

THE BALDOCK SOCIETY

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special edition newsletter

July 2007

SPECIAL MEETING! 7.45pm THURSDAY 16 AUGUST 2007

We are holding a "Special Meeting" at **7.45 pm** on **Thursday 16 August** to take a vote on the Constitution changes the Committee are proposing. The main reason to change the existing constitution is to bring it in line with current legislation (such as the Data Protection Act) and to encompass other more general changes to ensure it is in line with the current requirements of the Society's aims.

A full copy of the new constitution is enclosed with this newsletter.

The meeting is scheduled to last 15 minutes and we would like to take a vote to adopt the new constitution at the meeting. Please support us on this occasion.

Meet the Councillors:

Again we are pleased to announce that some of our District and County Councillors are attending the August meeting to face our members. This is your chance to ask those questions about Baldock for

which you would like an answer.

In previous years, this has always been a lively and entertaining evening and we have had some interesting replies from the Councillors. Again, I will chair the meeting to make sure we cover a wide range of topics and that everyone has a chance to ask a question. There is a lot going on in Baldock at the moment and there are many questions that need answers.



Youth Support – Can you Help?

As you may know, I am also involved with the Baldock Neighbourhood Panel, that sets the targets for the local Police in tackling local issues.

At the last meeting, the "youth" of Baldock requested more adult support to help run the Youth Centre.

The main aim is to make sure that the centre can operate without causing nuisance to the local area. This will be a "win-win" situation with the Youth Centre being open more often, but reducing the problems that can occur in the streets outside.

The Police are looking for volunteers to assist. Training is given to anyone who would like to take up this challenge.

Do you have any special skills, interest in helping Baldock's youth or just want to help? If you do then contact **PC Steve Gibbs (Baldock Police Station 01462 482567)** who will give you an insight into what is involved.

Town Centre Enhancements:

As you will all know by now, the plans have been in the Community Centre on display and there have been a series of public meetings held by the NHDC. What you may not know is that the closing day for comments is **Friday 20 July 2007.**

Have you made your views known? If not, then get yourselves down to the

For those who have access to the internet. The new web address is:

We're on the Web!
www.baldocksociety.org.uk

Community Centre, take a look at the plans and fill out a form. Your chance to have your say, don't waste it.

The committee will be making a formal response on behalf of the Baldock Society, but your individual views will carry just as much weight, so let them know what you think.

If you have internet access, you can go on-line at www.north-herts.gov.uk/ and follow the links.

This is the only chance you will have, so make use of it.

What will the Town Centre Enhancements do for Baldock?

A good question. Some people seem to think that this scheme is the solution to the Town Centre's decline that has been going on slowly for some years now. Many shops have closed and many have become residential.

GOING GREEN! *If you would like to receive your Baldock Society Newsletter via email, then send your email address to: Info@baldocksociety.org.uk We promise not to forward your details to any third party.*

I see this scheme as the opportunity to regenerate the Town Centre, but not as the solution to the problem. If we want shops in the town, we must use them. Shops do not go out of business if they have customers. Likewise, the shops must offer us something to entice us to go there. Take *Chapman's*, they have survived the general downturn in shops because they offer something that is unique, people like to shop there and the product range is exceptional. I know people who travel from London to buy the South African sausages because they are better than those they get at home in South Africa!

Also, *Gilberts*, how do they compete with the big electronics superstores like Currys and Comet? They offer a personal service, they more than often offer a better price, or at least an equal price and some other benefits (the last time I purchased a TV from them they gave a 5 year warranty free of charge, try that one elsewhere!). Other shops like *Days* and *Howards*, all surviving, but needing our continued support.

I think the Town Centre can be regenerated, we have the Baldock Town Partnership that is now finding its feet and getting organised, we have a set of Councillors who are very aggressively promoting Baldock, we have so many groups and organisations, we have

excellent schools and a business community that wants to succeed, but most of all we have a strong sense of community.

In the end it is up to us, the old saying "use it or lose it" is pertinent, it really is up to us. There are rumours about the George and Dragon and the Goldcrest. The latest on the G&D is that it is being reopened as a high quality restaurant. Baldock is already well serviced with restaurants and this would be a welcome addition, increasing the range of dining opportunities in the town. The Goldcrest has a planning application for conversion into residential houses and some new houses in the car parking area at the rear.

These are typical of a Market Town that is ever changing to find a place in the modern world and we should welcome and encourage the investment in the town. No place stays the same, it must change and meet modern life styles, or it will die. The role of the Baldock Society is ever increasing and more relevant now than when it was formed in the 1970's. Your support is essential and your views are always welcome, it is you after all that we represent. So, thank you for your continued support, without you there would be no Baldock Society and no community in Baldock.

Chris Gomm
CHAIRMAN