

22 July 2008

Our Ref: HD/SRuralCtte/ JUN. 08  
Contact: Hilary Dineen  
Direct Dial: 01462 474353  
E-Mail: [hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.dineen@north-herts.gov.uk)

To: The Members of the Southern Rural Committee of North Hertfordshire District Council

(Councillors: D.J. Barnard (Chairman), Tom Brindley (Vice-Chairman), Alan Bardett, John Bishop, Lee Downie, Tricia Gibbs, J. Gray, Sal Jarvis, David Miller and Mrs C.P.A. Strong).

You are invited to attend a meeting of the

## **SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE**

to be held at

**THE COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON ROAD, LETCHWORTH  
GARDEN CITY**

on

**THURSDAY 31 JULY 2008**

at

**7.30 pm**

Yours sincerely,



David Miley  
Democratic Services Manager

**AGENDA**  
**PART I**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	-
<b>2. MINUTES</b> <i>To take as read and approve as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 June 2008</i>	-
<b>3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS</b> 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 then decide whether the item(s) raised will be considered.	-
<b>4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> 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 should leave the room and not seek to influence the decision during that particular item.	-
<b>5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	-
<b>6. SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – REVIEW OF 2006 – 2009 AND PROPOSALS FOR 2009 - 2012</b> REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES <i>To consider the preferred approach to the provision of locally focussed Service Level Agreements (SLA) for the period 2009 - 2012.</i>	1
<b>7. CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT</b> REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES <i>To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved since the last meeting held on 12 June 2008.</i>	9

- 8. ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING BUDGETS 2008-2009** 13  
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES  
*To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets.*
- 9. MEETING WITH GREAT WYMONDLEY PARISH COUNCIL** 25  
AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR BRINDLEY  
*To update the Committee on a meeting with Great Wymondley Parish Council held on 14 July 2008*

**The Southern Rural Area Committee Meetings for the Civic Year 2008 – 2009 will be as follows:**

**2 October 2008**

**27 November 2008**

**22 January 2009**

**12 March 2009**

**SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE  
12 JUNE 2008**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**6**

**TITLE OF REPORT: SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – REVIEW OF 2006 - 09 AND PROPOSALS FOR 2009 – 2012**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The report invites Area Committees to consider their preferred approach to the provision of locally focussed Service Level Agreements (SLA) for the period 2009-12.
- 1.2 Any decision taken needs to be made within the context of the strategic approach to the development of the next phase of SLA for the period April 2009 – March 2012 that is currently out for consultation, prior to a final approval by Cabinet in October 2008.

**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 Cabinet approved a new comprehensive set of policies and procedures for financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) in November 2002 which included the establishment of SLA.
- 3.2 The first three year tranche of SLA was set up from April 1 2003 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 with those organisations with whom the Council had developed a longer term grant funding relationship and was based on the work that the organisations were doing at that time. The second three year tranche of SLA commenced on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and is due to time expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.
- 3.3 Prior to this date, consideration needs to be given to establishing the context and framework for the next phase of SLA for the period 2009 - 2012.
- 3.4 Though the main thrust of SLA were those funded centrally, it became apparent that at a local level, where Area Committees had funded an organisation on an historical basis for a number of years, then similar principles could be applied.
- 3.5 During 2002/3, each Area Committee determined its support for those organisations or project with which it wished to enter into a longer term funding relationship.

- 3.6 The report to Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008, included the following comments  
**SOUTHERN RURAL (31.07.08)**

specifically about Area Committee SLA:

### **Area Committee Service Level Agreements**

In addition to the main, centrally funded SLA, Area Committees have increasingly funded smaller SLA with those local organisations with whom a longer term service relationship has been deemed appropriate and beneficial. This was one of the developments that emerged from the review of the first tranche of SLA funding summary of these SLA in October 2005.

It is appropriate that these SLA should also be reviewed during the current financial year by each Area Committees to determine whether these should be continued for a further three years (2009/12) and at what level of funding.

At the same time the review will consider the balance of funding between the Area Committees and the central SLA funds.

- 3.7 There is a growing recognition within all levels of Government of the value and importance of the voluntary and community sector (often now referred to as the 'third sector' as a provider of services. This is reflected in the development of Compacts, in the involvement of the voluntary sector in Local Strategic Partnerships, the new duty placed on partners to co-operate in the delivery of local improvement planning and in the development of Local Area Agreements.
- 3.8 If there are to be any changes to the way the SLA are administered and awarded, the minimum notice that must be given to existing SLA holders is three months in writing. Furthermore, in keeping within the terms and spirit of the North Hertfordshire Compact, there needs to be a twelve week consultation period with voluntary and community organisations on the overall strategy.
- 3.9 However, good practice suggests that if there are to be any changes to the way in which the Council wishes to continue its support for the voluntary and community sector, as much notice as possible should be given.

## **4. ISSUES - PROPOSALS FOR 2009-12**

### **Strategic Objectives for the Council**

- 4.1 All current SLA should be compliant with the LSP's district-wide Vision, the Council's Mission and Strategic Objectives.
- 4.2 The Sustainable Community Strategy that has recently been drafted has also identified a number of key priorities for the District to 2021 and it is evident that funding the voluntary and community sector is an efficient and effective way of achieving a number of its ambitions and aspirations. The use of Local Area Agreement reward grant funding via the Local Strategic Partnership to fund voluntary and community projects will also require formal corporate governance, using an SLA.
- 4.3 The Council is currently preparing the revision of its Corporate Plan 2005-2015, including three new priorities of work for 2009/10 and beyond, which are:

- Green issues
- Sustainable development
- Town centre improvements

The detail of what each of these themes will include is currently under discussion and will form the basis for the new Corporate Business Planning programme for the Council.

- 4.4 The alignment and ownership of actions to be undertaken on the Council's behalf by the voluntary and community sector contributing to these themes will be included in future SLA. All organisations will be required to demonstrate how they can contribute.

### **Future Proposals for Service Level Agreements – April 2009 – March 2012**

#### **Funding Context**

- 4.5 Each Area Committee needs to consider how best it wishes to allocate its resources for the voluntary and community sector for the period 2009/12 when the present tranche of awards time-expires on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.
- 4.6 Within the context of the Council's Corporate Business Planning, any increased or new SLA for 2009 and beyond will be funded through the Area Committee Development budget. (The base budget for SLA was transferred out from the Development budget in 2002/3).
- 4.7 There are no accurate figures yet available to reflect the changing demography of the district at an Area Committee level, arising from the increased population since 2001 and the review of the ward boundaries following the 2006/7 Boundary Review. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Development budgets for each Committee will remain as:

<b>Area Committee</b>	<b>% Population (2001 census)</b>	<b>Budget 2008/9 £</b>
Baldock	14,348 (12.27%)	18,320
Hitchin	30,851 (26.39%)	37,180
Letchworth	32,932 (28.17%)	46,150
Royston	17,002 (14.54%)	22,800
Southern Rural	21,775 (18.63%)	30,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,908 (100%)</b>	<b>154,960</b>

#### **Service Context**

- 4.8 It is suggested that during the course of the 2009/10 Corporate Business Planning process, each Area Committee needs to determine the following actions:
1. That it wishes to conclude new SLA for a three year period;
  2. If so, if it wishes to continue to fund some or all of the existing tranche;
  3. If not, with whom it would wish to enter into new SLA;
  4. The level of its funds that it wishes to commit to SLA.
- 4.9 The Council's proposed strategy for 2009-12 provides a framework within which Area Committees can consider their preferred options. This is summarised in Appendix 1

4.10 The proposed indicative timescale for negotiation of the new phase of SLA is:

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
Approval by Cabinet of outline proposals for consultation	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
Approval of final report by Cabinet	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2008
Start review of individual SLA for 2009/12	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2008
Complete review of individual SLA	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Write to all projects with new SLA	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2009
Start next three year tranche of SLA	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2009

4.11 There are presently no revenue funded SLA for this Committee.

4.12 As part of the review of both the Major and Minor SLA (centrally funded), consideration will be given to those organisations which clearly have a local rather than a district wide focus to be administered, funded, monitored and evaluated through Area Committees.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which includes discretionary grant aid/financial support. However this does not include grants for district wide activities.

5.2 When re-negotiating SLA these may need to comply with the Council's Contract Procurement Rules.

5.3 Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Council has power to do anything which it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. This would apply on the basis that financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations improves the economic, social or environmental well-being of the District or part of it.

5.4 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

5.5 To better reflect current legislation pertaining to contracts, it is proposed that revised and improved SLA documentation will be introduced in the renegotiation of the SLA for introduction in 2009/10.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The total Area Committee Development budget for 2008/9 is £154,960

6.2 When the Area Committee SLA were originally set up, the expenditure was transferred from the Committee's Development budget and a small separate SLA budget heading was created.

6.3 The Area Committee Development Budgets for 2009/10 have not yet been agreed. However, for the past few years, given the significant carry forward for Area Committee Development budgets, there has been no inflationary allowance, so an assumption is made that the baseline for 2009/10 will be the same as 2008/9.

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The local SLA are managed by the Community Development Officer as part of their regular work programme.
- 7.2 However, a Business Process Review has been commissioned this year to review the most effective and efficient way in which SLA and the more general grant awarding arrangements can be improved.
- 7.3 The great majority of the voluntary and community projects that are funded by the Council have equality and social inclusion as a key objective of their purpose. Such projects work very closely with and for the more disadvantaged and potentially socially excluded within our communities. There is a strong argument to be made that if the Council did not provide financial support for projects to do the work that they do, then it would, itself, have to meet the needs of such people in other ways.

## **8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

- 8.1 Each organisation having a Service Level Agreement with the Council had an annual review with the Community Development Officer.
- 8.2 There will be in-depth consultation with the North Hertfordshire Compact prior to the final report being submitted to Cabinet for its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008.
- 8.3 Members who represent the Council on the management committees/boards of voluntary groups and organisations will be consulted and their comments considered within the final report to Cabinet.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Area Committee is asked to:

- 9.1 Note the review of the local SLA arrangements for 2007/8.
- 9.2 Note that a rebalancing of the funding of SLA is proposed to reflect better the district wide/local area focus.
- 9.3 Determine the approach to be adopted for any tranche of SLA to be funded through Area Committees for 2009/12.
- 9.4 Confirm that the detailed negotiations with individual projects will be conducted by relevant officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Rural Affairs (for Major and Minor funded projects) and Area Committee Chairmen.
- 9.5 Note the proposed timescale for implementing the new SLA.
- 9.6 Receive a further report on SLA outcomes later in the year as part of the Corporate Business Planning Process.

## **10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To confirm the future strategic policy direction for the programme of financial assistance for the voluntary and community sector, through the negotiation of SLA.

## **11. APPENDICES**

**SOUTHERN RURAL (31.07.08)**

11.1 Appendix 1 - Proposed Framework for the Renegotiation of SLA

## **12. CONTACT OFFICERS**

12.1 Patrick Candler  
Head of Community Development and Cultural Services  
Tel: 01462 474823  
E-mail: [patrick.candler@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.candler@north-herts.gov.uk)

12.2 Lois Stewart,  
Group Accountant  
Tel: 01462 474566  
E-mail: [lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk)

12.3 Katie White, Senior Lawyer  
Tel: 01462 474315  
E-mail: [katie.white@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:katie.white@north-herts.gov.uk)

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Proposed Framework for Re-Negotiation of SLA**

Subject to final decisions on the Corporate Business Planning process for 2009/10, for the next three years (April 2009 – March 2012), the current programme of Service Level Agreements should be renegotiated in compliance with the following conditions:

1. There should be a comprehensive review of the current SLA arrangements to ensure that all organisations have fully complied with the terms and conditions of the agreement and have met targets that were agreed during the second phase 2006-2009.
2. If a project/scheme is not compliant or met its targets, then the Council may wish to withdraw its financial support. Any savings made here can be redirected into other schemes.
3. Existing organisations will be expected to link their activities into the three new Council priorities. If a project or organisation is no longer able to reflect the new strategic themes or the Council in its work, the Council may wish to terminate funding.
4. The Council will be able to identify any gaps in service and commission applications from new organisations, specifically to help implement its new strategic priorities, but any financial assistance for these would have to come from within the existing budget provision.
5. If an organisation no longer wished to continue its work then the contract would be formally concluded and funds could be redirected.
6. Consideration of longer term “exit strategies” will be given as part of the re-negotiation of the SLA.
7. The Council will delineate between those SLA that have a clear district-wide remit which should remain centrally funded and those that have a clearer local focus that can be funded from Area Committees.

**TITLE: CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES**

**1. SUMMARY**

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

**2. FORWARD PLAN**

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

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Not Applicable.

**4. ISSUES – PROJECT / ACTIVITY / SCHEME DETAILS**

- 4.1 North Herts Big F.A.B. Event

The event was successful, over 100 attendees, 21 Information Stalls, 16 discussion groups around an Agenda that was drawn up on the day by the participating public.

Main Issues to emerge from discussion group feedback

- a. Public Transport – Lack of Bus Routes
- b. Face to face provision of information
- c. Local Leisure Facilities and Activities
- d. Low cost meeting room hire

The feedback from the discussion groups will be used to draw up the 50+ Development Plan 2009-2012

The feedback has been distributed to partnership organisations, those who can have a decision-making influence over the issues raised, and anyone else who requested a copy.

#### 4.2 Little Wymondley Parish Council

The Community Development Officer and the Planning Officer for the Southern Rural Area are assisting the Parish Council with provisional plans to provide a new community facility on Little Wymondley Recreation ground, for use by local sporting groups and other generic community organisations, as the facility will also double up as the village hall.

It is hoped that grants from the Football Foundation, Wren and the Council's PACIF funding streams will form the major sources of funds required, as well as contributions from the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.

#### 4.3 NHDC Rural Community Grants 2008/09

Officers held two drop-in sessions at the main offices at Gernon Road on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and met with a number of groups and their representatives who are interested in submitting an application for funding via one of the Authority's grant schemes.

Initial advice and support has been given to the following organisations regarding this year's grants programme:-

- Little Wymondley PC – Sports Facility / Village Hall
- Ashwell Tennis Club – Multi-use Games Area
- Preston PC – Play Area & Grounds Maint. Equipment
- Offley PC – Cleansing, Environmental, Play Equipment / Games Area
- Cockernhoe – Proposed New Village Hall Equipment & Furniture
- Whitwell – New Sports Pavilion
- Great Ashby – Community Centre Extension
- Cockenach Cricket Club – New Club Facilities
- Therfield – Refurbishment of the Village Hall & Play Equipment
- Lilley Cricket Club – Main Services / Pavilion
- Reed Cricket Club – General project funding
- Codicote Playgroup – Building Refurbishment & Equipment

As last year, the attending groups were also given the opportunity to access Grantfinder and get additional advice from Stevenage Borough Council's funding expert John Pye.

#### 4.4 Graveley Parish Plan

The Community Development Officer is continuing to provide advice and practical support to the Parish Plan Group which was due to stage a second public meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to display the group's work to date and further promote the Parish Plan.

#### 4.5 General

##### Knebworth Festival

Organisers of the festival wish to pass on their thanks to the Committee for the generous grant which helped support many activities throughout the week.

## St Ippolyts & Lilley Parish Councils

The Community Development Officer is assisting the Clerks from both Parish Councils in the releasing of small Ward Member Discretionary Grants for the maintenance of play equipment and tidying of play areas.

### **5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

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

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

### **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

### **8. CONTACT OFFICERS**

- 8.1 Garry Gover (Community Development Officer – Southern Rural Area)  
Telephone: 01462 474674  
E-Mail: [garry.gover@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:garry.gover@north-herts.gov.uk)
- 8.2 Stuart Izzard (Acting Community Development Manager)  
Telephone: 01462 474854  
E-Mail: [stuart.izzard@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.izzard@north-herts.gov.uk)

**TITLE: ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING  
BUDGETS 2008 - 2009**

**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. and the carry forward preallocated balances of delegated budgets from financial year 2007/08.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent application, allocation and commitment of delegated funds for Community initiatives and projects.
- 1.3 For the Committee to consider the referral from the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership - Joint Member Panel held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008.

**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 A spreadsheet detailing the total spends to date of the Area Development Budgets is enclosed as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed last financial year that its programme of grant awards to community organisations would be managed on a meeting by meeting basis. All Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations were advised on this change and invited to apply for grant-aid.
- 3.3 The Head of Community Development and Cultural Services has advised that where there are multi Member Wards, it is good practice, and indeed custom and practice, for Members to advise their colleagues on any community grant requests. This will avoid any potential application conflicts and ensuring that multiple requests are managed in a coordinated way from the same organisation.

**4. ISSUES & FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE**

- 4.1 A spreadsheet showing detailed spend to date of the Area Development budget is enclosed as Appendix 1.

4.2 Referral from North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel to the Southern Rural Committee.

4.2.1 The following schemes were approved by the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel at its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 subject to a 50 percent joint matched funding from this Committee:

1. Pondcroft Road – London Road, Knebworth Needs Lighting
2. Whitehorse Lane, Great Ashby - Pedestrian Crossing
3. Church Lane, Graveley Damage to roadside verges and vehicle conflicts

See appendix 3 for details of treatment required and amount of matched funding requested.

4.2.2 The Committee to also note the comments made on the table at Appendix 3 regarding other Highway related schemes / works.

## **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 the current financial year 2008/2009.

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

6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances and past expenditure relating to the allocated Area Visioning Budgets available to the Committee.

6.4 The total budget for the Committee for 2008/2009 is £30,510 including a Ward Members budget of £7,000.

6.5 The current unallocated Development Grant base budget is £17,611.

6.7 The current unallocated Members Ward Discretionary Budget is £7,000.

## **7. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBER**

7.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.

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

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets as set out in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 The Committee considers the level of assistance to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel schemes outlined in 4.2 of this report and within the table at Appendix 3.
1. Pondcroft Road – London Road, Knebworth - Needs Lighting;
  2. Whitehorse Lane, Great Ashby - Pedestrian Crossing;
  3. Church Lane, Graveley - Damage to roadside verges and vehicle conflicts.
- 8.3 The Committee also notes the detail within the table at Appendix 3 regarding other Highway related schemes / works.

## **9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 To inform Members of the budgetary situation and the current balances of funds available for to the Committee for consideration and allocation.
- 9.2 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.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Budget expenditure, balances, and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 10.2 Appendix 2 – North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel – Extract from draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2008.
- 10.3 Appendix 3 – North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel – Table of schemes considered.

## **11. CONTACT OFFICERS**

11.1 Garry Gover  
Community Development Officer – Southern Rural  
Telephone: 01462 474674  
E Mail: [garry.gover@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:garry.gover@north-herts.gov.uk)

11.2 Lois Stewart  
Group Accountant - Customer Services  
Telephone: 01462 474566  
E Mail: [lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk)

11.3 Stuart Izzard  
Acting Community Development Manager  
Telephone: 01462 474854  
E-Mail: [stuart.izzard@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.izzard@north-herts.gov.uk)

11.4 Louise Symes  
Projects Manager, Planning Policy & Projects  
Telephone: 01462 474359  
Email: [louise.symes@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:louise.symes@north-herts.gov.uk)

**SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2008/2009**

<b>SUMMARY/ TOTALS</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Unallocated Budget</b>					
Revenue Visioning	£12,340	£12,340	£3,835	£8,505	£0					
Capital Visioning	£54,600	£15,000	£10,000	£5,000	£39,600					
Discretionary Budget 0708	£23,510	£5,899	£5,142	757	£17,611					
Member Discretionary Budget 0708	£7,000	£0	£0	£0	£7,000					
Preallocated Amounts carried forward from 0607	£26,325	£26,325	£1,000	£25,325	£0					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£123,775</b>	<b>£59,564</b>	<b>£19,977</b>	<b>£39,587</b>	<b>£64,211</b>					

<b>REVENUE VISIONING</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year Allocated</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Unallocated</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Preallocated Budgets Brought Forward from 0708	£12,340	2005/06	Southern Rural - Community Events	£500	16.03.06	£453	£47		
		2005/06	Southern Rural - Volunteers	£1,000	16.03.06	£0	£1,000		
		2005/06	Southern Rural - Parish Plans	£4,150	16.03.06	£782	£3,368		
		2005/06	Southern Rural - Village Halls	£990	16.03.06	£0	£990		
		2005/06	Southern Rural - Youth Events	£500	16.03.06	£0	£500		
			Southern Rural - Warranty for CCTV Cameras	£5,200	16.11.06	£2,600	£2,600		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,340</b>			<b>£12,340</b>		<b>£3,835</b>	<b>£8,505</b>	<b>£0</b>	

<b>CAPITAL VISIONING SR</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year Allocated</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Unallocated</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Capital Visioning SR	£54,600	2006/07	Scooter & Cycle Transport Solutions (Scoots)	£15,000	13.07.06	£10,000	£5,000		
	<b>£54,600</b>			<b>£15,000</b>		<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£39,600</b>	

<b>DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Year Allocated</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Unallocated Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Preallocated Funds Brought forward from 2007/2008	£26,325		Preston Tennis Club	£448	02.02.06	£0	£448		
			Preston Cricket Club	£1,000	24.08.06	£1,000	£0		
			Preston Cricket Club	£700	01.02.07	£0	£700		
			Highways Project - Codicote	£2,000	15.03.07	£0	£2,000		
			S Rural Community Projects	£3,660	15.03.07	£2,814	£846		

			Letchworth Arts Centre	£3,000	20.02.08	£3,000	£0		
			Dog Bin	£210	14.03.08	£149	£61		
			Dog Bin	£210	14.03.08	£149	£61		
			Highways Project	£14,057	03.04.08	£0	£14,057		
			Graveley Planting	£450	03.04.08	£0	£450		
			Ickleford Highways Issues	£490	03.04.08	£0	£490		
			Offley/Cockernhoe Website	£100	03.04.08	£0	£100		
				<b>£26,325</b>		<b>£7,112</b>	<b>£19,213</b>		
Base Budget 08/09	£23,510		Wymondley Baptist Church	£642	20.02.08	£642	£0		
Lilley Village Fete Committee reallocated back to base budget - £579			Codicote Village Day Committee	£1,000	03.04.08	£1,000	£0		
			Codi-Fest	£1,000	03.04.08	£1,000	£0		
			Kimpton May Festival 2008	£1,000	13.12.07	£1,000	£0		
			Great Ashby Fun Day	£500	13.12.07	£500	£0		
			Ickleford Parish Council - Village Information Handbook	£757	12.06.08	£0	£757		
			Knebworth Festival Committee	£1,000	12.06.08	£1,000	£0		
				<b>£5,899</b>		<b>£5,142</b>	<b>£757</b>		<b>£17,611</b>
Member Discretionary Awards £700 per Member 08/09	£7,000								
				<b>£0</b>		<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>		<b>£7,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£56,835</b>			<b>£32,224</b>		<b>£12,254</b>	<b>£19,970</b>		<b>£24,611</b>

## APPENDIX 2

### NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP – JOINT MEMBER PANEL

*Extract from draft minutes*

#### 18. JOINT MEMBER PANEL DISCRETIONARY BUDGET

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the possible schemes as presented at Paragraph 5.3 be agreed subject to the provision of 50 per cent matched funding from the respective Area Committee and respective Parish Council (if appropriate);
- (2) That in order for the schemes listed at Paragraph 5.3 to be completed or commenced in 2008-2009 the North Herts District Manager be requested to commence design work on schemes as appropriate;
- (3) That the North Herts District Manager be requested to convene a site meeting in Wymondley Road, Hitchin to determine the location of a second 'flashing school sign';
- (4) That the North Herts District Manager be requested to assess the costs of widening the footway in Letchworth Lane approaching the junction with the A505 Hitchin Road;
- (5) That the cost of a Vehicle Activated Sign (est. £6000) in Woolgrove Road, Hitchin be added to the list of possible schemes for 2008-2009 and subject to 50 per cent matched funding from the Hitchin Area Committee

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

To allow the JMP comment on and make suggestions for items to be included in the JMP Discretionary Budget for 2008-2009.

**PROPOSED SCHEMES REFERRED FROM NHDC AREA COMMITTEES TO JMP MEETING 21 APRIL 2008  
(Version 3 – 10/07/2008)**

**SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE**

Proposed Schemes:

Type of Scheme	Location	Details	Raised at Committee, Member Liaison or Individual Member	Proposed officer action and JMP meeting (21/04/08) actions
Road re-surfacing schemes and Maintenance of Rural Highways	Stevenage Road, Little Wymondley	Minor re-surfacing	SR Cttee April 08	All sites were included in the feedback from the Joint Member Panel to development of the 2009/10 Integrated Work Programme, to then be reported to the Highway & Transport Panel in for the programme to be endorsed by HCC Cabinet next Spring, with feedback to Local Members on agreed schemes in April 2009.
	A600 Ickleford to Stondon	Poor surface	SR Cttee April 08	
	Pound Farm - Lower Stondon (near landfill site)	Potholes	SR Cttee April 08	
Traffic schemes	Turnpike Lane, Ickleford	Vehicle activated sign	SR Cttee April 08	To be considered as part of Parish Plan scheme.
	Whitehorse Lane, Great Ashby	Pedestrian Crossing – petition to SR and to JMP	SR Cttee April 08	<b>JMP resolved (Jun 08) to fund investigation into new crossing and safety improvements, estimated cost of investigation £3,000, 50% contribution sought, i.e. <u>£1,500</u> is sought from Southern Rural Committee.</b>

Type of Scheme	Location	Details	Raised at Committee, Member Liaison or Individual Member	Proposed officer action and JMP meeting (21/04/08) actions
	Church Lane, Graveley	Damage to roadside verges and vehicle conflicts	Joint Member Panel April 08	<p><b>JMP resolved (Jun 08) to fund design of scheme of passing places. Estimated cost of design (08/09) £8,500, works (09/10) £39,000. Plus an additional £3,100 for signage.</b></p> <p><b>50% contribution sought, i.e. <u>£4,250</u> is sought from Southern Rural Committee and/or Gravely Parish Council for 08/09 towards design and <u>£1,550</u> towards signage and a further <u>£18,500</u> for implementing the scheme in 09/10</b></p>
Parking Issue	Knebworth Station	Parking issues around station	Member Liaison – Cllr Gray & Cllr Barnard	Officer/member meeting June 08 agreed that new waiting restrictions at junctions of Pondcroft Road/Milestone Road and Park Lane/Deards End Lane to be investigated by HH and output reported to Oct 08 JMP meeting. Initial consultation on possible parking restrictions to be led by Parish Council and output reported to NHDC and HH for further consideration.

<b>Type of Scheme</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Raised at Committee, Member Liaison or Individual Member</b>	<b>Proposed officer action and JMP meeting (21/04/08) actions</b>
Footpaths	Pondcroft Road - London Road TG	Needs Lighting	SR Committee 3 April 2008	<b>JMP resolved (Jun 08) to fund, estimated cost £8,400, including some resurfacing. 50% contribution sought, i.e. £4,200 is sought from Southern Rural Committee.</b>
	Westland - New Close	Needs Lighting	SR Committee 3 April 2008	Further investigation needed to establish ownership. Parish Council owns part, remainder possibly with developer of adjacent housing. Adoption of all may be a solution. Output of investigation to be reported to Oct 08 JMP meeting.

<b>*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No.</b> <b>9</b>
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**MEETING WITH GREAT WYMONDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR BRINDLEY**

Councillor Brindley will give a brief update to the Committee on the details of a meeting held with Great Wymondley Parish Council on 14 July 2008.

Appendix 1 Notes prepared by Councillor Brindley regarding the meeting held with Great Wymondley Parish Council on 14 July 2008



21 July 2008

## **Meeting with Gt Wymondley Parish Council, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

### **In attendance**

GW Parish councillors and Parish clerk  
District Cllrs Tom Brindley and Sal Jarvis  
District and County Cllr Richard Thake  
Members of the public

### **Background**

At the meeting of the Southern Rural Area Committee, Great Wymondley Parish Council extended an invitation to the Chairman and Vice chairman to attend a special meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Barnard was unable to attend. Cllr Brindley attended together with Cllr Thake (in both his capacity and Portfolio Holder Transport and Planning and as the local County Councillor).

The following are the brief notes taken by Cllr Brindley at this meeting

#### **1. Little Wymondley**

Chicanes Cause delay in heavy traffic, do nothing to slow vehicles in light traffic. Badly designed. Unlike Digswell, chicane is central to road making it hard to determine which direction has to give way. In Digswell, side that gives way has to drive round kerb.

#### **2. Titmore Green, Red Coats Green**

Can this stretch be 30 mph? It becomes 30mph at Todds Green, why not Redcoats Green and St Ippolyts? Very dangerous mornings, evenings and daytime. Frequent accidents and near misses, probably not reported. Cyclists don't use the route because it is too dangerous.

#### **3. Arch Rd**

Bridge is dangerous for pedestrians, The pavement is too narrow for a double buggy meaning pedestrians have to walk in the road.

#### **4. Great Wymondley**

A traffic survey showed 1400 cars per hour in the morning rush hour. This makes it impossible for residents to get out of their driveways.

#### **5. Sainsbury's traffic lights**

Concern that phasing causes jams back to Corey's Mill roundabout and consequently makes it impossible to emerge from Little Wymondley onto roundabout and motorway.

## **6. Ashbrook junction with A602**

This should be a roundabout to allow traffic from Great/Little Wymondley St Ipolyts to emerge.

## **7. Priory Road**

Needs a white hazard line. May be that road is too narrow for hazard line.

## **8. Travel Lodge**

8.1 New sign for Travel Lodge (was Blakemore Thistle)

Does this have planning permission?

8.2 The road passed the Travel Lodge has 30 mph painted on it but the speed limit is national. Is there a TRO to effect a change here? If so, when will it cut-in?

## **9. Stevenage Road, Great Wymondley**

9.1 Lots of potholes. When will it be resurfaced? Cyclists are particularly vulnerable. Road surface is slippery. Cllr Thake commented he was trying to get funds allocated under safety budget.

9.2 Can we have rumble strips on approach to 30mph section?

9.3 Can we have a speed limit at 20 mph?

## **10. Request for gateway features**

Cllr Brindley described the Travel Plan that evolved from the Codicote Parish Plan and the consequent improvements in village entire, pedestrian crossings and safety zones. Residents were encouraged to complete the GW parish plan and to include a travel plan.

## **11. Cycling proficiency**

Concern that drivers ignore trainers, even in fluorescent jackets.

## **12. Footpaths and cycle ways**

12.1 How can we get a footpath from Great Wymondley to Hitchin?

12.2 How do we get a cycle way from Hitchin to Stevenage?

## **Next Steps**

Cllr Brindley agreed to report back to the Southern Rural Area Committee with a view to upward referral to the Highways JMP.

Cllr Tom Brindley MISTC ADI (car)