

BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE
27 JANUARY 2020

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF: THE *POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER*

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**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 Committee be recommended to make a Grant Award of £2,200 to Baldock Town Youth Football Club to assist with costs for new equipment for the club including kits, goal posts, footballs, bibs, cones, tables and gazebos.
- 2.2 Committee be recommended to make a Grant Award of £1,750 to Ashwell Play Group to assist with venue hire and publicity costs.
- 2.3 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Engagement 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 With reference to the Council's Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being. Under the current grant criteria there is no upper limit outlined for the amount of grant funding to be allocated which can be decided at the Committee's discretion.
- 7.2 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A. Baldock Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2019/20. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the 2018/19 financial years, including balances and past expenditure.

- 7.3 Funding available for the Committee to allocate for the remainder of 2019/20 is summarised below:

	2018/19 Carry Forward	2019/20 Base Budget	Total Budget
Baldock Town	£0	£1,455	£1,455
Baldock East	£0	£676	£676
Arbury	£0	£660	£660
Weston & Sandon	£0	£679	£679
			£3,470

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

Applicant	Baldock Town Youth Football Club
Project	Funding support to assist with purchase of equipment
Sum requested	£2,200
Total project cost	£46,397
Match funding	£34,350 team registration fees and sponsorship
Annual expenditure	£47,000
Funds held	£10,020.93
Previous support	£1000 granted in 2014.. Total of £1,000 in last 5 years.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving

Baldock Town Youth Football Club is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Committee to assist with costs for running the club. These include kit costs, equipment costs (new goals, balls, training bibs, cones) and the purchase of gazebos for use at tournaments and fundraising events.

Baldock Town Youth Football Club has been operating since 1988 and is made up of 5 Volunteer Committee Members and 24+ unpaid volunteers. The Club has teams from under 5s to Under 18s and has more than 250 players. The club last applied for funding support in 2014. The application is criteria compliant. The application is for £2,200 but the most the officer can recommend is £1,500. Members should note that the Committee only has £3,470 left to allocate across the Jan and March 2020 meetings.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC. In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:
01/12/2014 Funding support for survey and design drawings for "The Shed" project, £1,000.

8.1.2

Applicant Project	Ashwell Playgroup Funding support to assist with venue hire and publicity costs
Sum requested	£1,750
Total project cost	£5,315
Match funding	£3,500 via fundraising
Annual expenditure	£40,195
Funds held	£15,685 (£6k held for redundancies & wind up costs)
Previous support	£500 in 2016 for the purchase of equipment
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Strategic objective met	Attractive & Thriving

Ashwell Playgroup is seeking funding support from the Baldock & District Committee to assist with annual venue hire costs and publicity costs.

Ashwell Playgroup is a registered charity and has been operating since 1975. The group is made up of 6 Volunteer Committee Members, 2 full time paid staff and 2 part time paid staff. The group currently provides provision for 16 children with children on average attending 2 sessions a week. The group, through publicity is looking to increase its numbers from 16 to 20 and increase the number of sessions it provides from 6 to 10 a week. Currently all the children at the playgroup are residents of Ashwell but the group is keen to attract new members from Baldock and the surrounding villages. The application is criteria compliant. The application is for £1,750 but the most the officer can recommend is £1,500. Members should note that the Committee only has £3,470 left to allocate across the Jan and March 2020 meetings.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC. In the last five years, this organisation has received the following awards:
07/03/2016 purchase of replacement 'early learning' equipment, £500
Total awards: £500.

8.2 Community Engagement Updates

8.2.1 Baldock Fair

The Baldock Fair returned to Baldock High Street and Whitehorse Street in October, trading on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th October. The Baldock Community Engagement Officer (CEO) provided support both in the planning and the implementation of the event.

The Fair was once again well supported by the residents of Baldock and passed without incident.

8.2.7 Baldock Community Fireworks

The Baldock Community Fireworks was held for the first time at St Marys School on Saturday 9th November. The event was co-ordinated by the St Marys School PTA with support from the Baldock Events Forum, Tapps Garden Centre and the Baldock CEO.

Despite atrocious weather on the night of the event, the firework display was well supported with more than 1500 spectators attending the show.

As well as being a fantastic community event, the firework display also generated over £3.6k profit to be shared between St Marys PTA and local charities.

8.2.8 Baldock Christmas Fayre

The Baldock Christmas Fayre was held on Baldock High Street on Saturday 7th December. As well as the funfair, live music and food court on the High Street, there was also events at Baldock Community Centre, Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre and St Marys Church Hall.

The event was co-ordinated by the Independent Beer Festival Committee with support from the Baldock Events Forum and the Baldock CEO.

The event was extremely well supported by the people of Baldock and passed without incident.

8.2.8 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

The Baldock Community Engagement Officer has been worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available.

Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre

- The Baldock CEO continues to liaise with the centre over its programme of works.

Baldock Community Centre

- As with the Arts & Heritage Centre, the Management Committee at the Community Centre is seeking to refurbish the foyer and toilet area. The Baldock CEO is assisting 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. The centre has completed an application to the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme and this will be considered by the Panel in March 2020.

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 and the pavilion 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 the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme in 2020. The Baldock CEO will sit on the steering group for the project with meetings set to commence in January 2020.

Baldock Methodist Church

- The Baldock CEO has supported the Baldock Methodist Church with their application to the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme for works to enhance the toilet and kitchen facilities at the venue. The group has now completed its application and their project will be tabled at the next panel of the Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme which is currently scheduled for March 2020.

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 Community Engagement 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 potential planning obligations with prospective developers. Similarly, if members have any suggestions of suitable projects or possible future requirements within their wards please inform the Community Engagement Officer.

8.3 Highways Matters

- 8.3.1 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 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 As outlined in Appendix A Committee budget 2019/20 and bullet point 7.3 above.

The Committee has £3,470 left to allocate across the January and March 2020 meetings. Members should note that there is insufficient funds remaining in the budget to award the full amounts requested by the two grant recipients at the January 2020 Baldock & District Committee. Funding requested totals £3950. Members are also reminded that there is still one further meeting remaining in the current financial year.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, 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 positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

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 A - 2019/20 financial year budget sheet

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.