

<b>Districtwide Community Updates</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under Delegated Decision the action was made to change Area Forums to Community Forums.</li><li>• Member inductions have taken place where the Community &amp; Partnerships team had the opportunity to introduce themselves to new members.</li><li>• Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.</li><li>• Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.</li><li>• Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.</li><li>• Police are invited to all NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.</li><li>• Sharing and disseminating information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory, and non-statutory agencies.</li><li>• Team members are working with North Herts &amp; Stevenage CVS and Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation to deliver the 'All About Us' community conference.</li></ul>
<b>Area Community Updates</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Home Office contract with the Villare Hotel on Sun Street ended in April and is no longer being used to house Asylum Seekers. Most of the residents have been moved to other areas prior to its closure and a few have moved to the Needham House Hotel.</li><li>• The Hitchin Churches Together, Herts Welcomes Refugees, NHMEF and Hitchin Pantry continue to support Asylum Seekers at Needham House.</li><li>• Due to the success of last year's Youth Showcase event, Hitchin Rotary Club are delivering a second Youth Showcase event in Hitchin Market Place, in consultation with Community Partnerships Officers.</li><li>• Hitchin Eco Fest – North Herts Council had a stall where a number of Members attended it throughout the day, with assistance from Officers to set up and pack down.</li><li>• Dr Bike - North Herts Council received £2,000 from Active Travel England to support people getting back on their bikes. We have partnered with Dr Bike (Mark Nash, a Hitchin resident) to provide free cycle maintenance at events around North Herts, including in Hitchin at the Eco Day on Saturday 11 May and at the Hitchin Bike Day on Saturday 25 May. We are also preparing a voucher scheme to enable residents to get a heavily subsidised home visit from Dr Bike. This should help people who have a bike that maybe isn't roadworthy but can't easily bring it into town for a service.</li><li>• Community Partnerships Officer update: Met with the Westmill Police Community Support Officer to discuss their potential grant funding idea. Introductory meeting with fundraiser at St Mary's Church, to learn about the Church's fundraising needs. Meeting catch-up with The Triangle Community garden to discuss current projects and needs.</li></ul>