

<b>Districtwide Community Updates</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.</li> <li>• Police support at all NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries has been arranged.</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>• Due to the huge success of last year's Youth Showcase event, we are again working with Hitchin Rotary Club to help deliver a second Youth Showcase event in Hitchin.</li> <li>• Letchworth has achieved 'Bee Friendly' status with the work done by our contractors John O'Conner's. The bee corridor can now be extended into other towns.</li> <li>• The Community Partnerships Team Leader has been working with the Save Club 85 Steering Group to continue the operations of Club 85, a live music venue on Whinbush Road in Hitchin. The building's owner needs to sell, and the group has explored renting or purchasing a new location. However, purchasing the current building is the most practical option. After negotiations, the owner has agreed to sell to Club 85 if they can raise the funds. The group plans to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) with shareholders to enable community ownership of the building. They have started an initial fund to cover professional legal advice for setting up a not-for-profit company with robust governance which will facilitate the application to large-scale funding pots. They will also look to engage a professional fundraiser to apply for suitable project funding. The group has successfully raised around £10,000 and will soon establish the CIC to raise the £2 million needed to purchase the building.</li> <li>• The team have a budget of £210,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to use for applications for grant funding of between £5,000 and £20,000. The deadline for applications is midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Successful applicants should receive funding by the end of October, to be spent by end of March 2025.</li> <li>• Working with SAG and town centre managers preparing for the Farmer's Christmas Lights Tractor Tour 2024.</li> <li>• Working with the Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day parade 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>Area Community Updates</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions around Baldock Community Centre as the lease of centre has reached its contractual expiry date.</li> <li>• Promoting the Healthy Hub teams activities taking place in Baldock.</li> <li>• Working with Growing Baldock/ Urban &amp; Civic towards setting up a new Strategy Group.</li> <li>• Potentially forming a new NHDC Baldock Network Group.</li> <li>• Working with the Living Theatre company to see if they can deliver workshops to Baldock schools.</li> <li>• Supporting the Baldock Beats Waste event.</li> <li>• Ward walks with new Local Councillors to be arranged.</li> </ul>