

ROYSTON AND 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 26 November 2008 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Caldwell – Planning Control and Conservation Manager
Barrie Jones – Head of Finance
Simon Young – Planning and Building Control
Alan Fleck - Community Development Officer
Susanne Gow – Committee and Member Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Terry Dear – Burns Road Estate Against Flooding (BREAf)
Mr Paul Tovell – Anglian Water
Alan Duncan – Anglian Water
Matt Rolfe – Anglian Water
Helen McCormick – Hertfordshire Highways
Mr John Gourd – Johnson Matthey plc
Hertfordshire County Cllr Doug Drake
Royston Town Councillor Bob Smith

35 members of the public.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Robert Inwood sent apologies for his absence.

49. MINUTES – 1 OCTOBER 2008

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Royston and District Committee Meeting held on 1 October 2008 be approved as a true record of the proceedings, and be signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising were:

- Site visit to Melbourn Street: this visit had taken place, and suggestions were made which will be passed on to the appropriate officers and to Hertfordshire Highways. The Community Development Officer (CDO) was asked to obtain costs for bollards and protective railings, and to liaise with the relevant officers.
- Flooding: the Chairman requested answers to questions and issues raised at the previous meeting on 1 October 2008. This subject would also be discussed later in the Royston and District Committee Meeting.

50. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman announced that two additional items would be discussed by the Royston and District Committee after the remaining business on the Agenda, as additional items. These would be:

- Christmas parking
- Deteriorating wall in the Somerfield car park

51. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for attending, especially the members of the public.

She confirmed that the Royston and District Committee were extremely concerned about the degree of flooding that had taken place in Royston in the past few years, and were working towards a solution to these upsetting occurrences. The Committee looked forward to what Mr Paul Tovell of Anglian Water and his colleagues had to say on the subject of flooding, its prevention and how it is being dealt with by Anglian Water.

She went on to remind Members of the Royston and District Committee that any

declarations of interest in respect of business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a prejudicial or personal interest, and they were required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a prejudicial interest were to leave the room and not seek to influence the decision during that particular item.

52. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Terry Dear of the Burns Road Estate Against Flooding (BREAF) group spoke for 10 minutes, explaining that he had experienced eight years of flooding in Burns Road, but had also been told that this went back 30 years in the area. He said that the whole area tended to be flooded, with blocked drains and surface water, and he had some general questions to ask on behalf of the residents, such as:

- a) Who wrote the reports and made recommendations for the work to be done?
- b) What are the cleaning schedules of the drains and soakaways?
- c) What is the capacity of the sumps, and what happens to the excess water?
- d) What will be done next, and by what date?
- e) Will the remedial action taken actually work?
- f) When were the drains last checked?
- g) What was the planned maintenance schedule five years ago?
- h) He asked for clarification of what went down the drains and from whence it came.

Mr Dear emphasised that flooding was a constant worry, as residents on holiday dreaded finding that it has rained and their houses had flooded in their absence, as well as families and their children becoming very upset at the condition of the roads, driveways, gardens and houses, which often have sewage flowing into them. In addition the Fire Brigade was often called out to deal with flooded houses. He stated that it seemed plain to all the residents that the drains on the Burns Road estate were not good enough to carry the excess water that led to flooding, and he wanted to know what would be done about it, and when. Mr Dear had a list of questions to be given to both Anglian Water and the Highways Agency at the meeting to be held on 28 January 2009.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dear for speaking on behalf of BREAF, and stated that she hoped that all the questions would be answered in full at the current meeting.

53. FLOODING IN ROYSTON

Mr Paul Tovell of Anglian Water addressed the Royston and District Committee, and explained that he had brought with him two colleagues, Mr Alan Duncan and Mr Matt Rolfe. These were specialists in the working of sewers and drains, and would be able to clarify points on which he himself was not an expert.

Mr Tovell assured the Committee and those residents present, that his aim was to speak to individuals as well as groups from Royston face to face, to discuss their problems with flooding, explain what Anglian Water was doing for them, and was willing to do for them in the future, in order to alleviate the inconvenience and suffering caused by flooding in Royston. He stated that Anglian Water was keen to work with Hertfordshire Highways and the Environmental Health Agency to solve problems for as many residents as possible. He asked anybody present who wished to meet with him to speak to him after his address, and a meeting would be set up as soon as possible.

- 1) Matters discussed covered:
 - a) The Royston Town Ditch was being surveyed in Mill Road. This section would be cleared and all debris removed;
 - b) On the Twigden Estate, it had been impossible to find the source of the lengths of cloth that were causing the pumping station to malfunction. Anglian Water had therefore installed N-type pumps which seemed to have solved this problem, but not the problems with the sewers;
 - c) Following a programme of CCTV work and jetting of the sewers (Planned Protective Maintenance – PPM), four tonnes of debris, fat, oils and grease which had attracted other materials were recovered from just 1km of sewers in Royston. The cost of this work was £20,000, and Mr Tovell assured the Royston and District Committee that this exercise would be carried out annually from now on, which should be sufficient to prevent further

- occurrences of the Royston Town Ditch overflowing due to blockages. The process was carried out by sealing the main manhole cover to prevent ingress, carrying out a CCTV survey and then jetting the sewer;
- d) The life span of the soakaways in Royston, and whether the sewers were adequate in numbers and in capacity, for the number of houses with which they had to cope on the estates and in general;
 - e) Whether sewers or drains had higher priority (Mr Tovell assured the Committee that they were treated the same);
 - f) A full hydraulic examination of the Town Ditch is being considered, which should show up problems such as the pipe bore not being large enough to handle the amount of water with which they have to deal;
 - g) Education by Anglian Water and the Environmental Health Agency of residents and fast food restaurants regarding what can and should not be flushed down into the drains;
 - h) Anglian Water will take responsibility for part of the Royston Town Ditch, and will carry out research to find out who "owns" the other sections;
 - i) Fly tipping was mentioned, and Mr Tovell assured Committee Members that this had not been discovered in Royston.
 - j) Anglian Water had spent £4 million each year on PPM, but did not examine the drains unless a problem was suspected or reported, mainly due to the cost and the work involved;
 - k) confirmation at the sewage treatment plant was capable of dealing with all the water and sewage to reach it;
 - l) the unadopted sewers on the Twigdens Estate would be formally adopted when the paper work was completed
 - m) Hertfordshire Highways are investigating whether Royston Leisure Centre car park's surface water drains into nearby houses, causing them to flood.

On being asked to speak by the Chairman, Royston Town Cllr Bob Smith brought up the subject of rubble in the sewers, and asked if investigations could be carried out before problems occurred. Mr Tovell explained that sewers were rarely investigated before complaints about problems were made, but he offered the use of CCTV units to help with investigations.

The Chairman stated that the Royston and District Committee would like to see a copy of the report which states which drains were adopted by Anglian Water and which were not – for example, five roads on the Twigden Estate were still to be adopted. Mr Tovell declared that he would find out when these roads were to be adopted and report back to the Royston and District Committee, bringing the sewer CCTV plan and maps back to the next Committee Meeting on 21 January 2009. He explained that part of the adoption process was a CCTV survey. He also confirmed Anglian Water's attendance at the meeting with residents and the Highways Agency at the Coombes Centre on Wednesday 28 January 2009, and thanked the residents for attending this Committee Meeting and for all their feedback.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tovell and his colleagues for attending this Meeting, and for his efforts to alleviate and hopefully to prevent, further flooding in Royston.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Mr Paul Tovell and his colleagues be thanked for attending the meeting and answering all questions put to them;
- 2) That the residents of Royston be thanked for attending the Royston and District Committee Meeting dated 26 November 2008;
- 3) That Anglian Water and Hertfordshire Highways ensure that they continue to communicate with Royston and District Committee Members and residents regarding flooding issues and solutions to the problems;
- 4) That Anglian Water and Hertfordshire Highways report back on work that has been carried out and investigate maintenance and any new work planned for the future in all areas of Royston;
- 5) That a report regarding the drain survey and cause of flooding problems on the

Twigden Estate be brought back to the next Royston and District Committee Meeting on 21 January 2009;

- 6) That a report regarding the flooding situation in Burns Road and answers to any outstanding questions from Hertfordshire Highways and Anglian Water be brought to the next meeting of the Burns Road Estate Against Flooding (BREAFA) Group at the Coombes Centre on 28 January 2009 and subsequently be reported to the next relevant Royston and District Committee Meeting on 18 March 2009.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To alleviate the distress and inconvenience to the citizens of Royston caused by the flooding of their homes and properties and to take such preventative measures as are deemed necessary by the Royston and District Committee, Anglian Water, Hertfordshire Highways and the residents of Royston.

54. ROYSTON UNDERPASS

Helen McCormick of Hertfordshire Highways had provided five draft plans for the suggested Royston underpass for the railway line, in preparation for a planning application. These were distributed with the Royston and District published Agendas. She explained that at the current time most of the information was being assessed, with the results of the asbestos survey being outstanding. These results were expected at the end of January 2009, and a six-week consultation exercise would follow, which would include exhibitions of plans and drawings of the finished underpass.

She declared that a decision had been received from the Rights of Way Committee, and there was insufficient evidence to complete the Modification Order, so there were no rights of way involved, but some private access, meaning that Compulsory Purchase Orders would be required. These would be progressed in January 2009. Ms McCormick revealed that some residents had moved their fences to acquire more land.

The Committee Members questioned Ms McCormick, who explained that at the present time land referencing was being carried out for access with land owners, perceived owners, North Herts District Council and Royston Town Council. A team would be conducting interviews during the first week of December 2008.

She explained that allotment holders had expressed concerns about future vehicular access and parking, and it was planned to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) specifically for allotment holders, together with the installation of bollards. This scheme would also include CCTV and lights in the underpass, to ensure security and peace of mind for children, walkers, cyclists etc after dark. It was stated that the possession date would be Christmas 2010, and completion of the construction would be in Spring 2011. A new construction method would be used, to ensure that work could be carried out without disturbing Network Rail and the passage of trains.

The Royston and District Committee were told that funds had been awarded by the Sustrans BID and from North Herts District Council (NHDC), and that the underpass design had yet to be finalised. It could not be guaranteed that utility and emergency services would not need to gain access to the allotments at some point, and it was hoped that the cycle track would form part of the countryside cycle network currently being planned. In fact, Ms McCormick said that she would like to contact the local BMX Club for talks at some point.

The Chairman thanked Ms McCormick for her presentation and the comprehensive replies to the Committee's questions.

55. ROYSTON BID

Mr John Gourd, Site Planning and Services Manager for Johnson Matthey plc and Chairman of the Royston First BID Steering Group, gave the Royston and District Committee a presentation on the current situation of the Royston BID process.

The Committee gave the Royston First team its support and wished Royston First the very best of luck in the vote.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gourd for attending the Committee Meeting and for giving

the Committee the update.

56. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS AND UNILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager (PCCM) took the Royston and District Committee through Appendix 1, the monitoring spreadsheet for Royston and District. She commented that this had evolved from an item raised at the Performance, Audit and Review Committee (PARC) dated 5 June 2008, to set charges within the Royston Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

She explained that these amounts are not allocated towards one specific project, but to North Herts District Council's (NHDC) strategies, and they must always contain Hertfordshire County Council's as well as NHDC's contributions. The PCCM went through the process of choosing schemes for funding works with small sums of money. This is now in the public domain, so it was through the Community Development Officer that the money available would be brought forward for use.

This money would be paid on commencement of the development and would come back to strategies through Cabinet.

The Chairman thanked the Planning Control and Conservation Manager for her clarification of the report, and moved to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston and District Committee note the content of Report on Section 106 Agreement and Unilateral Undertaking;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee note the progress for the utilisation of the monies which will be included in the report to PARC on 11 December 2008;
- 3) That the Royston and District Committee be presented with a report in the June 2009 cycle of meetings and on an annual basis thereafter;
- 4) That the Planning Control and Conservation Manager be thanked for attending the Royston and District Committee Meeting on 26 November 2008 and putting together the report she had presented.

57. CORPORATE BUSINESS PLANNING 2009-2014 (EFFICIENCIES AND INVESTMENTS)

The Chairman began by thanking the Head of Financial Services for all his help, and wished him well for his forthcoming retirement, as this was likely to be his last attendance at a Royston and District Committee Meeting.

Cllr F J Smith as Leader of the Council declared a personal interest, and stated that it would not be appropriate for him to take part in any discussion, as he was part of the North Herts District Council (NHDC) Cabinet Committee.

The Head of Financial Services (HFS) stated that the report gave the position of Cabinet at its meeting on 21 October 2008. He explained the parameters relating to Council Tax, pay increases, inflation increase (5%+) and pension liabilities. A number of savings accounts were on fixed rates but were linked to rates of 5%. He explained that the objective is to maintain the Council Tax increase below the rate of inflation.

Discussion ensued on current interest rates and their side effects, and the Head of Financial Services explained the procurement processes that would improve on capital expenditure. Comments from the Royston and District Committee would go to Cabinet on 16 December 2008.

The HFS took the Committee through the Appendices, and stated that the future economic climate was bleak.

On examining the Investment Proposals spreadsheets, the comment was made that it would be nice to see something going to Royston Museum.

Under Efficiency Proposals, Item RE/3 (Area Committee Development budgets – reduction of expenditure on highways) it was stated that this was not happening.

In the section on Income Increase Proposals – Item IE/4 (New paper recycling contract), confirmation was given that contracts at present are secure, and cans are being stored for recycling later on.

Under Capital Investment Proposals, Item CI/1 (Replace pay and display car parking machines) – the clarification was made that the actual type may well change to barrier or pay on exit. This elicited strong responses from the Committee, including the Chairman stating that she categorically could not support any increase in car parking charges in Royston, to which Members of the Committee agreed. She stated, in fact, that the Royston and District Committee had recommended to Cabinet that a free parking trial should take place at a chosen car park in Royston, to see if this had a positive impact on footfall in the Town Centre. Other Committee Members added supportive comments to the Chairman's statements.

Suggestions such as on-road parking not being allowed and lowering car parking charges to an extent where it was more attractive to those parking on roads to use car parks rather than face stiff penalties were made, and Cllr Burt passed round his list of suggested changes to car parking charges which could actually raise £141,000. These suggestions are to be submitted on behalf of Councillor Burt to David Scholes, Head of Planning and Building Control. It was made clear that no increases in car parking charges would be supported by the Royston and District Committee. The HFS stated that he will ensure that these and previous comments on car parking in Royston were taken on board.

The Chairman requested that funding towards Royston Museum also be included under Investment Proposals.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Financial Services for his comprehensive report and again expressed good wishes from herself and the Royston and District Committee, for his retirement at the end of March 2009.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston and District Committee gave its views on any changes to the efficiency and investment proposals;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee would not support any increases at all to car parking charges, and would still like to see a trial of free car parking in a selected car park in Royston;
- 3) That funding towards Royston Museum be included under the heading Investment Proposals.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that all Royston and District Committee Members were consulted on the proposed savings and growth bids and afforded the opportunity to comment before Cabinet sets the draft budget on 16 December 2008.

58. AREA COMMITTEE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – PROPOSALS FOR 2009-2012

The Royston and District Committee were reminded that the list of Service Level Agreements and amounts per annum were as set out below. Cllr F J Smith declared a personal interest as he was Chairman of Royston Community Transport.

- Royston Town Twinning - £239 (proposed to be kept the same)
- Royston Volunteer Bureau - £3,650 (to be kept the same)
- Royston Community Transport - £2,915 (to be raised to £2,990)
- Royston Cave - £1,000 (to be kept the same).

The Committee discussed these SLAs and decided to adopt the proposals.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston and District Committee considered the proposed SLA for 2009-2012 as set out in Section 4.7 of the Report;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee noted that a rebalancing of the funding

of SLA was proposed to reflect better the district-wide/local area focus;

- 3) That the Royston and District Committee confirmed that the detailed negotiations with individual projects would be conducted by relevant officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Rural Affairs (for Major and Minor funded projects) and Area Committee Chairmen;
- 4) That the Royston and District Committee noted the proposed timescale for implementing the new SLA.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To confirm the future strategic policy direction for the programme of financial assistance for the voluntary and community sector, through negotiation of SLA.

59. PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF ROYSTON

The Community Development Officer (CDO) gave the Royston and District Committee a verbal update on the current situation regarding the parking restrictions (including Traffic Regulation Orders [TROs]) which had been requested for roads in Royston, especially in Garden Walk and Newmarket Road.

He stated that to date not much had happened, and that this matter should be regarded in the context of an overall parking strategy. He confirmed that parking restrictions in Garden Walk were a definite safety issue because of the schools in the road, which were part of the Safer Routes to Schools project. It was proposed that besides Garden Walk, reviews of Newmarket Road, Studlands Rise, Princes Mews and the top of Briary Lane should be carried out.

The Committee discussed the subject, confirming that they were very disappointed that the scheme had not been carried out as suggested. It was proposed that this item was referred to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel, to be presented on the Agenda at its next meeting on 26 January 2009.

It was also pointed out that there were still problems in King James Way, where the yellow lines had made little difference and in Rock Road, and that the whole matter had taken a long time to make, in the Committee's opinion, no progress at all. Members agreed that this needed to be urgently progressed.

It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Joint Member Panel on 26 January 2009, for a review of the impact on roads in Royston following the restrictions made to date in Newmarket Road, Studlands Rise, Princes Mews and the top of Briary Lane, which the Committee agreed did not go far enough and had had little effect. Included in this review should also be safety measures in Garden Walk, and the left hand turn out of Garden Walk onto the A10, which had been proposed some time ago. It was also noted that no report had been produced regarding the speeding in Barkway Road, York Way and on the Twigdens Estate.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the results of the monitoring following recent TROs in Newmarket Road, King James Way and Rock Road be reported back to the Royston and District Committee to ascertain the impact on other roads in Royston;
- 2) That a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Royston and District Committee on speeding in Barkway Road, York Way and the Twigdens Estate;
- 3) That a progress report on the implementation of agreed parking restrictions in Studlands Rise, Princes Mews and the top of Briary Lane be brought to the Royston and District Committee Meeting on 18 March 2009.

RECOMMENDED TO THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS-JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

- 1) That the North Herts Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel investigate the feasibility of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict the parking of vehicles in Garden Walk from the junction with Melbourn Road eastwards to Perry Drive, together with the provision of an estimate for the setting up, with appropriate signage, of a No Right Turn system for vehicles exiting Garden

Walk onto Melbourn Road, to address safety issues associated with the school in alignment with Safer Routes to School;

- 2) That the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel seek provision of an estimate of costs for the installation of railings eastwards from the traffic lights in Melbourn Street to improve pedestrian safety there, and investigate other options already suggested;
- 3) That a review of the impact of restrictions made to date in Newmarket Road, Studlands Rise, Princes Mews and the top of Briary Lane be brought back to the Royston and District Committee at their meeting on 18 March 2009.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To improve safety in Garden Walk, Newmarket Road, King James Way, Rock Road and other roads in Royston.

60. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Royston and District Committee through the activities and schemes with which he had been involved since the last meeting on 1 October 2008, and brought to their attention some important community-based activities which will take place over the next few months.

Young People's Activities

The Royston Youth Council (RYC) had continued to meet on a regular basis during term-time, and members had taken over the duties of those RYC officers whose academic work had prevented full involvement. The CDO and the Extended Schools Co-ordinator had worked to ensure that the RYC is publicised, and a new member has joined, together with other organisations offering support or invitations.

Local MP Oliver Heald had invited the Royston Youth Council to visit the House of Commons in London, and this visit was currently being organised.

Town Centre Partnerships

The CDO had attended the final consultation before the vote for the Royston BID project. The prospectus had been printed and the vote was almost completed, as reported earlier in these Minutes by Mr John Gourd, Chairman of the Royston First BID Steering Group (see Minute 55). A positive vote would enable a range of projects to support businesses and communities in Royston.

Members' Surgeries

The CDO assisted with the Surgery in Angel Pavement on 4 October. There were 27 enquiries or comments by 19 people, although three preferred to remain anonymous. A letter of thanks for prompt action had also been received.

Other Work

The Village Hall Handbook had been completed and uploaded. The site map has also been adjusted to ensure that it is logical and easy to use.

A record 38 applications were received for Parish-based grants, and these have all been logged onto the database system.

Annual Community Conference

This took place on Monday 10 November 2008 at 6pm in the Spirella Building, Letchworth Garden City. The Sustainable Community Strategy for North Hertfordshire was launched at this event, and approximately 100 representatives of local organisations attended, ensuring that the event was a success.

The Chairman thanked the Community Development Officer for his reports and for his hard work on behalf of the Royston and District Committee and the residents of Royston.

RESOLVED:

That the Royston and District Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community

Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and wellbeing and thanks him for all his hard work in Royston.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the Royston and District Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

61. ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2008/2009

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Committee through the Royston and District Budget Statement for 2008/2009, and advised the Committee of the following grant applications for determination: from Royston BMX Club for £1,000; from Friends of Reed School for £1,250; and from Royston Day Centre for £1,000. A personal Declaration of Interest was made by Cllr F J Smith in respect of Royston Day Centre, as his wife is their Treasurer, and Cllr F Hill declared a personal interest in respect of Friends of Reed School, as she is friendly with one of the Committee involved in making the grant application.

After discussion, it was decided to grant the applications made by Royston BMX Club and Royston Day Care Centre, and to refuse the grant application from Friends of Reed School due to insufficient information and the fact that a well maintained and furnished play area was located very close to Reed School.

Members were asked to note the information in Appendix 1, which related to Area Committee Budget balances for the Financial Year 2008/09, the pre-allocations carried forward from 2007/08, and the balances allocated to Visioning Budgets available to respective wards within the Royston and District area.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets 2008/09, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Discretionary Budgets be noted;
- 2) That the Committee consider the grant applications from Royston BMX Club, Friends of Reed School and Royston Day Care Centre.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

To award financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations and groups.

62. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON BMX CLUB

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to Royston BMX Club, to repair the Burns Road track and maintain it in good order for the benefit of the young people who use it.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

63. GRANT APPLICATION – FRIENDS OF REED SCHOOL

RESOLVED: That the Committee refuses the grant application due to insufficient information which is currently being awaited.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

64. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON DAY CENTRE

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Royston Day Centre to fund their adult education and handicraft courses for elderly and physically handicapped people.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

65. CHRISTMAS PARKING

A discussion took place over the arrangements for free Christmas car parking on 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 24 December 2008 as agreed at a Royston and District Committee Meeting on 2 April 2008, and then recommended to Cabinet.

Bearing in mind the late publicity in December 2007, the CDO reported that he had met with Brian Perkins, Parking Services Manager, and arrangements had now been made.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston and District Committee subsidise 6 days free parking after 4pm in all Royston car parks (Thursday 18 to Wednesday 24 December) in the run up to Christmas Day;
- 2) That the CDO liaise with the Press and the Parking Services Manager to advertise this free car parking in local newspapers;

66. DETERIORATING WALL IN SOMERFIELD CAR PARK

The Royston and District Committee discussed this and agreed that despite frequently bringing it to the attention of Somerfield supermarket's management, no action had as yet been taken. It was agreed that the CDO contact Somerfield and advise that the damaged wall was a Health and Safety issue and that they may be liable if the wall or a tree behind it was to fall on a member of the public or damage a car.

RESOLVED:

That the CDO liaise with Somerfield regarding the responsibility for repairs to the damaged car park wall.

The Chairman informed the Committee that a decision whether future surgeries would be held at Royston Town Hall or in the open air would be made at the next Royston and District Committee Meeting on 21 January 2009.

She then thanked the Members of the Royston and District Committee for their support and wished them the best for Christmas and the New Year.

The Chairman reminded Members about the Royston Members' Surgery on Saturday 6 December, to be held in Royston Town Hall, which would be attended by Cllr Howard Marshall.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

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Chairman