

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ROYSTON & DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**(Royston and Ermine Ward – Parishes of Barkway, Barley, Kelshall, Nuthampstead,  
Reed and Therfield)**

**Meeting held at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston  
on 5 October 2005 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** *Councillors W.M. Davidson (Chairman), Mrs F.R. Hill (Vice-Chairman), P.C.W. Burt, A.F. Hunter, R.E. Inwood, H.M. Marshall and F.J. Smith.*

**IN ATTENDANCE:** *Acting Head of Policy, Partnerships & Performance, Chief Engineer, Principal Planning Officer, Community Development Officer and Committee & Member Services Officer.*

**ALSO PRESENT:** *Sergeant Clive Reader and PC Colin Mingay (Hertfordshire Constabulary).*

**40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**41. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2005 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

(1) That it be noted Councillor Marshall was in attendance;

(2) Minute 35 – Champion News – That it be noted that the references to a “footbridge over the railway line” should be amended to refer to a “crossing over the railway line”.

**42. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

**43. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor F.J. Smith declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – Disposal of a Small Portion of Land Adjoining the Royston Parish Church of St John the Baptist – as his family worshipped at the Church, and his wife was on the Parochial Church Council. Councillor Smith reserved his right to speak and vote on this matter.

Councillor W.M. Davidson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – Disposal of a Small Portion of Land Adjoining the Royston Parish Church of St John the Baptist – as his family worshipped at the Church, and his wife was on the Parochial Church Council. Councillor Davidson reserved his right to speak and vote on this matter.

Councillor P.C.W. Burt declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – Disposal of a Small Portion of Land Adjoining the Royston Parish Church of St John the Baptist – as his family worshipped at the Church. Councillor Burt reserved his right to speak and vote on this matter.

Councillor Mrs F.R. Hill declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – Disposal of a Small Portion of Land Adjoining the Royston Parish Church of St John the Baptist – as her family worshipped at the Church. Councillor Hill reserved her right to speak and vote on this matter.

#### 44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr John Hedges had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting to provide an update on progress made with regard to the re-development of Royston Hospital.

Dr Hedges informed the Committee the new management team for the development would hold a meeting with stakeholders (including the Friends of Royston Hospital and representatives from the Town and District Councils) on 1 November 2005 to examine the options for moving forward. He stressed that all options were now being considered, rather than being limited to that previously set out.

Dr Hedges also explained that locality groups were now being set up throughout the Primary Care Trust's area, and interviews for the Royston, Buntingford and Puckeridge locality group Medical Director would be held on Friday 7 October 2005.

The Chairman thanked Dr Hedges for addressing the Committee and providing an update on these matters.

#### 45. COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Clive Reader and P.C. Colin Mingay to the meeting, who were present to provide the Committee with an update on Community Policing in the Royston & District Area.

Sergeant Reader provided the Committee with an update on crime statistics for the Constabulary's priority crimes, comparing the September 2004 with September 2005. These statistics were as follows:

- All crime – 104 incidents in 2005 compared with 126 in 2004 (a 17.5% decrease)
- Dwelling burglaries – 6 in 2005 compared with 10 in 2004 (a 40% decrease)
- Robbery – no incidents in either year
- Violent crime – 18 incidents in 2005 compared with 22 in 2004 (an 18% decrease)
- Vehicle crime – 16 incidents in 2005 compared with 12 in 2004 (a 33.3% increase)

Sergeant Reader stated that, whilst these were deemed to be priority crimes, he was aware of the main problems in Royston, which centred on anti-social behaviour. He outlined some of the steps that were being taken to address these problems, which included:

- P.C. Mingay regularly visited schools in the town, working with the children to raise awareness of problems and to help them to develop as responsible citizens;
- There had been a proposal to mark all containers of alcohol when sold, making it easier to identify where the alcohol confiscated from youths had come from;
- The PubWatch scheme was being expanded to link with more licensed premises in the town, which would ensure that any troublemakers barred from one establishment would be barred from all PubWatch premises in the town;
- Continuation of the publicised patrols by members of the Royal Military Police from Bassingbourn Barracks in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights
- Extending the photoshare scheme in the town (whereby photos of persistent anti-social offenders were circulating to all licensed premises) to include those committing violent crimes and robberies.

Sergeant Reader stressed to the Committee that the Police continued to emphasise prevention of crime, and regularly revisited priority crime areas, linked into local events, to ensure patrol plans identifying key problem areas were circulated to all Officers.

In response to questions from the Committee, Sergeant Reader confirmed that a lot of his time over the last few months had been spent assessing data, producing responses and attending meetings in relation to the new Licensing Act regulations. He stated that, with a few exceptions, the applications received in North Hertfordshire had not been excessive, and there was no occurrence of the 24-hour drinking feared. Instead, the hours were more staggered in the town now, which would help policing response.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Reader for his presentation to the Committee, and P.C. Colin Mingay for attending.

**46. IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE IN ROYSTON**

The Acting Head of Policy, Partnerships & Performance presented her report to the Committee which provided an update on the proposed implementation of an alcohol-free zone in Royston town centre.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Acting Head of Policy, Partnerships & Performance confirmed that the proposed alcohol-free zone in Royston, as outlined in the report, would now be the subject of a 28-day public consultation period. This consultation would be advertised through advertisements in local newspapers, on the NHDC website, and possibly through local radio stations. She further stated that, whilst the predicted costs of the scheme were not yet known, these were being sent to her from St Albans Borough Council, and would be included in the consultation documents.

**RESOLVED:** That the policy approach being taken to determine the need for an alcohol free zone in Royston be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The evidence supplied in Appendix 1 of the report supported the need for more immediate action in Royston town centre than in other parts of North Herts at that time.

**47. DISPOSAL OF A SMALL PORTION OF LAND ADJOINING THE ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Financial Services which sought their views on the disposal of a small portion of Council-owned land adjoining the Royston Parish Church of St John the Baptist.

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Head of Financial Services be noted.

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:** That the proposed disposal to the Royston Parochial Church Council at nil value be approved, with the Royston Parochial Church Council paying all legal costs arising from this disposal.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) There is no strategic importance for the Council attaching to the ownership of the portion of land in question and its 'Community' use can be safeguarded by restrictive covenants.
- (2) Disposal of the land will enable its community use to be improved and thus the Council's strategic objectives are met more effectively if ownership of the land is with an alternative body.

**48. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER REVIEW – MEMBER CONSULTATION**

The Chief Engineer presented a report of the Head of Environmental Services to the Committee, which invited Members of the Committee to input their local knowledge of existing waiting restriction issues to inform a review of traffic regulation orders, as required by Section 4 of the NHDC Car Parking Strategy. He brought paragraph 4.6 to the Committee's attention, which provided some examples of waiting restriction

issues to be considered under the review within the Royston & District Committee area.

**RESOLVED:** That the Members of this Committee gave consideration to the appropriateness of existing waiting restrictions in their area and provide the Chief Engineer with their views and observations before Christmas 2005.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable all views and observations to be incorporated into the Traffic Regulation Order review, as required in the adopted Car Parking Strategy.

**49. CHAMPION NEWS**

The Community Development Officer for Royston presented a report of the Head of Community Development to the Committee, which advised them of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for Royston since the meeting of the Committee held on 24 August 2005, and brought to their attention some important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the report of the Head of Community Development be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for Royston to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston communities be endorsed.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To keep members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in Royston.

**50. ANNUAL GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2004/05**

The Community Development Officer for Royston presented a report of the Head of Community Development to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with 1 additional grant application that had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That the current expenditure and balance of the Development Budget be noted.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) The report was intended to apprise Members of the financial resources available to this Committee. It drew attention to the current budgetary situation, assisted in the effective financial management of the Committee's budget and ensured actions were performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance contained in the Grants procedure;
- (2) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

**51. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON TOWN TRAIL LEAFLETS**

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £325 be granted for the costs of re-printing the Town Trail leaflet.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

**52. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Principal Planning Officer presented a report of the Head of Planning and Building Control which set out 4 planning applications to be determined by the Committee.

The Committee heard an oral representation from Mr G. Winiecki in relation to planning application 05/00965/1 – 8 Newmarket Road, Royston. Mr Winiecki was speaking as an objector to the application and raised the following points:

In respect of planning application reference 04/01438/1, the Principal Planning Officer advised the Committee that the Highways Agency had confirmed that it had no objections to the new access onto the A10, subject to an additional condition being imposed upon any planning permission relating to the construction of the proposed new access onto the A10.

**RESOLVED:** To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control as submitted to the Committee in the following schedule:

#### SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
05/00965/1	<b>8 Newmarket Road, Royston SG8 7DY</b> Erection of three-storey building comprising 5 x 2 bedroom flats, provision of 8 car parking spaces, refuse store and ancillary works.	<b>REFUSED</b> (see (a) below)
05/00772/1	<b>Carrington House, Upper King Street / Princes Mews, Royston</b> Erection of four storey building comprising 12 x 2 bedroom flats on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> floors and undercroft car parking for 13 cars on ground floor; conversion of Carrington House into 7 units, comprising 6 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 1 bedroom units, retention of ground floor office unit and provision of 10 parking spaces, in accordance with amended plans received 08.08.2005.	<b>GRANTED</b> (as per report)
05/00800/1LB	<b>2 High Street, Barley</b> Two storey and single storey rear extension, following demolition of shed, installation of 3 additional windows in the rear elevation and internal alterations.	<b>GRANTED</b> (as per report)
04/01438/1	<b>Land adjacent to A10, Newsells Park, Barkway</b> Erection of 2 two-storey hostel buildings to provide eight one bedroom units for staff associated with Newsells Park Stud. Provision of 10 parking spaces. Formation of new vehicular access onto the A10 and access driveway following closure of existing (as amended by plans received 28 February 2005).	<b>GRANTED</b> (see (b) below)

(a) **RESOLVED:** That, in relation to planning application reference 05/00965/1, planning permission be **REFUSED** for the following reasons:

(1) The proposal represented an inappropriate form of flatted development within the application site, out of scale, proportion and style with the prevailing characteristics of the part of Newmarket Road in which the site was located. In addition the design of the new block, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, failed to respect the urban fabric in the locality. As a consequence the proposed development would be detrimental to the overall character, appearance and environmental quality of this part of Royston, contrary to the provisions of Policies 1 and 57 of the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No 2 with Alterations.

(2) In addition to reason 1 above the proposed development would involve a significant increase in vehicle movements at the application site exacerbating the existing traffic problems in the area, to the further detriment of highway safety and convenience along that section of Newmarket Road.

(b) **RESOLVED:** That, in relation to planning application reference 04/01438/1, planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the conditions as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control, and the following additional condition:

(6) The proposed new access onto the A10 Trunk Road shall be constructed to a standard as laid out in TD4195 of the design manual for Roads and Bridges, or any standard revoking or re-enacting that standard with or without modification, before the Hostel hereby permitted is first brought into use and the existing access has been closed in a manner to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in connection with the Highways Agency.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety and convenience along the  
A10 Trunk  
Road.

Rea

### 53. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The Principal Planning Officer presented a report of the Head of Planning and Building Control which set out two cases in which the Head of Planning and Building Control felt that enforcement action should be taken.

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that the enforcement application at Agenda Item 13b – 6 Elm Walk, Royston – had been withdrawn as the remedial works required had been carried out. The Principal Planning Officer stated that this withdrawal was without prejudice to the matter being reconsidered in the future should the situation deteriorate again.

#### **RESOLVED:**

(1) That, in relation to the application for enforcement action at Agenda Item 13a, the Planning Control and Conservation Manager be authorised to initiate appropriate enforcement action to secure the removal of the unauthorised advertisement, subject to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services being satisfied with the evidence and the establishment of ownership of the premises;

- (2) That, in relation to the application for enforcement action at Agenda Item 13b, the withdrawal of this application following completion of the remedial works required, be noted;
- (3) That, should the garden of the property referred to in Agenda Item 13b deteriorate again prior to the Committee meeting to be held on 21 December 2005, a further report be brought back to that meeting for consideration;
- (4) That Environmental Health Officers be requested to assess the property referred to in Agenda Item 13b to determine whether or not it was fit for habitation, and if not, the extent to which the Council had any powers to require it to be brought up to a habitable standard.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To ensure compliance with the appropriate sections of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisement) Regulations 1992.

**54. PLANNING APPEALS**

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that no planning appeals had been lodged or determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 24 August 2005.

The meeting closed at 9.17 p.m.

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Chairman