

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
----------------------------------	------------------------------------

TITLE: CHAMPION NEWS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved 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 Tene CCTV Coverage

It has been proposed by PCSO Chris Nash, supported by PC Gibbs and North Herts Homes, that it would be useful from a long term community safety point of view, to site a mobile CCTV outside of the Sheltered Housing Scheme in the Tene.

The area has historically been a hot spot for antisocial behaviour, and it is believed that camera covering the area would prove a deterrent to those who engage in illegal or antisocial activities.

4.2 Clothall Village Hall

Site clearance works have commenced with removal of trees and shrubs. The disconnection and removal of the EDF electricity supply pole has also taken place.

The next stage of the project will be the demolition of the old Village Hall, followed by the removal of a substantial amount of top soil in order to achieve the site levels required to construct the new Village Hall.

It is hoped that instead of land filling the excess quality top soil, it could possibly be transported to the Wilbury Cemetery, to help in the construction of a series of mound banks set between the rows of graves, primarily to reduce wind erosion at the site. This would be a much greener option and save on landfill charges.

4.3 North Herts Big F.A.B. Event

In partnership with Herts County Council's 'Wellbeing for Over Fifties' project group, the 50+ Community Development Officer is coordinating the largest event aimed people between 55 and 70 the district has seen so far. This project is being seen as pilot by Herts County Council, which is looking to roll out similar events county wide.

On Saturday June 14th 2008 at the Spirella Building in Letchworth, people from across the district will be invited to attend a community engagement exercise called 'Talking about My Generation'. In conjunction, the Big F.A.B. (Fifty and Above) Event will take the form of an Information fair with a Free Prize Draw, Health Checks, Complementary Therapies, Stalls provided by local community groups and organisations, as well as Tours of the public areas of the Spirella building.

Using the information gained from the community engagement process, the 'F.A.B. Development Plan - 2009 to 2012' will be drawn up to look at what activities and services will be required by the new generation of retired people in North Herts.

To be involved in the event or for more information contact 50+ Development Officer on 01462 474226.

4.4 Knights Templar Music Project with the City of London Sinfonia

30 GCSE Music students from Knights Templar, Hitchin Boys and Hitchin Girls Schools took part in 3 composition workshops run by musicians from the City of London Sinfonia and lead by the Composer John Cooney.

The students performed their compositions to a sell out audience at a concert held at The Knights Templar School on Friday 18th April 2008 as part of the main musical programme by The City of London Sinfonia.

4.5 Bypass Landscaping – Old Wallington Road

Countryside Management Service will be undertaking the construction of the two ditch board bridges to provide access from the Clothall Common Estate directly onto the foot path and works are due to take place during the summer between June and the end of August.

Planting to soften the appearance of the fencing at the entrance to the path will now take place on Saturday 22nd November 2008.

4.6 Service Level Agreements

A review of the Council's Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to the Voluntary and Community Sector is currently underway, with a report scheduled to go to Cabinet in the near future. This review includes the arrangements for Service Level Agreements as well as the general grants that are awarded by Area Committees.

4.7 Town Centre Enhancement Public Information Events

Two events have been organised to provide public information on the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme. The first being an information stall at the Baldock Fair on May 17th 2008. In addition it is seen that this will also be an opportunity for Members to engage with the public on a range of issues.

The second event will take place on Tuesday June 2nd 2008 at the Zeus restaurant, on the Baldock High Street from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Both events will be attended by officers from North Hertfordshire District Council's Planning Department, BDP - the design consultants, officers from Hertfordshire Highways and representatives from Skanska McNicholas, the appointed contractors to undertake the enhancements.

4.8 Ashwell Cycle Club

The Cycle Club have been informed that their bid for 'Awards for All' has been successful and they are to be awarded a grant of £7530. This funding, in conjunction with the funding provided from Arbury Ward Budget, will be used to provide equipment that will specifically attract young people into the sport via the Grass Track Racing evenings planned for the summer.

The secondary aim of the Club is to build a core membership of 30-40 young people aged between 9 and 18 years. A separate section of the club has been set up to concentrate on Youth Development and a youth racing team.

The club has also recently been offered 7.5 acres of land in Ashwell, to perhaps develop a more permanent all weather and grass track facility.

4.9 Baldock Festival

This year, the Festival celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Although at the time of writing this report a formal review of the two weeks festival hadn't taken place, it was however clearly evident that all the events and activities were great successes, with nearly all of them fully booked or over subscribed.

In normal fashion, the festivities culminated with the Medieval Street Fayre on Saturday 17th May 2008. Advanced preparations meant that come the morning of the Fayre no cars remained on the High Street Car Park and therefore all of the market type stalls were put up by 8.00am.

Despite the odd drizzly shower and the FA Cup Final being played later that day, numbers attending were extremely good. Early feedback from some of those attending said that it was the busiest Fayre for some years and they complemented organisers on the range of stalls and sideshows.

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.

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