

20 March 2009

Our ref: R&D Cttee/Mar09
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To: Members of the Baldock and District Committee of North Hertfordshire District Council

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

You are invited to attend a meeting of the

BALDOCK & DISTRICT COMMITTEE

to be held in

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, HITCHIN STREET, BALDOCK

on

MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2009

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 the 12 January 2009.	-
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. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a prejudicial or personal interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a prejudicial interest can speak on the item, but must leave the room before the debate and vote.	-
5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Mr Tony Turner will present a petition on the junction of Station Road, Odsey and the A505</i>▪ <i>Mr Nicholas Moss will address the Committee on Community Engagement and the Magistrates' Court</i>▪	
6. SPOTLIGHT THEATRE GROUP <i>The Spotlight Theatre Group will perform for the Baldock and District Committee, and then Shaun Kitchener and Nicky Lawrence will address the Committee on the activities and aims of the Group.</i>	1
7. BALDOCK CRICKET CLUB <i>Mr Andy Diplock of the Baldock Cricket Club will address the Committee.</i>	3
8. IVEL SPRINGS ALLOTMENTS – BALDOCK ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION <i>Mick Camp, Chairman of the Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association, will give an oral presentation on the Ivel Springs Allotments.</i>	5
9. UPDATE ON THE BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT <i>This will take the form of an Information Note.</i>	7

10.	PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER ON THE CONTROL OF PARKING WITHIN BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE <i>The Head of Planning and Building Control will present this item, and the NHDC Principal Engineer will be on hand to answer questions which come within his remit.</i>	11
	This report is “ To Follow ”.	
11.	DISPOSAL OF LAND AT RADWELL <i>This oral update will be given by the Head of Financial Services.</i>	13
12.	UPDATE ON THE 2005/2010 RURAL STRATEGY <i>The Committee will discuss ways of protecting the villages from the problems of damage, safety and traffic caused by the heavy lorries travelling through them.</i>	19
13.	CHAMPION NEWS <i>To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved since the last Committee meeting on 12 January 2009, and others which are scheduled for the future.</i>	49
14.	BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/2009 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES <i>Taking the Committee through the current budget balances (Appendix 1) and grant applications for:</i>	53
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spotlight Theatre Group ▪ Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners’ Association ▪ Baldock Cricket Club ▪ Baldock and District Branch of the Royal British Legion ▪ Ashwell United Reform Church Hall ▪ Hinxworth Parish Council ▪ Caldecote Church Friends ▪ Weston Village Hall ▪ CCTV and lighting pole in Bush Spring, Clothall common Estate. 	
	FUTURE BALDOCK COMMITTEE MEETINGS Baldock and District Committee Meetings for the Civic Year 2009/2010 areas follows:	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 June 2009 ▪ 20 July 2009 ▪ 21 September 2009 ▪ 16 November 2009 ▪ 11 January 2010 ▪ 8 March 2010 	

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BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

6

TITLE: SPOTLIGHT THEATRE GROUP

The Spotlight Theatre Group will perform for the Baldock and District Committee.

Shaun Kitchener and Nicky Lawrence will then address the Committee on the activities and aims of the Group.

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PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
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TITLE: BALDOCK CRICKET CLUB

Mr Andy Diplock of Baldock Cricket Club will address the Baldock and District Committee.

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PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
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TITLE: IVEL SPRINGS ALLOTMENTS – BALDOCK ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr Mick Camp, Chairman of the Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association, will give the Committee an oral presentation on the Ivel Springs Allotments.

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BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT UPDATE: INFORMATION NOTE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress regarding the implementation of Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council adopted the Baldock Town Centre Strategy in January 2006 and agreed as one of the key actions to undertake the enhancement of the Baldock town centre following completion of the Baldock Bypass in spring 2006.
- 2.2 The Council commissioned Building Design Partnerships (BDP) in February 2007 to undertake the preparation of a design scheme and supervision of works on site for the Baldock Town Centre enhancement project.
- 2.3 Following agreement of the final design by the Baldock and District Committee in August and November 2007, contract tender documents were drawn up and contractors, namely Skanska McNicholas were appointed in April 2008 to undertake the enhancement works.

3. WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The works started on site on 9 June 2008 and Officers are pleased to advise that the works are on schedule for completion in April 2009.
- 3.2 In terms of the work programme the following areas have been completed:
- All the yorkstone and granite paving areas are complete.
 - The carriageway resurfacing to High Street, Whitehorse Street and Hitchin Street is complete and on time.
 - All the planting including the trees and turfing of the new open grass areas in High Street and Whitehorse Street is complete.
 - All the new street furniture, including benches, litter bins, bollards, new light columns and signage for the restriction of waiting controls are in place.

3.3 The following works are in progress at the time of writing this report, and will be verbally updated by Officers at the Baldock and District Committee meeting on 30th March 2009:

- The upgrading and improvements to the surfacing at the Whitehorse Street/A507 junction is near completion.
- The surface dressing for the footpath and crossovers is underway. This is the final part of the scheme and has been left for implementation towards the end of the works programme when the climate is more suitable.
- Planting to the memorial garden and reinstatement of the existing grass areas along High Street is in progress.
- A low level post and chain fence will be placed along the turf grass areas to protect them from vehicular movement. These posts will be removable for events, such as for the Baldock Festival and the Fair.
- A new town notice board will be erected outside the Community Centre in High Street.

3.4 There are a number of snagging items that need to be corrected. Officers together with the designers and the contractors are working through these to ensure that the scheme is completed to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the agreed design and will meet the requirements of the Stage 3 Safety Audit to be undertaken towards the end of the project.

4. CAR PARKING

4.1 In November 2008 the Council advertised two proposed Traffic Regulation Orders. These included 'restriction of waiting' and 'control of parking'. A number of objections were received, in particular to the 'control of parking' order. These objections were discussed and considered by Members of the Baldock and District Committee on 12 January 2009 and it was recommended in light of the objections received that the 'control of parking' restriction be revised with a set of new restrictions. The terms of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations requires the new Traffic Regulation Order with the proposed restrictions be advertised and proceed in the recognised way.

4.2 The Traffic Regulation Order defining the new restrictions was advertised towards the end of February 2009 with the consultation period ending on 16 March 2009. A number of objections and comments have been received to this restriction and officers together with their consultants, Jacobs UK Limited, are analysing the responses at the time of writing this report. The facts of the analysis will be presented to the Baldock and District Committee at the meeting on 30 March 2009 (See Agenda Item 10).

- 4.3 Given that a limited number of objections were received to the 'restriction of waiting' order, it was agreed by the Baldock and District Committee at their meeting on 12 January 2009 that this order should proceed. Delegated Officer approval was sought for making the Order, which came into force on 16 March 2009.

5. SITE LOGISTICS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 5.1 Every effort has and will continue to be made to ensure that access to businesses, shops and residences is retained during the works. The contractor will continue to notify businesses and residents prior to works occurring immediately outside their premises.
- 5.2 Temporary signs are to be erected around the open area in High Street with the aim of transferring the Wednesday Charter Market to this location on the 25th March
- 5.3 Information about the works is on display at the Community Centre in Simpson Drive and on the Councils web site at www.north-herts.gov.uk.
- 5.5 Skanska Contractor, Hertfordshire County Council and this Council will continue to support and aid local businesses and residents through these difficult times.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 That the Baldock and District Committee note the content of this Information Note.

7. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 7.1 Louise Symes, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4359
- 7.2 Terry Nickolls, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4425
- 7.3 David Scholes, Head of Planning and Building Control, ext 4836

**PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER ON THE CONTROL OF PARKING
WITHIN BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE: CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the objections received in response to the notice on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for control of parking within the core area of the Baldock Town Centre as part of the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme published on 19th February 2009.
- 1.2 To seek Members decision on these objections and direction on the next phase in the process at outlined in this Report.

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 Reference is made to the Head of Planning & Building Control Report (agenda item 10) submitted to the Baldock & District Committee at its meeting on 12th January 2009 which provides a detailed background on the introduction of parking restrictions within the Baldock town centre as part of the enhancement scheme. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 12 January 2009 the Baldock & District Committee considered two Proposed Traffic Regulation orders that were advertised in November 2008:
 - (a) The first Order related to the *Control of Parking* within the town centre's core area, during the hours 8am to 6pm on Monday to Friday, except for permit holders. This proposed restriction applied to marked-out spaces being subject to a maximum stay of either 1 or 2 hours with no return in 2 hours. The 1 hour limited parking restriction referred to Whitehorse Street and Sun Street, and the 2 hour limited parking restriction referred to various lengths along High Street, Hitchin Street and Simpson Drive, i.e. those parts of the street identified within the core area.
 - (b) The second Order related to the *Restriction of Waiting Order* which controls all other kerbside restrictions such as no waiting, blue badge holders bays, taxi bays, buses and loading bays.
- 3.3 A considerable number of objections were received to the first order (some 120 objections), which were mostly from local businesses raising concerns over:

- The reduction of long-stay parking will provide difficulties for employees and will have an effect on surrounding streets.
 - The types of permits and/or changes to the permit eligibility rules, such as permits for businesses and employees.
 - Resident permit holders using all of the available short-stay spaces
 - The limited waiting in Whitehorse Street, which should include Saturdays and be for 2 hours
 - Provision should be made for some 4 hour parking spaces
- 3.4 A detailed discussion took place amongst Members at the meeting about the likely take up of residents permits (see minute 66, 12 January 2009, Baldock & District Committee meeting) and the objections on the specified times of the Order. The Members decided in response to these comments to support revisions to the restrictions controlling the parking places and not to include residents' permit parking. This required the formation and advertising of a new Order, to be
- 3.5 In terms of the second order, the 'Restriction of Waiting' Order, there was very little opposition to these proposals, except for the proposed restrictions in the High Street slip road. In light of these objections the Members recommended at their meeting on 12 January 2009 that the Order should proceed in part excluding any reference to the slip road off high Street. Following the Member meeting, delegated officer approval was sought and the Restriction of Waiting Traffic Regulation Order was duly made in part with a commencement date of 16th March 2009.
- 3.6 Given that the proposed new Order replacing the original 'Control of Parking' Order, does not include reference to permit parking this is in fact a Restriction of Waiting Order setting out the new set of parking restrictions. This new Order was drafted and published in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996 (LATO Regs) and advertised in the Comet 19th February 2009. The deadline for receipt of objections was set at 16th March 2009. Additionally, letters were sent by the Council to all businesses and residents within the town centre core area informing them about the proposed TRO and where they could view the proposed Orders and Plans. Notices were also posted on street lamp posts around the town centre.
- 3.7 The abovementioned proposed 'Restriction of Waiting' Order includes the following restrictions:
- i) Limited Waiting Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm Saturday for a period not exceeding 2 hours, with No Return within 2 hours, on:
 - both sides of High Street between the Town Hall and Mansfield Road including the open area in front of Brown and Gammons and on the east side southwards towards south of the slip road.
 - the south side of Hitchin Street towards No. 29 Hitchin Street, and
 - both sides of Simpson Drive from the High Street junction in front of the Community Centre and Baldock Library.
 - ii) Limited waiting over the same period as above but limited to 1hour No Return within 2 hours, on:
 - both sides of Whitehorse Street, and
 - on the south side of Sun Street.

- 3.8 It is to be noted that the restriction required to clear the area outside Brown and Gammons on a Wednesday morning is included within the previous Restriction of Waiting Order now in operation.
- 3.9 A copy of the above proposed Order is available in the Members Room and is also available to view on the Councils website at www.north-herts.gov.uk. The Plans showing the proposed restrictions are attached to this Report at Appendix 2.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's consultants Jacobs UK Ltd were responsible for compiling the representations received and have submitted a summary table of the objections and a report to the Council with their findings. The summary table is attached at Appendix 3 to this Report. Points from the Jacobs report have been included as part of the officer considerations.
- 4.2 A total of 21 written representations have been received, with almost all of them, with the exception of 2, either objecting, or expressing strong opposition, to the decision taken at the Baldock & District Committee meeting on 12 January 2009 to not to include any reference to residents' permits. No objections have been received to the timings of the restrictions as advertised in the new proposed 'Restriction of Waiting' Order.
- 4.3 The two exceptions, were objections that came from people who work in the town centre and referred to the removal of long-stay parking in the High Street. They are essentially re-affirming their previous objection raised to the proposed 'Control of Parking' order advertised in November 2008, about the inconvenience that this will cause to those who currently park on-street for the whole day. This objection is addressed at paragraph 4.3.2 of the Officers Report submitted to the 12 January 2009 Baldock & District Committee. (See Appendix 1).
- 4.4 Of the 19 representations submitted in response to the absence of residents permit parking,
- four raised concerns about the potential migration of parking to side roads, in particular to Church Street, Thurnall Close and Simpson Drive. The Simpson Drive representations requesting permits to include Simpson Drive, and
 - two put forward ideas for alternative use of some bays, such as allocating specific parking bays for shop and business customers with no exemption for permit holders.
- 4.5 The remaining 13 representations came from residents located within Whitehorse Street, Hitchin Street and High Street and relate to:
- Disappointment that permit parking was previously proposed as an integral part of the town centre improvement scheme and that this has now been taken away.
 - Concern that if permits are not available, they will be unable to park near to their homes during the working day, including Saturday mornings, and the inconvenience this will cause.
 - Concern about the security of their vehicles if parked some distance from their homes.
 - The likely reduction in property values should permits not be available.
- 4.6 A representation has been received from three residents who appear to have undertaken work to determine the likely take-up of permits (See Appendix 4). They say that they represent the residents of Baldock, particularly people with no parking facilities of their own. Their figures of 41 potential take-up of permits appear to

broadly support the Officers and their consultants previous estimate take-up of 30 permits. Both the residents and the officers figures are yet to be verified. The officer estimate was based on work undertaken by 3 sets of consultants at the time of preparing the parking scheme for Baldock and it still remains the Officer view that despite the amount of research and surveys that are undertaken it is difficult to predict or quantify the possible take-up of residential permits in the core area without implementing such a scheme and monitoring it accordingly.

- 4.7 The concerns raised about the migration of residents parking onto surrounding streets is justified. Research and experience has indicated that parking will transfer into surrounding streets when restrictions are introduced and there is no indication that the core area of Baldock town centre will be an exception. A similar concern was raised to the previous order regarding the lack of long-stay parking for businesses and their possible migration to surrounding residential streets. As stated at paragraph 4.3.3 of the Officers Report submitted to the 12 January 2009 Baldock & District Committee, part of the car parking strategy presented to Members in the 19 November 2007 Officer Report it was agreed that following the implementation of the enhancement scheme, that measures be undertaken by the Council, starting 2009/10, to monitor the possible migration of long-stay business parking on surrounding residential streets and to implement necessary TROs to control on-street parking within these areas. Additional funding will be needed to implement and enforce such schemes, and an investment bid will be proposed through the Council's Corporate Business Planning process for 2010/11 for such work.
- 4.8 The suggestions raised about alternative use of some bays, such as allocating specific parking bays for shop and business customers with no exemption for permit holders is an option that could be considered and is discussed below under paragraphs 5.6 to 5.9 of this report.
- 4.9 Having summarised the main objections raised in light of the proposed new TRO, Section 5 of this Report outlines the various alternatives in terms of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations and a number of options that need to be considered by Members before recommending a preferred solution to the delegated officer responsible for making the necessary Traffic Regulation Order.

5. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 At present there are two proposed Traffic Regulation Orders that have been advertised for on street parking restrictions covering the core area within the Baldock Town Centre. One relates to the previous 'Control of Parking' Order advertised on 6 November 2008 with its controls as summarised in paragraph 3.2 (a) above (See paragraph 3.5 (a) of Appendix 1 for the precise details of this proposed Order). The other relates to the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order advertised on 19th February 2009 as outlined in paragraph 3.7 above. This report covers the objections received to the latter Order.
- 5.2 In terms of the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order, only three options are available:
- i) seal the order as published unaltered,
 - ii) seal the order in part and reconsider the part not included, and
 - iii) abandon the Order and advertise a completely new order or proceed with the original 'Control of Parking' order.

Seal the Order as Published Unaltered:

- 5.3 After considering the above, the Committee may recommend that the Order be published in its entirety. However, if it is considered that permits with all their associated advantages should be added, the only option would be to follow this

newly sealed order with another Order describing the same parking restrictions with the exception of using a permit. This latter Order would require advertising and possible further consideration of objections likely to be received.

5.4 Alternatively the Committee may decide to proceed with advertising the latter Order as described in 5.3 above without the first Order in place, i.e. where the first is abandoned altogether.

5.5 The former proposal offers immediate control with adjustment and consideration later, whereas the alternative has no such advantage as there would be no enforcement of parking restrictions while the latter Order (with permit parking) evolves.

Seal the order in part and reconsider the part not included:

5.6 The Committee may be mindful to apply the same principal as described in 5.4 above but only to selected areas of the total scheme. In this case the Order now under consideration is made in part and the non-made bays, which have yet to be established, are considered separately.

5.7 What could be a disadvantage is the method of selection of the non-made bays or more to the point the location of the same, as great care needs to be shown on the resulting abstraction, as those selected will be unprotected for the duration of any future process.

5.8 Having selected the removed areas, three options are available under the Regulations:

- i) Return the area back into the original Order
- ii) Abandon the area altogether so they remain unprotected
- iii) modify albeit slightly, the area then return it to the Original Order.

5.9 If Members are mindful of say converting a small number of bays into permit holders bays, the option available is to abandon the area under consideration and consider another Order with the new restrictions for that area only including permits. This will result in re-advertising and there would be no protection of these bays while the Order evolves.

5.10 If Members were mindful to proceed with this option then the types of criteria that should be considered are:

- Overall number of bays in relation to the total order and expressed demand.
- Location of bays through the scheme, and
- Areas of high short term demand.

The representations indicate that 20 to 25 spaces are likely to be required to satisfy demand.

Abandon the Order and advertise a completely new order or proceed with the original 'Control of Parking' order.

5.11 This option is similar to the option described in paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 above, where the Members could choose to abandon the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order and introduce a completely new order, or abandon the new Order and proceed with the previous 'Control of Parking' Order as advertised in November 2008.

Conclusions:

- 5.12 It is to be noted, that in all cases and permutations, except for sealing one of the Orders, will require some form of re-advertisement and a further delay in the process.
- 5.13 Given that no objections were received to the revised time restrictions of the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order compared to the number of objections received from businesses to the 'Control of Parking' Order, this new Order could therefore be argued to satisfy the majority of the objections previously raised. The objections raised to the 'Restriction of Waiting' Order were in relation to the absence of permit parking, an element that the new Order did not contain or advertise. While the concerns raised by the residents are important and need to be addressed, they are not considered of material weight to prevent the new Order from proceeding. It is for this reason that the Officers suggest that the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order with its proposed restrictions as outlined in paragraph 3.7 above should proceed and the earlier 'Control of Parking' Order is abandoned. This is the option discussed under 5.3 above.
- 5.14 In concluding on this matter considerations should be given to having an enforceable scheme which meets needs at the earliest feasible opportunity. On balance the shortcomings of proceeding with the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order are outweighed by the advantages of securing a scheme that can be implemented and enforced close to the completion of the works.
- 5.15 The Committee can then decide how it wishes to address the concerns raised by the residents. As stated in paragraph 4.7 above, it has always been the intention, to monitor the TRO scheme and make any necessary amendments to the Orders to address any on-street parking issues. It is suggested that this monitoring does not occur for at least 6 months from the making of the Order, thereby allowing time for the scheme to settle. Included in this monitoring could be the review of permit parking schemes and any parking pressures occurring on surrounding streets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees apply to this Report. It is noted that the Area Committee does not have the power to make a Traffic Regulation Order, these powers rest with the delegated officer, namely the Head of Planning & Building Control.
- 6.2 The Traffic Regulation Order must be drafted, considered and published in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996. Any amendment that is considered to be of a major nature will require re-advertising of the Order in terms of Section 7 of the Regulations.
- 6.3 Where the Council has been seen to address and consider all objections submitted and where the objections are not considered to be of such a material weight so as to stop the proposed scheme proceeding, (see paragraph 5.3 above) then in terms of Section 19 of the Regulations the scheme can proceed as previously advertised.

7. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An investment bid was proposed through the Council's Corporate Business Planning process for 2009/10 and onwards relating to the implementation and monitoring of TROs district wide, £65K per annum. Due to the current economic climate, this bid has been deferred by Cabinet until 2010/11. In addition to this, a Capital growth bid will be put forward for 2010/11 and 2011/12 for the

implementation of Controlled Parking Zones in surrounding streets adjacent to the town centre.

- 7.2 With regard to risk there is significant reputational risk associated with the non-delivery and enforcement of the TRO once these works are completed, which has a very high public profile. The Council's risk register has been updated to reflect this risk, in addition a risk register for the whole project is maintained and reviewed by the Project Team.

8. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The officer time involved in the enhancement project and overseeing the consultants in preparing the TROs is identified as part of the Corporate Business Planning Process for Planning & Building Control Services. This has also been included in other relevant Service plans, such as Parking Services, 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 working together with and informing the local community on the implementation of the TROs for the project.

9. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 9.1 Officers and their consultants, BDP, have undertaken a variety of stakeholder workshops, attended meetings and given presentations to key organisations including the Town Partnership, and the Baldock Society and organised a series of drop-in events and interviews.
- 9.2 Briefing sessions have been held with Baldock Members to gain further information and to give feedback on proposals and on progress.
- 9.3 The Control of Parking TRO was formally advertised on 6th November 2008 for 28 days and the new Restriction of Waiting TRO with revised restrictions was formally advertised on 19th February 2009 for 28 days. At the time of advertising these two TROs, letters were sent to all residential and business properties within the town centre core area informing them about the proposed parking restrictions.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Committee agree to abandon the previously advertised 'Control of Parking' Order and recommend that the Delegated Officer give the necessary approval for the new 'Restriction of Waiting' Order as advertised on 19th February 2009 to proceed unaltered.
- 10.2 That the new Traffic Regulation Order for the Restriction of Waiting is monitored and any amendments to be made do not occur for at least 6 months from the making of the Order to address any necessary on-street parking restriction issues.
- 10.3 That following the implementation of the enhancement scheme, that measures be undertaken by the Council, starting 2010/11, to monitor the possible migration of long-stay business parking and town centre resident parking on surrounding residential streets and to implement necessary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to control on-street parking within these areas.
- 10.4 That the Consultant to the Council writes to each objector on the decision.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 In order to ensure that the proposed TRO for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme is implemented and that Member and public expectations are managed and met.

12. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 12.1 A number of alternatives in progressing the new 'Restriction of Waiting' TRO has been considered – see section 5 above.

13. APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix 1: 12 January 2009 Baldock Committee Report – Agenda Item 10: Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for Car Parking in Baldock Town Centre and On Street Waiting Restrictions: Consideration of Objections.
- 13.2 Appendix 2: Plans 1 to 6 showing the revised time restrictions relating to the New Proposed Restriction of Waiting Order
- 13.3 Appendix 3: Summary of Representations to Revised Baldock Parking Restrictions
- 13.4 Appendix 4: Copy of Representation submitted by messrs Sharp, Terry and Connah

14. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 14.1 Louise Symes, Planning Projects Manager, ext 4359
- 14.2 Terry Nickolls, Principal Engineer, ext 4425
- 14.3 David Scholes, Head of Planning & Building Control, ext 4836
- 14.4 Kim Sawyer, Corporate Legal Manager, ext 4561
- 14.5 Barrie Jones, Head of Finance, ext 4243

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Baldock Town Centre Strategy
- 15.2 Relevant committee reports
- 15.3 Relevant surveys and consultation summaries
- 15.4 Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders in Various Roads in Baldock for Restriction of Waiting and Control of Parking.

This report was originally presented to the Baldock and District Committee meeting held on 12 January 2009.

BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME – PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS FOR CAR PARKING IN BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE: ON-STREET WAITING RESTRICTIONS: CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the objections received in response to the notice of the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for parking restrictions within the core area of the Baldock Town Centre as part of the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme published on 6th November 2008.
- 1.2 To seek Members decision on these objections and direction on the next phase in the process at outlined in this Report.

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 Baldock Town Centre Strategy, adopted in January 2006, sets out an Action Plan which requires the preparation and delivery of an enhancement scheme for Baldock town centre. Completion of the Baldock southern 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. NHDC and HCC working in partnership are jointly funding the enhancements works
- 3.2 The Council appointed Building Design Partnership (BDP) in February 2007 to prepare design proposals for the Baldock Town Centre enhancement scheme and to supervise the implementation of the works on site.
- 3.3 The Baldock & District Committee agreed the Masterplan for the enhancement of Baldock town Centre on 7 August 2007 following an extensive public consultation exercise. At that meeting there were a number of issues in terms of car parking that needed to be addressed in more detail and reported back to Members at the Baldock & District Committee meeting on 19 November 2007.
- 3.4 As part of the work in preparing the report for November 2007, two meetings were held with the businesses and residents along the slip road off High Street and with businesses on 12 September 2007 to discuss car parking restrictions in the town centre. The consultants BDP also undertook an extensive survey of the area, including visitor, business and residential parking at that time. This information was presented to Members in a detailed report on 19 November 2007. Members resolved at the meeting to agree the officer recommendations in terms of the proposed car parking restrictions for the Baldock Town Centre. The agreed proposals are outlined below as presented in the above mentioned Officer Report: (A copy of the Officer Report and Minutes of the Meeting are attached to this Report at [Appendix 1 and 2](#))

3.4.1 In terms of the slip road under para 5.1.3 of the Officer Report, it was agreed:

- That access only is permitted along the slip road. This will allow a short period of time for necessary deliveries and for the dropping off/picking up of customers and residents,
- That the parking restrictions for the core area be extended along the eastern side of High Street towards the southern end of the slip road to allow for customer parking and residential permit parking. Unrestricted parking for businesses and visitors to the town centre will be provided on the opposite side of the slip road and continue southwards along High Street.

3.4.2 In terms of the overall parking strategy for the town centre, under para 5.2.3 of the report it was agreed:

- That parking be restricted within the core area of the town centre to overcome the conflict between different users and to make provision for short-term parking for customers and visitors, whilst allowing for a certain amount of necessary residential parking through the issuing of permits (See paragraph 5.2.6 below);
- That the remainder of the town centre remain unrestricted for long stay parking, to accommodate business parking. The Twitchell off-street car park remains for long stay car parking (see paragraph 5.2.6 below);

3.4.3 In terms of the proposed parking restrictions under para 5.2.6 of the Officer Report it was agreed in accordance with the report that the parking within the core area will comprise a mix of:

- One hour no return within two hours along Whitehorse Street and Sun Street during working hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Fridays.
- Two hours, no return within two hours along the eastern part of Hitchin Street, Simpson Drive and High Street to Mansfield Road and along the western side of High Street to the end of the slip road. Again during working hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Fridays.
- Residential parking will be permitted within this restricted area for those residents that do not have off-street parking on their premises. This will be allowed by way of permits, which will be charged for in accordance with the Council's current residential permit parking schemes.

The extent of the agreed Parking Core Area is shown on the plan at [Appendix 3](#) to this Report.

3.5 Following agreement of the proposed car parking restrictions by the Baldock & District Committee officers commissioned a consulting engineer, Jacobs UK Ltd, to prepare and publish two traffic regulation orders (TROs), which are summarised as follows :

- (a) The first relates to the *Control of Parking Order 2009* including:
- i) No Waiting 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday for a period exceeding 2 hours, with No Return within 2 hours, except for Permit Holders on:
 - both sides of High Street southwards towards Mansfield Road on the west side, south of the slip road on the east side,
 - the south side of Hitchin Street towards No. 29 Hitchin Street, and
 - both sides of Simpson Drive in front of the Community Centre and Baldock Library.
 - ii) No Waiting 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday for a period exceeding 1 hour, with No Return within 2 hours, except for Permit Holders on:
 - both sides of Whitehorse Street, and
 - on the south side of Sun Street.
 - iii) No waiting 6:00am to 10:00am and limited waiting 2 hours no return in 2 hours except for permit holders 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday on the west side of high Street between No's 14b and 18High Street.
- (b) The second relates to the *Restriction of Waiting Order 2009* including:
- i) No waiting along certain lengths of road in Whitehorse Street, High Street, Sun Street, the southern end of Church Street, Hitchin Street, on both sides of Bell Row and the High Street slip road and at the entrance to Simpson Drive.
 - ii) No waiting at any time except for loading only for a period not exceeding 20 minutes at various locations in High Street, Whitehorse Street and church Street.
 - iii) No waiting at any time except for disabled badge holders for a period not exceeding 3 hours at three locations in Whitehorse Street, six locations in High Street and one disabled bay in Simpson Drive outside the Community Centre.
 - iv) No waiting at any time except for taxis on the east side of High Street outside No. 19 High Street.

Copies of the above proposed Orders are available in the Members Room and are available to view on the Councils website at www.north-herts.gov.uk. The six plans showing the proposed Orders are attached to this Report at Appendix 4.

3.6 The above Orders were drafted and published in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996 (LATO Regs) and advertised in the Comet and the Royston Crow on 6th November 2008. The deadline for receipt of objections was set at 1st December 2008. Additionally, letters were sent by the Council to all businesses and residents within the town centre core area informing them about the proposed TROs and where they could view the proposed Orders and Plans. Notices were also posted on street lamp posts around the town centre.

3.7 The proposed advertised Control of Parking was amended from the previously proposed 8:00am to 5:00pm to 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday's in accordance with similar town centre restrictions within Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston.

4. CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Council's consultants Jacobs UK Ltd were responsible for compiling the representations received and have submitted a summary table of the objections and a report to the Council with their findings. The summary table is attached at Appendix 5 to this Report. Points from the Jacobs report have been included as part of the officer considerations in this Report.

4.2 A total of 110 written representations have been received, with 92 of those being from those either objecting, or expressing strong opposition, to the proposals. The main issues that have been raised through the representations are discussed below. Some of the representations made were more general observations about the town centre scheme, and as they were not related to the advertised TRO proposals, these are considered in the context of this Report as not relevant to the consideration of the Orders.

Copies of all the objections submitted are available in the Members Room.

Issues Raised under Objection Include:

4.3 Reduction of long-stay parking – difficulties for employees and effect on surrounding streets.

4.3.1 Related to this issue are concerns about the impact on town centre retail businesses and resultant migration of on-street parking.

4.3.2 Most of the objections about the reduction in long-stay parking have been raised by employees of two large companies operating from the High Street. (i.e. 35 of the 47 objections received on this particular issue). Of the 92 objections received (51%) considered the reduction and displacement of unrestricted parking would have a detrimental effect both on the businesses working efficiently and retaining staff, and on the surrounding residential streets, caused in their opinion by the long term parking migrating into these areas. Whilst their views are understandable, such businesses have been fortunate to enjoy free on-street parking without time limit near to their place of employment, which is a benefit unavailable to many people working in a town centre. The new parking layout does provide approximately 108 long-stay spaces available within a reasonable walking distance of businesses located within the core area of the town centre. These long stay spaces are along the southern end of High Street, the western end of Hitchin Street and within the Twitchell Car Park. The Council is also in discussion with Tesco stores to allow approximately 30 additional spaces within the store car park for town centre business parking.

4.3.3 It is clear that the proposals will mean that less space is available for long-stay parking and this may well displace many vehicles belonging to workers, and possibly commuters, from the High Street and other roads to adjacent residential streets, including Church Street and Thurnall Close. These are concerns made by the residents in relation to the proposed TROs and are justified. As part of the car parking strategy presented to Members in the 19 November 2007 Officer Report it was agreed that following the implementation of the enhancement scheme, that measures be undertaken by the Council, starting 2009/10, to monitor the possible migration of long-stay business parking on surrounding residential streets and to implement necessary TROs to control on-street parking within these areas. As additional funding will need to be provided to implement and enforce such schemes, a growth bid has been proposed through the Council's Service & Financial Planning process for 2009/10 and 2010/11 for such work.

It should be noted that the proposed short stay spaces will be of considerable benefit to shoppers in the town centre and this needs to be weighed against any inconvenience to long stay parkers.

4.4 Requests for other types of permits and/or changes to the permit eligibility rules

- 4.4.1 This covers requests from some of the respondents for permits where they are not presently being considered, notably Church Street and Walker's Court; representations from some that one permit per household is not enough (i.e. 22% of the 92 objections); and requests for business and/or employee permits (i.e. 4.5% of the 92 objections received).
- 4.4.2 It is considered necessary to restrict the number of permits issued, as one of the main principles of the parking scheme, is to provide convenient short-term parking for potential customers for businesses operating within the town centre. This would be significantly compromised if more than one residential permit were issued or indeed if permits were made available for employees. The advertised proposal to allow those without off-road parking to have one permit per household seems reasonable. In terms of the proposed TRO, any residents arriving home after 4pm in the High Street and after 5pm in Whitehorse Street from Monday to Friday would not need a permit, and there would be no requirement to display permits at the weekend.
- 4.4.3 Residents of Walker's Court have no vehicular access and hence have no alternative other than to park on-street. Walker's Court contains town centre dwellings with no parking facilities, so the residents experience some inconvenience when attempting to park their vehicles. However, this development is unique in that it does not have any vehicular access, so its inclusion in the permit scheme would not set a precedent if Members were to consider proceeding with the Scheme as advertised. (See Section 5 of this Report outlining the various alternatives/options for consideration.)

4.5 Concerns that permits holders will use all of the available short-stay spaces

- 4.5.1 Businesses in Whitehorse Street and several in the High Street and Sun Street are concerned that permit-holders will use all of the available short-stay spaces. While officers cannot confirm the precise amount of permit take up by residents within the core town centre area, as part of the initial survey work in preparing the restrictions back in 2007 it is the both the officers view and that of the BDP, the designers of the Enhancement Scheme, that the likely take up of permits may not cause as much of an issue as the businesses are predicting, as there is a significant amount of off street parking available to residents within the core area. It is likely that those residents that take up permits will park their vehicles throughout the core area and will not necessarily be concentrated in one area. It is also not unreasonable to assume that many of the residential related vehicles will have vacated the parking bays by 9am, leaving sufficient spaces for shoppers.
- 4.5.2 One of the agreed key principles of the town centre enhancement scheme is about 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. It is about achieving a balanced approach that will best serve and accommodate the interest of the town. There would seem to be no easy answer to this concern raised by the businesses, as any proposal to remove the permit parking element from the scheme, in the officers view could be met with strong opposition from residents.

It is the officers' view that the permit element of the scheme be reviewed as part of the work to be undertaken on the impact of parking on the adjacent residential streets and the possibility of including the core town centre resident permit holders within these areas could be considered as part of this review. See paragraphs 5.8.1 to 5.8.3 below outlining this option for consideration.

4.6 Limited waiting in Whitehorse Street should include Saturdays and be for 2 hours

4.6.1 A number of respondents have requested that the limited waiting restriction in Whitehorse Street be changed from 1 hour as proposed in the TRO to 2 hours and that the waiting restrictions should include Saturdays. At the meeting with the businesses in September 2007, a number of different restrictions were proposed including 1 hour in Whitehorse Street. Following this meeting, Officers proposed a mixture of 1 and 2 hour limited waiting in their Report that was presented to Members at their Committee meeting on 19 November 2007 and was agreed, as set out in the published TRO's.

4.6.2 The proposal to restrict the limited waiting and permit parking from Monday to Friday was based on the view that on Saturdays there would be very few parked vehicles generated by the town centre offices and train station. Hence, there would be ample spaces available for shoppers and residents. If Saturdays were to be included this would mean that the TRO would need to be re-advertised as this is considered to be a substantial/major alteration to the proposed Order, plus a significant number of additional residents may take up permits to park on the weekends thereby reducing the amount of spaces available. See paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 below outlining the various alternatives in progressing the TROs and to paragraphs 5.9.1 to 5.9.4 where this option is considered.

4.7 Provision of some 4 hour parking spaces

4.7.1 A few of the respondents have suggested that some visitors may require more than 2 hours, for example whilst enjoying a meal, visiting the hairdresser or attending a training course, and that some 4 hour bays should be provided.

4.7.2 It is considered that a combination of 1 and 2 hour spaces is reasonable. The assumption is that 2 hours is sufficient parking time for most visitors to a small town, such as Baldock. If people need to stay longer they could seek long-stay parking provided elsewhere in the High Street and Hitchin Street beyond the town centre core area, but within a relatively short walking distance. Also, if 4 hour bays were provided this would result in a less regular turnover of parking and therefore less chance of a potential customer finding a convenient parking space. Equally experience in other towns shows that the more complex the range of on-street controls the greater opportunity there is for confusion and complaint. Members however, may wish to consider alternative means of providing 4 hour parking, for example in the Twitchell car park. This would mean a separate TRO and would not compromise the existing Control of Parking TRO as advertised.

4.8 Specific requests for alterations to proposals

4.8.1 The Community Association and Baldock Society have asked for changes to be made to enable certain vehicles to park immediately outside the Community Centre in Simpson Drive. This request seems reasonable, but careful thought needs to be given to how this might be achieved, as they wish to have the flexibility to allow a wide range of vehicles, such as staff cars, taxis, blood donor service vehicles, deliveries and minibuses to wait outside. Any restricted bay is unlikely to allow parking by all of these types of vehicle. A possible solution is for the Parking Manager to temporarily suspend the restrictions in a specific parking bay outside the Community Centre as this type of restriction is permitted within the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations. Demarcating this bay as a

specific bay such as an ambulance bay for example would require re-advertising the TRO, and then the option for the Parking Manager to temporarily suspend the restrictions would still apply. Some of the other uses will be catered for as part of the Limited Waiting TRO, such as taxis using the designated bays in the High Street and disabled bays provided throughout the core area, including a disabled bay provided directly outside the Community Centre. The TRO does not affect the staff using the Community Centre car park off Simpson Drive, and is considered that sufficient parking is available within this car park or elsewhere in the area for staff.

- 4.8.2 A representation received from a resident in Mansfield Road raised the concern about allowing parking on the north side of Mansfield Road, as this will conflict with vehicular access into the road from High Street and also considers that additional restrictions should be introduced to ensure that traffic is not obstructed. Mansfield Road is not included in the proposed TROs. Given that it is one of the adjacent streets to the town centre, it will be considered as part of the monitoring work on the impact of parking on the surrounding residential streets commencing early 2009/2010.
- 4.8.3 A resident who owns the first property that lies outside the proposed permit zone in Hitchin Street and would like to be eligible for a permit. Whilst his concerns are understandable, this would set an unworkable precedent. There are sufficient long-stay parking spaces provided in Hitchin Street and ultimately the boundary has to be drawn somewhere.
- 4.9 Very few objections were received to the Waiting Restriction TRO. These objections were in terms of the number of taxi bays being provided within the scheme. The number of bays provided is no more than previously provided before the enhancement scheme, plus the location and of the taxi bays as proposed were discussed with the taxi operators. This objection is considered to be minor and inconsequential.
- 4.10 Having summarised the main objections raised in light of the proposed TROs, Section 5 of this Report outlines the various alternatives in terms of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations and a number of options that need to be considered by Members before reaching a conclusion on whether to proceed with the TROs as advertised or not.

5. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 The on street parking and waiting controls for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme have been made in two parts as outlined under paragraph 3.5 (a) and (b) above. One controls the bays, i.e. the Control of Parking Order, and the second, i.e. Restriction of Waiting Order, controls all other kerbside restrictions such as no waiting, blue badge holders' bays etc. The distinction between the two orders in terms of the Regulations is that the former makes reference to residents' permits and the latter does not.
- 5.2 Removing the resident permit element either in part or totally causes that restriction to transfer from the first Order to the second Order, therefore making the second Order more onerous in terms of the inclusion of the parking bay restrictions, which will require the second Order to be re-advertised in terms of the Regulations. If the first Order has the resident permit parking element removed in total, it evaporates as all the restrictions will be transferred to the modified second Order.

- 5.3 The alternative is to retain the second Order intact, i.e. the Restriction of Waiting Order, and create a new Order defining the parking bays. This gives the option of making the Restriction of Waiting Order, with or without minor alterations, and advertising a new second Order. This allows for the kerbside restrictions to operate before the project is complete while the restrictions to the parking bays Order follows.
- 5.4 Any re-advertising of the Orders will create a delay by at least two months in implementing the elements covered by two Orders as advertised. In the case of paragraph 5.2 above, this means that all the restrictions in both Orders will be delayed, and in the case of paragraph 5.3 above only the parking bays restriction will be delayed.
- 5.5 Proceeding with both parts of the Order as previously advertised, with or without minor alterations will allow all the restrictions to come into force before the project is complete.
- 5.6 Taking into account the above, three basic options are available:
- Option 1 – Implement the two Orders as advertised with or without minor alterations.
 - Option 2 – Remove major elements from the Orders, such as removing residential permits.
 - Option 3 – Change part of the Orders – such as removing residential permits in some streets or increasing the restrictions to include Saturdays.

Each of these options will be discussed in turn.

5.7 Option 1 – Implement the Orders as advertised:

- 5.7.1 The majority of the objections received (51%) consider the amount of unrestricted space to be inadequate and insufficient for the numbers working in the town centre. While it is recognised that there is a reduction in the availability of unrestricted parking spaces, this is the result of balancing the principle of making the town centre more accessible while maintaining as much as possible the demand for parking for residents and businesses.
- 5.7.2 After due consideration of the facts and figures found at the consultation stages it was decided to allocate the core area for visitor parking for shops and businesses in such numbers as to accommodate both the demand for visitors and the anticipated take-up of residence permits. It was also considered that those working in the town centre would be able to park only a few minutes walk away on the periphery of the area. As stated in paragraph 4.3.3 above possible migration into the surrounding residential street may take place and it is difficult at this stage to predict or quantify this, as it is to predict or quantify the possible take up of residential permits within the core area.
- 5.7.3 The figures are based on information gleaned from Baldock and like other major schemes the results depend heavily on individual responses. Officers will not know the precise numbers until the scheme has had time to settle, (usually 6 months after implementation) and this can be achieved is by continuing with the two Orders unaltered as previously advertised.

- 5.7.4 As stated in paragraph 4.3.3 above measures can be put in place immediately to monitor the effects of the TROs in terms of visitor, business, long-stay and residential parking on the town centre and the surrounding residential streets and any necessary alterations could be made at a later date to the published TROs. This option, as stated in paragraph 5.5 above, would allow the Orders as advertised to be made immediately following the Committee Meeting and for enforcement of the restrictions to take place as soon as practicable in certain areas before the project is complete.
- 5.8 Option 2 - Remove major elements from the Orders
- 5.8.1 As stated in paragraph 4.5.1 above, a major concern from the objectors is the effect residential permit holders will have on the availability of shoppers parking. It is possible to remove the issuing of permits from the scheme eliminating this concern. The effects on the Order and process caused by this alteration or indeed any alteration of this magnitude will result in the Order having to be re-advertised and will delay the implementation date as outlined in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 above.
- 5.8.2 Removing the possible issuing of permits will also remove the verification of the numbers or permits and the location of holders within the core area, which when considered in light of future proposals, i.e. the option of possibly transferring the permit holders from within the core area into any future adjacent permit parking areas around the town centre. This would provide the necessary factual information required while progressing the work of parking restrictions in surrounding streets.
- 5.8.3 Removing permits option at this stage would also cause further stress on the parking in the surrounding areas, as those requiring a permit will be obliged to park elsewhere and it therefore may be in the interests of the overall control of parking and functioning of the town to retain an element of permit parking within the core area.
- 5.9 Option 3 – Change part of the Orders.
- 5.9.1 An alternative to the above is to remove the opportunity to use the permit in some areas. The issue here is that a balance must be struck between the needs of two groups visiting shoppers and local residents parking on street. The approach adopted is to allow the maximum spread of available parking to permit holders on the assumption that permit holders will park as close as possible to their homes.
- 5.9.2 The difficulty with this is **if** there is a concentration of permit holders in one area, which has a relatively low number of spaces, these bays may be perpetually occupied by permit holders, the potential high risk area being in Whitehorse Street.
- 5.9.3 Removing the potential permit parking from this street or part of the street will cause the permit holder to park elsewhere in the scheme or in the side streets. Removing permit parking from Whitehorse Street or indeed from any other part of the scheme is regarded as a major alteration in terms of the Regulations and will require the TRO to be re-advertised. It is believed that the numbers compared with the overall scheme is small and whichever approach the resident decides on will have a medium to low effect.
- 5.9.4 Similarly the introduction of extending the hours of restriction to include Saturdays or to include 4 hour parking as stated in paragraphs 4.6.2 and 4.7.1 are regarded as major alterations and would require the TRO to be re-advertised in terms of the Regulations. The hours of stay and Monday to Friday restriction were developed following consultation.

- 5.10 Having considered all the objections and the options available and the consequences of them, it is the Officers opinion that the TROs are made as previously advertised unaltered, and that a review of the arrangements as outlined in the various sections of this Report be implemented following completion.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees apply to this Report.
- 6.2 The Traffic Regulation Orders must be drafted, considered and published in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996. Any amendment that is considered to be of a major nature will require re-advertising of the Order in terms of Section 7 of the Regulations.
- 6.3 Where the Council has been seen to address and consider all objections submitted and where the objections are not considered to be of such a material weight so as to stop the proposed scheme proceeding, (see paragraph 5.10 above) then in terms of Section 19 of the Regulations the scheme can proceed as previously advertised.

7. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is an agreed capital budget for the project of £3m. NHDC are contributing £2m and HCC are contributing £1m. HCC have agreed to provide £200K in addition to their £1m to upgrade the carriageway and footpaths in Hitchin Street and footway in Church Street.
- 7.2 The prime partners, namely NHDC and HCC will co-fund the project development costs. The fees for consultants, necessary survey work, consultation and publicity involved in preparing the scheme and overseeing its implementation makes for 15% of the overall budget. The remainder of the budget is for implementation of the works, contractor fees, preparing the necessary TROs and also making allowance for contingencies. These costs are in keeping with a project of this scale.
- 7.3 An investment bid has been proposed through the Council's Service & Financial Planning process for 2009/10 and onwards relating to the implementation and monitoring of TRO's district wide. For Baldock, this would include the wider parking issues relating to the monitoring of the core area and the surrounding streets adjacent to the town centre.
- 7.4 With regard to risk there is significant reputation risks associated with the non-delivery and enforcement of the TROs once these works are completed, 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 whole project has been prepared and is maintained and reviewed by the Project Team.

8. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The officer time involved in the enhancement project and overseeing the consultants in preparing the TROs is identified as part of the Service and Financial Planning Process for Planning & Building Control Services. This has also been included in other relevant Service plans, such as Parking Services, 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 working together with and informing the local community on the implementation of the TROs for the project.

9. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 9.1 Officers and their consultants, BDP, have undertaken a variety of stakeholder workshops, presentations to key organisations including the Town Partnership, and the Baldock Society plus ran a series of drop-in events and interviews.
- 9.2 Briefing sessions have been held with Baldock Members to gain further information and to give feedback on proposals and on progress.

A public consultation exercise was undertaken between 9 June and 20 July 2007 for the enhancement Scheme as a whole. A business meeting was held on 12 September 2007 to discuss car parking restrictions within the town centre and a separate meeting was held with the businesses and residents from the High Street slip road area to discuss parking and waiting restrictions. The TROs were formally advertised on 6th November 2008 for 28 days and letters were sent to all residential and business properties within the town centre core area informing them about the proposed parking restrictions.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Baldock and District Committee consider the objections raised in relation to:
- i) The North Hertfordshire district Council (Various Roads in Baldock) (Control of Parking) Order 2009 as outlined in paragraph 3.5 (a) above.
 - ii) The North Hertfordshire District Council (Various Roads in Baldock) (Restriction of Waiting) Order 2009 as outlined in paragraph 3.5 (b) above.
- and consider the officer and consultant's responses as required by the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996 (LATO Regs).
- 10.2 That the Baldock and District Committee agree to overrule the objections outlined in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.8 inclusive above and agree to proceed with the Control of Parking Order 2009 unaltered as outlined in option 1 under paragraph 5.6 inclusive above.
- 10.3 That the Baldock and District Committee agree to overrule the objections outlined in paragraph 4.9 above and agree to proceed with the Restriction of Waiting Order 2009 unaltered.
- 10.4 That the officers instruct on behalf of the Council, Jacobs UK Ltd to:-
- i) Publish the requisite notices under section 17 Part III of the LATO Regs.
 - ii) Inform all objectors of the outcome with the reasons for the overruling. Include in this response will be a note drawing attention to Schedule 1 Part III, Section 12 of the LATO Regs, which makes reference to the 6 weeks period in which an application can be made to the High Court for a review of procedures.
- 10.5 That the Traffic Regulation Order for the Control of Parking is monitored and any amendments to be made do not occur for at least 6 months from the making of the Order to address any necessary on-street parking restriction issues.

- 10.6 That following the implementation of the enhancement scheme, that measures be undertaken by the Council, starting 2009/10, to monitor the possible migration of long-stay business parking on surrounding residential streets and to implement necessary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to control on-street parking within these areas.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 In order to ensure that the proposed TROs for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme are implemented within the set and agreed project programme for the completion of the works, as well as ensuring that Member and public expectations are managed and met.

12. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 12.1 A number of alternatives in progressing the Control of Parking TRO has been considered – see section 5 above.

13. APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix 1: 19 November 2007 Baldock Committee Report – Agenda Item 6: Baldock Town Centre enhancement Scheme – Final Design & Category B Issues
- 13.2 Appendix 2: 19 November 2007 Baldock and District Committee Minute 51.
- 13.3 Appendix 3: Proposed Parking Plan Ref: (09)LP005_G of the Core Area
- 13.4 Appendix 4: Plans 1 to 6 showing the Proposed Control of Parking Orders
- 13.5 Appendix 5: Summary of Representations to Baldock Parking Restrictions

14. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 14.1 Louise Symes, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4359
- 14.2 Terry Nickolls, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4425
- 14.3 David Scholes, Head of Planning & Building Control, ext 4836
- 14.4 Katie White, Senior Lawyer, ext 4315
- 14.5 Barrie Jones, Head of Finance, ext 4243

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Baldock Town Centre Strategy
- 15.2 Relevant committee reports
- 15.3 Relevant surveys and consultation summaries
- 15.4 Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders in Various Roads in Baldock for Restriction of Waiting and Control of Parking.

TITLE OF REPORT : DISPOSAL OF LAND AT RADWELL TO FACILITATE A PROPOSED HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT BY NORTH HERTS HOMES LIMITED

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's views on the disposal of Council owned land at Radwell at discounted value to North Hertfordshire Homes Ltd (NHH), prior to its consideration by Cabinet on the 31st March 2009.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report relates to a key decision included it in the Council's Forward Plan on 1st February 2009.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 North Hertfordshire Homes Limited (NHH) propose to build 4 dwellings at land adjacent to Radwell Parish Hall, Radwell Lane, Radwell as follows:-

Two x 2 bedroom 4 person houses,
Two x 2 bedroom 3 person bungalows,

- 3.2 The site comprises open land fronting Radwell Lane to the south and adjacent to Radwell Parish Hall to the west, The Piggeries to the north and the A1 (M) to the east. The Land Registry plans title number HD437716 appended to this report shows outlined the extent of the Council owned land.

- 3.3 The disposal is subject to North Hertfordshire Homes obtaining planning permission for the proposed scheme.

- 3.4 The land is currently held as an exception site. In accordance with planning guidance relating to the 'exceptional' development of such land, the construction of these additional dwellings is dependent upon the Council demonstrating a local need for new affordable homes. Local needs have been identified and the disposal to North Hertfordshire Homes will enable affordable housing to be provided.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 Although only 4 dwellings are currently being planned for Radwell Lane, it is anticipated that, over time, future assessments may establish the need for more affordable housing on some or all of the remainder of the site.

- 4.2 The proposed land sale presents a further opportunity for the Council to make use of land held in advance of need to support the provision of additional housing whilst at the same time securing the added community benefit of a 15 space car park for the Parish Hall.
- 4.3 It is intended to transfer the ownership of the completed car park to Radwell Parish Council. North Hertfordshire Homes has discussed their initial plans with a working group of Riddell Parish Council. Some of the points raised included relocation of the proposed Parish Hall car park to land fronting Riddell Lane, a reduction from 24 to 15 spaces and a change in construction materials for the car park, moving the houses closer to Riddell Lane, relocation of disabled spaces closer to the Parish Hall and suggestions for the colouring and styling of brick and roof materials to blend with the existing village properties. North Hertfordshire Homes have advised that they would like to arrange a further meeting with the Parish Council to discuss a revised plan in the next few weeks.
- 4.4 The owner of The Piggeries to the north the District Council's land, has recently obtained planning approval (Ref 08/01501/1) to change the land use of his land and replace the existing light industrial workshop and storage buildings with a single low carbon dwelling. His approved plans include a small amount of garden land outside his boundary on land owned by the District Council. He has approached Property Services to establish if he could acquire from the District Council a strip of land approximately 2 m to 3m wide. The disposal of this land would not prejudice the provision of affordable housing and will be subject to prior consultation with North Hertfordshire Homes and agreement on terms.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A council shall not dispose of land for a consideration less than the best reasonably obtainable, but under Section 25 of the Local Govt. Act, 1988 councils may sell to registered social landlords at less than market value for the development of housing (other than for the sale onwards of housing). However, the sale to the owner of the Piggeries must be at open market value, because none of the exceptions in (E) General Consent for Part II land, 2005 would seem to apply. The site is not a public open space.
- 5.2 In line with the Council's Contract Procurement Rules, it is recommended that the sale is by private treaty to NHH as a special purchaser and the negotiations will be carried out by a MRICS-qualified officer.
- 5.2 The Council will protect itself from loss of capital value should the remaining site be developed at a later date.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The price to be paid by North Hertfordshire Homes in this instance is still the subject of negotiation, but is estimated to be in the order of £270,000. This will be reported to Cabinet. However, as with previous disposals to RSL's, the price will be discounted by 50% to allow for the provision of full nomination rights and the additional costs of providing 15 parking spaces for Radwell Parish Hall.

- 6.2 Current practice with land transfers to Registered Social Landlords such as North Hertfordshire Homes is disposal in a range of £30,000 to £40,000 per residential plot while average values of support towards RSL development in the region is currently £43,000 per plot and rising. The estimated 50% discount of £135,000 to facilitate the provision of 4 units accords with the average support provided.
- 6.3 Risks identified with the project are that planning consent may be withheld and failure to obtain total funding for the project. Officers at both NHDC and NHH have been working closely on the proposed development to reduce the risk of scheme failure.

7. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 7.1 The Council's Asset Disposal Strategy, approved in July 2004, sets out that consultation should follow the following process; *"the relevant Ward Member(s) will be consulted on any proposals and consideration be given to wider community consultation. Following consultation a report on the officers recommendations will be presented to the appropriate Area Committee for their views before seeking approval from the relevant delegated Member or Committee"*.
- 7.2 Other than the requirement to advertise the Council's intention to dispose of the land, consultation with outside organisations is not necessary. The Ward member for Arbury, which includes Radwell, Councillor Young has been informed about the issues covered in this report and his agreement or otherwise to the principle of what is being proposed will be reported to Committee on the night.
- 7.3 The views of this Committee are sought and will be reported to Cabinet on 31st March 2009.

8. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no human resource or equality implications arising from this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That as part of the consultation process, the Committee gives its views to Cabinet on the proposal to dispose at discount the Council owned land outlined on the plan appended to this report, together with the provision of car parking facilities for the adjoining parish hall.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To facilitate the provision of new social housing and community facilities through the use of Council owned land that might otherwise remain of limited benefit to the community.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Land Registry Plan title number HD437716

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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 Land holding records.

TITLE OF REPORT: UPDATE ON THE 2005/2010 RURAL STRATEGY

REPORT OF HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To provide the area committee with an update on progress with the 2005-2010 NHDC Rural Strategy.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Rural Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2005 – 2010 was published in May 2005. The strategy was developed through consultation with and contributions from a number of local, county, regional and national agencies including parish councils within North Hertfordshire.
- 3.2 The strategy contains priorities for action for community safety, education and life-long learning, health, housing, leisure and community development, planning and development, transport, young people.
- 3.3 The document also included an appendix detailing key issues arising from the original consultation, which were considered in workshops with rural partners to develop the action plan attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.4 In early March 2007 an elected members' Scrutiny Task and Finish Group published a report on partnership working with Parish and Town Councils. This delivered thirty six recommendations. Following a referral to CMT to consider which could be implemented within existing resources twenty five of these were signed off by the Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Rural Affairs as reported to the Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2008.
- 3.5 A progress report was discussed at PARC on 29 January 2009. That committee asked for reports to be submitted to the Southern Rural, Baldock and Royston Area Committees.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 The table attached as Appendix One has been prepared by concentrating on the key priorities for action found in pages 11 to 17 of the rural strategy. An extract from that strategy will be found as Appendix Three.

- 4.2 The intention was that the Rural Strategy should be adopted by all participant organisations and agencies. Since 2005 some agencies, such as the Primary Care Trust, have experienced significant changes – geographical area, structure and ways of working. This has contributed to difficulties in obtaining feedback on completion of some actions, or indeed confirmation that the actions are still in hand or a priority for such agencies.
- 4.3 Members' attention is particularly drawn to a number of changes to the actions, which are:
- The falling attendance at village hall networking events (in Section E Leisure and Community Development). It is thought that the programme has now run its course. Instead a newsletter is being considered. In addition, representatives from all parishes are invited to the Annual Parish and Town Councils' Conference; the opportunity for representatives to network prior to that event is one of the most popular aspects of the event, as indeed are the workshops..
 - Funding has been requested from the Area Committees to enable North Hertfordshire to participate in the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) "Village of the Year" competition. (Please see Section F Planning and Environment). The result of this application will be known at the end of the current round of area committee meetings.
 - Rural small businesses will continue to be supported by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) but will be kept under review in the light of the current economic situation. NHDC are participating in the "Leader" regeneration bid for rural areas (see Section F Planning and Environment).
 - That NHDC withdrew financial contributions towards contract bus services in 2007 (see Section G Transport)
 - There are currently still no plans for a cycle network in rural areas (see Section G Transport)
- 4.4 Twenty five of the recommendations in the task and finish group report were adopted as policy by the portfolio holder for community engagement and rural affairs in January 2008. A report on progress with those actions can be found in Appendix Two.
- 4.5 The rural strategy itself will be due for a refresh in 2010, with consultation commencing in January 2010.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None arising from this progress report albeit individual activities may require compliance with relevant legislative frameworks..

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Suggestions for future actions will need to be considered alongside the Council's immediate priorities which are town centres, green issues and sustainable development, and in accordance with the established corporate business planning process, to ensure allocation of adequate resources exist to deliver the agreed actions..

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The rural strategy includes actions relevant to equalities including those for young people, housing for people with disabilities, support for older people and for those with learning difficulties and the reduction of the risk of rural exclusion and isolation.

7.2 Resourcing delivery of this strategy is currently undertaken by officers from the PPP., community development, planning teams and by working with external partners.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

8.1 A Parish and Town Councils' Conference is held every year, when the opportunity to discuss issues arising from this strategy can be taken..

8.2 The Parish and Town Councils' Conference sends three representatives, two from parish councils, to the North Hertfordshire Partnership.

8.3 Portfolio holder liaison, rural Community Development Officer (CDO) and other consultations with parishes. Consultation with and agreement of activities to be included has taken place with the Community Engagement and Rural Affairs portfolio holder, the Rural CDO and through regular events held with our Parish Council colleagues.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 For the committee to note the progress with the 2005-2010 Rural Strategy.

9.2 For the committee to note the intention to revise the Rural Strategy in 2010.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To allow members of this Committee to monitor progress against an agreed strategy.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11.1 Not applicable.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 **Appendix 1:** Update on the actions contained in the 2005-2010 Rural Strategy.

Appendix 2: Progress with the agreed recommendations from the Review of Partnership working with Parishes and Town Councils (March 2007).

Appendix 3: Extract from the 2005-2010 Rural Strategy.

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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 2005 – 2010 Rural Strategy available from the PPP team.

Appendix One

Appendix One is the spreadsheet detailing progress with the Rural Strategy.

Appendix Two

Recommendations from the Review of Partnership working with Parishes and Town Councils (March 2007).

From the report of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

This appendix covers progress with the twenty five actions which were agreed by the portfolio holder

Appendix 3

Extract from the 2005 – 2010 Rural Strategy for North Hertfordshire

APPENDIX 1: North Hertfordshire District Council Rural Strategy for North Herts 2005 - 2010: Progress at March 2009

A. Community Safety

Objective: Increasing community safety and reducing crime

Lead Partners: North Hertfordshire District Council /Police

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Increase allocation of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)	There are 25 PCSOs in North Herts, 7 with responsibility for rural areas. This is an increase from 2006 when there were 13 PCSOs in North Herts including 5 with responsibility for rural areas. An additional 5 youth and schools PCSOs have responsibility for rural schools within their respective Extended Schools Consortia. Some Parish Councils are taking advantage of the Constabulary's part-funded option for PCSOs e.g. Codicote and Ickleford/Kimpton
Extend the use of mobile anti-fly tipping cameras	Covert surveillance via the use of mobile CCTV equipment is regularly undertaken in rural areas that suffer from persistent fly-tipping. Evidence from this equipment has secured 2 convictions and a number of similar prosecutions are pending.
Carry out high visibility operations day and night to cause disruption to the criminal fraternity in rural areas.	The mobile police station is a way of providing further services to rural residents and continues to be deployed across the district. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has funded 6 bicycles that will be used by the local policing team. These bicycles will improve the ability for rural PCSOs to cover a larger area. An additional vehicle has been purchased for use by the Baldock/Royston rural based PCSOs helping to promote visibility.
Conduct hare coursing patrols followed by prosecutions	Operation Groat focussing on District wide hare coursing.
Work with partners to develop "diversionary" activities for children and young people	NHDC provided Stay and Play schemes for 5-13 year olds in 16 villages throughout summer 2008. NHDC supported the summer Youthoria programme providing activities in village parks for 11-19 year olds throughout summer 2008. Rural Youth Clubs and initiatives receive financial support from Area Committees and the Youth Development Budgets. Parishes are encouraged to develop local activities for young people and Community Development and Children's Services Officers offer practical assistance and support.
Support for rural businesses to increase security of premises.	Rural Watch - 56 vulnerable premises have been identified to date for the scheme to supplement already existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes within the rural community. 400 signs have been purchased and locations are being identified.

B. Education and Life-long Learning

Objective: To promote participation in lifelong learning and improve access to facilities in rural areas.

Lead Partners: North Hertfordshire College and North Hertfordshire District Council

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Improve participation (in education / learning) from people living in rural areas	The Museum Service provides ongoing outreach teaching and loans to rural schools including projects with Gravely Primary and St Pauls Walden JMI to produce new loan boxes for rural schools. The subscription service is weighted towards rural schools, allowing two visits from our Learning Officer rather than one, to offset the cost of coach trips to the museums.
Closer working between North Herts College, Parish Councils and schools	North Hertfordshire College is the lead partner for these areas and is in the process of providing an update on progress broken down into rural areas.
IT for older people	Participation by older people in IT Training in North Hertfordshire as a whole shows a good picture of continued participation.
Community Information Points	
E-links with rural facilities	<p>There are 24 community venues for learning across North Hertfordshire.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 secondary schools • 3 primary school (Children's Centres) • 4 Community Centres • 2 Libraries • Cheshire Homes, mainly music classes • 10 other community venues
Influencing the retention of rural schools	This is essentially a County Council function as the Local Authority with responsibility for education

C. Health

Objective: To improve access to health facilities and services in rural areas

Lead Partners: North Herts and Stevenage PCT/Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Improved co-ordination of patient transport services through the Herts Integrated Transport Partnership	A board made up of representatives of PCTS, NHS Trusts and Hertfordshire County Council advising on access and transport as the reconfiguration of health services is rolled out. The Health Shuttle is a door to door chargeable transport service to and from the Lister Hospital - covering Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and surrounding areas Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays). It also offers a link between the Lister and QEII hospitals.
New national contracts for family doctors (April 2004), dentists and pharmacists (April 2005)	New contracts have been successfully implemented and there is an extended opening hours scheme in place. Some pharmacies have also extended their opening hours in response to GP extended hours. The new dental contract was successfully implemented with existing dental practices that offered NHS services.
Visible Kids road safety project	Herts County Council encourage schools to set up pedestrian/cycling skills training.
Crucial Crew health and safety	Police led, in partnership with 8 local partner organisations, personal safety and crime prevention interactive information day. Available for all year 6 students in North Hertfordshire. In 2008 1367 students attended. The sessions all take place at Wilshere Dacre School in Hitchin and year 9 students from The Priory School Hitchin support the scheme by taking part in role play activities.
Healthy eating - tackling obesity	The PCT is the lead partner for this area. There is no provision relating to tackling obesity specifically aimed at rural areas but the following schemes are running in North Hertfordshire: Two Letchworth GP practices are piloting a scheme to refer patients to weight management exercise referral and cardiac rehabilitation schemes through the Council's leisure service providers. A similar scheme, where GPs can refer patients to the local Gym is up and running in Royston. Royston Health Centre has an Exercise Practitioner who provides healthy lifestyle consultation and Roysia Surgery has a scheme to manage young people's weight. The Countryside Management Service have run a successful pilot Health Walks scheme Hitchin, begun in 2006. The scheme is now well established with 15 active leaders trained. Each quarterly programme includes 40 - 50 volunteer lead walks attracting a total of 500 participants. Sports partnership funding has led to county-wide re-branding and web promotion. Conference held for leaders in July 2008.

Tackling drug and alcohol abuse	Night Time Economy Strategy is in place and there are plans for an Alcohol Strategy to be developed to compliment this. Test purchasing and Licensing activities continues to take place. Youth and Schools PCSOs continue to provide crime prevention and substance misuse education within rural schools. Pub Watch continues to promote 'safe drinking'.
Outreach support for older people leaving hospital	<p>East and North Hertfordshire PCT is the lead partner for this area and has provided the following response:</p> <p>Following a stock-take of 0708 intermediate care bed and home based activity, a proposed new model for intermediate care has been devised. The new model includes a new tier of residential intermediate care services and the recommendation that a new integrated intermediate care team is established by the PCTs and Adult Care Services. Under the new model the integrated intermediate care team will provide home based services enabling more people to be cared for at home without the need for hospital admission. The new model is focused on helping people to achieve and maintain independent living by giving them the time and support needed to achieve this.</p> <p>The team will also work closely with providers of long term care, offering training and support to ensure that ongoing care is delivered in an enabling way. The integrated intermediate care team will visit people in care homes to avoid where possible the admission of long term residents to Hospital. The proposed model is currently being reviewed and assessed for feasibility. This stage is anticipated to take a number of months and a report will be prepared later in the year.</p>
Parenting support for young families	Hertfordshire County Council is the lead partner for this area and is in the process of providing an update on progress.
Improved sporting facilities especially for children and young people	NHDC provided Stay and Play schemes for 5-13 year olds in 16 villages throughout summer 2008. NHDC supported the summer Youthoria programme providing activities in village parks for 11-19 year olds throughout summer 2008. Both programmes involve varied sports opportunities. We held a 2012 mini-Olympic event at Breachwood Green Primary School in Dec 2007 and tennis coaching was held in Weston in the summer 2008.
Support for people with learning difficulty.	Hertfordshire County Council is the lead partner for this area. Health facilitation Teams work to support people with learning difficulties to improve access to acute hospitals and primary care. Data is not available to show service provision specifically in rural areas.

D. Housing

Objective: To improve availability of affordable Housing

Lead Partners: North Hertfordshire District Council/North Hertfordshire Homes

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Deliver 16 affordable homes on exception sites to meet rural housing needs.	It is expected that 18 units of affordable housing will be provided on exception sites by 2010.
Implement a gateway allocation scheme widening access to affordable housing.	A gateway allocation scheme was established by the Council in 2005. North Hertfordshire District Council, North Hertfordshire Homes and Howard Cottage Housing Association are developing a common social housing allocation policy in order to improve housing.
Bring back into use 5 long term empty properties per year.	The owners of long term empty properties are contacted on a regular basis to encourage the early return of these properties to residential occupation. Enforcement action is taken where properties are not effectively secured against unauthorised access. 7 empty properties have been brought back in to productive use since 2005.
Improve access to (housing) advice services.	The Council has strengthened its services in respect of housing advice. An additional officer was appointed in 2007/8 specifically to deal with homelessness prevention issues and the provision of related housing advice.
Continue to work with CDA Rural Housing Enabler.	The Council continues to part fund the CDA Rural Housing Enabler in collaboration with the London Commuter Belt housing sub-region.

E. Leisure and Community Development

Objective: To increase use of local amenities

Lead Partners: North Hertfordshire District Council/Hertfordshire County Council

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Follow up networking events for village halls.	The follow up networking events for village halls proved to be successful for the first two years of operation. However attendance dropped off significantly towards the end of the period because it had run its course and it was decided that they should no longer be held. It is thought that a newsletter might be a possible replacement to inform the rural community of significant issues that might be of interest. In addition representatives from the village halls are invited to the Annual Parish and Town Councils Conference. NHDC Museums service has run events in village halls e.g. Hitchin Museum set up a display case in Hexton Village Hall; local history stall at Pirton History Fair.
Produce new brochure and information.	This has been a very successful publication, originally published in 2004 in hard copy format, it is now somewhat out of date. A more dynamic web based updated Village Hall Handbook is in preparation and will be published by April 2009. This will capture new information on the Village Halls in the district where appropriate and include hyperlinks to the Village Halls own websites where applicable and to other relevant external organisations such as the CDA. It is also planned to create a new area on the NHDC website giving improved information on the districts Urban Community Centres and Halls to that currently available. It is planned to update the new version on the website every six months.
Improve the physical condition of the halls.	This is being implemented through the Parish Amenity and Capital Improvement Fund (PACIF) by the award of capital works grants. Now in its fourth and final year the scheme has awarded a total of £610k to the rural community for improvements to Village Halls and other Community facilities. this has brought much needed improvements to the physical condition of the building in such areas as the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and operational efficiency and management. It is anticipated that any funding remaining from the original £1m for this scheme after the 2008/09 round of applications / awards will be directed to a modified form of PACIF, still focussed on the rural community facilities, but with an increased emphasis on 'green' projects, in line with the Council's revised Strategic Objectives for 2009 onwards. Other funding streams such as Parish Challenge also provide funds for the improvement of rural facilities. These schemes are run in parallel with PACIF, and all are formally launched each April, by the Council, with a Launch Event held by Community Development officers.
Encourage greater community volunteering	Volunteering in the rural areas is wider than just "environmental" projects. Whitwell,

	<p>Kimpton and Ickleford are very have active in fundraising and developing community activities. Pirton has a large number of volunteers who participate in "Pirton Joycare" and their "Good Neighbour Scheme".</p> <p>The Countryside Management Service (CMS), Community Development Agency and Council for Voluntary Service and working in partnership to help maximise awareness of rural volunteering opportunities. CMS continues with its volunteer program and is developing and will publish a volunteer charter. They have launched a Friends of Baldock Green Spaces and for Norton Common. Hertfordshire Local Area Agreement includes targets for all Local Authorities for the number of people volunteering. Volunteering numbers have increased and will be reorganising volunteering programmes to fulfil needs of volunteers and resources available such as vehicles/tools/staff. Looking to adopt the volunteering standard for CMS voluntary activity. Provided training in 2008 to North Hertfordshire friends of green spaces groups to enable their self sufficiency in managing tasks. Established a Friends of Greenspaces Action Pack. Created the Friends of Purwell Valley 0809. (Current groups: Friends Of Oughtonhead Common, Norton Common, Baldock Greenspaces and Purwell Valley.)</p>
Develop partnerships e.g. with the CDA Village Halls Adviser, CMS.	<p>Opportunities to partner with the CDA Village Halls Adviser to jointly produce a newsletter giving the rural community advice and information from NHDC, in the management of Village Halls, are to be explored. The Museum Service offers exhibition facilities for rural artists and groups e.g. Lilley Art Group. Community Development Officers continue strong links and good partnership relations with officers from the CDA for Hertfordshire.</p>
Improve informal recreation opportunities, e.g. rights of way.	<p>The Community Development Agency is the lead partner for this area and has worked in partnership with North Hertfordshire District Council's Community Development Team on Parish Plans (Kimpton, Pirton, Gravely , Wymondley, Codicote, Knebworth) and on getting funding for Clothall Village Hall £45.5k).</p>
Promote economic development issues, e.g. maintenance of rural post offices.	<p>The emerging Development Policies DPD (Preferred Options) contains policies resisting the loss of such community facilities.</p>
Promote the rural areas for recreation and outdoor activities.	<p>Actions will be identified in the Council's Developing Rural Space Strategy, due for publication later in 2009.</p>

F. Planning and Environment

Objective: To ensure sustainable development of green spaces

North Hertfordshire District Council/Hertfordshire County Council/Countryside Management Service/Community Development Agency

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Increase recycling facilities and services	All households in North Herts have a kerbside recycling collection service that includes paper, glass, tins, cardboard and garden waste. In October 2007 a new waste collection service was introduced so residents could also have food waste collected. The amount of household waste sent for recycling and composting has risen from 26.74% in 2005/06 to 40.10% in 2007/08. Recycling sites located in our rural areas include 18 out of 46 district sites specifically for plastics along with 7 rural sites out of 23 in the district for other recyclable materials.
Introduce North Hertfordshire Best Kept Village competition.	Funding has been requested to enable North Hertfordshire to participate in the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) "Village of the Year " competition, whereby a new category for North Hertfordshire could be included. Participation in the competition would be delivered by CPRE on behalf of NHDC. It is hoped to launch the competition in February 2009.
Enable Parish Councils to develop more Parish Plans and Village Design Statements.	The Southern Rural Area Committee allocated £4,150 of Revenue Visioning Funds in March 2006 to encourage and help support Parishes initiate, develop and then implement individual Parish Plans.
Develop Parish environmental action plans.	Parish Council Green Space will be included in the Council's Developing Green Space Strategy, due for publication later in 2009.
Rural proof forthcoming Local Development Framework.	The emerging Core Strategy DPD (Preferred Options) contains a policy to protect the rural areas of the District.
Increase rural economic support.	Rural small businesses will continue to be supported by the Federation of Small Businesses but will be kept under review in light of the current economic situation.
Enhance the Parish Paths Partnership.	A new permanent right of access to common land came into effect in October 2006. Hertfordshire County Council are improving information and access across the county including North Hertfordshire. Lilley joined the Partnership in 2005, Reed joined in 2006 and Kimpton joined in 2007.
Work with CDA rural team.	The Community Development Agency is the lead partner for this area works in partnership with North Hertfordshire District Council, Hertfordshire County Council Highways and other partners to deliver services on the ground, for example Village Travel Plans and the successful Two Wheels project. They have also worked on a number of housing needs surveys in North Hertfordshire (for Reed, Ashwell and Barkway).
Enhance conservation and historic aspects of village life.	These aspects of village life are covered in National Policy Guidance (PPG 15 and 16

G. Transport

Objective: To offer increased travel choices while improving traffic flows and road safety

Lead Partners: Hertfordshire County Council/Herts Rural Transport Partnership/Community Development Agency/North Hertfordshire District Council

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Undertake a network review of all bus services, routes and usage.	The HCC review is ongoing. NHDC withdrew funding contribution towards contract bus services in 2007.
Support Village Travel Plans.	Hertfordshire County Council work with two villages per year on village transport schemes.
Update NHDC cycling strategy to cover rural areas.	We have a proposed cycle network focussed on our four towns and there are no current plans of a policy change to that priority to enable the rural areas to be added.
Develop school travel plans and safer routes to schools.	This is the responsibility of the County Council as the Highway Authority.
Reduce rat runs.	This is the responsibility of the County Council as the Highway Authority through the village schemes mentioned under 'develop school travel plans' and the larger Urban Transport Plans produced in partnership with NHDC for the four main towns.
Implement lorry and large vehicle bans.	This is not an area of priority for Hertfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority.

H. Young People

Objective: To improve facilities and social opportunities for children and young people

**Lead Partners: North Hertfordshire District Council/Community Development Agency/Hertfordshire County Council/
Hertfordshire Association for Young People**

Priorities for Action	Progress at January 2009
Establish more youth clubs and activities (Hertfordshire Association for Young People/Children's Fund Rural Play Project).	NHDC provided Stay and Play schemes for 5-13 year olds in 16 villages throughout summer 2008. Rural Play project providing play opportunities during Oct half term and Feb half term in 2008/9. Children's Services Team supporting Pirton Parish Council to look at youth issues in the village. Children's Services Team made presentations to Offley and St Ippolyts Parish Council's about developing play opportunities. Rural Play Project worked in 9 village schools developing lunchtime play in 2008/9. Rural Youth Clubs and initiatives receive financial support from Area Committees and the Youth Development Budgets. Parishes are encouraged to develop local activities for young people and Community Development and Children's Services Officers offer practical assistance and support.
Improve rural play areas.	NHDC Parish challenge makes £10,000 available for improvements to rural play areas.
Improve transport facilities for young people.	Herts Rural Transport partnership is active on this issue for rural transport issued for young people.
Develop new youth council with young people.	NHDC Community Development Officers endeavour to ensure that Rural young people are represented on each Council. Codicote have established a Youth Council for the area and many other Parishes develop youth participation for specific projects/initiatives on an ad-hoc basis.
Increase take up of sporting opportunities through grant aid	Area Committee Grants are awarded on a request basis to assist in the development of Sports Clubs, Teams and Facilities. Sports North Herts administers over £6000 per year in grant aid to elite performers and coaches competing at regional or national level. Other Rural based grants such as PACIF focus funding on Capital investment into the facilities, structures and supporting venues of rural sporting clubs.
Develop new Greenspace Action plans.	The importance of rural 'green space' has been highlighted in the NHDC draft Green Space Strategy 2008 and it lists actions to promote and enhance this provision.

APPENDIX 2**RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY TASK & FINISH GROUP REVIEW ON PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH PARISHES & TOWN COUNCILS (2006/07)**

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE AGREED BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER IN JANUARY 2008. THEY HAVE BEEN / CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES BY NHDC:

	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Response	Timescale	Lead Officer
1	NHDC builds on the current Community Development Officer (CDO) impetus	NHDC	NHDC has built on its good practice by recruiting a replacement CDO for Letchworth and Baldock.	Baldock CDO appointed 2008	Head of Community Development and Cultural Services
2	NHDC be responsible for collecting and maintaining a database showing all the services that are provided by individual parishes, with a view to exploring which of these services can be developed or shared	NHDC & HAPTC	To obtain information of which services can be developed or shared between parishes, the Head of Community Development will work with HAPTC to compile a "check list" of services that are provided by parishes. Parish clerks will need to provide this information. This checklist can then be used to determine which services can be developed or shared. This can also be used to build on work started as part of the Rural Strategy and delivered through the annual Parish and Town Councils Conference and inter-parish meetings. Work started on this but not completed. Significant resource implications, especially officer time, to complete the data gathering.	By 30 Sept 2009	Head of Community Development and Cultural Services
3	The deadline for submitting parish precepts is extended	NHDC	Following an officer review of the timetable, a later date for submitting precept notices was planned into the Service & Financial Planning (S&FP) process, a change from 7 th December 2007 to 4 th January 2008.	Completed	Head of Financial Services
4	An up to date structure chart is regularly maintained and sent to parishes	NHDC	The latest version can be found on the Council's website.	Completed	Head of Human Resources

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5	NHDC review the Rural Strategy to assess whether the action plan has been delivered	NHDC	This will commence in late February 2008, once the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is finished and approved. The SCS was approved in November 2008. This report forms the review of the Rural Strategy to January 2009.	Completed	Head of Policy, Partnerships & Performance
6	NHDC promotes the benefits of Parish Plans by incorporating elements into the Local Development Framework and area Committees providing financial support to those parishes who may need it	NHDC	Area Committees already support the production of parish plans, and will continue to do so on a case by case basis. NHDC has a protocol for supporting parish plans at inception through to completion. NHDC supports the undertaking of parish plans by local parish communities and does, where appropriate, incorporate suitable elements into Local Development documents.	Completed	Head of Community Development and Cultural Services / Head of Planning & Building Control / Head of PPP
7	NHDC investigates ways to make the process of applying for grants simpler	NHDC	A review of the Council's Policy and Procedures for Financial Assistance to the voluntary and community sector. Revised procedures to be effective from April 2009. Business Process Improvement (BPI) review.	Revised procedures to be effective from April 2009 On-going	Head of Community Development and Cultural Services
8	NHDC and parishes and town councils agree to adhere to a standard response time to telephone calls, letters and emails from parishes to council officers	NHDC	The Council is currently revising its Customer Care Standards. New Standards should be adopted by the Council by the end of the civic year and the parish & town councils should be invited to attend a workshop regarding these at the same time as NHDC Cllrs and officers. This will include developing an action plan to roll out.	June 2009	Customer Service Manager
9	NHDC's Enforcement Review considers the implications for parishes	NHDC	The Street Scene FSR completed in May 2007, this was before the Parishes Review reported to Cabinet. However, the Council has adopted the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) powers contained in the Clean	Completed	Head of Housing & Environmental health

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			Neighbourhoods & Environment Act in respect of environmental crime. FPNs can be used to deal with littering, fly posting etc. Also, additional CCTV equipment has been purchased in order to increase surveillance capacity so as to catch more fly-tippers, particularly in rural areas.		
10	The new fly tipping mobile CCTV is made available for parishes to utilise, and that parishes are made aware of who to contact for this	NHDC	<p>Parish councils will not be able to use the CCTV equipment <i>directly</i> as any covert surveillance operation needs to be authorised and managed by NHDC by virtue of the regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.</p> <p>In practice, parish councils should be encouraged to contact the Licensing & Enforcement Team to report incidents of fly tipping and, more importantly, any intelligence they have on who may be responsible. The team will then plan and execute targeted covert surveillance operations and brief parish councils on their success, or otherwise, after the operation has come to an end.</p>	On-going	Licensing & Enforcement Manager
11	NHDC create a parish page on the Council's website informing readers about parishes, where and when they meet and include links to individual parish/town council web pages. This is in addition to the current contact database	NHDC	<p>The Democratic Services team have established a base level of information to ensure equity – address, contact details, members, meeting dates.</p> <p>An area for village hall information has been established to provide information about village halls.</p> <p>Once this information is complete and general information about parish councils is compiled, links from the parish councils to the relevant village hall can be added.</p>	Completed	Democratic Services Manager / Head of Information Technology & Transformation

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12	Parishes send their meeting schedules to NHDC to be published on the website	NHDC	Contact details for parishes are available on the NHDC website. It would be more effective if parishes published their meeting schedules on their own websites. Links could be added to the relevant page on the parish website. Such links to parishes are already provided by the County Council.	January 2009	Democratic Services Manager
13	NHDC arrange a formal communication procedure for letting parishes know about any new funding or IT initiatives that are being discussed or explored	NHDC / HAPTC	This links into the agenda planning for the series of meetings between NHDC and Parish Chairs and Clerks. Information about parish funding is also publicised on the HAPTC website. Parish and Town Councils Conference held every year. Southern Rural Parishes meet formally twice a year. Similar twice yearly meetings for Northern Parishes are just being established.	On-going	Head of Community Development / Head of Information Technology & Transformation
14	NHDC offer a direct number for parish and town council clerks and councillors to call the district council	NHDC	We have a business number that goes directly to our switchboard service – 01462 474840. A business card calendar was distributed to Parishes to publicise this and is available for the town and parish councils to give to customers.	Completed 2008	Customer Service Manager
15	Written communication sent to parishes is as jargon free as possible and wherever possible a summary is provided that draws parish members to the most relevant part(s) of the document	NHDC	NHDC has existing guidance that encourages officers to avoid the use of jargon, however NHDC will be issuing a new style guide by May 2009 which will also cover this.	On-going	Communications Manager
16	Consulting with parishes becomes an official part of the working methods of NHDC officers	NHDC	Parishes are consulted on a wide range of issues such as the Local Development Framework, Planning Applications etc. Briefings are also undertaken during the annual parish conference.	On-going	Consultation Officer

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			The consultation officer puts a consultation update section in MIS informing members of upcoming consultations and the CAR (Consulting & Reporting) database, which is used for all consultation. The CAR has an option in the 'who are you consulting with' section for parish and town councils.		
17	The email addresses of parish and town councils is included on the Council's global address list	NHDC	This will not be necessary if the contact details are published on the council website.	N/A	Democratic Services Manager
18	The 'Outlook Magazine' is distributed to homes or public places in all parishes	NHDC	Distribution by Royal Mail started in August 2007. This radically improved the distribution to rural areas.	Completed	Communications Manager
19	Feedback is provided to parish members on planning applications that they have responded to, or made comments on	NHDC	The first meeting with representatives from parish councils to discuss planning applications took place on 24 September 2007. A series of meetings over the year to be agreed to cover appropriate topics.	On-going	Planning Control & Conservation Manager
20	An official training schedule (for planning matters) is compiled and targeted at planning representatives of each parish	NHDC	As above. Training is provided when required and visits made to Parish Councils on request in relation to planning matters, particularly planning control.	On-going	Planning Control & Conservation Manager
21	Members of Hertfordshire County Council are informed about this review and that they consider carrying out a similar exercise with parishes	NHDC	A copy of final report was sent to HCC with a covering letter from the Scrutiny Officer. This was part of a wide distribution.	June 2007	Scrutiny Officer
22	Information on the LSP meetings is sent to all parishes and town councils	NHDC	Minutes are published on the Council's website. An LAA/LSP progress bulletin is to be produced bi-monthly which will be circulated through the Members Information Service to all district, county, town and parish council members. The LSP has its own website at www.northhertspartnership.org.uk where more details can be found independently.	On-going.	Policy Manager

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23	NHDC includes a session on the work and role of parish and town councils, as part of the Council's induction of Members and officers. It is also suggested that the delivery of this session is presented by an experienced parish councillor or clerk	NHDC & HAPTC	<p>An induction programme for new members is not needed every year.</p> <p>This topic can be included in the current induction programme for officers and Members. However the induction programme for Members is usually tailored according to their needs, so it would not be necessary for a Councillor whose ward did not cover a parish to receive this as part of their induction.</p> <p>For officers, a brief overview is given but specific and bespoke training can be given to officers who have a high degree of interaction with Parishes, e.g. CDO of Head of Service.</p> <p>Training will be delivered by an appropriate training provider.</p>	The next programme will be in 2010.	Democratic Services Manager (in liaison with Learning and Development)
24	Parish and town councils are included in the training opportunities that are offered to NHDC councillors	NHDC	Training specifically for District Councillors may not be appropriate for Parish Councillors. However Parish clerks can be emailed with information about opportunities sent to us by training providers and information we have about programmes that are tailored to the individual needs of NHDC Members. Parish Councillors would be expected to pay a charge per head.	On-going	Democratic Services Manager (in liaison with Learning and Development)
25	An action plan is drawn up and a review of the recommendations is conducted by a group of district members and parish and town representatives, 12 months after publication of the original report, to monitor the action plan	NHDC	Setting up another group to review the actions of a T&F group goes against best practice and is not within the protocol for NHDC's scrutiny procedures. The Scrutiny Annual Report includes a review of past T&F groups and will highlight the actions that have been undertaken as a result of scrutiny recommendations.	On-going	Scrutiny officer

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THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CLERKS / HAPTC:

	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Response	Timescale	Lead Officer
1	Parish and town councils agree to share the provision of expertise from officers for common projects, as outlined above	HAPTC	<p><i>The following response was provided by NHDC's CMT:</i></p> <p>P & T Councils will need to identify which projects they wish to share, then once identified, relevant Heads of Service to work directly with them, on a rechargeable basis and subject to the availability of resources. A single point of contact within NHDC will need to be identified, as separate approaches to different Heads of Service may produce anomalies in approach.</p> <p><i>The following response was provided by the County Officer for HAPTC:</i></p> <p>Carina Helmn, HAPTC will produce a county-wide questionnaire.</p>		County Officer
2	Villages consider sharing Police Community Support Officers	HAPTC / Clerks / Herts Constabulary	<p><i>The following response was provided by the County Officer for HAPTC:</i></p> <p>An update will be required from the Inspector, as Herts Constabulary have changed the way they work with villages.</p> <p><i>The following response was provided by NHDC's CMT:</i></p> <p>This can be done through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.</p>		County Officer
3	Parishes consider clustering and sharing a fully trained professional clerk, in appropriate areas	HAPTC / Clerks	<p><i>The following response was provided by the County Officer for HAPTC:</i></p> <p>HAPTC currently contact neighbouring councils and clustering is done on an ad hoc basis.</p>	Done	County Officer

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			HAPTC place recruitment ads in their newsletter.		
4	Parishes to invite their County Councillor to their meetings and send them meeting agendas.	Clerks			
5	Parish clerks set up an informal network group	Clerks	<i>The following response was provided by the County Officer for HAPTC:</i> HAPTC organised a networking event for Clerks in July. However, as HAPTC is a member organisation, this would not have been attended by all parishes.	Done	County Officer
6	HAPTC and NHDC provide support to produce job descriptions for parish clerks and parish councillors	HAPTC	<i>The following response was provided by the County Officer for HAPTC:</i> HAPTC have JDs for clerks and provide training opportunities for parish & town councillors.	Done	County Officer
7	All parishes and town councils join HAPTC	Clerks	<i>The following response was provided by the County Officer for HAPTC:</i> HAPTC will be promoting the organisation to encourage more parishes to join. Since a subscription is required, membership of HAPTC cannot be compulsory.	Discussions remain ongoing with relevant parishes.	County Officer

HAPTC = Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

APPENDIX 3

Extract from Pages 10 to 18 of the Rural Strategy 2005 - 2010.

11. Key Findings, Issues and Priorities for the Rural Strategy

- 11.1 There is much to celebrate in rural life in North Hertfordshire, but there is an urgent need to tackle and try to resolve those issues that have been raised as being important to rural communities. While some of these are common to all communities across the district, others may be one-off, bespoke, local issues that may only affect individual villages. Taken together, the various consultations, surveys and summit provided the issues, needs and aspirations that rural communities had identified. These form the basis of the series of actions set out in the strategy.
- 11.2 However, the point about having a rural strategy is that it must aim to address all these often diverse, but inter-related, needs. Moreover, while no one organisation can hope to deal with all the issues raised, a partnership approach has a much better chance of allocating out responsibilities to the most appropriate agency or commission particular projects to be undertaken.

A. Community Safety

- 11.3 Community safety is a concern in both rural and urban areas of the district. Fear of crime, nuisance behaviour and other types of disorder can have a significant effect on quality of life, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in society. A separate NHCDRP (North Hertfordshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) Community Safety Strategy exists and Home Office project funding is already available, but there are some issues that must also be recognised as priorities for rural areas.
- 11.4 Types of crime in rural areas are often different to that experienced in urban settlements and therefore require a different approach to reduce. For example, the theft of trailers and riding tack from farms, hare coursing and use of off-road bikes on country footpaths are all concerns reported by our rural residents.
- 11.5 A Rural Advisory Group, chaired by the Hertfordshire Constabulary, has been set up consisting of local landowners, Councillors and others actively involved in rural communities, to share information and help reduce opportunities for crime to take place.

Priorities for Action

- **Increase allocation of Community Support Officers**
- **Extend the use of mobile anti fly-tipping cameras**
- **Carry out high visibility operations day and night to cause disruption to the criminal fraternity in rural areas.**
- **Conduct hare coursing patrols followed by prosecutions**
- **Work with partners to develop “diversionary” activities for children and young people**
- **Support for rural businesses to increase security of premises.**

B. Education and Life-long Learning

- 11.6 The core purpose of the North Hertfordshire Learning Partnership (NHLP) is to promote participation in lifelong learning by all residents.
- 11.7 The Children's Schools and Families (CSF) Adult and Community Learning Plan describes the learning potential in contributing to neighbourhood renewal and regeneration.
- 11.8 The North Hertfordshire Community Strategy raises the issue of improving access to facilities in rural areas. The overall aim of partners is to ensure that access to educational opportunities amongst rural communities is equal to those living in urban areas.

Priorities for Action

- **Improve participation from people living in rural areas**
- **Closer working between North Herts College, Parish Councils and schools**
- **IT for older people**
- **Community Information Points**
- **E-links with rural facilities**
- **Influencing the retention of rural schools**

C. Health

- 11.9 The key for rural areas is to ensure that the inhabitants are not disadvantaged in terms of access to health services. Data has indicated that there is a higher proportion of older people in certain rural parts of the district, but no other indicators that are excessively different from other rural areas elsewhere in the country.
- 11.10 National key targets include that patients will be able to see a primary care professional within 24 hours and a GP within 48 hours. NHS Direct is a 24 hour telephone line available to all staffed by trained professionals. There is a national minimum target of 70% uptake of flu vaccination of those aged 65 and over.
- 11.11 North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Primary Care Trust and Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT work in partnership with NHDC and are represented on the Local Strategic Partnership. The two PCTs contribute to the community strategy regarding national targets. The current work programmes are outlined in their annual Health Improvement and Modernisation Programmes.
- 11.12 Both PCTs contribute to the funding and management of the NHDC Health Development Officer.

Priorities for Action

- **Improved co-ordination of patient transport services through the Herts Integrated Transport Partnership.**
- **New national contracts for family doctors (April 2004), dentists and pharmacists (April 2005)**
- **Visible Kids road safety project**
- **Crucial crew health and safety**
- **Healthy eating – tackling obesity**
- **Tackling drug and alcohol abuse**
- **Outreach support for older people leaving hospital**
- **Parenting support for young families**
- **Improved sporting facilities especially for children and young people**
- **Support for people with learning difficulties**

D. Housing

- 11.13 Affordable housing is an issue that affects hundreds of villages around the country. In North Hertfordshire, the “perceived” problem is accentuated because of the close proximity to London and relatively high property prices.
- 11.14 Nationally and locally, many rural young people who aspire to continue living in their home villages when they reach adulthood and independence often are unable to because of the high property prices. Parents and young people in some villages struggle to find suitable accommodation within their means.
- 11.15 The Council currently has a commitment to provide 100 affordable homes each year for the next five years including consideration of schemes in rural areas.
- 11.16 The Herts Young Homeless Group (HYHG) has produced a report (September 2004), identifying approximately 200 young rural homeless people across the district, that is those ‘being without permanent, stable or suitable accommodation’.

Priorities for Action

- **Deliver 16 affordable homes on exception sites to meet rural housing needs**
- **Implement a gateway allocation scheme widening access to affordable housing**
- **Bring back into use 5 long term empty properties per year**
- **Improve access to advice services**
- **Continue to work with CDA Rural Housing Enabler**

E. Leisure and Community Development

- 11.17 There are 33 village halls across the district in various stages of fitness for purpose, with some having greater community use than others. During spring 2004, NHDC Officers met with all the management committees of village halls to review the state of village hall provision and identify future needs. The findings were presented to Cabinet (December 2004) and all Area Committees (January and February 2005) before a final report to Cabinet in March 2005.

- 11.18 Village halls networking events and the production of a village halls booklet for potential hirers and users were funded during 2004. So far, networking events have taken place at Pirton (April, 2004) and Barkway (September, 2004), where, as well as having speakers with a range of specialist expertise, volunteers who have “been there and done it” are also able to share their knowledge and experience.
- 11.19 Consideration of the physical fabric of village halls and the cost of their upgrading and future maintenance is also being reviewed within the context of the Council’s capital programme.
- 11.20 AGRE is the countrywide ‘Action for Growth in the Rural Economy’ and offers a range of free training to farms and rural businesses enabling them to increase their skills to meet the needs of the rapidly changing rural economy.
- 11.21 Farmers markets take place regularly in Letchworth, Royston and Hitchin and are a popular way of promoting the sale of local produce.
- 11.22 NHDC helps to fund the Stevenage Business initiative (SBI), the Enterprise Agency for Northern Hertfordshire. Operating both out of their impressive technical centre and in the wider community, this service provides wide ranging help for new businesses. In the last two years 25% of the business start ups supported by SBI within North Hertfordshire have come from the rural community.
- 11.23 4BEX (For Business Excellence) is a range of low cost training courses covering a variety of subjects all aimed at small businesses. The courses are provided by a partnership of Hertfordshire District Councils led by Dacorum.

Priorities for Action

- Follow up networking events for village halls
- Produce new brochure and information
- Encourage greater community volunteering
- Improve the physical condition of the halls
- Develop partnerships e.g. with the CDA Village Halls Advisor, CMS.
- Improve informal recreation opportunities, eg: rights of way
- Promote economic development issues, eg: maintenance of rural post offices
- Promote the rural areas for recreation and outdoor activities

F. Planning and Environment

- 11.24 Very often, the rural environment and surrounding landscape is key to what makes village life so special and desirable. For example, Ashwell Springs is a major asset to local people in terms of identity, recreation amenity, landscape management and conservation. The rural areas of the District offer superb opportunities for recreation and other leisure pursuits. The Garden City Greenway is a 13.6 mile circular route around Letchworth which makes accessible to the public a number of environmental centres, eg: Norton Pond, Willian Arboretum, Wymondley Wood.

- 11.25 Also, the built environment in many of the villages tells a story of local history and heritage. Ashwell village has more architecturally worthwhile houses than many others in the county and Pirton demonstrates many fine traditional buildings dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. Local people are often keen to conserve and improve their local environment, especially when they perceive it may be 'under threat'. While Village Design Statements have helped highlight the character and quality of villages, there remain many attractive and interesting settlements throughout the District that retain historic layouts and buildings, with many that are listed.
- 11.26 The North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Landscape Character Assessment identifies 'Landscape Character Areas' in the district and provides a strategy and guidelines for managing change.
- 11.27 The Council has recently reviewed the district's provision of sports grounds, pavilions and associated facilities, including those in rural areas.
- 11.28 The Countryside Management Services work across Hertfordshire to enable community-led rural enhancement. In North Hertfordshire they are predominantly involved in the Parish Paths Partnership, Parish Environmental Action Plans and the Environmental Land Management Scheme supporting the conservation of County Heritage and Wildlife Sites. They also support a volunteer programme and devise and lead a range of walks across the district.

Priorities for Action

- **Increase recycling facilities and services**
- **Introduce North Hertfordshire Best Kept Village competition**
- **Enable Parish Councils to develop more Parish Plans and Village Design Statements**
- **Develop Parish Environmental action plans**
- **Rural proof forthcoming Local Development Framework**
- **Increase rural economic support**
- **Enhance the Parish Paths Partnership**
- **Work with CDA rural team**
- **Enhance conservation and historical aspects of village life**

G. Transport

- 11.29 The increase in traffic is one of the key issues that people say is affecting life in the rural areas. Public transport is a difficult issue for all villages. It is often hard to tackle on a very local basis and is most effectively addressed in a district, county or regional wide transport strategy. However, the issues raised apply to almost every community in the district. In particular, it is high on the agenda for those villages that are used as unsuitable through-routes to bigger highways and the towns. Project work on traffic and transport will not necessarily be Council led, but it will work in partnership on this important matter.

- 11.30 There are a number of matters relating to public transport, or at least its absence. Firstly, the daytime buses are often not provided at rush hour times when the majority of people need them. In particular, there are poor bus-rail link-ups. Secondly, the bus routes are often inappropriate and do not meet people's needs, eg: cross county-border travel.. The third issue is one that has the greatest social impact on young people – a lack of buses in the evening, where, in many cases, the bus service ceases after 6pm.
- 11.31 Serious consideration of innovative transport schemes that serve the general community during the day, as well as youngsters wishing to travel in the evening is vital.
- 11.32 HeRTP is supported by HCC and The Countryside Agency and is based at CDA for Herts. The Partnership is a partner on the Village Travel Plan. The Hertfordshire Rural Transport Partnership (HeRTP)/CDA has been given the remit of developing and researching the possibility of setting up a Two Wheels Project (mopeds/cycles) for young people wishing to access training, work and leisure in the County. North Hertfordshire has agreed to act as a pilot for such a project, and funding has recently been approved by the Herts Rural Forum and EEDA. This project will start in spring 2005. Hertfordshire Highways and HeRTP will be key partners in this project.
- 11.33 There also needs to be recognition that some parishes will have expressed their concerns regarding traffic through a Village Travel Plan, Parish Plan or Village Design Statement. Any such aspirations will require support through the Planning Policy, Area Visioning and Community Strategy process alongside Hertfordshire Highways and HeRTP.

Priorities for Action

- **Undertake a Network Review of all bus services, routes and usage**
- **Support Village Travel Plans**
- **Update NHDC cycling strategy to cover rural areas**
- **Develop School travel Plans and safer routes to school**
- **Reduce rat runs**
- **Implement lorry and large vehicle bans**

H. Young People

- 11.34 One of the main concerns for villages across the district at present appears to be the lack of social opportunities for young people, where teenagers are often perceived to be suffering the greatest disadvantage. Young people have consistently said that not having things to do was one of the things that they felt most strongly about.
- 11.35 While 10 out of 33 villages have a youth club (4 are voluntary), the opening hours are usually very limited and sometimes do not offer the services or activities that this age group would like.
- 11.36 Even where facilities do exist, there is considerable difficulty recruiting paid evening Youth Workers, despite a concerted campaign by Herts County Council Youth service and Herts Association for Young People.

- 11.37 One outcome of this is that the future adult generations in our villages can more easily become bored. With relatively limited resources for young people, the boredom can develop into frustration, which can then lead to disturbance, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- 11.38 While there are no direct causal links between youth boredom and youth bad behaviour in all cases, and although young people are not to blame for their boredom, nevertheless, outbreaks of anti-social behaviour can be detrimental to the quality of life in a village. To help maintain this, for all people, the benefits of using diversionary activities and the provision of more social facilities for young people in rural areas should not be underestimated.
- 11.39 In 2001, NHDC was awarded £89,000 from 'Better Play', a lottery funded programme, to undertake a three year action research project investigating play provision in North Herts. As part of this project, NHDC has produced the 'North Herts' Play Strategy for 2005-2008, which highlights specific targets concerning improving play and leisure opportunities for younger children in rural areas.
- 11.40 In 2003, NHDC was awarded £100,000 from the Hertfordshire Children's Fund Programme to assist local communities in providing play and leisure opportunities for children aged between 5-13 years old in the Southern Rural area of North Hertfordshire. Since the bid came to fruition, the Rural Play Project Officer has facilitated a number of activities across the Southern Rural area including sports sessions, outward bound trips, 'drop – in' and 'free play sessions'. Training has also been provided for local communities working with children and young people. The external funding for this project currently ends in March 2006, although there is a possibility that this could be extended till March 2008.
- 11.41 The Children's Services Team currently run a number of play and sports activities in the rural areas as part the Council's summer holiday programme. Playschemes operate in Knebworth, Ashwell, Codicote, and Pirton and, in addition, a number of sports activities are delivered during half term and the Easter holiday periods using facilities in rural areas.
- 11.42 Children and young people's groups are also able to apply for funds to assist delivery of their service from their Area Committees or from funding organisations such as the Hitchin Youth Trust.
- 11.43 An audit has been undertaken of all rural playgrounds. NHDC Parks & Countryside officers can offer technical advice with funding available through the annual Parish Challenge award scheme.

Priorities for Action

- **Establish more youth clubs and activities (HAYP/Children's Fund Rural Play project)**
- **Improve rural play areas**
- **Improve transport facilities for young people**
- **Develop new youth council with young people**
- **Increase take up of sporting opportunities through grant aid**
- **Develop new Greenspace Action Plans**

TITLE: CHAMPION NEWS

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.
- 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. ISSUES – PROJECT / ACTIVITY / SCHEME DETAILS

3.1 Town Centre Celebration

Following the engagement of the a Town Centre Manager by the Baldock Town Centre Partnership the Community Development Officer will be assisting the TCM to organise a Celebration of Baldock in order to encourage people to come and admire the completed Town Centre enhancements.

The Celebration is planned for Saturday 13th June and it is hoped to have family entertainment provided by local performing groups, music from Students from Knights Templar School, activities for children and possibly health promotion aimed at young people provided by the East & North Herts PCT.

3.2 Baldock & District Youth Council

The group has recruited six new members, three male and three female. In order to integrate the new members a team building activity was organized. The young people have allocated each other formal roles within the committee and have nominated the Chair and Treasurer.

The next activity that they are keen to organize is another young people's music event following the success of the one held prior to Christmas.

3.3 Old Wallington Road Planting

The entrance to the footpath at the Old Wallington Road has been softened by the planting of some trees. When the weather conditions warm up this will be further improved by the planting of wild flower seeds. However, it will be a couple of years before the full effect will be fully appreciated.

3.4 A'cappella singing workshops

This is a 7 week course organized in partnership with the 50+ Development Officer and Head of Music from Knights Templar School. The workshops are aimed at people aged 50 and above, but there is no age limit. The workshops will take place at Knights Templar School and it is hoped that it may culminate in a performance by the group, possibly at the Town Centre Celebration in June of this year.

3.5 Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Community Development Officers have been assisting the association with further details required for the seeking of external funding from Awards for All. Further support is to be given in the application to the Grass Roots fund and other grant making trusts and bodies.

3.6 Clothall Village Hall – New Build Developments

Community Development Officers are to attend a progress meeting on site scheduled for Friday 20th March at 3.00pm. Further feedback on the developments will be reported verbally at the Area Committee Meeting.

3.7 Ashwell URC Hall

Following a lengthy formalisation of the tendering process for the planned refurbishment works to the hall, the closing date for formal tenders of the works was Thursday 12th March 2009. It is hoped that shortly after this date notification of the appointed contractor will be announced and the programme of works & timings agreed.

3.8 Caldecote Church Friends

Community Development Officers have been liaising with the Secretary of the Church's Friends Group with the view of seeking funds and assisting the group in the reprinting and updating of the History of the Caldecote Church booklet. It is hoped that small amount of funds can be sourced to simply reprint a few copies of the booklet prior to the planned restoration works to the Church, after which the booklet is to be revised and reprinted.

4. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

4.1 Consultation with the respective agencies, organisations and Ward Members has taken place with regards to the projects, activities and events mentioned in Section 3 of this report.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

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

7. CONTACT OFFICER

- 7.1 Claire Morgan (Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474226
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TITLE: BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT & AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/9

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 2008/09.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent application, 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 Spotlight Youth Theatre Group

The Spotlight Theatre Group requests a grant of £800 to go towards the costs of a production for 2009 which will include the hire of rehearsal space, theatre and technical assistance.

The group aims to develop the performance skills of young people in Baldock aged 10 to 16 yrs. It has operated purely on a voluntary basis, but to professional standards for the last 4 years, by local drama students who wanted to provide a theatrical opportunity for young people in Baldock.

4.2 Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association

The Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association requests £3000 towards the cost of developing land for use as Allotments in the area of North Road. This is envisaged that the increased provision of lots will be used by local residents of all ages to encourage increased activity and healthy eating.

- 4.3 **Baldock Cricket Club**
The Baldock Cricket Club is seeking £390 for the further development of the Youth and Colts element within the Cricket Club.
- 4.4 **Baldock & District Branch of The Royal British Legion**
The Baldock & District Branch of The Royal British Legion requests £250 towards the cost of a rededication ceremony for the War Memorial following the completion of the Town Centre Enhancement.
- 4.5 **Ashwell URC Hall**
The Ashwell URC Hall requests £324 for a drop down projection screen as part of the refurbishment works planned for the Community Hall.
- 4.6 **Hinxworth Parish Council**
The Hinxworth Parish Council requests £443 for the installation of new safety matting as part of the works to the play area in the village.
- 4.7 **Caldecote Church Friends**
The Caldecote Church Friends have requested £425.50 as a 50% contribution to the printing costs of the Church's History information booklet.
- 4.8 **Weston Village Hall**
The Weston Village Hall Management Committee is requesting a grant to cover the cost of Roof Insulation. The total cost of the project is £779.
- 4.9 **CCTV and lighting pole in Bush Spring**
Herts Police are seeking a contribution of 50% grant support totalling £1,800 towards the purchase and installation of a lighting pole with the facility to accommodate a mobile CCTV camera to be located in the play area of Bush Spring, on Clothall Common Estate.

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 2008/09.
- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2007/08 to the current financial year 2008/09.

- 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 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

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 07/08, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 9.2 The Committee considers the grant of £800 for the Spotlight Theatre Group.
- 9.3 The Committee considers the grant of £3,000 to the Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association.
- 9.4 The Committee considers the grant of £390 to the Baldock Cricket Club.
- 9.5 The Committee considers the grant of £250 to the Baldock & District Branch of The Royal British Legion.
- 9.6 The Committee considers the grant of £324 to the Ashwell URC Hall.
- 9.7 The Committee considers the grant of £443 to the Hinxworth Parish Council.
- 9.8 The Committee considers the grant of £425 to the Caldecote Church Friends.
- 9.9 The Committee considers the grant of £779 to the Weston Village Hall.
- 9.10 The Committee considers the support funding of £1,800 towards a CCTV and lighting pole in Bush Spring.

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 2008/09
- 12.2 Appendices 2 to 10 – grant applications.

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 13.1 Claire Morgan (Community Development Officer - Baldock & District Area)
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- 13.2 Lois Stewart (Group Accountant – Customer Services)
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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 None.

BALDOCK AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2008/09

<u>SUMMARY/ TOTALS</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>					
VISIONING	£2,470	£2,470	£2,470	£0	£0					
SMALL AREA GRANTS	£190	£0	£0	£0	£190					
BALDOCK TOWN	£21,270	£17,708	£5,829	£11,879	£3,562					
BALDOCK EAST	£11,513	£10,728	£5,608	£5,120	£786					
ARBURY	£9,070	£6,520	£671	£5,849	£2,550					
WESTON & SANDON	£6,750	£4,670	£3,910	£760	£2,080					
Total	£51,263	£42,096	£18,488	£23,608	£9,168					

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<u>VISIONING</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Year Allocated</u>	<u>codes</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Preallocated Funds C/F from 2007/08	£2,470	2005/2006	1453 005 4836	Town Centre Strategy	£2,470	11.04.05	£2,470	£0		
Total	£2,470				£2,470		£2,470	£0	£0	

DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS										
SMALL AREA GRANTS	Funding		Code	Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Base Budget 2008/09	£190									
Total	£190				£0		£0	£0	£190	

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4784

BALDOCK TOWN	Funding		Code	Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 0708	£11,840			Baldock Allotment Association - plot for disabled holders at North Rd	£390	26.09.05	£0	£390		
				Town Centre Enhancement Works	£4,410	02.04.07	£0	£4,410		
				Friends of Baldock Greenspaces	£380	07.08.07	£366	£14		
				Town Projects Initiatives	£6,090	17.03.08	£0	£6,090		
				Baldock Town Cricket Club	£570	17.03.08	£570	£0		
Base Budget 2008/09	£9,430			Herts Action on Disability	£190	02.06.08	£190	£0		
				CCTV Camera for The Tene	£400	02.06.08	£367	£33		
				Christchurch Holiday Clubs	£228	21.07.08	£228	£0		
				St Mary's Parish Church	£190	21.07.08	£190	£0		
				Baldock Neighbourhood Panel	£250	05.09.08	£250	£0		
				Baldock Arts Festival	£780	22.09.08	£780	£0		
				Baldock Town Youth Football Club	£1,140	22.09.08	£1,140	£0		
				Waste Bin, Nightingale Park	£310	22.09.08	£118	£192		
				Baldock Rotary Club	£1,000	22.09.08	£1,000	£0		
				Baldock Scouts	£380	17.11.08	£380	£0		
				North Herts Book Festival	£250	23.01.09	£250	£0		
				Tree works	£750	30.01.09	£0	£250		
Total	£21,270				£17,708		£5,829	£11,379	£3,562	

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6980



WESTON & SANDON	Funding	Code	Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 07/08	£4,210		Sandon Village Hall Chairs	£1,200	17.04.08	£1,200	£0		
Less Weston Footpath Project	-£2,250		Rural Development Projects	£760	17.04.08	£0	£760		
Base Budget 2008/09	£2,540		Baldock Arts Festival	£210	22.09.08	£210	£0		
Plus Weston Footpath Project Reallocated	£2,250		Weston Parish Council	£2,500	17.11.08	£2,500	£0		
Total	£6,750			£4,670		£3,910	£760	£2,080	

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