

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON & DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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

Meeting held at Meridian School, Garden Walk, Royston on 12 July 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Simon Ellis (Principal Planning Officer), Tom Rea (Area Planning Officer), Alan Fleck (Community Development Officer for Royston), Steve Crowley (Project Manager – Leisure), David Miley (Democratic Services Manager) and Donna Levett (Committee & Member Services Officer).

ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant Clive Reader and PC Colin Mingay (Hertfordshire Constabulary), Mr John Inkpen (Inkpen Downie), Councillor Michael Muir (Lead Member of the Scrutiny Committee's Markets Task & Finish Group), Mr Vince McCabe (Joint Chief Executive, South-East Herts and Royston, Buntingford & Bishops Stortford Primary Care Trusts), Helen Whitty (Director of Corporate Development, Royston, Buntingford & Bishops Stortford Primary Care Trust), Mark Lobban (Head of Major Project Management, Adult Care Services, Hertfordshire County Council), County Councillor Doug Drake and 31 members of the public.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the representatives from outside organisations who were present to address the Committee today.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the error in report circulation for Agenda Item 8 – North Hertfordshire District Council's Public Conveniences – whereby the report relating to the Baldock & District area had been circulated with the agenda instead of the Royston & District area. Members of the Committee had since been sent the correct report, and further copies were available at the meeting for members of the public.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Liz Beardwell.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 16 May and 31 May 2006 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

18. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed consideration of the following additional items:

- a) Community Policing Update. This item to be minuted as Agenda Item 14. However, as the representatives of Hertfordshire Constabulary were still on active duty, the Chairman stated that their presentation would be taken as the first item of business.

19. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor R.E. Inwood declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – Future Development of Royston Community Hospital - as he was North Hertfordshire District Council's representative on the Royston, Buntingford & Bishop Stortford Primary Care Trust's Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Inwood reserved his right to speak and vote on this matter.

Councillor F.J. Smith declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – Area Committee Development Budget 2006/2007: Grant Application by Royston Day Centre – as his wife was treasurer for the Centre. Councillor Smith reserved his right to speak and vote on this matter.

Councillor Mrs F.R. Hill informed the Committee that she had previously attended meetings with representatives of the Royston Celtic Football Club to discuss their plans for developing a community football club. These discussions did not warrant an interest to be declared.

20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Car Parking Charges in Royston

Mr Terry Hutt had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting regarding car parking charges in Royston. Mr Hutt also presented a petition to the Committee with 1,396 signatures against the proposed increase in car parking charges. Mr Hutt stated that the people who had signed the petition were very angry about the proposed increases, especially as many felt they were not receiving service improvements in return for the continued increases in Council Tax, and believed that the increases would result in the death of trading in the town centre.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hutt for addressing the Committee and accepted the petition on the Committee's behalf. She informed Mr Hutt that the petition would be forwarded to the Council's Strategic Director of Customer Services, who had made the decision to increase the parking charges under delegated powers from the Cabinet, together with the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport.

The Committee expressed their extreme unhappiness that the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport and the Strategic Director of Customer Services had refused the Committee's request at the meeting held on 31 May 2006 (Minute 9 refers) to attend this Committee for discussion of the proposed increases in car parking charges in the town. It was felt that the issues affecting the town had not been clearly identified, and the Committee had not been offered the chance to present information that would demonstrate the uniqueness of the town that justified its exemption from the District-wide increases.

The Committee also discussed the proposals for alterations to the existing on-street parking provision in the town centre that were put forward at the Committee's meeting held on 15 March 2006 (Minute 120 refers), which had not yet been implemented. The Chairman informed the Committee that officers had confirmed that these alterations were currently being processed, and that the likely date for implementation was early autumn 2006. The Committee expressed their dissatisfaction at these delays and felt that an update on progress should be brought before the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a report detailing progress on the implementation of alterations to on-street parking provisions in Royston town centre, as identified at the meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2006 (Minute 120 refers) be brought to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 23 August 2006;
- (2) That it be demanded that the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport and the Strategic Director of Customer Services attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 23 August 2006 to justify the car parking charges to be implemented in Royston;
- (3) That the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport and the Strategic Director of Customer Services be requested to defer implementation of changes to car parking charges in Royston until such time as they have attended that meeting, and the possibility of partial subsidisation from the Committee's budgets for such deferral be explored if required;
- (4) That, should it be deemed necessary for financial reasons, a special meeting of the Royston & District Committee be called for the purpose of consideration of this item;
- (5) That copies of all previous and supporting documentation, including the ECOTECH and Members Information Service reports, be circulate with the agenda prior to that meeting.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that decisions made with regard to parking provision and car parking charges in Royston were in the best interests of the town.

b) Public Conveniences

Mr Hutt also spoke and presented a petition to the Committee regarding the proposed refurbishment of public conveniences by the Council, and the intention to close the existing public conveniences at the Royston Bus Station. This petition had 567 signatories, including representatives from local doctors' surgeries.

Mr Hutt spoke of how the Warren area of the town, where the Royston Bus Station was located, served as a major interchange for the town as it provided a taxi rank and car park in addition to the Bus Station, and was in close proximity to the market area. He also stressed the priority that provision of such facilities should be, especially giving consideration to elderly and less able people, who were frequent users of the Bus Station and relied on the facilities in that location. Mr Hutt spoke of the difficulties these users would face if expected to travel down to the new facility proposed in Fish Hill and suggested instead that the refurbishment of existing toilets or replacement with new facilities at the Bus Station would be an investment by the Council that would be greatly appreciated by the facilities frequent users.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hutt for addressing the Committee and accepted the petition on the Committee's behalf. She informed Mr Hutt that the points raised would be considered when the Committee discussed the report of the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services at Agenda Item 8, and that the petition would be forwarded to the Cabinet together with the Committee's comments.

c) Nuisance Odours in Royston

Mr Ronald Hutchings had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting regarding a nuisance odour in Royston. Mr Hutchings also presented a petition to the Committee which had 2067 signatures. The subject of this petition was as follows:

We, the undersigned, being local residents in the north of Royston, have to live with a regular strong pungent smell from the area north of the A505 bypass close to or within the sewage works.

We request that NHDC do something to put a stop to this situation that we have to endure every summer. Please carry out an investigation into the cause and remove the cause completely or move it to an area far enough away from our housing to not cause us a problem. We want a return to a fresh air environment and the ability to use our gardens through the summer.

Mr Hutchings stated that, whilst residents acknowledged that living in an area surrounded by fields would result in some "country" smells, the problems with this particular odour had been getting increasingly worse during the past two years, with eleven particularly bad occasions in the previous five weeks.

The Committee supported the concerns of the residents but stressed the need for joint working with all parties concerned, including South Cambridgeshire District Council, within whose area the Sewage Works were located, and Anglian Water and Thames Water, who were responsible for the operations at the site. It was then suggested that a joint presentation from all parties could be beneficial as all questions could be addressed together, and partnership working ensured.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hutchings for addressing the Committee and accepted the petition on the Committee's behalf.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That copies of the petition be forwarded to the Environmental Health officers at both North Hertfordshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, who were actively dealing with complaints about nuisance odours originating from the Sewage Works site;

- (2) That copies of the petition be forwarded to Oliver Heald MP (MP for North East Hertfordshire) and Andrew Lansley MP (MP for South Cambridgeshire) with a request that they speak on residents' behalf to the Environment Agency, who are the government regulators of policy with regards to the treatment, stockpiling and use of sewage sludge products for agricultural fertiliser;
- (3) That copies of the petition be forwarded to Thames Water and Anglian Water with a request that representatives of their companies attend the meeting of this Committee to be held on 23 August 2006 to respond to the petition;
- (4) That North Hertfordshire District Council's Portfolio Holder for Housing & Environmental Health and Portfolio Holder for Environment & Waste Management also be invited to attend the meeting of the Committee to be informed of the situation in Royston, together with representatives from the Council's Environmental Health department and any representatives from South Cambridgeshire District Council as appropriate.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To determine the cause of recurring nuisance odours in Royston and address the concerns of local residents.

21. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ROYSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The Committee received a presentation relating to the plans for the future development of Royston Community Hospital from representatives of the Royston, Buntingford & Bishops Stortford Primary Care Trust (RBBS PCT) and Hertfordshire County Council's Adult Care Services. Key points raised during this presentation were:

- Whilst the importance of Royston Community Hospital to the local population is well known, the current services provided at the site were not those really needed by local residents, which had resulted in a requirement to undertake a full review of health and social care needs in the area.
- Agreement for partnership working between the Primary Care Trust and Adult Care Services would result in a strong partnership that facilitated the securing of work that would otherwise be lost in the reorganisation of PCTs in the eastern area.
- One of the main criticisms that had been made was that nothing had been happening since the strategic outline business case for development of the Hospital had been put forward in 2003. This was not the case – a more detailed case was difficult to produce in the face of problems such as the reorganisation of the NHS and PCTs, and discussions have been undertaken with Adult Care Services to determine the feasibility of the project, which then required board agreement.

The Committee expressed their disappointment that no details had been presented at the meeting about the proposals, and no new information had been provided other than the confirmation of the partnership working between the RBBS PCT and Adult Care Services. They acknowledged the work that had previously been completed by partnerships between Adult Care Services and the NHS, such as the successful Westgate facility in Ware, but expressed concern that the good intentions for development at the Royston Community Hospital site would not come to fruition.

In response to questions from the Committee and County Councillor Drake, Mr McCabe confirmed that present plans for the Hospital included provision of short-stay rehabilitation beds for people transferring from hospital to go home, long-stay nursing beds, out-patient clinics and diagnostic facilities. He stated that other potential methods of provision within the town centre were being assessed, and that any changes to existing clinics at the hospital would be as a result of their inability to continue to be safely and reasonably provided at that location, not as a result of the planned development of the site. Ms Whitty further confirmed that the redevelopment of the Royston Health Centre to better meet local requirements was also a key project for consideration following the restructure of local PCTs in the autumn of 2006.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the information provided in the presentation by the Royston, Buntingford & Bishops Stortford Primary Care Trust be noted;

- (2) That further updates on the project to redevelop the Royston Community Hospital be brought on a regular basis to the Committee;
- (3) That copies of the current development proposals for the Royston Community Hospital be circulated to the Committee in writing subsequent to the meeting and be made available for public information.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep the Committee and public apprised of progress in the development process for Royston Community Hospital.

22. USAGE AND PROMOTION OF MARKETS

Councillor M.R.M. Muir presented the report of the Scrutiny Committee's Markets Task & Finish Group to the Committee, which highlighted the group's recommendations following their review of the usage and promotion of markets.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Project Manager (Leisure) confirmed that traders at Royston Market had previously had to provide their own stalls. With funds secured for improvements to the Market from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), the introduction of stalls of uniform design would result in the ability for new traders to rent stalls in future, rather than having to buy their own. He further confirmed that, at present, the only facility for traders to pay their rent using credit or debit cards was at the Markets Office in Hitchin. The introduction of a mobile payment device would allow traders to use this payment method. The Project Manager (Leisure) also explained the existing holiday and spreading policies to the Committee for clarification, and confirmed that removal of vans from the Market site would be carried out in consultation with traders and local businesses.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Scrutiny Committee's Markets Task & Finish Group be noted;
- (2) That the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee's Markets Task & Finish Group as they relate to Royston Market be supported;
- (3) That the Royston Town Centre Manager and the Community Development Officer for Royston be thanked for their work in securing funding from EEDA to facilitate the provision of stalls, bollards and electric socket provision at Royston Market;
- (4) That, if a Royston Market Traders Association was set up, two Councillors from the Royston & District Committee be appointed to a market group akin to that established in Hitchin. Nominations for this appointment would be confirmed in writing to the Committee & Member Services Officer.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Committee was apprised of the findings of the Scrutiny Committee's Markets Task & Finish Group and enable the Scrutiny Committee to carry out its work efficiently.

23. NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Project Manager (Leisure) presented a report of the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services to the Committee which informed them of the Cabinet's strategic decision for the Council's public conveniences and sought their input on the proposed refurbishment project, with particular reference to the Royston & District area. The Project Manager (Leisure) also introduced Mr John Inkpen of Inkpen Downie, the Council's contractor for the project.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr Inkpen confirmed that the facilities at the Royston Bus Station were not compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act due to their size and the stepped access. An assessment had been made of the cost and practicalities of converting or refurbishing these facilities but this had proven not to be feasible. To demolish the existing facilities and install a completely new unit would also require significant capital investment that was not included under the approved scheme.

Whilst the Committee supported the proposed refurbishment project and did not wish to see it delayed, there was also support for exploration of other options for the provision of facilities at Royston Bus Station, as it was felt that these were vital to many travellers and were frequently used.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the strategic decision from Cabinet for the North Hertfordshire District Council's Public Conveniences, as stated in paragraph 3.1 of the report of the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services, be noted;
- (2) That the location and principle of the external design of the new facility for Fish Hill, as stated in section 4 of the report of the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services, be agreed;
- (3) That alternative options to closure be investigated for the Royston Bus Station public conveniences, to allow continued provision of a facility that was much used and important to residents and visitors to the town;
- (4) The, following such investigations, a report be brought back to the Committee for consideration of feasibility and potential funding contributions.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That the closure of the public conveniences at Royston Bus Station be postponed to facilitate the investigation of alternative methods of service provision at this site.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure the delivery of project objectives whilst best meeting the needs of the town's visitors and residents.

24. REFERRAL FROM NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP JOINT MEMBER PANEL – 24 APRIL 2006 – NHHP DISCRETIONARY BUDGET PROJECTS 2007/2008

The Committee considered a referral from the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel, which invited the Area Committees to submit projects for consideration of funding from the Panel's Discretionary Budget for the financial year 2007/2008.

The Committee discussed some of the highways problems in the area and identified those that could be put forward for that funding.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the following schemes be put forward for consideration of funding from the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel's Discretionary Budget:
 - High Street, Barkway – resurfacing at the lower end to rectify the subsidence that has resulted from the installation of services in the road, to stop the damage to properties in the High Street caused by lorries travelling over the damaged road;
 - Fish Hill, Royston – installation of a speed table to the rear of the Corn Exchange to address problems with speeding vehicles at night, as identified during a recent town "walkabout" with Hertfordshire Police;
 - Junction of Green Drift/Kneesworth Street, Royston – measures to address problems with flooding;
 - Bottom of Barkway Road, Royston – installation of railings for protection of pedestrians and properties from vehicles mounting the pavements following repeated accidents.
- (2) That any further suggestions for schemes that the Committee want to put forward should be notified to the Committee & Member Services Officer as soon possible.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Joint Member Panel allocated funding from the Discretionary Budget for agreed themes.

25. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for Royston presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services 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 31 May 2006, 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 & Cultural Services be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for Royston to promote greater community capacity and well-being for communities in the Royston & District area be endorsed.

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

26. AREA COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET 2006/2007

The Community Development Officer for Royston presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with 2 additional grant applications 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.

27. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON DAY CENTRE

This application had come back to Committee for consideration after being deferred at the meeting held on 31 May 2006. The Community Development Officer for Royston provided the Committee with an update on information gathered since that meeting, and outlined the Day Centre's current situation.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Royston Day Centre as a financial contribution toward the provision of non-vocational handcraft courses for elderly and vulnerable clients.

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.

28. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Royston Celtic Football Club as a pump-priming grant for stand-alone lighting.

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.

29. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the following planning application, determination of which had been deferred at the meeting of the Committee held on 31 May 2006 in order for officers to seek further design changes.

The Committee heard an oral representation from Mr Bryan Stamford, Chairman of the Heath Avenue & Chilcourt Residents Association, who were objecting to the application. Mr Stamford reiterated residents' concerns about the overdevelopment of the site through the high density of dwellings, the development's imposition on Therfield Heath, which was a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and on the existing dwellings in the area, with particular reference to number 11 Heath Avenue. Mr Stamford also drew the Committee's attention to problems residents already experienced with water pressure in the area, and expressed their concern that such high density development would greatly aggravate this problem.

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

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
06/00380/1	Ling Dynamic Systems Ltd, Baldock Road, Royston Erection of 44 no. 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 17 no. 1 and 2 bedroom affordable flats and houses and associated infrastructure (including below ground car parking, cycle and refuse storage) following demolition of existing commercial buildings (as amended by drawing nos. 02 Rev M; 05 Rev H; 06 Rev H and 07 Rev H received on 15 June 2006)	GRANTED (See (a) below)

(a) **RESOLVED:** That, with regard to planning application reference 06/00380/1, planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 obligation with the Council to secure the provision of the requisite affordable housing units, financial contributions towards sustainable transport measures in the vicinity of the site, library, youth and childcare facilities and fire hydrant provision, and subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Head of Planning & Building Control, with the following amended condition 24 and additional condition 25:

24. *Prior to the commencement of development, details of speed reduction measures on the internal access road shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (such details to include speed humps or other suitable traffic calming infrastructure). Such works shall thereafter be carried out in complete accordance with the approved details or particulars unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the first occupation of the development.*

Reason: In the interests of highway safety.

25. *The existing eastern boundary fence on the application site shall be permanently retained and maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority throughout the period of construction and thereafter. Should the fence (or sections of) require replacement, such works shall be carried out in accordance with a programme of works, which shall have been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: In the interest of security and residential amenity.

30. PLANNING APPEALS

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following planning appeals had been lodged since the meeting of the Committee held on 31 May 2006:

Appellant Lesley Dickinson
Reference number 06/00454/1TPO
Address 11 Perry Drive, Royston
Proposal Fell line of Lawson Cypress trees
Method Written representations

Appellant Twigden Homes Ltd
Reference number 05/01561/1
Address Land South of Redwing Rise, Royston
Proposal Erection of 28 detached, semi-detached and terraced dwelling houses and 4 flats with garaging and car parking spaces, construction of roads, landscaping provision of neighbourhood play area and ancillary works.
Method Public Inquiry

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following appeals had been determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 31 May 2006:

Appellant Blackwater Services Ltd
Reference number 05/01478/1
Address 1 Angel Pavement, Royston
Proposal Change of use of ground floor from Class A1 (retail) to Class A2 (financial and professional services)
Decision Appeal DISMISSED

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that the Inspector supported the Council's reason for refusal and emphasised the importance of District Local Plan Policy 43 which sought the retention of a shopping frontage area in Royston town centre and dismissed the appeal.

31. COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATE

Sergeant Clive Reader and P.C. Colin Mingay made an oral presentation to the Committee updating them on recent developments in community policing in the Royston area.

Sergeant Reader informed the Committee that recent staffing arrangement updates had resulted in positive changes to the Community Policing team in Royston. A new Sergeant had now been appointed for Baldock, which meant that Sergeant Reader would now be responsible purely for Royston. Two new Police Community Support Officers (P.C.S.O.s) had also been appointed for Royston town, taking the total number to three. Once they had been fully trained and gained more experience, this would allow the appointment of one P.C.S.O. to each Ward of Royston, who could take on more responsibilities.

Sergeant Reader then provided an update on crime statistics for the Committee for Royston and the surrounding area. These statistics were a comparison between the three month period of 1 April to 8 July 2006 and the same period in 2005. The statistics were:

Type of Crime	Reported Figures 2006	Reported Figures 2005	Increase/ Decrease	% Difference
●□□□ All crime	300	367	Decrease	18.3
●□□□ Burglary of dwellings	11	12	Decrease	8.3
●□□□ Violent crime	62	79	Decrease	21.0
●□□□ Thefts of Motor Vehicles	10	14	Decrease	28.6

●□□□	Thefts from Motor Vehicles	24	21	Increase	14.3
●□□□	Robbery (Theft with Violence)	2	0	Increase	200.0

Sergeant Reader informed the Committee that there was a problem with thefts of valuable items such as laptops from motor vehicles in supermarket car parks, both in Royston and Baldock. The police had been working to address these problems by raising public awareness through crime prevention campaigns in the towns. He also stressed that both of the incidents of robbery had been detected.

In response to questions from the Committee Sergeant Reader confirmed that the recent “walkaround” in the town with community representatives had provided a useful opportunity to engage with local people, identifying areas of concern in the town and “trouble hotspots”. As a result of the event’s success, it was hoped that more could be held in the future.

The Committee expressed their congratulations for the success of the joint working between police and landlords during the World Cup to prevent violence and nuisance behaviour. As a result of the increased police presence and other measures, there had been no incidents or arrests in Royston.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Reader and P.C. Mingay for attending the meeting and for their presentation, and expressed the Committee’s continuing support for the work that the community team did for the benefit of residents in the Royston & District area.

RESOLVED: That the information provided by the representatives of the Hertfordshire Constabulary be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Committee were apprised of Community Policing issues in the Royston & District area.

The meeting closed at 10.54 p.m.

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Chairman