

**BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE
3 SEPTEMBER 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

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 £1,000 to Baldock Crusaders Netball Club to help towards the costs of equipment and coaching as detailed in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £800 to Saracens Cricket Club to help towards equipment and training costs as detailed in 8.1.2.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £750 to Baldock Town Cricket Club to help towards equipment and coaching costs as detailed in 8.1.3.
- 2.4 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £154 to Royal British Legion (Baldock Branch) to help towards the costs of equipment including a gazebo and a banner as detailed in 8.1.4.

- 2.5 That the Committee considers Grant Award of £740 to North Herts Multiple Sclerosis Society to help towards the cost of a new exercise bike as detailed in 8.1.5.
- 2.6 That the Committee considers the allocation of £200 for the renewal of the Union flag permanently flown on the High Street as detailed in 8.1.6
- 2.7 That the Committee allocates funding in the first instance from underspent budgets from the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.8 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 2018/19.
- 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 Budgets available to the Committee.
- 7.3 Funding remaining for the Committee to allocate in the 2018/19 is summarised below:

	2017/18 Carry Forward	2018/19 Base Budget	Total
Baldock Town	£2,070	£3,400*	£5,470
Baldock East	£1,604	£1,400*	£3,004
Arbury	£806	£1,200*	£2,006
Weston & Sandon	£0	£440*	£440

**Includes transfer of member allowances – Baldock Town £400 / Baldock East £200 / Arbury £100 / Weston & Sandon £100.*

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Requests

8.1.1 Applicant	Baldock Crusaders Netball Club
Project	Assist with equipment and coaching costs
Sum requested	£1,000
Total project cost	£2,820
Match funding	£1,570 from the Club's own funds
Annual expenditure	£8,770.23
Funds held	£5,558.97
Previous support	£1,000 to help with the expansion of the club Nov 2011 £500 assist with equipment & coaching fees March 2015
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Baldock Crusaders Netball Club is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with costs for setting up a new youth team at the club. Funding will go towards coaching & equipment costs. Baldock Crusaders already has a successful Youth Team but due to increased interest it is necessary to set up an additional team.

Baldock Crusaders Netball Club has been running since 2004. It is a very successful club which offers both Senior and junior netball.

The application is criteria compliant and the group is putting in substantial match funding.

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

8.1.2	Applicant	Saracens Cricket Club
	Project	Assist with equipment and training costs.
	Sum requested	£800
	Total project cost	£3,175
	Match funding:	£2,600 own funds and fundraising initiatives
	Annual expenditure	£1,791.15
	Funds held	£2112.51
	Previous support	£500 assist with coaching & equipment costs May 2012 £500 general funding support March 2015
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Saracens Cricket Club is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of new equipment and training costs for new members.

Saracens Cricket Club was set up in 1929 and currently consists of 10 Committee Members and 12 volunteers. Saracens Cricket Club is one of a very few local wandering sides who don't play league cricket but instead provide the opportunity for people (men, women and young people) to play commitment free cricket for fun with no ability trials or financial ties. 90% of the current members of the club come from Baldock and the surrounding villages.

The application is criteria compliant and the club has match funding in place.

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

8.1.3	Applicant	Baldock Cricket Club
	Project	Assist with equipment & coaching costs for junior section
	Sum requested	£750
	Total project cost	£1,250
	Match funding	£500 Club's own funds
	Annual expenditure	£8,903
	Funds held	£10,844
	Previous support	£1,500 refurbishment of changing & shower rooms
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

Baldock Cricket Club is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with equipment and coaching costs for its junior cricket section.

Baldock Cricket Club has been operating since 1879 and is made up of 8 Committee Members who are all volunteers. The funding requested is for the junior cricket section and will enable the club to purchase new equipment and to pay for coaches to enable professional training for the youth members.

The application is criteria compliant and the club has match funding in place.

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

8.1.4	Applicant	Royal British Legion – Baldock & District Area
	Project	Purchase of a new gazebo and banner
	Sum requested	£220
	Total project cost	£220
	Match funding	£0
	Annual expenditure	tbc
	Funds held	tbc
	Previous support	£400 new British Legion Flag
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Prosper & Protect

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

The Royal British Legion is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Area Committee to assist with the purchase of a new gazebo and banner which will be used at events throughout the year.

It should be noted that the group is seeking the full funding for the equipment and not providing any match funding. In line with the grants criteria, officers are only allowed to recommend funding up to 70% of the total project cost. In light of this, the officer recommendation is for an award of £154.

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

8.1.5	Applicant	North Herts Multiple Sclerosis Society
	Project	Purchase of a specialist exercise bicycle
	Sum requested	£740
	Total project cost	£12,720
	Match funding	£8,000
	Annual expenditure	£26,964.44
	Funds held	£26,568.13
	Previous support	None
	NHDC Policy met	Yes
	Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect

North Herts MS Society is requesting £740 towards the total of £4,480 cost of a specialist exercise bicycle.

The group are trying to raise £12,720 towards a range of physiotherapy methods for the group who meet weekly at Hadleigh a sheltered housing scheme in Letchworth.

Their members are drawn from across North Herts District to attend and undertake activities such as Neuro Physiotherapy, Pilates and Occupational Therapy. The addition of the specialist exercise bicycle will be a huge help to their members' health and wellbeing enabling them to stay stronger for as long as possible when living with a condition such as MS.

The group have fundraised £8,000 towards these activities but are requesting that NHDC provide the necessary funding to purchase the exercise bicycle.

As their members attend from all areas of North Herts officers have split this grant by a per capita percentage and the sums being requested from each Area Committee are:

Hitchin	£1,500
Letchworth	£1,500
Baldock & District	£740
Royston & District	£740

A contribution from the Southern Rural Area Committee is not being requested as very few people attend from that area.

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

This organisation has never received an NHDC grant in the past.

8.1.6 Renewal of Union Flag on Baldock High Street

Members are asked to consider the allocation of £200 from the Committee's budget towards the renewal of the Union Flag which is permanently flown on the High Street, as the current flag has become faded and extremely frayed.

At the time of compiling this report officers were procuring quotes and seeking a replacement which might be more substantial and have greater longevity.

8.2 **Update on Community Engagement Initiatives**

8.2.1 Baldock Cycle Challenge

The Baldock Cycle Challenge was held for a 6th time on Sunday 15th July. The Baldock CO provided full event management support for the event. The event was supported by 180 riders and passed without incident.

8.2.2 Sports Therapy 4 U Charity 5km Run

The Baldock CO continues to support Sports Therapy 4 U with plans for a 5km run which will be held for the first time in Baldock on Sunday 9th 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 and will be called the Baldock 5km Rat Run.

The Baldock CO is providing advice on the course route and continues to liaise with colleagues in Highways and Police regarding the road closure requirements.

8.2.3 Baldock Fair

The Baldock Fair will be returning to Baldock High Street and Whitehorse Street in October, operating on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th October.

The Baldock CO has drafted the required paperwork for the TTRO and has submitted this to Highways for processing and has circulated all necessary event paperwork to the North Herts Safety Advisory Group.

The Baldock CO will be helping with the event paperwork and will be assisting with Traffic Management arrangements and publicising the event to the households and businesses of the town.

The Baldock CO and Community Manager will also assist and oversee the removal of street furniture prior to the fairs arrival and will be attendance to oversee the Fair pulling onto Baldock High Street at midnight on 1st October.

8.2.4 Baldock Community Fireworks

The Baldock Community Fireworks event will be returning to Hartsfield School for a sixth time on Saturday 20th October. The Baldock CO will assist the event organisers with the planning of the event and will also provide marshal support at the fireworks.

8.2.5 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

The Baldock Community Officer & Communities Manager have worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available.

Sandon School Friends of Group

- As well as assisting the friends of group to find external funding to enhance the outside sporting & play provision at the school, officers have also received confirmation from the Parish Council that it fully supports the utilisation of developer contributions funds collated under Pitch Sports & Play Space to go towards the scheme of works. Officers will formally seek authority from colleagues in the Planning Team to potentially assign such funds over to the scheme.

Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre

- The Management Committee at the BH&C plans to refurbish and reconfigure the majority of the ground floor of the former Town Hall Building utilising funding via a number of sources including a Capital Projects Grant from the Authority, Phase 2 improvement works capital funds and some developer contributions assigned to DDA works which are to be encompassed within the overall enhancements.

Baldock Community Centre

- As with the Arts & Heritage, the Management Committee at the Community Centre is seeking to refurbish the foyer and toilet area possibly next summer. Community Officers will assist & advise the project team in securing appropriate funding for the scheme as well as procuring project plans & specification costings in order for the works to be tendered out.

Ashwell Parish Council

- Officers have met with the Parish Clerk & Vice Chair to run through possible schemes likely to be able to make a call on collated developer contributions collated for the Ashwell area.

- The main project the PC is considering relates to significant enhancements of the toilet facilities on the recreation ground. At present approximately £40k of developer contributions have been assigned to such works and officers have suggested that the PC submits a grant application to the next round of the Community Facilities Capital Projects Fund schedule for later in the year.

Graveley Parish Council

- Officers are assisting the Parish Council re the potential utilisation of collated developer funds re enhancements to the Cricket Pavilion and provision of a new Scoreboard.

If members have any projects in mind which may potentially benefit from utilising capital funds derived via the Planning process please contact the Communities Officer to investigate further possibilities.

The Communities Team is also collating a database of future requirements in terms of community need across the District in preparation & response to potential developments arising from the Local Plan.

Such perceived need will be communicated to planning officers to assist when negotiating any new planning obligation with prospective developers. Similarly, if members have any suggestions of suitable projects or possible future requirements within their wards please inform the Communities Officer.

8.3 **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 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. Section 9.8.2 (g) of the 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".
- 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 In 2018/19 the Baldock & District Area Committee has an overall budget of £6,200, which is split as follows –

Baldock Town £3,000
Baldock East £1,200
Arbury £1,100
Weston & Sandon £900

- 10.2 The Baldock & District Area Committee has carried over budget of £6,349 from 2017/18 which is split as follows –

Baldock Town £3,269
Baldock East £1,983
Arbury £1,097

- 10.3 Members are asked to consider utilising any carry forward funds prior to allocating awards from the 2018/19 base budget.

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 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate a positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between all members of the community. ..

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 – Budget Sheet 2017/18

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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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.