updates

- The Community Investment Fund has now closed. There was an oversubscription of three times the amount of allocated funds available, with those scoring highest from initial assessment progressing to recommendation by the panel on 18 January 2024.
- Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.
- Launch of the North Herts Heroes awards, nominations close 7th January. The Awards ceremony will take place at the Chair's Civic event on Friday 1st March.
- Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.
- 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.
- A reshuffle of the Community Partnerships team in October means that some officers now cover different areas.
- Holocaust Memorial Day is on 27 January 2024. North Herts Council are holding an event to mark the day on Friday 26 January 2024 at 1pm. This will be a hybrid event that can be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel or attended in person. If you would like to attend, please email the Community Partnership Team for more details.
- Worked with Hitchin Rotary Club to help successfully deliver the Youth Showcase event.
- The Community Partnership Team worked with The Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to help deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day event.

Area Community Updates

- Ward walk with Cllr Alistair Willoughby & local police officer.
- Working with the Baldock Community Centre.
- Working with settle as they plan for works on Nightingale Park.
- Working with the Church Street businesses to reinstate a missing tree.
- Meeting with Baldock Events Forum, Nightingale Park Wildlife Garden, Baldock Library amongst other groups/ organisations in the new year.

Cllr Tom Tyson thanked the Officer for the presentation and acknowledged the hard work the Community and Partnerships team were doing.

4. Presentations

PRESENTATION – Growing Baldock (Urban&Civic)

Presentation from Paul Mumford and Rebecca Smith from Growing Baldock (Urban&Civic) followed by Q&A.

A very full and informative presentation was given through slides and verbal updates.

There were various questions from Cllrs. These included questions about roads, traffic, farmland, playing fields, the area around, and access to, the train station and the prospect of a new school or an extension of the current school. Paul was able to give extra information and answered the Cllrs questions.

The presentation is available on slides and can be circulated amongst the Cllrs. The slides are available upon request: Community@north-herts.gov.uk

Questions from the public: None

Cllr Tom Tyson thanked Growing Baldock (Urban&Civic) for the presentation.

5. Open Discussion

No questions or general issues were raised.

WARD MEMBERS UPDATES

No updates from Cllrs.

6. Topics for future Baldock Area Forums

It was noted that the police have been invited to give their yearly update at the next Area Forum. Discussions ongoing about if the meeting should be in person or not. Noted that Cllrs would like crime figures for all Baldock and the surrounding villages.

Cllrs also wanted to explore inviting Hertfordshire Growth Board to a future meeting.

If there are any further thoughts from Cllrs, then they will discuss and send ideas to the Chair. The Chair will then bring these to the Community & Partnerships team ASAP.

Meeting closed 9.13pm