

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City  
on 6 June 2007 at 7.30p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** *Councillors: D. Levett (Chairman), Melissa Davey (Vice-Chairman), S. Bloxham, John Booth, J.M. Cunningham, Allison Dear, T.W Hone, Arthur Jarman, Ian Mantle and Mrs. L.A. Needham.*

**IN ATTENDANCE:** *Tim Stephen (Community Development Manager), David Miley (Democratic Services Manager) and Susanne Gow (Committee & Member Services Officer).*

**ALSO PRESENT:** *Anne Crook (Letchworth Arts Centre)  
Foley Adigun (RAP-AID)*

*2 members of the public and 1 member of staff.*

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting. He asked everybody present, Members, officers and presenters, to stand up and introduce themselves and state which Ward they represented or what role they held, which they did.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gary Grindal and David Kearns.

**5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2007 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

**6. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

**7. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made during the meeting.

**8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No items were presented for consideration by the Committee under public participation.

**9. PRESENTATION BY LETCHWORTH ARTS CENTRE**

Anne Crook of the Letchworth Arts Centre addressed the meeting, initially about the Letchworth Urban Youth Festival, which will be held on Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July 2007. She informed the Committee that the Festival will be held over that weekend in four different venues, Howard Gardens, Leys Square, Eastcheap and

Broadway Gardens, with activities for adults, teenagers and children, such as a funfair and Noddy's car, performances by local youth bands, an international market and local organisations' stalls. On the evening of 30 June there will be a party for young people aged 16 and over in the Plinston Hall.

Ms Crook then informed the Committee that funding of £29,000 had been raised for the Letchworth Urban Youth Festival, mainly from Hertfordshire County Council, the Big Spend Trust and the Heritage Foundation. She thanked Letchworth Committee for their assistance to date and assured the Members that the event would be well publicized. The Committee gave her their good wishes for the success of the event.

Councillor J. Booth asked if the road around Broadway Gardens would be closed on Sunday, as a sponsored bicycle ride will be starting from Plinston Hall car park on that day. Tim Stephen, the Community Development Manager, was able to answer the question, informing him that part of the road will be closed.

Anne Crook then gave the Members a brief overview of the events and courses run by Letchworth Arts Centre and left some brochures for their information.

## **10. PRESENTATION BY RAP-AID**

Foley Adigun addressed the Committee, and explained that RAP-AID are a music charity based in Letchworth, with representation in London and also world-wide. They expect to be based in the Mrs. Howard Memorial Hall very soon. He explained that the rationale for the free RAP-Aid Festival, planned for the week from 21 to 28 July 2007, is to provide musical events for all ages, tastes and cultures in Letchworth Garden City, and to build relationships in the community, while helping to develop Letchworth by attracting people into the Town Centre. He then gave a rough schedule of events as follows:

1. Saturday 21 July – A drumming procession will set off on a circuitous route through Letchworth Town Centre, with clowns and balloon modellers hopefully attracting people to follow them past the main retail outlets, back to the Letchworth Lions' event at Howard Gardens, where there will be clowns, face painting and balloon modeling for the children.
2. Sunday 22 July – events will include an exhibition of old paintings and photographs of Letchworth, together with a wine and cheese event.
3. Monday 23 to Saturday 28 July – there will be a variety of events in different venues, e.g. circus skills in Howard Park; coffee mornings; evening performances in public houses around Letchworth, such as a Spanish guitarist in the La Concha tapas bar, an Italian guitarist in L'Artista Italian restaurant, karaoke in the Hogs Head, and all-comers invited to perform in several public houses. There will also be a children's talent show, and possibly a sports activity day in Howard Park and Gardens, and jazz and brass bands in the Broadway Gardens. Another possible event to be planned is an exhibition of slave trade artefacts.

Mr Adigun reported to the Committee that to date, funding of £12,150 had been raised from a variety of sponsors, and it was hoped to raise up to £45,000 in total. RAP-AID has asked the Council for a grant of £3,000 for the festival.

Councillor Hone congratulated Mr Adigun on the hard work and innovative planning and organisation that had gone into the preparations for the RAP-AID Festival, and suggested that besides the planned radio publicity, sale of the 40-page programme and a letterbox drop in Letchworth, RAP-AID should contact Anglia TV and BBC's "Look East" programme, to see if they would offer television coverage. He stated that they would be more likely to offer this for RAP-AID.

Mr Adigun responded to a question from the Committee regarding a possible overlap between the Letchworth Urban Youth Festival and the RAP-AID Festival, confirming that they are both completely separate events.

The Chairman thanked Foley Adigun for his presentation and congratulated him and his team on their efforts to organise and run the RAP-AID Festival. He confirmed that the Grant Application submitted by RAP-AID would be discussed in a following item during the Committee Meeting.

## **11. CHAMPION NEWS AND COMMUNITY REPORT**

The Community Development Manager presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the activities undertaken for Letchworth Garden City since the meeting of the Committee held on 18 April 2007 and brought to Members' attention some important community-based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

It was noted that the headings for sections 3.9 and 3.11 had been transposed. He informed the Committee that the wording of the lease for the Mrs Howard Memorial Hall had finally been agreed and signing should take place in mid-June subject to final legal comment.

The Community Development Manager drew to the Committee's attention the following points:

### **Jackmans Youth Provision**

That renovations to the old Jackmans Library building on the Jackmans Estate had been completed, and it could now become a community centre. The Youth Service would a service on site and a midwifery clinic could also be based there.

### **Church Without Walls**

That this event, to be held in Broadway Gardens on 15 July starting at 10am, would include children's fun activities after the church service.

Councillor Mrs. Lynda Needham stated that as the organisations occupying the Mrs. Howard Memorial Hall have changed, she would like to know how many and who they were. The Community Development Manager offered to investigate this and confirm direct to the Committee Members.

It was noted that Mr. Tim Stephen, the Community Development Manager would be leaving the authority shortly and that this was his last meeting.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Report of the head of Community Development and Cultural Services be noted.
2. That the Community Development Manager be thanked for the actions he has taken to promote greater community identity and well-being for the Letchworth Garden City community, to be placed on record.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To keep Members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in Letchworth Garden City.

## **12. LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT & AREA VISIONING BUDGET 2007/2008**

The Community Development Manager (CDM) presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the

current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets. He also brought to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Development Discretionary Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organizations.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets be noted;
2. That the outstanding amount of £1,216 allocated to the CCTV Temple Recreation Ground project is not needed, and will be recirculated;

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:** The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by local organizations and groups that are available and accessed by members of the community.

**13. GRANT APPLICATION – RAP-AID FESTIVAL**

**RESOLVED:** That as North Herts District Council is an integral part of the RAP-AID events, predominantly as the licensee for Broadway Gardens, the two organisations are working in partnership. Therefore the committee allocated financial assistance of £2,250 in recognition of the partnership work involved.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

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.

**14. GRANT APPLICATION – WILLIAN VILLAGE HALL**

**RESOLVED:** That as Willian is parished with Letchworth despite being in a village setting, an award of £520 be allocated.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

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.

**15. COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007/2008**

The following dates were agreed:

- Wednesday, 25 July 2007
- Wednesday, 19 September 2007
- Wednesday, 21 November 2007
- Wednesday, 23 January 2008
- Wednesday, 19 March 2008

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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Chairman