

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 18 March 2009 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

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: Steven Crowley – Contracts and Projects Manager
Jim Brown – Policy Officer
Simon Young – Transport Policy Officer
Alan Fleck - Community Development Officer
Susanne Gow – Committee and Member Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Nicholas Moss JP – North Herts Judiciary
Paul Tovell – Anglian Water
Alan Duncan – Anglian Water
Steve Greenhill – Hertfordshire Highways District Manager
Geraint Burnell – Royston Town Centre Manager
Hertfordshire County Councillor Doug Drake
Royston Town Councillor Bob Smith
Sally Everett – Community Development Project Support Officer

12 members of the public.

93. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Beardwell.

94. MINUTES – 12 JANUARY 2009

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Royston and District Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2009 be approved as a true record of the proceedings, and be signed by the Chairman.

95. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be discussed at this Committee Meeting.

96. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to stand for one minute in silence as a mark of respect for the passing of Royston Town Cllr Bill Prime and also Sgt Richard Jones of Herts Constabulary, who had attended the previous Royston and District Committee Meeting on 12 January 2009.

The Chairman thanked the speakers who were to take part in Public Participation for attending and declared that the Committee looked forward to hearing what they had to say.

She then announced that following the two items on flooding in Royston, Items 6 and 7 on the published Agenda, she would close the meeting and there would be a chance for members of the public from both the Twigden Estate and Burns Road area in turn, to put questions to Members of the Royston and District Committee, the representatives from Anglia Water, the Highways District Manager from Hertfordshire Highways and the NHDC Contracts and Projects Manager who was to present the report on Royston Leisure Centre Drainage.

The Chairman further advised that Item 12, Champion News would include various highways issues, including Briary Lane and Brampton Road. The NHDC Traffic Policy Officer was in attendance to update the Committee on these highways issues.

The Chairman 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.

97. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1) Mr Nicholas Moss JP addressed the Committee on Community Engagement and the Magistrates' Court. He stated that he and members of his team visited schools to explain what happens in Court, and proposed to visit all the Area Committees in North Hertfordshire to explain the procedure in Court and to listen to any queries or comments made by the Committee and by members of the public present at the Committee Meetings. The Magistracy saw the Area Committee Meetings as a good example of communication with the public, and wanted to understand more about citizens' concerns and what they wanted.

Mr Moss explained that the sentence of Community Service meant that offenders had to do compulsory unpaid work, usually manual work and that on behalf of the Magistracy, he was asking for suggestions from the Royston and District Committee and the general public as to what work could be done by those sentenced to Community Service. He briefly explained how the Courts work, how they approach sentencing in order "to do right to all manner of people", and that the intention was to be fair to victims and to the community at large. He also revealed that there was a need for people to apply to be magistrates, and for people who witnessed a crime to come forward and give evidence in court, to ensure that the offender was given the appropriate sentence, with no chance of evading his responsibilities due to lack of evidence.

The Chairman thanked Mr Moss for his interesting presentation, and the Committee discussed the points he had raised. A suggestion was made that Community Service could include the clearing up and maintenance of cemeteries and churchyards, places which were often littered and untidy. Mr Moss commented that this was an excellent suggestion, and that he would take this back to the Magistracy for consideration. In answer to a query about who made up the Magistracy, Mr Moss declared that magistrates and justices of the peace came from all walks of life, and represented the community they served. He explained that potential magistrates had to be measured against six objective criteria and approximately seven or eight were appointed each year in North Hertfordshire. On being asked by the Committee about the scope of offences handled by magistrates, Mr Moss replied that there is a huge scope, ranging from shoplifting, motoring offences, violence, robbery etc and that the magistrates had the power to send offenders to prison for six months and impose fines of up to £5,000. He declared that the Courts have a thorough regard for victims and did their best to ensure that their sentencing was vigorous, robust and fair.

One Member commented that the Council was more interested in the avoidance rather than the punishment of crime and Mr Moss responded that young people's crimes can never be condoned, but some young people came from challenging backgrounds, although that was no excuse. He explained that everybody had a choice whether or not to commit a crime, and the choice to offend meant that the individual must be held to account. Therefore the crime was avoidable, and the penalty received would be proportionate to the offence.

The Chairman thanked Mr Moss once more, and invited him to attend the Royston Town Annual Meeting on 26 March 2009, an invitation which he accepted.

- 2) Mrs Jude Fairburn addressed the Committee on the problem of flooding in Royston, particularly in the area of the Twigden Estate. She stated that a time

frame for reparation for the flooding was vital, and asked what action is to be taken on this. She stated that it was apparent that the storm drains on the Twigden Estate were unable to cope with the excessive water produced by severe rainfall, and suggested that this was because of a design fault in the drains themselves.

- 3) Royston Town Councillor Robert Smith also addressed the Committee on the issue of flooding in Royston. He spoke in his capacity as Councillor for Meridian Ward and Chairman of the Templars' Gate Residents' Group. He followed up on his speech at the last Royston and District Committee Meeting in January, by agreeing with the points that Mrs Fairburn had made and by declaring that the dire situation with regard to flooding in which many of the residents of Royston found themselves, must be brought to a satisfactory conclusion immediately.

98. FLOODING IN ROYSTON

Mr Paul Tovell, representing Anglian Water, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Royston and District Committee and referred to his updated report.

He took the Committee through the questions put to him at previous meetings with Royston residents and the Anglian Water responses. The report covered:

- Royston Town Ditch – he reported that work has been carried out at the sewage treatment works, although there was more still to do. The result is now good drainage at the Town Ditch;
- Sewer and surface water plans – Mr Tovell explained that the Anglian Water live database showed where there were flooding problems, and response times were now much faster. From the plans, questions were answered on:
 - The Twigden Estate, where a key point remained the unadopted sewers. Mr Tovell stated that developers cannot be forced to adopt roads, but if a list of roads still to be adopted was sent to him, he would contact the developers regarding these;
 - St Johns Street and the localised flooding from sewers;
 - JK Environmental filling their jetter tankers close to School Walk – a safety concern;
 - The Balancing Pond in Lindsay Close and its function;
 - Portable CCTV units, which would enable Anglian Water field technicians to react more quickly to problems reported. It was proposed that a portable CCTV unit was brought along to the next BREA meeting on 23 March to demonstrate its effectiveness.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tovell for the comprehensive and helpful clarification of his report and the answers given to the Committee's questions.

99. ROYSTON LEISURE CENTRE DRAINAGE REPORT

The North Herts District Council Contracts and Projects Manager (C&PM) took the Royston and District Committee through his report on drainage at the Royston Leisure Centre, and stated that he had made a point of speaking to residents living in the area and obtaining their views on the problem of the severe flooding they had experienced.

He declared that the actual drainage complies with current building standards for a 10-year return period storm, but that the Environment Agency now recommend that new developments should install drainage that provides a 100-year return period storm, plus an additional 30% allowance for climate change, as stated in his report. He confirmed that if rainfall exceeded a 10-year return, there is an increased risk that the Royston Leisure Centre car park would not be able to contain the excess water, and it may flow onto the adjacent housing estate, causing problems for the residents.

The C&PM stated that, as noted in his report, NHDC was aware that Hertfordshire Highways had commissioned a report investigating the drainage systems of the

adoptable roads on the Twigdens Estate and had been informed of the findings of the investigation, which was that the highway drainage installed should be able to manage a 100-year return storm. The investigation concluded that the worst case scenario was that none of the water falling on the private parking areas of the estate would be intercepted by the private drainage systems, and all the water would flow out onto the adoptable roads and enter the adoptable highways' drainage systems.

The Contracts and Projects Manager reminded those present that the Herts County Council Highways District Manager was present at the meeting, and was able to provide explanations from their perspective as required. He assured the Royston and District Committee that following the outcome of further investigations, officers planned to report to the Cabinet Meeting on 23 June 2009 with a recommendation of how to move forward to resolve the problem.

The Chairman thanked the Contracts and Projects Manager for presenting the report and asked the Herts County Council Highways District Manager for a verbal report on the situation, which he then gave.

The Chairman suggested, and all members agreed, that a letter be sent from the Royston and District Committee to the local Member of Parliament (Oliver Heald) asking him to request a change in the law on adoption of roads, by means of a Parliamentary question. The change proposed was to adopt the guidelines recommended by the Environment Agency, to ensure that adopted roads on all future developments should be provided with drainage to 100-year return period storm standard instead of 10-year return period, plus an additional 30% allowance for climate change. The Committee agreed with the Chairman's suggestion. **Action: Committee Clerk (done).**

A Member of the Committee suggested that some of the Royston and District Committee's budget for the new Financial Year (2009/2010) could be used towards solving the problem of flooding in Royston and there was general agreement from Members present.

The Chairman announced that the Committee Meeting would now close to allow the general public to ask questions of the Contracts and Projects Manager, the Herts CC Highways District Manager and representatives of Anglian Water. She informed those present that residents from the Twigdens Estate would be asked to put their questions first, followed by the residents of Burns Road.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Members of the Royston and District Committee note and comment on the report on Royston Leisure Centre Drainage;
- 2) That it is ensured that all reports are made available imminently in order that Cabinet in June 2009 is in a position to make decisions to resolve the flooding problems on the Twigdens Estate from excess water flowing from the Royston Leisure Centre car park;
- 3) That NHDC officers are instructed to broker a meeting between the relevant authorities (Anglian Water and Herts County Council Highways), elected Members and the developers (Twigdens) to request CCTV inspections of all the drains on the Twigdens Estate;
- 4) That a letter is sent from the Royston and District Committee to the local Member of Parliament (Oliver Heald) asking him to request a change in the law on adoption of roads, by means of a Parliamentary question.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To consider the issues relating to heavy rainfall and the impact on the Royston Leisure Centre and the local residents.

At 8pm the Chairman closed the meeting for a period of public discussion concerning flooding in Royston.

Following the consultation period with the representatives from Anglian Water, the Herts County Council Highways District Manager and the NHDC Contracts and Projects Manager, the Chairman reconvened the Royston and District Committee Meeting at 9.05pm.

100. PIGEONS IN ROYSTON

The Community Development Officer (CDO) went through his report on the problems caused in Royston by the level of the pigeon population and the steps which might be taken to reduce it.

He stated that there is evidence that dovecotes in an area out of the Town Centre work, as does the ploy of removing the pigeons' eggs and replacing them with ceramic dummy eggs. However, these two options would necessitate both capital costs and running costs to ensure success over a period of time.

The Royston Town Centre Manager, who was present at the Royston and District Committee Meeting, was asked by the Chairman for his opinion on the subject, and that of Royston First (the Royston Bid company) and he informed the Committee that Royston First has a 'Control of Wildlife' budget to control pigeons by moving them from the Town Centre to roost elsewhere. He said that Royston First intends to tackle this project with additional financial help from the Royston and District Committee.

The Committee then discussed the subject and put forward various suggestions for both getting rid of the birds permanently (using birds of prey?); encouraging them to roost out of Royston Town Centre and in the open countryside; and cleaning up the mess they leave in the Town Centre. It was proposed that the mess was steam cleaned several times a week to encourage the footfall in Royston Town Centre.

Action: CDO to investigate reference steam cleansing and associated costs, and to explore further the operational cost of using birds of prey in an urban context.

The point was also made that retail outlets could be asked to keep their frontages and the pavement outside their shops, clean, tidy and litter-free.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the installation of wires and plastic spikes to deter roosting should be considered and encouraged for places of high footfall;
- 2) That the wide distribution of *A Pigeon's Tale*, the existing NHDC publication, will have a wider impact in the long term;
- 3) That diversionary dovecotes have high capital and revenue costs, but should be further explored in the context of Section 106 Agreements, in conjunction with a commitment to long-term support for their on-going maintenance;
- 4) That costs for anti-roosting wires be obtained and a report brought back by the Community Development Officer to the Royston and District Committee to consider the possibility of using them;
- 5) That the cost of street cleansing be investigated by the Community Development Officer and brought back to the Royston and District Committee.
- 6) That the Community Development Officer explore further the operational cost of using birds of prey in Royston Town Centre, to control the pigeon population.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

To address the nuisance produced by large pigeon populations in urban areas of the District.

101. ROYSTON MARKET UPDATE

The Royston Town Centre Manager (RTCM) presented a verbal report by the new Royston Markets Manager (MM) Emma Burgess, who was unable to attend the Royston and District Committee Meeting on 18 March 2009. The RTCM stated that the

Markets Manager is dedicated to improving the Royston Markets (held on Wednesdays and Saturdays on Market Hill), and to this end visited other markets in the area, encouraging suitable traders to join one or both of the Royston markets. The RTCM distributed graphs to the Committee which showed the increase in the number of trading stalls during 2008/2009, compared with the three previous years.

The Markets Manager had compiled a recruitment pack for prospective traders, giving the history and background to the Royston Markets, and including essential contact information, the graphs and a calendar, showing when the Charter Markets, Farmers Markets, French and Italian Markets were also in Royston. This information had also been published in the Royston Crow for the benefit of the general public, together with relevant articles and editorials in the local Press. Local Parish Councils had agreed to include advertisements for the Royston markets in their parish magazines, and there had been a vast improvement in the footfall on both market days in Royston. The markets were now on the way to becoming self-funding .

The Committee discussed the RTCM's presentation, and approved of the MM's initiative and enthusiasm. They suggested that the markets calendar be also given to Royston Town Council, for further advertisement of the services and stalls available.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston Town Centre Manager be thanked for attending the Royston and District Committee Meeting and presenting the report of the Royston Markets Manager;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee thank and commend the Markets Manager (Emma Burgess) for her hard work in promoting and improving the Royston Wednesday and Saturday Markets.

102. UPDATE ON THE 2005/2010 RURAL STRATEGY

The NHDC Policy Manager addressed the Royston and District Committee, informing them that the Rural Strategy will be up for renewal in 2010.

The Committee held a general discussion on the comprehensive report, and the Policy Manager was thanked for producing the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That The Policy Officer be thanked for presenting his report to the Royston and District Committee and for his hard work;
- 2) That the Royston and District committee note the progress with the 2005/2010 Rural Strategy;
- 3) That the Royston and District Committee note the intention to revise the Rural Strategy in 2010.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To allow Members of the Royston and District Committee to monitor progress against an agreed strategy.

103. HIGHWAY REPAIRS IN BARKWAY AND BARLEY

The Vice Chairman, in introducing his Information Note on Highway Repairs in Barkway and Barley, commented on the extremely damaging effect of heavy lorries on the road surfaces in Barkway. He declared that an extremely detrimental effect was caused by the vibrations produced by the lorries. The Vice Chairman estimated that the road had subsided in approximately 20 places, and most of these spots were three metres wide. He asked the Royston and District Committee to consider a grant allocation to part-fund the repairs with the North Herts Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel (NHHP-JMP).

The Committee discussed the effect of the heavy lorries on road surfaces, and declared that they were concerned that road surface repairs were not always as effective as they should be. The proposal was made that major 'hotspots' should be identified and repaired first, followed by repairs to the remaining damage. It was revealed that residents of Barkway were not consulted about the expansion of the

Anstey Quarry, with the resulting passage of heavy lorries on roads in Barkway.

The Hertfordshire Highways District Manager informed the Committee that the Herts County Council Integrated Works Programme (IWP) would be presented to the North Herts Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel on 20 April 2009, and that if repairs to the High Streets in Barkway and Barley were on the list, the work would be done. However, he warned that resurfacing these village high streets would be expensive.

The Committee agreed that repairs were the way forward, and that the urgent repairs to the High Street in Barkway and the High Street in Barley should be referred to the North Herts Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel on 20 April 2009, as these items had been outstanding for some time.

RESOLVED: To support the Vice Chairman's request to look into the costs and feasibility of improvements to the road conditions in Barkway and Barley High Streets.

RECOMMENDED TO THE HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS-JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

- 1) That the Hertfordshire Highways District Manager be requested to advise in writing to the Royston and District Committee at its next meeting on 17 June 2009, the estimated costs of highway repairs to the Barkway and Barley High Streets.
- 2) That subject to an allocation of funds from the Royston and District Committee Discretionary Budget for 2009-2010, the Hertfordshire Highways District Manager be requested to bring forward as a matter of urgency repairs to the aforementioned highways within the 2009-2010 Integrated Works Programme.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To improve safety and repair the damage done to High Street Barkway and High Street Barley.

104. 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 21 January 2009, and brought to their attention some important community-based activities which would take place over the next few months.

His report and updated information covered the following points:

- **Young people's activities**, especially the Youth Council which meets regularly. They have met with the Royston Town Centre Manager, who explained to them the Royston BID and other local issues, and with Royston Town Cllr Lindsay Davidson, who discussed recruiting further members, the Youth Council's possible contribution to the Royston May Fayre, and other proposed future activities.
- There had been several meetings of the Town Centre Partnerships, with the help of the CDO, to discuss setting up of the financial and administrative systems to enable formation of Royston First Co. Ltd which would run the Royston Business Improvement District.
- Citizenship classes with the School Council at Tannery Drift School, attended by the CDO, County, District and Town Councillors.
- Tannery Drift School Council were concerned about the issues of road safety and play. They also felt the need for a school crossing patrol by the Fire Station and that the pavement in Tannery Drift should be wider, It was explained to them that the cost implications for this could be substantial.
- The School Council also wanted an indoor play area in Royston, comparable to those situated in Stevenage and Cambridge. This concept could be further explored, using some appropriate play equipment and empty retail outlet, together with a community-based coffee bar for the accompanying adults.
- **Town Centre Partnerships** are still being supported by the CDO, including Baldock, which has now appointed a Town Centre Manager.
- The al fresco **Members' Surgery** on 7 February 2009 at Angel Pavement attracted 8 visitors. Topics covered included: removal of garden rubbish on

landlord's property; reduction of pigeon numbers; highway repairs; gritting priorities and salt provision; road congestion and obliterated yellow lines.

- **Christmas Parking** for 2009 - it is likely that the charges for one or more NHDC car parks in Royston will be waived on the Saturday before Christmas (19 December 2009). The Parking Services Manager had provided the CDO with comparative figures for the Saturday before Christmas in 2008 (22 December 2008). Members were invited to allocate how they wanted to allocate any parking concession across Royston's car parks for Christmas 2009. This subject will be brought back as an item on the Agenda for the next Royston and District Committee Meeting on 17 June 2009. The Town Centre Manager was asked to obtain parking figures for a weekday from his colleagues. **Action: CDO to ask the Parking Manager to produce a set of figures for an additional free weekday.**
- **Royston Urban Transport Plan** – consultancy support for the preparation of RUTP is currently being sought by officers from Herts Highways and NHDC. A consultant is due to be appointed by the end of March, and the preparation, consultation and adoption process should be complete by the end of the financial year 2009-2010. The NHDC Transport Policy Officer (TPO) had provided a process flow chart that had been adopted by Hertfordshire Highways for all Urban Transport Plans, and he explained that the overall direction of the RUTP was via a Member Steering Group, consisting of four District Councillor and two County Councillors. However, as one Member of the Royston and District Committee was also a Hertfordshire County Councillor and the Committee consisted of just six Members, it was agreed that all Members of the Committee form the Member Steering Group.
- The TPO informed the Committee that stakeholder workshops for the public at an early stage help to identify transport issues and potential solutions in Royston. He explained that a draft plan was then prepared via the Member Steering Group and agreed as a draft for wider public consultation later in the year. The results of the consultation would be considered before endorsement of the plan was sought from the relevant committees at Hertfordshire County Council and North Herts District Council.
- **Royston Railway Crossing** – this item was also presented by the Transport Policy Officer, who informed the Royston and District Committee that there had been two public exhibitions (on 4 and 7 March 2009), showing detailed plans, including the planned cycle network linking the railway crossing to schools, the employment area and Royston Leisure Centre, via residential areas nearby. Hertfordshire Highways had then submitted a planning application for the railway crossing to Hertfordshire County Council. This planning application would be considered by the NHDC Planning Control Committee on Thursday 16 April 2009, as NHDC is a consultee in the planning process. Members comments on the plans would be welcomed, as there was general support for this long-awaited railway crossing, and the comments would be relayed to officers reporting to the Planning Control Committee on 16 April 2009. The Committee were reminded that CCTV was to be installed to monitor the underpass, in the interests of public safety.
- **Royston Town Centre Strategy Update** – the Transport Policy Officer had circulated an updated version of the Draft Action Plan for their comments and discussion, and plans to bring a full report to the next Royston and District Committee Meeting on 17 June 2009.
- **Newmarket Road and Adjoining Area Traffic Regulation Order** – the CDO had no update to this item since his report. He stated that Committee Members' observations and views on the TRO were welcome and requested that Members list places in their Wards where TROs would be suitable. One such area was the junction of Sun Hill and Briary Lane, which had first been referred to the NHHP-JMP Committee on 29 January 2007 with matched funding to be provided from funds allocated by the Royston Committee for

highways schemes in Royston at the Committee Meeting held on 23 August 2006 (Minute 42 refers).

- **Melbourn Street/Royston Cave/Garden Walk TRO and Right Turn Ban** – possible solutions to the problems identified at these locations would be suggested by Hertfordshire Highways at the next meeting of the NHHP-JMP on 20 April 2009. The advice needs to be in line with the Royston Town Centre's objectives for the Royse Cross and Melbourn Street.
- **Other Work** – the Community Development Officer ran through the liaison he had had with the Police, Red Cross and Herts County Council Adult Care Services during the recent failure in Letchworth of gas and electricity services. The reception centre in St George's Church closed just two hours after opening. The CDO also assisted in providing information about Disabled Facility Grants, and he informed the Committee that he had received letters of thanks for Committee grants from Barkway Village Hall and Royston Day Centre.

The Committee commented on the various Traffic Regulation Orders and asked the Transport Policy Officer to investigate the various issues and to report back to them at a future Royston and District Committee Meeting. **Action: Traffic Policy Officer.**

They requested that this report contain the action planned imminently on the roads which have already had match funding agreed, such as yellow lines at the top of Briary Lane/Sun Hill and the situation regarding Brampton Road.

The Royston and District Committee noted and commented on the Royston Town Centre Strategy update.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Members indicate their preference for the allocation of any parking concession for Christmas 2009. A full day's parking was agreed in principle, but a request was made to obtain costs for one day's free parking during the week before Christmas 2009, with a final decision to be made at the next Royston and District Committee Meeting on 17 June 2009;
- 2) That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer and thanks him for all his hard work and efforts to promote greater community capacity and well-being;
- 3) That all Members and Herts County Councillors on the Royston and District Committee be appointed to the Members' Steering Group for the Royston Urban Transport Plan;
- 4) That the Transport Policy Officer investigate the various issues on the nominated Traffic Regulation Orders in Royston and report back to the Committee at a future Royston and District Committee Meeting. This report should also contain the action planned imminently on the roads which have already had match funding agreed, such as yellow lines at the top of Briary Lane/Sun Hill and the situation regarding Brampton Road;
- 5) That the Transport Policy Officer be thanked for attending the meeting to clarify the items regarding the Royston railway crossing, the update on Royston Town Centre, the Traffic Regulation order for Newmarket Road and adjoining area and for the Traffic Regulation Order on Melbourn Street/Royston Cave/Garden Walk and right turn ban.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

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

105. 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 of Committee Delegated Budgets for 2008/2009. He

drew Members' attention to several items on the spreadsheet at Appendix A, and informed the Committee that there was a balance of £260 available in the Small Area Grants Budget and a deficit of £439 in the Discretionary Budget, leaving a residual deficit in hand of -£179.

The CDO advised the Committee of the following grant application for determination: for financial assistance in the sum of £780.00 to Royston Town Council, as support for the Royston May Fayre on 4 May 2009.

Personal Declarations of Interest were made by Cllr P. Burt and Cllr R. Inwood as they were both involved with the Royston May Fayre.

The Committee discussed the grant application, and made the unanimous decision to raise the amount awarded from £780 to £880.

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 application from Royston Town Council for financial assistance with the Royston May Fayre;
- 3) That the Committee allocate any remaining funds before the end of the current financial year.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To award financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations for the benefit of the community at large.

106. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the sum of £880.00 be awarded to Royston Town Council for financial assistance towards the costs of the Royston May Fayre, being £100 more than was originally requested.

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.

The Chairman thanked the Herts Highways District Manager for attending the Royston and District Meeting, and for his clarification of various important points throughout the meeting. As this was the last Royston and District Committee Meeting of the Civic Year, the Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman, all the Members of the Committee, the NHDC officers, Councillor Doug Drake, the various Royston Town Councillors who had attended the Committee and the representatives of the press for their support and help throughout the year, and for their dedication and support to assisting the residents of Royston.

The meeting closed at 10.25p.m.

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Chairman