

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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 29 July 2009 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs F.R. Hill (Chairman), H.M. Marshall (Vice-Chairman),
Liz Beardwell, A.F. Hunter, Robert Inwood, and F.J. Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Simon Young (Transport Policy Officer), Alan Fleck
(Community Development Officer) and Hilary Dineen (Committee and
Member Services Officer)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lindsay Davidson – Royston Town Councillor
Mrs Cathy Curtis – Extended Schools Co-ordinator
2 members of the press
2 members of the public.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr P.C.W. Burt

22. MINUTES – 17 JUNE 2009

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

23. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised the Committee that three items of other business would be
discussed as follows:

1. Royston Town Centre Strategy Action Plan: Information Note;
2. Update Regarding the Twigden Estate;
3. Offer from Tesco Extra towards Improvement of the Community Facilities

24. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for
attending;
2. The Chairman informed Members that work had commenced on the temporary
bundling at the Royston Leisure Centre; that work would then follow on the
Meridian site and that a permanent solution was currently being investigated
to resolve the flooding problems.
3. The Chairman advised that the Royston Community Association had written
thanking the Committee for grant funding;
4. Members were reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any
business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a prejudicial or
personal interest and are 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 can speak on the item, but must leave
the room before the debate and vote.

25. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PETITION REGARDING PARKING CHARGES

Mr Terry Hutt thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee. He stated that he was presenting a petition, consisting of 516 signatures of stall holders, shopkeepers and public in Royston that stated "We The Public And Shopkeepers Also Market Stallholders Are Against Any Increase In Parking Charges". He advised that a reduction in parking fees would support the local businesses.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hutt for his presentation and formally accepted the petition, stating that the Committee always supported the vitality and viability of Royston Town Centre and had fought to increase free parking and not increase the charges.

26. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor Lindsay Davidson, Royston Town Councillor, thanked the Chairman for making the invitation to address the Committee. She informed Members that it had been a successful year visiting schools in the area and that she had received positive feedback. She stated that the visits had been informative and rewarding; that the aim of the visits had been to encourage children to take an interest in the local community; that children were aware of local issues and were keen to give feedback regarding their likes and dislikes of the area, which can be seen in the report; that the children had shown a keen interest in the citizenship issues discussed. Councillor Davidson advised that the main issue discussed had been Priory Gardens, the maintenance of play equipment and the need for equipment for older children.

Members debated the issues regarding youth including that the NHDC maintenance team provide a good service and are efficient; whether the maintenance telephone number should be displayed at the play areas; that the Youth Council had visited the Houses of Parliament and that it was imperative that the Youth Council maintained links with both Town and District Councils.

Councillor Davidson informed the Committee that Town and District Council links with the Youth Council were valuable and that the Councils could work with the Youth Council, although there had been some liaison issues which had made this difficult.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Davidson for her informative presentation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Councillor Davidson be thanked for her hard work and for the report provided to the Committee on youth issues;
- (2) That the Community Development Officer be requested to investigate the cost of suitable play equipment and report to this Committee at the meeting due to be held on 30 September 2009.
- (3) That links between the Youth Council, Town Council and District Council be maintained.

27. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN ROYSTON

Cathy Curtis, Extended Schools Coordinator, thanked the Chairman for making the invitation to address the Committee. She informed Members that the extended schools service included every school in Royston, providing 5 core offers as follows:

- Wrap around childcare;
- Family support;
- Community ie adult learning;
- Easy referral;
- Menu of activities ie after school clubs and school holiday events.

Mrs Curtis advised that there were a lot of activities available during the summer period, but that people do not seem to be aware of them; that a brochure had been produced detailing the Summer Youthoria package of activities, which had been funded in part by NHDC. She stated that the Summer Youthoria activities included drop-in art and CSI sessions as well as signposting to other agencies and that the biggest challenge was to promote events and encourage teenagers to take part.

Members debated the issues regarding youth activities in Royston including that it was

an achievement to keep children and young people engaged over the summer break; that the Youthoria brochure was difficult to read due to the colours used and circulation of the brochure

Mrs Curtis advised that the colours for next year's Youthoria brochure would be reviewed and that the brochure had been circulated through schools, libraries, sports centres and surgeries;

The Chairman thanked Mrs Curtis for her informative presentation and her hard work regarding youth activities in Royston.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Cathy Curtis be thanked for her hard work and for the presentation to the Committee on youth activities in Royston.

28. NHDC DRAFT PARKING STRATEGY

The Transport Policy Officer presented a report on the NHDC Draft Parking Strategy. He informed Members that the current policy would expire in 2009; that the draft strategy was a 10 year strategy that had been heavily influenced by the transport fundamental service review (FSR) and the Town Centre review; that the aim of the strategy was to be flexible and that once approved, an action plan would be produced. He then drew attention to the following:

Policy 1	Aimed to provide flexibility
Policy 5	Would suggest that tariffs be reviewed annually
Policy 6 & 9	Reinforce that the word used is consider
Policy 21	The review of existing Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ)

He also advised that other issues would need to be considered such as Park and Ride Schemes and Taxis; that Town Centre Managers had been consulted regarding the Strategy and that the take up of permits in Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) had not been good resulting in alternatives being considered.

Members debated the Strategy including that reviewing charges annually was a good idea as long as there was not an automatic increase in charges and that charges could be lowered, if necessary, to support the local economy. Members discussed the strategy as a whole and commented that on street charging should not be considered; that charges should be reviewed annually, providing this does not impact on resources and that all mention of Ward Councillors should read Local Councillors; that the current arrangements for Blue Badge holders should continue; that different towns required different solutions as identified in Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.21 (Appendix1) of the report.

Members then debated issues relating specifically to Royston including that analysis of current income via existing machines would be useful; that on street parking and charging for evenings and Sundays should not be considered; concerns regarding parking and access in various roads in Royston, as identified in the resolution below; that the taxi rank in the Town Centre should be moved to a more appropriate site and that there should be more free and reduced parking in the area and Town Centre generally to support the vitality and viability of Royston Town Centre, thus encouraging shoppers into the town and boosting the economy as identified in paragraphs 4.26 (Appendix 2), 3.9 (Appendix 1) and 5.1 (Appendix 1). that there should be differentials between different car parks within a town which linked in with the Town Centre Strategy and the Royston Urban Transport Plan; that the reason parking supply in Royston outstrips demand is because cars are parking elsewhere to avoid charges and therefore parking availability in Royston would need to be reassessed in accordance with paragraph 5.7 (Appendix1) of the report

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the Draft Parking Strategy be noted;
- (2) That all mention of "Ward Councillors" in the NHDC Draft Parking Strategy be replaced with the words "Local Councillors".
- (3) That the Transport Policy Officer be requested to include the following comments Regarding the NHDC Draft Parking Strategy, in his report to the next meeting of

Cabinet to be held on 8 September 2009:

- That on street charging should not be considered;
- That the high cost of enforcement regarding on street charging be considered;
- That charges should be reviewed annually, although not necessarily changed;
- That there should be an analysis of existing machines;
- That different towns require different solutions as identified in Paragraphs 5.1, 5.21 (Appendix 1) and 3.9 of the report;
- That the current Blue Badge arrangements should continue;

(4) That the Transport Policy Officer take note of the following comments which specifically relate to Royston:

- That evening and Sunday charges should not be considered in Royston;
- That on street charging should not be considered in Royston;
- That the Taxi rank in Royston Town Centre should be relocated;
- That there should be more free and reduced parking to support the vitality and viability of Royston Town Centre, thus encouraging shoppers into the town and boosting the economy as identified in paragraphs 4.26 (Appendix 2), 3.9 (Appendix 1) and 5.1 (Appendix 1);
- That there should be differentials between different car parks within the town taking into account the Town Centre Strategy and Royston Urban Transport Plan;
- That parking availability in Royston be reassessed in accordance with Paragraph 5.7 (Appendix 1) of the report;
- That parking issues in the following roads should be addressed imminently:
 - (i) King James Way;
 - (ii) Palace Gardens;
 - (iii) Princes Mews;
 - (iv) Garden Walk;
 - (v) Studlands Rise/Newmarket Road;
 - (vi) Barkway Road;
 - (vii) Layston Park;
 - (viii) Melbourn Street.

29. CHRISTMAS PARKING IN ROYSTON

The Community Development Officer presented a report on Christmas Parking in Royston. He advised that the Chamber of Commerce had been keen that there be a day of free parking in the Town Centre, had been specific that the date for this should be on Friday 18 December 2009 and wanted to ensure that advertising was effective, He also informed the Committee that data regarding costs had been difficult to obtain, due to the existing basic style of the current ticket machines, however it had been calculated that income was an average of £113 per hour and that 1 day would consist of 10 chargeable hours.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £1,130 be awarded from the 2009 – 2010 Discretionary Budget to NHDC as funding towards the cost of one day free car parking in Royston Town Centre on Friday 18 December 2009.

30. CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT 2009/2010

The Community Development Officer (CDO) presented the report of the Acting Head of Community Development and Cultural Services. He drew attention to the following information and activities:

BIDS

That Royston First had invited Town and District Councillors to visit Saffron Walden's Community cinema.

Members debated that Royston First should also request the information previously obtained by Royston Town Council and presented to this Committee when the idea of a community cinema was considered some years ago.

PIGEONS

That a hawking programme had been suggested; that this Committee was being asked to fund 4 weeks of hawking, with BID funding ongoing hawking, nest removal and

protection from pigeons. He also advised that the NU nightclub was keen to complement any actions taken by Royston First and this Committee.

The Chairman advised that this was a serious matter in Royston, with pigeon mess being a health and safety matter and that she would support funding a solution, the committee debated and supported this.

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

That the CDO had accompanied Town, District and County Councillors on visits to 7 schools on 2009.

STUDLANDS RISE

The CDO advised that he had been in contact with the Police Community Service Officer and agreed that the play area required lighting, although the cost of doing this would be prohibitive. He informed Members that he was investigating solar powered lighting, which would involve a large initial outlay, but limited operating costs.

MORRISONS WALL

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Community Development Officer was acting as liaison regarding this matter and that the Royston and District Committee and Royston Town Council would be kept informed of developments.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Royston and District Committee work programme be approved:
- (2) That the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development and Visioning Budgets be noted:
- (3) That the Royston and District Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.
- (4) That the Community Development Officer be thanked for his hard work in the Royston area.
- (5) That the Community Development Officer update this Committee and Royston Town Council on developments relating to Morrison's Wall.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

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

31. GRANT APPLICATION – HAWKING PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: That a grant of £1,675 be awarded from the 2009 – 2010 Discretionary Budget to Royston First as funding towards the cost of an initial four week hawking programme in Royston Town Centre.

32. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON ARTS FESTIVAL

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded from the 2009 – 2010 Discretionary Budget to Royston Arts Festival as support funding towards the costs of the provision of the Royston Arts Festival.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

33. GRANT APPLICATION – ROTARY CLUB OF ROYSTON

Prior to the commencement of this item Councillor Beardwell declared a personal interest as her husband was a member of the Rotary Club of Royston

Members debated that a guarantee against loss would be difficult as the amount could be unlimited. It was therefore proposed and seconded that a guarantee of a maximum of £750 would be provided if the event made a loss.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £750 be awarded from the 2009 – 2010 Discretionary Budget to the Rotary Club of Royston as support funding towards the costs of the provision of the 2009 Kite Festival.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

34. GRANT APPLICATION - NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP – JOINT MEMBER PANEL

The Transport Policy Officer outlined details of Highways Schemes for which 50 percent matched funding was being requested. He advised that consultation regarding Priory Lane, Royston was currently being undertaken and that planning permission had been granted for the Royston railway crossing. He advised that a recent site visit with Hertfordshire Highways, Sustrans and the Big Lottery Fund had highlighted that, as part of the project, a bench or sculpture would be included; that any sculpture should represent a person of local interest and that the views of this Committee had been requested. Members were requested to contact the Transport Policy Officer with suggestions. One suggestion made was for a statue of King James I who had a hunting lodge in the town.

Members noted that the Committee had previously agreed 50 percent matched funding of £16150 towards the cost of the A10, south of Royston speed limit revision; that the Barley and Barkway projects were imperative to protect the Grade II listed buildings along the road

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Transport Policy Officer be thanked for his presentation and his hard work on behalf of the Committee;
- (2) That Members advise any suggestions for a statue at the Royston Railway Crossing be advised to the Transport Policy Officer;
- (3) That a grant of £4,500 be awarded from the 2009 – 10 Discretionary Budget to North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership - Joint Member Panel as 50 percent matched funding towards A10/ Garden Walk, Royston Road - junction improvement, subject to Hertfordshire County Council confirming that this would not form part of the Safer Routes;
- (4) That a grant of £1,875 be awarded from the 2009 – 2010 Discretionary Budget to North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership - Joint Member Panel as 50 percent match funding towards York Way, Royston - Waiting restrictions (due for completion August 2009);
- (5) That a grant of £10,500 be awarded from the 2009 – 2010 Discretionary Budget to North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel as 50 percent matched funding towards Barley Village - Traffic management issues;
- (6) That a grant of £4,800 be awarded from the 2009 -2010 Discretionary Budget to North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel as 50 percent matched funding towards Barkway Village - Traffic Management issues.

35. ROYSTON TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN: INFORMATION NOTE

The Chairman had previously announced that this item would be taken as an urgent item.

RESOLVED: That the Royston Town Centre Strategy Action Plan: Information Note be

noted.

36. UPDATE REGARDING THE TWIGDEN ESTATE

The Chairman had previously announced that this item would be taken as an urgent item.

The Chairman informed Members that the adoption of roads on the Twigden Estate by Hertfordshire County Council had not taken place as the developers needed to complete work to bring them up to acceptable standards and that she had been informed that a meeting was being brokered which aimed to resolve the issues.

RESOLVED: That the Community Development Officer be requested to investigate the proposed meeting to resolve issues on Twigdens Estate, with a view to identifying who would attend the meeting and when and where the meeting would take place.

37. OFFER FROM TESCO EXTRA TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Chairman had previously announced that this item would be taken as an urgent item.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Tesco had offered to donate resources and paint for the improvement of community facility. She advised that this Committee had been asked to suggest where this could best be used.

Members debated that the main objective would be to paint the street furniture, although clarification of ownership and health and safety issues would need to be sought. They also considered that a reserve list should be prepared to include local huts and halls, one suggestion being redecoration of the scout hut.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the offer of paint and resources from Tesco be accepted:
- (2) That the Chairman and Community Development Officer investigate the practicalities and issues regarding painting of street furniture in Royston and liaise with the Tesco Impact Champion and Hertfordshire Highways;
- (3) That Members be requested to inform the Community Development Officer of any other Community facilities which would benefit from the Tesco offer by 7 August 2009.

38. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – MEMBERS' REPORTS

Royston Community Association

Members were informed that Royston Community Association was now stable, receiving steady rental income and making a profit

North Hertfordshire Homes

Members were informed that the Priory Cinema project was moving forward

39. NEXT MEETING OF THE ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Royston and District Committee is due to be held on Wednesday 30 September 2009 at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston.

The next Royston Surgery is due to be held on Saturday 1 August 2009 at Angel

Pavement, Royston.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Chairman