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| *PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT | AGENDA ITEM No. 8 |
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TITLE: CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

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

2. FORWARD PLAN

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. ISSUES – PROJECT / ACTIVITY / SCHEME DETAILS

- 4.1 The ‘Ancient Baldock’ Book - presentation to schools.

The final presentation to schools of the Ancient Baldock book at St Mary’s Junior School has been organised for Monday 10th March 2008 at 10.00 am.

- 4.2 Ashwell United Reform Church

Support has been given for the Ashwell United Reform Church on their application to WREN for external funding, which has to be submitted by 4th April 2008.

The project was fortunate to secure £50k of NHDC funding via the current year’s Parish Amenity Capital Improvement Fund, which in-conjunction with the possible external funds from WREN, will assist in the refurbishment of the Church Hall and kitchen facilities.

4.3 Guide Hut

Advice has been provided to the Baldock Guides on funding sources and other project management processes re the proposal to redevelop the Guides Building on Meeting House Lane.

4.4 Baldock Town Partnership

The Town Partnership has now produced and circulated the first edition of its Newsletter, aimed to raise awareness of the Partnership and some of the current issues facing the town.

The Partnership has put together a list of organisations in the town in order to define its 'constituency' and to help develop a wider readership of the Newsletter. It has also been heavily involved with responding to the Authority's Local Development Framework Land Allocations document.

4.5 Knights Templar Music Project with the City of London Sinfonia

The Community Development Officer is supporting Knights Templar School in the organisation of an education project for GCSE Music students to have the opportunity to work with the composer of the City of London Sinfonia (CLS).

Two other North Herts Schools, Hitchin Boys and Hitchin Girls Schools are also involved in the project which will conclude with a concert at KTS Friday 18th April 2007 where the students will perform their new compositions as well as a concert performance by the CLS.

4.6 Bypass Landscaping – Old Wallington Road

Hertfordshire Highways have agreed to fund the project with work to be undertaken by the Countryside Management Service. Following consultation with the HCC Historic Environment Department and a neighbouring tenant farmer, CMS will be purchasing a mixture of native hedgerow species for planting.

CMS is also considering the planting of some native bulbs that could form a Community Action Project next autumn.

In order for the Old Wallington Road path to be more easily accessible from the Clothall Common Estate, two small footbridges of a simple 'ditch board' design are to be installed at separate points along the ditch that runs inline with the path.

4.7 Baldock Festival 2008

The Council has formally received a full Event Management Document for this year's Medieval Street Fair on Saturday 17th May 2007, including permission to close the High Street Car Parking area as in previous years and an application for a Temporary Event Licence to cover the event.

The Community Development Officer will assist in the various applications and processes to ensure that all is in place for the event to occur.

4.8 North Herts Book Festival 2008

Three events have taken place in Baldock as part of the North Herts Book Festival.

On Thursday March 6th 2008 there was a poetry reading event in the Orange Tree Public House.

On Saturday 8th March 2008 the Community Development Officer assisted at the a 'Big Baldock Book Swap' at the Community Centre, where there was also storytelling for young children.

On 13th March 2008 local author and broadcaster, Sarah Harrison gave a presentation at the Baldock Community Centre.

4.9 Ashwell Tennis Club

Community Development Officers are to advise representatives from the Club with regard to possible external and NHDC funding streams, which may assist with the development of Tennis and other sports at the chosen site in Ashwell.

4.10 North Hertfordshire Highways – Joint Member Panel

Members of the Baldock and District Committee are requested to review the information presented at Appendix A, and the Chairman is requested to lead a debate on potential highway projects and/or traffic management schemes associated with the themes identified at 1.1 (8) Appendix A in the Baldock area that could be considered for joint funding with the JMP Discretionary budget 2008-2009.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5.2 That the Committee with consideration to the information provided at Appendix A provide to the Projects Officer Planning Control, or to the Baldock and District Administrator (preferably by email), any such schemes or projects that could be considered for joint matched funding with the JMP Discretionary Budget for 2008-2009.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

7. APPENDIX

7.1 Appendix A – JMP – Discretionary Budget 2008-2009 Potential Projects or Schemes

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 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.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

- 9.1 Claire Morgan (Community Development Officer – Baldock & District Area)
Telephone: 01462 474226
E-Mail: claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP – JOINT MEMBER PANEL DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2008-2009 – POTENTIAL PROJECTS OR SCHEMES

- 1.1 Members attention is drawn to minute 39 of the Joint Member Panel Meeting (JMP) held on 28 January 2008 where under items (3), (4) and (8) it was resolved that in the next cycle of Committee meetings an officer be requested to present a report in the next cycle of Committee meetings for Members to identify:
- (3) *...road safety measures that could be joint funded within the Joint Member Panel Discretionary Budget for the next and ensuing financial years;*
 - (4) *.... schemes in each area that could be put forward for joint funding in the JMP Discretionary Budget for 2008-2009 in accordance with the agreed themes;*
- And*
- (8) *.....indicate the following themes with which specific schemes which could be proposed for joint funding:*
 - 1. Minor re-surfacing works;*
 - 2. Road safety schemes;*
 - 3. Maintenance of verges;*
 - 4. Enhancement of town centres and village centres;*
 - 5. Maintenance of rural highways;*
 - 6. Referrals from NHDC Area Committees for works;*
 - 7. Maintenance in town centres.*
- 1.2 Thus, in light of resolution (3) and above Members are requested to list potential schemes that could be put forward for joint funding in the JMP Discretionary Budget for 2008-2009 in accordance with the 7 themes listed in resolution (8) above:
- 1.3 The proposed schemes listed by the Area Committee will then be forward to the North Herts Highways (HHP) District Manager who will then assess each of the schemes, in line with the agreed procedure set out between NHDC and HHP. Those schemes that are considered feasible and satisfy the above themes would then be reported back to the Area Committee together with outline cost estimates to prioritise and agree match funding from their discretionary budgets in the new civic year.
- 1.4 The amount to be put forward as part of the JMP Discretionary Budget for 2008-2009 contribution is yet to be finalised and will be reported at the JMP meeting in 21 April 2008, and will be reported together with the proposed outline schemes to the Area Committees.
- 2007-2008 Agreed Schemes:**
- 1.5 For information the agreed 2007-2008 JMP Discretionary budget of £100,000 is the entire discretionary budget funding available to the JMP Panel and must support all costs associated with the approved schemes, i.e. works, design, consultation plus any investigations and feasibility studies.

APPENDIX A

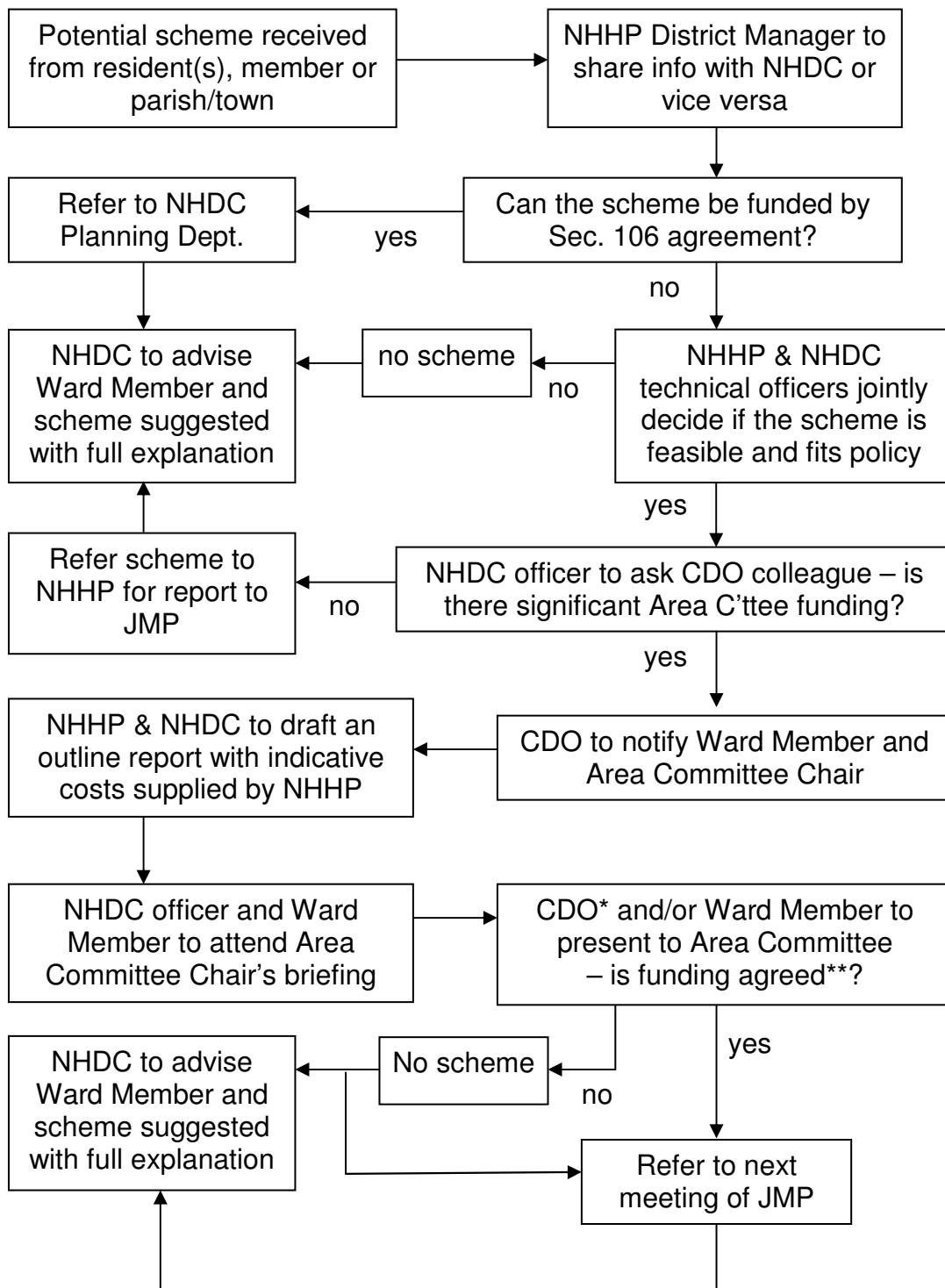
- 1.6 The following schemes listed below are the agreed schemes for 2007-2008 as presented to the JMP on 28 January 2008:

| | | |
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| a) | A10 London Road, Royston - VA Sign (design fee) | 2,000 |
| b) | Verge Protection Works | 40,000 |
| c) | Jacksons Lane, Reed - New footway | 8,250 |
| d) | Maintenance of VA signs | 1,000 |
| e) | Norton Road/Pond Lane - Waiting restrictions (Baldock AC) | 1,000 |
| f) | Evaluation of VA sign sites (Hitchin AC) | 500 |
| g) | The Maples - Waiting restrictions (Hitchin AC) | 3,000 |
| h) | A602/Sunnyside Road - Right turn ban (Hitchin AC) | 3,000 |
| i) | Briary Lane/Sun Hill - Waiting restrictions (Royston AC) | 5,000 |
| j) | B656 Codicote speed limit extension (S Rural AC) | 2,000 |
| k) | Rock Road Royston - Extension of waiting restrictions | 3,000 |
| l) | Footway Surfacing Package | 31,250 |
| | Total - approved schemes | |
| | | (Budget = £100,000) <u>£100,000</u> |

In conclusion:

- 1.7 Members are therefore requested to list PROJECTS or SCHEMES in Baldock that they wish to put forward for inclusion in the JMP Discretionary budget for 2008-2009 at the Baldock and District Committee meeting, or alternatively they either email Louise Symes, Projects Manager in Planning Services (louise.symes@north-herts.gov.uk) direct with their proposals or pass to the Baldock and District Committee Administrator by Friday 11 April 2008.

Process for progressing joint funding NHHP:NHDC - DRAFT ver.2, 3/12/04



* CDO may be replaced by NHDC engineer or other officer if the report is very technical or complex

** Funding agreed = Area Committee agree the proportion or maximum they will fund and delegate decision on exact figures to NHDC Officers

All decisions and outcomes to be recorded for learning purposes