

7 September 2007

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

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

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

to be held at

**BALDOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE, SIMPSON DRIVE
BALDOCK**

on

MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2007

at

7.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,



David Miley
Democratic Services Manager

AGENDA
PART I

ITEM	PAGE
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	-
2. MINUTES To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 August 2007.	-
3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chairman of other business which they wish to be discussed by the Committee at the end of the business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	-
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members of the Committee any Declarations of Interest in respect of business set out in the agenda. Members should either declare a prejudicial or personal interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared. Members declaring a prejudicial interest should not seek to influence the decision and leave the room during that particular item of business.	-
5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from members of the public. No requests to speak have been received to date. Any public participation requests received within the agreed time will be notified to Members as soon as practicable.	-
6. REVIEWS OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE Report given by the Democratic Services Manager regarding reviews of polling districts, places and stations in Baldock and District.	1
7. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES IN BALDOCK REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE To update the Area Committee on the latest position regarding drink-related antisocial behaviour following initial consideration of an 'alcohol free' zone (DPPO) in Baldock.	To Follow

- 8. CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT 31**
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
CULTURAL SERVICES
A summary of the activities undertaken by the Community Development
Officer for Baldock since the meeting of the Committee held on 7
August 2007 and events taking place in forthcoming months.
- 9. BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND 37**
AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2007/2008
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
CULTURAL SERVICES
To take the Members through the current budget balances for the
Committee and to consider a grant application as follows:
▪ *Baldock Churches Together – Holiday Club*

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

2007

Monday, 19 November 2007

2008

Monday, 21 January 2008

Monday, 17 March 2008

BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

17 September 2007

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

6

TITLE OF REPORT: REVIEWS OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to assist the Committee to consider any revisions it may feel are appropriate, to the existing polling districts and polling places within the area of the Committee and to express the views of the Committee on the location of polling stations within the area.

2. FORWARD PLAN

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Committee will recall that, as a result of the Periodic Electoral Boundary Review of North Hertfordshire (PER), revised electoral arrangements were put in place in time for the elections held on 3 May 2007.
- 3.2 At that time it was necessary to revise the existing polling districts and polling places where streets and properties had been moved from one Ward to another. The impact of the PER was such that the exercise became a complete review for the whole of the Council's area.
- 3.3 During the January 2007 Committee Cycle, the Committee agreed necessary changes to the polling districts and that in future the area defining a polling place would be co-terminus with the polling districts. Subsequently, the Electoral Registration Officer published a revised electoral register on 1 March 2007.
- 3.4 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty for all polling districts, polling places and polling stations, to be reviewed by the end of 2007 (and at least every four years thereafter). Notwithstanding the review of the electoral arrangements concluded in January 2007, the Council is required to give further consideration to the arrangements for polling districts and polling places. The following procedure is to be followed:

- Public notice to be given (See Appendix A);
 - Consideration should be given to sending copies of the public notice to interested parties such as Councillors, stakeholders and disability groups;
 - Having received representations, the Council must devise a proposal and agree new arrangements where necessary;
 - In conjunction with this review, the Returning Officer must review the locations of each of the polling stations.
- 3.5 Notice of the review has been given to the public via the local press and the Council's website. In addition, a copy of the notice has been sent to Council stakeholders and community groups. As part of that consultation the views of all members of the Council are being sought via area committees and where necessary, new proposals will be formulated.
- 3.6 In reviewing the current arrangements, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the following reference documents attached as appendices to this report:
- 3.7 APPENDIX B - Maps of existing polling districts and street indices.
- 3.8 APPENDIX C – Descriptions of the existing locations of polling stations, numbers of electors per polling district and numbers of absent voters. Proposed residential property development figures over the next four years.
- 3.9 The following definitions are provided to assist the Committee:
- A **Polling District** is the area created by the division of a constituency, division or ward into smaller parts, within which polling places may be determined and polling stations placed;
 - A **Polling Place** is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 In considering the establishment or variation of polling districts and places the following rules apply:
- a) all electors must be given such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and in particular, so far as is reasonable, the places designated shall be accessible to electors who are disabled;
 - b) The designated polling place shall be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station;
 - c) Each parish or community shall in the absence of special circumstances be a separate polling district or districts;
 - d) A polling place need not be designated for any polling district if the size and other circumstances are such that the situation does not materially affect the convenience of the electors or any body of them. In these circumstances, the polling place is defined as the area of the polling district.
- 4.2 In an ideal world Returning Officers would have the choice of a range of fully accessible buildings, conveniently located. In practice this is not always the case and there may be little choice available. If it is necessary to use a place where the access is not ideal then every reasonable adjustment will be made.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 18 of the 1983 Representation of the People Act requires that every Parliamentary Constituency is divided into polling districts and that a polling place be determined for each polling district. It is the duty of the Council to so divide its area. Constituency polling districts are also used for local government electoral purposes.
- 5.2 Provisions within the Electoral Administration Act 2006 require each local authority to undertake a complete review of the polling arrangements within the Council's area by no later than December 2007 and thereafter at four yearly intervals. This review enables the Council to discharge this responsibility.
- 5.3 Within the Council's Constitution, this responsibility is delegated to area committees.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications within this report.
- 6.2 Failure to review the Polling District Scheme at this time will mean that the Council will be acting contrary to the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Returning Officer keeps the location of polling stations under review. A decision to allow polling places to be coterminous with polling districts will allow the Returning Officer to act without delay in relocating a polling station where access issues arise.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Committee reviews the current scheme of polling districts and polling places within the area of the Committee.
- 8.2 That the Committee considers the locations of the polling stations within the area of the committee and makes comment on their location and fitness for purpose, where necessary, to the Returning Officer.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To enable the Council to review the Authority's polling districts and polling places.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix A - Notice of Review
- 10.2 Appendix B – Maps of existing polling districts and street indices
- 10.3 Appendix C – Descriptions of the existing locations of polling stations, numbers of electors per polling district and numbers of absent voters. Proposed residential property development figures over the next four years.

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

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- 11.3 Julie Williams (Electoral Services Manager)
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12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Electoral Commission Circular EC28/2007

POLLING STATION REVIEW IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Explanatory Note:

A review of all Polling Districts and Polling Places within the North Hertfordshire District Council area will be taking place during the next few months.

For the purposes of Elections the Local Authority area is split into a number of Polling Districts. Within the Polling District there can be a number of Polling Places containing the various Polling Stations where votes can be cast during an Election. North Hertfordshire District Council will be seeking comments from Electors and other interested parties as to the suitability of the current arrangements. See the official Notice below for further details on how to comment.

POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (section 16). North Hertfordshire District Council will be conducting a review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places for all the wards within its area during the coming months.

Any elector living within the area may make written representation as to whether they consider their polling facilities to be reasonable and practicable. The submission may include general comments about the suitability of the place used with regards to size and location.

The Returning Officer would particularly welcome representation from any person or body with expertise in access issues for persons with any form of disability. Any

person or body making representations regarding unsuitable polling places, should, if possible give alternative places that may be used. All comments received will be considered and adjustments may be made where it is considered reasonable and practicable.

If you wish to submit your views, please write to;

Electoral Services
North Hertfordshire District Council
Town Lodge
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
Herts SG6 3HN.

Or email elections@north-herts.gov.uk

The closing date for the receipt of initial representations is Friday 21 September 2007.

All representations will be available for inspection, by appointment, during office hours.

The Returning Officer expects to publish a proposed scheme on 27 September 2007 and make this available for consultation until 12 October 2007. Copies of the proposals, when published, will be available at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City and local libraries.

The Council will consider the proposed scheme at its Council meeting on 29 November 2007, in time for the publication of the revised Register of Electors on 1 December 2007.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding this review please contact, Julie Williams, Electoral Services Manager on 01462 474305.

TITLE OF REPORT: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES IN BALDOCK

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE

1. Summary

- 1.1 To inform the Area Committee of the issues currently being addressed by the NHDC Community Safety Team working in partnership with Hertfordshire Constabulary and others in Baldock.
- 1.2 To update the Area Committee on the latest position regarding drink related antisocial behaviour following initial consideration of an 'alcohol free' zone (DPPO) in the town at the previous Baldock Area Committee meeting held on 4th June 2007.

2. FORWARD PLAN

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 4th June 2007, the Baldock Area Committee considered a report from the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance regarding the implementation of an 'alcohol free zone' (correct title a Designated Place of Public Order – DPPO) for the Baldock town centre .
- 3.2 The Baldock and Area Committee had already decided (15/01/07) to wait for the review of the effectiveness of the Royston DPPO before considering such a zone in Baldock. Cabinet had also made the same decision in February 2006. The Royston zone was to be implemented for an initial period of two years to judge how effective it is in reducing antisocial drinking, particularly in the Priory Memorial Gardens. This two year review will be due in February 2009.
- 3.3 Since to date there have been no cases directly arising within the DPPO area, the order seems to have achieved very little. This has to be weighed against the amount of time and effort spent by officers in attaining the order. The consultation, consideration and implementation of the Royston zone has not been without its problems. There were concerns expressed by town centre businesses and licensed premises, who felt that whilst they were on the fringes of the proposed zone, they should also be included. This meant that the original consultation plans were redrawn and re-issued for consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State.

- 3.4 Under the Licensing Act 2003, if alcohol is supplied or entertainment provided, a licence is required. It is recommended that the local authority should obtain the licence for any public open space events. This can prove more time-consuming in an area where there is a DPPO, and may affect the Baldock Festival where alcohol licences are required.
- 3.5 A number of factors should also be considered, namely:
- 3.51. The steps already being taken by the Herts Constabulary, NHDC Community Safety team and other partners to address general drink-related and general antisocial behaviour in the town. These include:
- close police analysis of CCTV footage from local cameras where repeated incidents of antisocial behaviour or criminal damage have occurred
 - follow-up letters and visits to parents have ensued when the individuals have been identified
 - work with Tesco Stores Limited to remove the temptation of using trolleys to ride on, cause damage or simply abandon. The inhibitor in use now prevents trolleys leaving the car park of the store, and has reduced the number on the streets from in excess of 40 on some days, to virtually nil. We are seeking a similar agreement to use this method with other stores across North Herts in preference to the alternative route, via the Clean Neighbourhoods Act.
 - test purchase alcohol scheme. This has resulted in a prosecution of one store keeper for selling alcohol for consumption by minors, and this type of intervention will of course continue
 - increased liaison with the local secondary school in identifying repeat perpetrators
 - the implementation and maintenance of 5 ABCs and 5 ASBOs in Baldock, none of which have been breached to date
 - challenging those boarding trains (often without a ticket) in other towns, such as Letchworth, to visit the town centre en masse
- 3.5.2 The potential difficulties such a zone, extending across Baldock, might create if youngsters or groups are dispersed into residential areas. They become less visible, as they cannot be seen through the partnership's linked CCTV network yet their impact is often more marked in terms of noise and low level nuisance, and stretch more police resources.
- 3.5.3 The current level of consultation already under way in Baldock and across the district. We already know, for instance, that a number of our residents are experiencing 'consultation overload' with the current consultation on the Town Centre Strategy and the revision of the Community Strategy

- 3.5.4 At the meeting on 4th June, a CCTV camera and other crime prevention measures at the Baldock Community Centre and rear car park was discussed. The 'bid' for this camera was approved as a priority by our Community Safety Strategic Partnership (the Responsible Authorities Group) on 25th June and funded from the Go-East Community safety budget. A period of time should be allowed for the success of the camera to be judged.
- 3.5.5 The establishment of a locality panel for Baldock. This has already met on two occasions, and provides an opportunity for agencies such the Police, Neighbourhood Watch, commercial organisations and the public to work together on areas of greatest concern. Those issues will be reported to the area committee for comment, but will ultimately be fed in to the Joint Action Group (JAG), a strategic, multi agency group which determines priorities for greatest attention and resourcing. In terms of Baldock, the inappropriate behaviour of youngsters in the Tesco car park and on the High Street are of greatest concern, and additional resources have been put into place to alleviate this problem.
- 3.5.5 The initial results from Royston, which Cabinet have advised should inform the decision to progress any additional DPPOs. Despite having now been in place a number of months, preliminary indications are that existing Police powers have been used to address underage drinking, and the powers offered by the DPPO itself have not been exercised. It is therefore questionable, given the higher Police and partner input currently being provided at Baldock, that such a zone would bring any additional benefit, and may potentially affect the considerable progress made to date.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 Implementing a DPPO begins by recommendation from this Committee to Cabinet. Consultation with the public, the Police, alcohol license holders, landowners and the parish councils follows, and any objections to the proposal must be fully considered.
- 4.2 The proposal is then published by a notice in the local newspaper. Once again representations must be considered before a formal designation order is drawn up. The order cannot take effect, however, until the Council has published a notice in the local paper advising that the order has been made. Signs must also be erected.
- 4.2.1 The Secretary of State is notified and the order takes effect. It is vital that the Hertfordshire Constabulary are fully engaged in the entire process, to ensure that resources to implement the orders are in place. Our understanding is that whilst the constabulary are in favour of such orders being made where necessary, their view is not to proceed with such a zone at Baldock, given that the impact of antisocial behaviour and especially that linked to alcohol will be their continuing priority under other powers.
- 4.8 The DPPO alcohol ban can be time-limited to a period of, say, two years, or can be open-ended, depending on the local circumstances and Police evidence being forthcoming to show that the scheme is effective. The recommendation for Royston is that the DPPO should initially be for two years, with a review at the end of that period.

- 4.9 The issue for Baldock now is to consider whether the use of a DPPO is appropriate, given that it is underage drinking the community wishes to address. The majority of cases dealt with by Police to date have involved youngsters under the legal age to drink alcohol. Steps have been taken to deal with the supply of alcohol to youngsters by licensed premises/shops, and test purchases have been carried out with trading standards officers to ensure that such purchases are not being made. In the majority of cases, the youngsters are found to have brought alcohol with them from their home.
- 4.9.1 In the year from March 2006 there were six 'drunk and disorderly' crimes recorded in Baldock; four of these were adult males, the remainder were under the age of 18. During the same period, seizures of alcohol took place. These included two incidents of bottles of wine and glasses seized and returned to the owner when sober, but the remaining eight incidents related to a total of 85 cans/bottles of lager and 3 bottles of vodka seized from underage drinkers. Since the current legislation allows such seizures by the police, it is questionable that any additional benefit will be achieved by the establishment of a DPPO in Baldock.
- 4.11 The use of our partnership CCTV system is also proving effective in that we have identified 754 incidents in North Herts in the year from 1st January 2007 to 30th June 2007 and of those, 190 arrests have been made. In Baldock alone, 64 incidents were identified using CCTV with 10 arrests made during the same period.
- 4.12 In conclusion, and in recognition that the situation at Baldock is currently more than that directly arising from the sale of, or drinking of, alcohol, officers from both NHDC and the Hertfordshire Constabulary are not minded to recommend that consultation on a DPPO commence at this stage, especially given the number of activities already taking place in order to address general antisocial behaviour. Additionally, this would be in conflict with the decision taken at Cabinet in February 2006 not to proceed with any other DPPOs until such time as Royston's is assessed.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The power to designate a public place is part of a package of measures by the Government to reduce alcohol related crime.
- 5.2 The Police have existing powers to issue on-the-spot penalties for being drunk on the highway or in any other public place (section 12 Licensing Act 1872) and for disorderly behaviour while drunk in a public place (section 91 Criminal Justice Act 1967). The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 also introduced a new power (section 27) for a Police officer to issue a direction to an individual requiring him to leave a locality for up to 48 hours if he is likely to cause or contribute to alcohol-related crime or disorder in that locality. These measures are aimed at adults.
- 5.3 A number of new initiatives were also introduced under the Government's Crime Related Toolkit entitled 'Alcohol Related Crime' to specifically target underage drinking, which includes 'proof of age' schemes, alcohol education, alternative labelling of alcohol and wider use of the powers under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997. In addition the Licensing Act 2003 also allows the Police to take action on the sale of alcohol to, or on behalf of, children.

- 5.4 The introduction of the DPPO under section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and more recently alcohol disorder zones under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (to tackle more serious alcohol related crime and disorder) appear to be intended to target areas where these various other methods require assistance to reduce anti-social behaviour. The purpose of a DPPO is to stop a person consuming alcohol or to seize alcohol from them. As this is similar to the power that already exists under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 there has to be good reason why the DPPO would add value to the existing powers when targeting underage drinking.
- 5.4 The procedure for making the DPPO is set out in the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007 and requires consultation and notification.
- 5.5 As a point of information only, the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 gives the Council power to designate Alcohol Disorder Zones within the area. It is designed to tackle more serious and repetitive alcohol related behaviour and sets out a notification and consultation process, which leads to the Police and authority devising an "action plan", designed to address the problems. The Act allows for a charging scheme to be applied to licensed premises and has been much discussed in the Press. Only if the action plan does not lead to improvements after an 8 week period, and there is no prospect of it being implemented, can a zone be designated.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This proposal for a DPPO would require expenditure in terms of (approximately):

20 (maximum) signs for use on existing entry posts to the zone at £16.00 each -	£320
Installation cost of notices	£200
Public Notices (twice) in the local newspapers	<u>£1200</u>
	£1720

There are also additional officer and administration costs in handling the initial consultation and response, plus the legal officer time in establishing a notice of intention plus ultimate submission to the Secretary of State if that is the final conclusion of the consultation.

- 6.2 This sum is not currently available within existing community safety budgets and will require the allocation of budget in order that the establishment of a zone could proceed.
- 6.3 In terms of resourcing the wider issues at Baldock, the cost of this is borne either through our contract with the CCTV partnership, from existing NHDC budgets, or for projects from either the Police BCU or NHDC SSCF external funds. However, there has already been an 11% cut in this latter budget for this financial year, and the use must therefore be carefully prioritised through the Responsible Authorities Group, since the reduced grant also covers the salary of two officers employed by the Council.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are short term resourcing issues in ensuring the Order is progressed through the relevant legislative framework. Work to establish the zone in terms of placement of signage etc has been costed within the overall funding required for the project.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 The consideration required a full public consultation over a 28 day period. I presume this has not been done, as there was no decision to do so, so I think this can be removed.
- 8.2 Discussions have taken place with the Hertfordshire Constabulary regarding their evidence of need and ability to resource the Order once in place. Further discussion will be required as any application progresses, and in order to monitor the effect once established.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Baldock Area Committee note the activities already under way in Baldock to address the wide range of antisocial behaviour and nuisance issues.
- 9.2 That Baldock Area Committee agree the officers' recommendation not to proceed with consultation on the establishment of a DPPO, given the alternative measures at the disposal of the Police and other agencies to tackle on- street drinking.
- 9.3 That Baldock Area Committee receive an oral update at their next meeting on progress to date in tackling such low level crime in Baldock.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That whilst there is antisocial behaviour through drinking taking place in Baldock Town Centre, other powers are already available to the Police to deal with the majority of cases, and this report demonstrates some of those activities.
- 10.2 To conform with the intentions expressed by Cabinet in their meeting of February 2006.
- 10.3 To ensure that the work of the locality panel for Baldock be reported to the Committee

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 The consideration of Section 30, Dispersal Orders was considered, but is not deemed Appropriate, given that the evidence clearly links to the imbibing of alcohol.

12. APPENDICES

None.

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

7

TITLE OF REPORT: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE

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TITLE OF REPORT: 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 during the past month.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

2. FORWARD PLAN

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. ISSUES – PROJECT / ACTIVITY / SCHEME DETAILS

4.1 Area Visioning

4.1.1 Baldock Town Hall Feasibility Study

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

The Community Development Officer and the Community Facilities Manager are to meet with representatives on Friday 7th September 2007 in view of the Group submitting their proposals later in the month.

4.1.2 Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

LOCAL BUSINESS PARKING MEETING - 12th SEPTEMBER 2007

St Mary's Church Hall – 7.00pm

As part of the Town Centre Enhancement design process, officers have arranged for an open meeting for local businesses to be consulted on the preliminary proposals regarding some form of restricted/short term parking in the town.

NHDC officers, together with the consultants, Building Design Partnerships (BDP), will run through the parking proposals and then seek the local businesses' input and comments on the suggestions.

In addition, the Town Partnership have been invited to inform the attending local businesses about their role in promoting the town.

4.1.3 Baldock Town Partnership

The Baldock Town Partnership have also been invited to attend the Business Parking Meeting at St. Mary's, not only to consider such an important issue for local businesses, but also to promote their own ambitions for the town.

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

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

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

As part of the Town Centre Enhancement process, officers and consultants from BDP met with Abbotts Amusements on Wednesday 22nd August 2007 to look at how the proposed design features and programme of works for the High Street and other areas, would work with the layout of next year's fair and then the fair in future years.

Officers and BDP consultants have arranged a site visit to the High Street with Abbotts Amusements on Tuesday 18th September 2007 to look at specific locations regarding the design proposals.

Officers and BDP consultants have also agreed with Abbotts Amusements to visit the fair site on set-up day, to ascertain how the fair actually uses the spaces within the town centre.

4.3 **General**

4.3.1 Local Organisations & Community Groups Support and other Area Issues

4.3.2 Clothall Village Hall

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

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

4.3.3 Baldock Bowls & Social Club

The Community Development Officer in conjunction with other officers of the Council are continuing to assist the Club in development of a Community Amateur Sports Association to address the future management of the site.

4.3.4 Ashwell URC Hall & Ashwell Village Hall

The Community Development Officer and the Community Facilities Manager are visiting both sites on Tuesday 11th September with regard to funding proposed works at both sites.

4.3.5 Weston Tennis Club

Representatives from the Club are to meet with the Community Development Officer on Friday 7th September 2007 with regard to the possibilities of securing external funding for the construction of a new Club House at the recreation ground, Weston.

4.3.6 Sandon Village Hall

The Community Development Officer and the Community Facilities Manager are to meet with the Chairman of Sandon Parish Council on Wednesday 12th September 2007 with regard to the PACIF grant application regarding the proposed refurbishment works to the hall.

4.6.7 NHDC Grant Deadlines

Correspondence to all Parish Councils has been circulated as a reminder to note the deadline for all applications being submitted for the Parish Challenge, Playground Challenge & the Parish Enhancement & Cleansing Fund (PECF), as the deadline for both is 30th September 2007.

In addition, all applications to the Parish Amenity Capital Improvement Fund also have to be submitted by 30th September 2007.

4.3.7 Clothall Common – Community Initiatives & Environmental Projects

Works are continuing on the projects and initiatives that were raised at the Community Open Evening held last year.

One of the initiatives being pursued is the introduction of traffic calming measures along a section of Yeomanry Drive.

The Ward Member for Baldock East and officers from Herts Police, Herts Highways and the Council have carried out site inspections to consider possible solutions in addressing speeding vehicles.

To move the investigations further it is recommended that the matter should be referred to the next North Hertfordshire Highways Joint Member Panel for consideration.

4.3.8 'Ancient Baldock' – Book Gifts

An update on this item will be presented at Area Committee on 17th September 2007.

4.3.9 Letchworth Gate – Anti Parking Bunds

An update on this item will be presented at Area Committee on 17th September 2007.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

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

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well being.
- 6.2 That the Committee refers the matter of investigating possible Traffic Calming Measures on Yeomanry Drive, Baldock, to the next North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel in October 2007.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

8. CONTACT OFFICER

- 8.1 Stuart Izzard (Senior Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474854
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TITLE OF REPORT: BALDOCK & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2007/8

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

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

2. FORWARD PLAN

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not Applicable

4. ISSUES - AND FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE

- 4.1 Children's Holiday Activities Club – Grant request sought from Ward Development Discretionary Budgets for financial support to continue School Holiday activities for Baldock children & young people.
- 4.2 STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE DELEGATED BUDGETS 2007/08
 - 4.2.1 See Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2007/08.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.
- 5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2007/08.
- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2006/07 to the current financial year 2007/08.
- 6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances relating to allocated Visioning Budgets available within the Baldock & District area.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 Consultation with the respective Ward Members has occurred in connection with the pre allocation of funds for Community Initiative & Projects from the previous financial year 2007/08.
- 8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Ward Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets 06/07, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 9.2 That the Committee notes and acknowledges the pre-allocations of uncommitted Ward Development Discretionary Funds to respective projects and initiatives within each Ward Budget.
- 9.3 That the Committee allocates £250 from the Ward Development Discretionary Budgets to fund the continued work of the Churches Together in Baldock.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 2007/08.
12.2 Appendix 2 – Baldock Holiday Club Grant Form

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 13.1 Stuart Izzard (Senior Community Development Officer - Baldock & District Area)
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- 13.2 Jodie Penfold (Assistant Accountant Customer Services)
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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 None.

BALDOCK AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2007/2008

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Oustanding	Unallocated Budget					
VISIONING	£2,470	£2,470	£982	£1,488	£0					
SMALL AREA GRANTS	£190	£0	£0	£0	£190					
BALDOCK TOWN	£16,973	£8,638	£2,655	£5,983	£8,335					
BALDOCK EAST	£9,685	£7,025	£4,308	£2,717	£2,660					
ARBURY	£10,790	£8,230	£2,685	£5,545	£2,560					
WESTON & SANDON	£10,685	£7,215	£2,665	£4,550	£3,470					
Total	£50,793	£33,578	£13,295	£20,283	£17,215					

<u>VISIONING</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Year Allocated</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 2006/07	£2,470	2005/2006	Town Centre Strategy	£2,470	11.04.05	£982	£1,488		
Total	£2,470			£2,470		£982	£1,488	£0	

DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS

<u>SMALL AREA GRANTS</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Year Allocated</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Unallocated Budget</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Base Budget 2007/08	£190								
Total	£190			£0		£0	£0	£190	

<u>BALDOCK TOWN</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Year Allocated</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 Brought Forward from 0607	£7,543		Baldock Allotment Association - plot for disabled holders at North Rd	£390	26.09.05	£0	£390		
			Alcohol Free Zone - Consultation	£460	07.11.05	£0	£460		
			Grass Maze at Avenue Park	£263	03.07.06	£0	£263		
			St Mary's Resident Association	£80	06.11.06	£0	£80		
			Tree Works - Nightingale Way Area	£1,500	04.12.06	£1,500	£0		
			North Herts Book Festival	£130	04.12.06	£130	£0		
			Town Centre Enhancement Works	£4,410	02.04.07	£0	£4,410		
			Baldock Town Football Club	£310	02.04.07	£310	£0		
Base Budget 2007/08	£9,430		Baldock Town Football Club	£185	02.04.07	£185	£0		
			Bridge Club	£150	24.05.07	£150	£0		
			Herts Action on Disability	£380	04.06.07	£380	£0		
			Friends of Baldock Greenspaces	£380	07.08.07	£0	£380		
Total	£16,973			£8,638		£2,655	£5,983	£8,335	

BALDOCK EAST	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 06/07	£6,785		Bench for the Clothall Estate	£40	15.08.05	£0	£40		
			Alcohol Free Zone - Consultation	£140	07.11.05	£0	£140		
			Grass Maze Avenue Park	£87	03.07.06	£0	£87		
			Spring Bulbs	£50	24.08.06	£0	£50		
			North Herts Book Festival	£40	04.12.06	£40	£0		
			Clothall Common - Environmental Projects - C/	£6,273	02.04.07	£3,993	£2,280		
			Baldock Town Football Club	£155	02.04.07	£155	£0		
Base Budget 2007/08	£2,900		Herts Action on Disability	£120	04.06.07	£120	£0		
			Friends of Baldock Greenspaces	£120	07.08.07	£0	£120		
Total	£9,685			£7,025		£4,308	£2,717	£2,660	

ARBURY	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget	Comments
Preallocated Funds Brought Forward from 06/07	£7,530		Community Visioning Projects	£5,665	07.11.05	£475	£5,190		
			North Herts Book Festival	£45	04.12.06	£45	£0		
			Hinxworth Village Hall	£400	02.04.07	£400	£0		
			Ashwell Brownie Guides	£150	02.04.07	£145	£5		
			Ashwell Playgroup	£120	02.04.07	£120	£0		
			Ashwell Cottage Garden	£100	02.04.07	£100	£0		
			Ashwell Parish Plan	£200	02.04.07	£200	£0		
			Hinxworth Parish Council	£400	02.04.07	£400	£0		
			Radwell Parish Meeting	£250	02.04.07	£250	£0		
			Radwell Village Hall	£200	02.04.07	£200	£0		
Base Budget 2007/08	£3,260		Ashwell Baby and Toddler Group	£350	07.08.07	£0	£350		
			Ashwell Parish Council	£350	07.08.07	£350	£0		
Total	£10,790			£8,230		£2,685	£5,545	£2,560	

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