

27 July 2007

Our ref: B&D Ctte/Aug 2007
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To: Members of the Baldock and District Committee of North Hertfordshire District Council

(Councillors A.D. Young (Chairman), M.R.M. Muir (Vice-Chairman), S.K. Jarvis, Marilyn Kirkland, I.J. Knighton and M.E. Weeks)

You are invited to attend a meeting of the
BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE

to be held at

**MAIN HALL, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SCHOOL
PARK STREET, BALDOCK**

on

TUESDAY 7 AUGUST 2007

at

7.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,



David Miley
Democratic Services Manager

AGENDA
PART I

| ITEM | PAGE |
|--|------------------|
| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | - |
| 2. MINUTES To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 May and 4 June 2007. | - |
| 3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chairman of other business which they wish to be discussed by the Committee at the end of the business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered. | - |
| 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members of the Committee any Declarations of Interest in respect of business set out in the agenda. Members should either declare a prejudicial or personal interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared. Members declaring a prejudicial interest should not seek to influence the decision and leave the room during that particular item of business. | - |
| 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from members of the public. No requests to speak have been received to date. Any public participation requests received within the agreed time will be notified to Members as soon as practicable. | - |
| 6. BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME – DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR AGREEMENT FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL <i>To review the final plans for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme now that the consultation period has ended, and to discuss them during this item.</i> (Representatives of Building Design Partnerships (BDP) will be present for this item.) | To Follow |
| 7. CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES <i>A summary of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for Baldock since the meeting of the Committee held on 4 June 2007 and events taking place in forthcoming months.</i> | 3 |

8. BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2007/2008 7

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES

The current budget balances for the Committee and four grant applications (which are to follow).

The dates of the meetings of the Baldock & District Committee in the 2007 -2008 Civic Year are as follows:

2007

Monday, 17 September 2007

Monday, 19 November 2007

2008

Monday, 21 January 2008

Monday, 17 March 2008

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BALDOCK COMMITTEE

7 August 2007

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

6

TITLE OF REPORT: BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME – DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR AGREEMENT FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Members the findings of the public consultation on the draft proposals for Baldock Town Centre Enhancement scheme.
- 1.2 For Members to agree the amended proposals following public consultation to allow Building Design Partnerships (BDP), the designers, to proceed with the detailed design.
- 1.3 To gain the Members agreement on the next stage in the project programme up to the production of formal contract drawings.

A presentation of the amended proposals and the next stages in the project programme will be made by BDP and Officers at the committee meeting.

2 FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This Report contains a recommendation on a key decision that was first notified to the public in the Forward Plan on the 1st June 2007.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Baldock Town Centre Strategy, adopted in January 2006 as the Council's Statement of Policy, includes an Action Plan which requires the preparation and delivery of an enhancement scheme for Baldock town centre. This scheme is being undertaken by NHDC in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). Completion of the Baldock bypass in Spring 2006 resulted in changes to the traffic flows through the centre of Baldock and created opportunities for enhancement of the town centre.
- 3.2 The Council appointed Building Design Partnership (BDP) in February 2007 to prepare design proposals for the Baldock Town Centre enhancement scheme and supervise the implementation of the works on site.
- 3.3 NHDC and HCC are jointly funding the enhancements works. Due to the size of Baldock Town Centre, part of BDP's brief is to determine how to make the most effective use of the funding available to achieve the best design solution and using the most appropriate materials.
- 3.4 Officers and BDP undertook a series of stakeholder workshops and attended various meetings to understand and gain the views of the local community as input into preparing the proposed design scheme. Members subsequently agreed the

draft design proposals for public consultation at the Baldock & District Committee meeting on 4th June 2007.

3.5 The public consultation period ran for six weeks starting with a launch on Saturday 9 June followed by a public meeting on 12 July 2007. The consultation period closed on 20th July 2007. The consultation was supported by a permanent exhibition in the Simpson Drive Community Centre, and the following was undertaken to promote awareness of the design proposals:

- Press releases appeared in the local paper through out the consultation period and in the Baldock Mail;
- Leaflets were hand delivered to every household and businesses within Baldock inviting everyone to attend the launch and the exhibition;
- Posters were displayed in prominent positions around the town informing people about the exhibition;
- The adjacent Parish Councils, individuals involved in the pre-consultation meetings, members of the Baldock Town Partnership and key organisations were written to and informed about the draft proposals;
- The consultants supported by officers attended a meeting of both the Baldock Town Partnership and the Knights Templar School Council during the consultation period to present and discuss the draft proposals;
- A public meeting was held on 12th July during the consultation period to enable the Baldock Members, Consultants and Officers to listen and discuss people's views and comments about the draft proposals. In excess of 80 people attended this meeting;
- The Council's website has been kept up-to-date through out the period of the project.

Section 9 of this report sets out the community involvement process to date.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The proposed enhancement scheme relates to the town centre, (see Appendix 1 attached) and encompasses the following key principles, upon which people were consulted. These included:

- Understanding and analysing parking arrangements within the core town centre area and the surrounding streets.
- Making provision for business, visitor and residential parking within the town centre that supports the vitality and viability of the town centre now and in the future.
- Creating new public open spaces.
- Increasing footpath widths where necessary to allow for areas of activity and outdoor trading, cafes etc.
- Creating a market place and giving the market a real presence

- Improving the junction at High Street, Whitehorse Street, Church Street and Hitchin Street to increase pedestrian links and safety at this critical point.
- Introducing signs and/or other measures at junctions and gateways into the town centre to slow down and discourage through traffic, improve the pedestrian experience and safety.
- Improving the pedestrian links between Church Street and High Street.
- Reducing street clutter, improving the street scene and coordinate all elements of street furniture including trees and soft landscaping.
- Improve the physical and visual links between the town centre and Tesco's store.
- Seeking views on the location of the war memorial and public conveniences.

4.2 Nearly 200 written comments were received during the consultation period on the draft proposals. It is interesting to note that the majority of comments were in support of the scheme as a whole. Each comment has been considered and where necessary amendments have been made adding value to the overall design scheme. An analysis of the consultation responses together with the consultant's and officer responses are included in the 'Summary of Comments' attached as Appendix 2. A compilation of all these comments is available in the Members Room and on the Council's website.

4.3 The main amendments can be categorised as follows:

- (a) Category 1 – changes that have been made to the general masterplan layout including the proposed new public spaces, layout of the trees and green areas, style and character of materials and street furniture, closure of the south end of Church Street and parking allocation and locations.
- (b) Category 2 – changes that will need to be made subject to further studies within this scheme such as the access road off High Street opposite Tesco's superstore, the final location of the war memorial, the pedestrian link to Tesco's and the extent of parking controls in the immediate adjacent streets.
- (c) Category 3 – additional studies that will be needed as a direct result of the proposed scheme that will have an effect beyond the immediate area in relation to both traffic management and on street parking controls. This may include improving signage outside of Baldock diverting through traffic away from the core area and the possibility of HGV restrictions.

4.4 **The findings from the consultation and the proposed amendments made to the design proposals will be presented to Members at the Committee Meeting.** This will include amendments made in light of Category 1, to which officers are seeking Members agreement to allow those parts of the design scheme to be frozen. This will enable the consultants to proceed with the preparation of the detailed design and maintain progress on the agreed project programme.

4.5 **The studies that will be required as part of Categories 2 and 3 will also be presented at the Committee meeting together with suggested actions on how these issues are to be taken forward in accordance with the overall programme for the project** (See Appendix 3 for the project programme). Officers will be seeking Members agreement to these suggested actions.

- 4.6 A major element of the design proposal is the modification of the junction of High Street, Whitehorse Street and Hitchin Street. The preferred option is to make this location more pedestrian friendly by introducing traffic control lights with a pedestrian phase with pedestrian crossing at desired points. While a signalled junction would provide safer conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, it was considered necessary that the proposed junction be analysed to establish its capacity, possible lengths of queues and anticipate the impact on surrounding streets. An experimental layout was run to measure these effects.
- 4.7 A number of comments including complaints were received during the experiment. **These comments, the data and measurement of queue lengths from the experiment is still being analysed at the time of writing this report and will be presented together with responses to the key issues raised by the public at the Baldock Committee Meeting.**

5. ENHANCEMENT SCHEME - FINAL DESIGN

- 5.1 A report on the outcome of the studies referred to in Category 2, will be submitted to the Baldock & District Committee on 17 September 2007. If accepted, the elements from the 17th September will be added to the previously frozen schemes under Category 1, allowing the detailed design work to be completed.
- 5.2 Both Members and the local community will be kept informed of progress on the project via a series of exhibitions run at the Simpson Drive Community Centre, through the Council's website and Outlook, leaflet drops, press releases and public meetings when considered necessary and relevant to a particular stage of the project.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees apply to this Report.
- 6.2 In the event that the final design scheme is agreed, there will be legal implications regarding working on the highway and allowing for a Section 278 Agreement, the procedure for any Traffic Regulation Orders required and dealing with any involvement of private land in the case of requiring necessary consents.
- 6.3 NHDC and HCC are in the process of agreeing a partnership agreement to deliver the enhancement scheme.

7. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is an agreed capital budget for the project of £2.8m.
- 7.2 The prime partners, namely NHDC and HCC will co-fund the project development costs through staff time in relation to project development, partnership working with strategic organisations and consultancy support. In the council's case, this is to be funded through the service and financial planning process. An agreement between NHDC and HCC has been prepared to ensure that the project is run to time and on budget.
- 7.3 With regard to risk there are significant reputational risks associated with the non-delivery of the project, which has a very high public profile. The Council's risk register has been updated to reflect this area of risk. A risk register for the project has been prepared and will be maintained by the Project Team.

- 7.4 A CDM co-ordinator has also been appointed for the project to manage health and safety risks as required by the CDM 2007 Regulations.

8. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The officer time involved in the enhancement project is identified as part of the Service and Financial Planning Process for Planning & Building Control Services, and to be included in other relevant Service plans given the requirement to bring in other officers across the council at various stages in the project.
- 8.2 All efforts will be made to meet the Council's equalities plan when consulting with the local community on the design scheme and the implementation plan for the project.

9. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 9.1 Officers undertook a series of workshops and attended various meetings as part of the preparation of the Baldock Town Centre Strategy. Outputs from these sessions provided a good baseline for understanding the issues raised in relation to the future enhancement of the town centre.
- 9.2 BDP, since their appointment in February 2007 have undertaken a variety of stakeholder workshops, presentations to key organisations, drop-in events and interviews. These, together with work undertaken by an earlier consultant, Buchanan's, has provide a significant understanding of the views of local residents and businesses.
- 9.3 Briefing sessions have been held with Baldock Members to gain further information and to give feedback on proposals and on progress.
- 9.4 A public consultation exercise was undertaken between 9th June and 20th July as outlined in paragraph 3.5 above.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Baldock and District Committee agree the amended proposals for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme described as Category 1 presented at the meeting.
- 10.2 That Baldock and District Committee agree the actions as presented under categories 2 and 3 at the meeting.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To maintain as best as possible rate of progress the areas of work associated with Category 2 and 3 have been separated out. By asking Members to consider and agree the areas of work associated with Category 1 would release a substantial volume of work to the consultants, which would allow the momentum of progress to be maintained in the meantime while the outstanding areas of work are considered. The recommendations are offered after due consideration of the information collected over the last four months and in the full knowledge that the amended design reflects the majority and/or balanced views of the various groups consulted, survey material and expert consideration.

12. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 12.1 The final proposals include a number of design components within the overall scheme which will be resolved at the detailed design stage.

13. APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Masterplan showing design proposals for consultation
- 13.2 Appendix 2: Summary of Comments received to Consultation on Design Proposals – 9 June to 20 July 2007
- 13.3 Appendix 3: Project Programme

14. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 14.1 Louise Symes, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4359
Helen Leitch, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4513
Terry Nickolls, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4425
David Scholes, Head of Planning & Building Control, ext 4836
Katie White, Senior Lawyer, ext 4315
Anita Thomas, Group Accountant, ext 4451

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Baldock Town Centre Strategy
- 15.2 Relevant committee reports
- 15.3 Baldock Town Centre Design Proposals Exhibition documentation

BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

Stage 2 Consultations – Summary of Comments on Design Proposals

The Stage 2 consultation on the Baldock Town Centre Design Proposals ran from the 9th June through to the 20th July 2007. The consultation process was conducted to:

- 1) Allow the community to see the design proposals which have been prepared following initial findings and the outputs from the first round of consultation events with the local community and key stakeholders'
- 2) To receive feed back on proposals and preferences on some options, and
- 3) To ensure that no major issues have been overlooked.

The events and meetings were publicised in the following ways:

- 1) Letters were sent to key members of the community and council.
- 2) Articles were published in the Comet newspaper and Baldock Mail.
- 3) Posters and flyers were distributed throughout Baldock to every household and to the local Villages.
- 4) North Hertfordshire District Council website has been updated with details of the proposals along with an online feedback facility (www.north-herts.gov.uk)

Consultation Feedback – Summary of Results

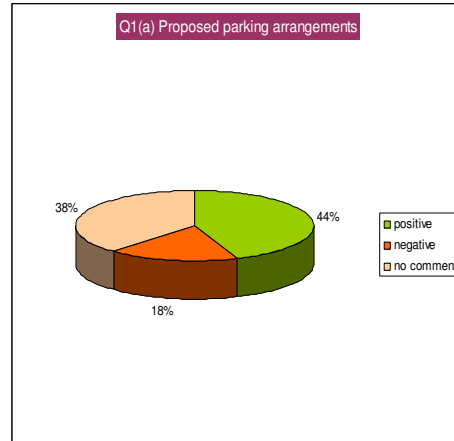
Nearly 200 written responses were received to the consultation. These were via comment form, letter and email.

Comments and concerns have been identified as positive/negative/no comment.

All comments submitted have been compiled into a separate document. This will be made available to view on the Council's website at www.north-herts.gov.uk .

Parking

44% of respondents were positive to the parking strategy, 18% of respondents were negative to the of parking strategy, and 38% of respondents gave no comment.



Common concerns:

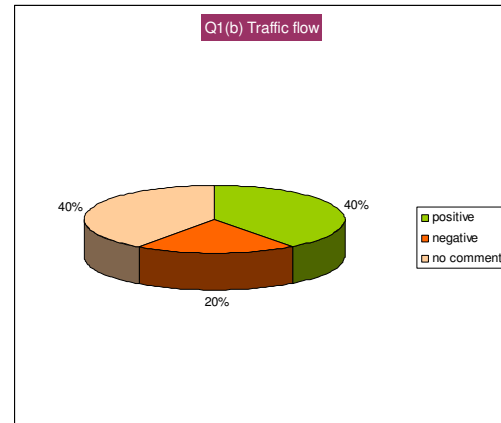
1. Displacement of employees to parking in residential streets and generally not enough parking for employees
2. Feasibility of Increasing parking spaces while providing green space on High Street
3. Concerns on paying for parking
4. Some Concerns by 90 degree parking – access and safety
5. Some concerns on the suggested 2 hour parking restrictions within the core area meeting commercial, restaurants and residential requirements
6. Lack of clarity on access and parking arrangements for the slip road off High Street opposite Tesco's.

Responses:

1. The proposals initiate and suggest the need for a town wide strategy for parking including residential, business and commuters. The proposed scheme takes employee parking out of the core of the town centre freeing up spaces directly adjacent to shops and businesses. The proposed scheme aims to increase the available car parking spaces for employees directly adjacent to the town centre.
2. There are 106 existing designated spaces on High Street and the scheme is proposing to increase this number while providing provision for more disabled and provision for taxi parking.
3. Within the proposals there are no current plans to introduce paying for parking. If permits are to be introduced there would be an annual permit fee
4. 90 degree parking is efficient in the space usage and is an acceptable layout in access and manoeuvrability as the road will be 10m wide. It also aids the reduction of vehicle speed through driver perception of entering a zone which has different movements of vehicles and pedestrians.
5. Careful consideration will need to be given to the type of parking restrictions included within the core area to best meet commercial and residential requirements. It is proposed that the parking restrictions will be imposed during the day from Monday to Saturday. The details are currently being investigated.
6. Discussions with local residents and businesses within the vicinity of the slip road in High Street are in progress with the aim of agreeing a satisfactory outcome with the immediate residents and businesses and the scheme as a whole.

Traffic Flow

40% of respondents were positive to the traffic strategy,
20% of respondents were negative to the traffic strategy, and
40% of respondents gave no comment



Common concerns:

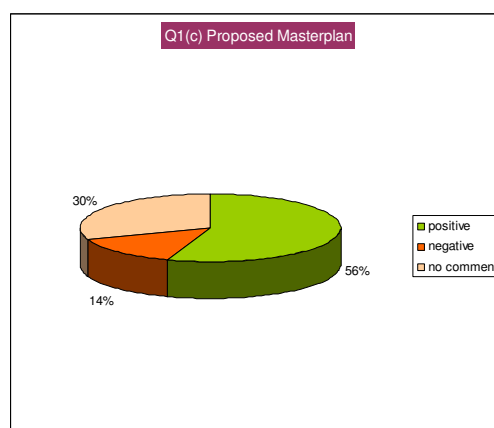
1. Knock on effects from decreasing traffic flow on main streets. For example diverting traffic into smaller residential streets.
2. To avoid rat run Sun Street one-way needs to be swapped with traffic heading north.
3. Cycle access needs to be improved.

Responses:

1. The proposals initiate and suggest the need for a wider strategy which looks at circulation out side of the town centre within residential streets. This may include restrictions and one way systems and is currently being investigated.
2. Following consultation the directional flow along Church Street is under review.
3. The cycle strategy falls in line with the NHDC Baldock Cycle Route Network, and it is believed that the proposals will engender a safer environment for cyclists and motorcyclists. All cycle routes will be on the road to avoid possible conflict with pedestrians and cycle parking will be provided within the scheme.

Proposed Masterplan

56% of respondents were positive to the masterplan, 14% of respondents were negative to the masterplan, and 30% of respondents gave no comment.



Comment concerns:

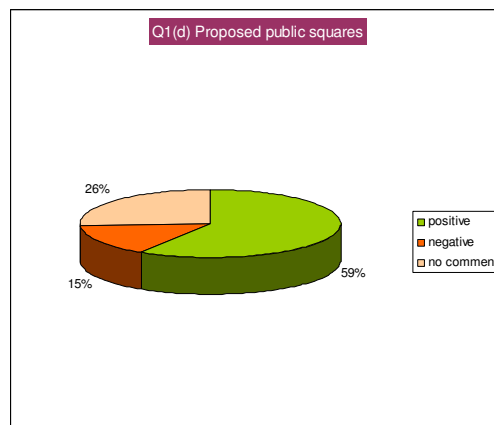
1. Maintenance of green spaces could be a problem
2. Conflict with green space and markets, the fair etc.
3. The scheme not providing insight into what initiatives will be given to supporting existing and attracting new businesses into the town.

Responses:

1. A maintenance strategy will be crucial in setting out measures to insure the upkeep of the proposals is efficient and comprehensive, discussions are ongoing with the council's maintenance teams
2. The needs and requirements of markets and events are fully integrated into the design proposals. Organisers of the Wednesday Market, the Baldock Fair, and the Baldock Festival are being consulted during the design process to ensure their needs are accommodated and improved
3. While it is important for urban places to support the function of local shopping and businesses, they should also be places that are inviting and attractive for people to be in as well as support a range of activities be they planned or spontaneous. The proposed enhancement scheme seeks to provide the platform for creating such a place in Baldock and facilitating the revitalisation of the town centre. It is expected that the townsfolk and businesses will build on this investment.

Proposed Public Squares

59% of respondents were positive to the public squares, 15% of respondents were negative to the public squares, and 26% of respondents gave no comment.



Common concerns:

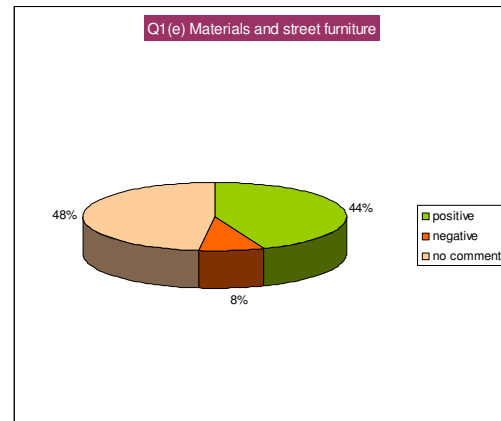
1. Size of market square only big enough for existing market where will expansion to the market occur
2. Whitehorse square better used as parking.
3. Pavement culture will only occur during summer months leaving large waste of space in winter.
4. The location of the main market square / memorial gardens and public toilets in relation to existing residential properties

Responses:

1. The idea is that the square will contain the existing market use. Potential growth can occur along the widened footpaths, adjacent hard surfaced areas on High Street, South of Church Street, Sun Street, and Whitehorse Street Square. It is by no means limited.
2. Parking numbers have already increased along Whitehorse Street with the scheme.
3. The town will benefit from breathing space away from cars. Open space is not only used for going to but important as a setting for buildings and creating a sense of place.
4. There is a mix of residential and businesses all along the High Street. This point is the natural focus for a square as it is the widest point of the High Street. The concept relies of the creation of several new public spaces and footways within Baldock which distributes activity dispersing potential congregation problems. The inclusion of toilets needs considered along with the location of the war memorial and the balance of hard and soft landscape areas has been reviewed retaining a green area as existing.

Materials

44% of respondents were positive to the materials,
8% of respondents were negative to the materials, and
48% of respondents gave no comment.



Common concerns:

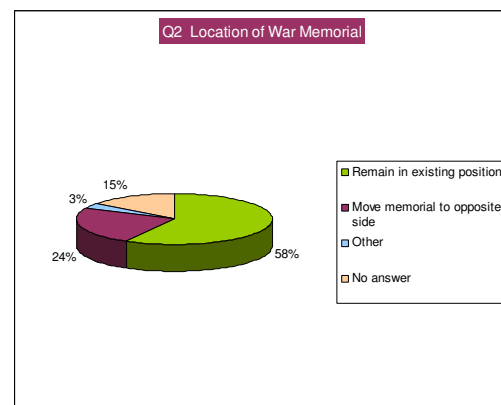
1. Vandalism of street furniture
2. Do not want architectural trends
3. Maintenance costs.

Responses:

1. Street furniture has been chosen for both its robust and aesthetic qualities however no street furniture is completely vandal proof.
2. The street furniture is chosen to be robust, bold, and sympathetic to the historic character of the town, having a neutral, elegant and contemporary design. Street furniture will be co-ordinated to provide a sense of continuity and timber has these qualities.
3. The maintenance of materials is always a major consideration in their selection. All materials will be carefully selected and excess ordered to allow for any repairs in future years. Discussions are ongoing with Herts County Council, Herts Highways and NHDC maintenance Teams in terms of the whole life costs for the project.

War Memorial

58% Remain in existing location and remount
24% Move memorial to opposite side of market square
15% Gave no answer
3% Suggested alternative locations

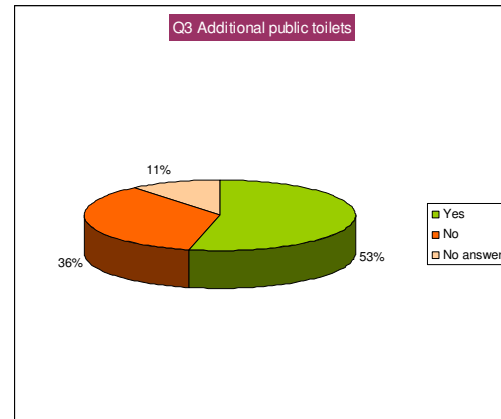


Responses:

The location and setting of the war memorial is the subject of further discussion with key interested parties, the designers and council officers.

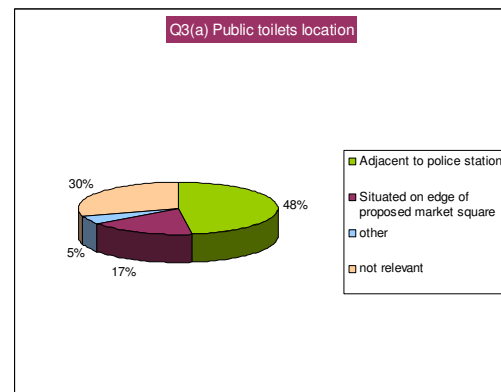
Public Toilets

53% Yes to additional toilets
36% No to additional toilets
11% Gave no answer



Public Toilets Location

48% Adjacent to Police station
17% On the edge of the market square
30% Gave no answer
5% Suggested alternative location

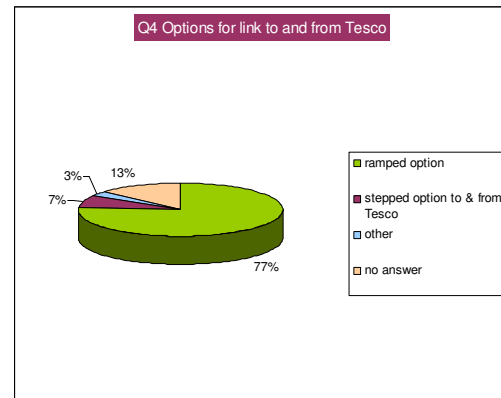


Responses:

The need and location of the public toilets is not paramount to the finalisation of the design scheme and is the subject of further discussion with key officers within NHDC.

Tesco Link

77% Ramped option
7% Stepped option
13% Gave no answer
3% Suggested alternative solution



Responses:

The provision of a ramped option linking Tesco to the High Street is to be further pursued with Property Division of Tesco Stores. Investigations are in hand.

BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

PREDICTED PROGRAMME

PROJECT INCEPTION

Confirmation of Brief and works Feb – March 2007

INITIAL CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Individual meetings Throughout March 2007
Workshops Stakeholders 28th March 2007
Public Events Meet the Designers 31st March 2007

DESIGN PERIOD

Concept Development March – mid April 2007
Design Development Mid April – May 2007
Consultation with designs June – Mid July 2007
Design Review and Freeze End of July – early August 2007
Detailed Design August – October 2007

PRE SITE WORKS

Tender Period October – November 2007
Appointment of Contractor February 2008
Start on site April 2008
Practical Completion End of April 2009

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| *PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT | AGENDA ITEM No. 7 |
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TITLE: CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved during the past month.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. ISSUES – PROJECT / ACTIVITY / SCHEME DETAILS

4.1 Area Visioning

4.1.1 Baldock Town Hall Feasibility Study

Officers are continuing to give information and assistance to the Town Hall Community Group in the production of a Community Use Business Case for the facility.

The Community Development Officer and the Community Facilities Manager are to meet with representatives mid August 2007 in view of the group submitting their proposals in September 2007.

4.1.2 Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

BDP, the Design Consultants and Planning Officers will give a presentation on the outcomes from the public consultation to the Area Committee on Tuesday 7th August 2007 at Knights Templar School from 7.30pm.

This is to explain the amendments that have been made to the design scheme following the consultation and any necessary more detailed work resulting from the overall process. The design scheme, if approved will then progress leading to the final design 'freeze' stage.

4.1.3 Development of Town Partnership for Baldock

The group is next due to meet on Monday 30th July 2007 at 7.30pm at Tesco Conference Room. Following the partnership receiving a presentation from the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme consultants BDP, at their last meeting, the group believe that there are mutual gains to be made with structural development of the town and the development of the partnership and Town Centre Management in General.

4.2 **Festivals/Fairs/Events – Diary Dates**

4.2.1 Baldock Chartered Street Fair – Target dates Tuesday 2nd – 6th October 2007.

Negotiations have commenced regarding the planning for this year's Chartered Street Fair and a formal 16a Temporary Road Closure has been applied for by Herts Highways.

4.3 **General**

4.3.1 Local Organisations and Community Groups Support

Clothall Village Hall

The project group has now secured over £100,000 of external funding to go towards the associated site works and rebuilding of a new village hall. Additional applications to Lottery, Biffa and other grant making charitable trust funds have also been submitted.

It was hoped that some indication on the outcome of the latter grant applications were to be known around June 2007, however it is more likely to be September 2007, which may lead to certain grant time windows of possible funding being squeezed.

The group however still continues to seek possible funding sources for other parts of the project . The group has also secured full planning consent and building regulations for the project with some external works and other conditions relating to the new CO2 emissions regulations.

4.3.3 Baldock Bowls & Social Club

The Community Development Officer in conjunction with the Elected Member responsible for the Leisure Portfolio and other officers of the Council are continuing to assist the Club in development of a Sports Club Association, to address the future management of the site.

4.3.4 Ashwell URC Hall

The Community Development Officer is advising and assisting the Hall's co-ordinator in securing external funding to refurbish primarily the kitchen area, three large windows and other external and internal works.

4.3.5 Baldock Youth Club

Officers from Community Safety and Community Development are continuing to pursue ways to enhance the current youth facilities at the Club in Simpson Drive.

Various proposals are being developed to try and combat recent vandalism and anti social activities occurring outside of the club.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation with the respective agencies, organisations and Ward Members has taken place with regards to the projects, activities and events mentioned in section 4 of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well being.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Committee enforces the actions and policies involved in the tasks and projects undertaken by the Community Development Officer.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

- 8.1 Stuart Izzard (Senior Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474854
E-Mail: stuart.izzard@north-herts.gov.uk

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| PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT | AGENDA ITEM No. 8 |
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TITLE: BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2007/2008

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the delegated budgets for financial year 2007/08 and the carry forward preallocated balances of delegated budgets from financial year 2006/07.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent allocation and commitment of delegated funds for Community initiatives and projects.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not Applicable

4. ISSUES - AND FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE

- 4.1 Friends of Baldock Greenspaces – Grant request sought from Ward Development Discretionary Budgets for financial support to continue the work of the volunteer group.
- 4.2 Member Request – Discretionary Budget expenditure for the purchase of copies of the 'Ancient Baldock' book for school children in Baldock.
- 4.3 Ashwell Baby & Toddler Group – Grant request sought from Arbury Ward Development Discretionary Budget for the support in funding Play supplies and the installation of a baby changing unit at the URC Hall.
- 4.4 Ashwell Parish Council – Grant request sought from Arbury Ward Development Discretionary Funds for the financial assistance in the provision of a green energy machine at Ashwell Show.

4.5 STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE DELEGATED BUDGETS 2007/08

4.5.1 See Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2007/08.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2007/08.

6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2006/07 to the current financial year 2007/08.

6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances relating to allocated Visioning Budgets available within the Baldock & District area.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Not applicable

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

8.1 Consultation with the respective Ward Members has occurred in connection with the pre allocation of funds for Community Initiative & Projects from the previous financial year 2007/08.

8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Ward Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets 06/07, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 9.2.1 That the Committee notes and acknowledges the pre-allocations of uncommitted Ward Development Discretionary Funds to respective projects and initiatives within each Ward Budget.
- 9.3 That the Committee allocates £500 from the Ward Development Discretionary Budgets to fund the continued work of the Friends of Baldock Greenspaces.
- 9.4 That the Committee considers a financial allocation from the Ward Development Discretionary Budgets to fund the purchasing of copies of the 'Ancient Baldock' book for school children within Baldock.
- 9.5 That the Committee allocates £325 from the Arbury Ward Development Discretionary Budget to in the support of part funding
- 9.6 That the Committee allocates £325 from the Arbury Ward Development Discretionary Budget to in the support of part funding

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by various members of the community.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2007/08.
- 12.2 Appendix 2 – Friends of Baldock Greenspaces Grant Form – To Follow
- 12.3 Appendix 3 – Books Grant Form – To Follow
- 12.4 Appendix 4 – Ashwell Parish Council Grant Form – To Follow
- 12.5 Appendix 5 – Ashwell Baby & Toddler Group Grant Form – To Follow

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 None.

BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2007/2008

Tuesday 7th August 2007

| SUMMARY/ TOTALS | Funding | Allocated | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| VISIONING | £2,470 | £2,470 | £1,488 | £0 | | | | | |
| SMALL AREA GRANTS | £190 | £0 | £0 | £190 | | | | | |
| BALDOCK TOWN | £16,973 | £8,258 | £5,753 | £8,715 | | | | | |
| BALDOCK EAST | £9,685 | £6,905 | £4,816 | £2,780 | | | | | |
| ARBURY | £10,790 | £7,530 | £6,940 | £3,260 | | | | | |
| WESTON & SANDON | £10,685 | £7,215 | £4,550 | £3,470 | | | | | |
| Total | £50,793 | £32,378 | £23,547 | £18,415 | | | | | |

| VISIONING | Funding | Year Allocated | Project | Allocated | Date | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Preallocated Funds C/F from 2006/07 | £2,470 | 2005/2006 | Town Centre Strategy | £2,470 | 11.04.05 | £982 | £1,488 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | £2,470 | | | £2,470 | | £982 | £1,488 | £0 | |

| DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| SMALL AREA GRANTS | Funding | | Project | Allocated | Date | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | Comments |
| Base Budget 2007/08 | £190 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | £190 | | | £0 | | £0 | £0 | £190 | |



| BALDOCK TOWN | Funding | | Project | Allocated | Date | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | Comments |
|--|----------------|--|---|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 0607 | £7,543 | | Baldock Allotment Association - plot for disabled holders at North Rd | £390 | 26.09.05 | £0 | £390 | | |
| | | | Alcohol Free Zone - Consultation | £460 | 07.11.05 | £0 | £460 | | |
| | | | Grass Maze at Avenue Park | £263 | 03.07.06 | £0 | £263 | | |
| | | | St Mary's Resident Association | £80 | 06.11.06 | £0 | £80 | | |
| | | | Tree Works - Nightingale Way Area | £1,500 | 04.12.06 | £1,500 | £0 | | |
| | | | North Herts Book Festival | £130 | 04.12.06 | £130 | £0 | | |
| | | | Town Centre Enhancement Works | £4,410 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £4,410 | | |
| | | | Baldock Town Football Club | £310 | 02.04.07 | £310 | £0 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Base Budget 2007/08 | £9,430 | | Baldock Town Football Club | £185 | 02.04.07 | £185 | £0 | | |
| | | | Bridge Club | £150 | 24.05.07 | £0 | £150 | | |
| | | | Herts Action on Disability | £380 | 04.06.07 | £380 | £0 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | £16,973 | | | £8,258 | | £2,505 | £5,753 | £8,715 | |

| BALDOCK EAST | Funding | | Project | Allocated | Date | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | Comments |
|---|----------------|--|---|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 06/07 | £6,785 | | Bench for the Clothall Estate | £40 | 15.08.05 | £0 | £40 | | |
| | | | Alcohol Free Zone - Consultation | £140 | 07.11.05 | £0 | £140 | | |
| | | | Grass Maze Avenue Park | £87 | 03.07.06 | £0 | £87 | | |
| | | | Spring Bulbs | £50 | 24.08.06 | £0 | £50 | | |
| | | | North Herts Book Festival | £40 | 04.12.06 | £40 | £0 | | |
| | | | Clothall Common - Enviromental Projects - C | £6,273 | 02.04.07 | £1,774 | £4,499 | | |
| | | | Baldock Town Football Club | £155 | 02.04.07 | £155 | £0 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Base Budget 2007/08 | £2,900 | | Herts Action on Disability | £120 | 04.06.07 | £120 | £0 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | £9,685 | | | £6,905 | | £2,089 | £4,816 | £2,780 | |

| ARBURY | Funding | Project | Allocated | Date | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | Comments |
|---|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 06/07 | £7,530 | Community Visioning Projects | £5,665 | 07.11.05 | £0 | £5,665 | | |
| | | North Herts Book Festival | £45 | 04.12.06 | £45 | £0 | | |
| | | Hinxworth Village Hall | £400 | 02.04.07 | £400 | £0 | | |
| | | Ashwell Brownie Guides | £150 | 02.04.07 | £145 | £5 | | |
| | | Ashwell Playgroup | £120 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £120 | | |
| | | Ashwell Cottage Garden | £100 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £100 | | |
| | | Ashwell Parish Plan | £200 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £200 | | |
| | | Hinxworth Parish Council | £400 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £400 | | |
| | | Radwell Parish Meeting | £250 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £250 | | |
| | | Radwell Village Hall | £200 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £200 | | |
| Base Budget 2007/08 | £3,260 | | | | | | | |
| Total | £10,790 | | £7,530 | | £590 | £6,940 | £3,260 | |

| WESTON & SANDON | Funding | Project | Allocated | Date | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget | Comments |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 05/06: | £3,535 | North Herts Book Festival | £35 | 04.12.06 | £35 | £0 | | |
| Community Visioning Projects | £4,610 | Wallington Village Hall | £1,200 | 02.04.07 | £1,200 | £0 | | |
| | | Weston Tennis Club / Parish Council | £2,300 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £2,300 | | |
| | | Rushden Village Hall | £750 | 02.04.07 | £750 | £0 | | |
| | | Rushden Parish Council | £350 | 02.04.07 | £350 | £0 | | |
| | | Sandon Parish Council | £330 | 02.04.07 | £330 | £0 | | |
| | | Weston Footpath Lighting Project | £2,250 | 02.04.07 | £0 | £2,250 | | |
| Base Budget 2007/08 | £2,540 | | | | | | | |
| Total | £10,685 | | £7,215 | | £2,665 | £4,550 | £3,470 | |