

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 8th 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 19th 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

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