

**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 30 September 2009 at 7.30p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lynn Saville (Head of Cultural and Community Services)  
Andrew Mills (Service Manager – Grounds Maintenance)  
Steve Crowley (Contracts and Projects Manager, Leisure Division)  
Alan Fleck (Community Development Officer)  
Susanne Gow (Committee and Member Services Officer)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Inspector Jason Thorne – Hertfordshire Constabulary  
Sergeant Jon Vine – Hertfordshire Constabulary  
2 members of the press  
5 members of the public, including Royston Town Councillor Bob  
Smith.

**40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

**41. MINUTES – 29 JULY 2009**

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

**42. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- Royston Railway Underpass – an update to be provided at Item 11;
- Garden Walk/A10 safety improvements – to be discussed as Item 12;
- A10/London Road traffic improvements – to be discussed as Item 13;

The reason for urgency for Items 12 and 13 were the tight consultation timescales.

**43. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for attending;

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.

**44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1) **Petition on withdrawal of the No 17 Bus Route**

The Chairman announced that Mr Terry Hutt had intended to present the  
petition on the above to the Royston and District Committee, but had sent his  
apologies, due to ill health. The petition and Mr Hutt's presentation had  
therefore been handed to the Committee Clerk at the District Council Offices in  
Letchworth, and passed on to the Chairman at this meeting. Mr Hutt's  
presentation is attached to these Minutes at Item 14 below.

2) **Hitchin Town Hall as the North Herts Museum**

Mr Chris Parker, of *Keep Hitchin Special* which represented several Hitchin  
groups and individual residents, addressed the Committee.  
Mr Parker related to the Committee the grave concerns held by the people of

Hitchin. He informed Members that he had attended Baldock, Hitchin and Letchworth Area Committees and had not heard one resident speak out in favour of the proposal for Hitchin Town Hall being turned into the North Herts Museum, with the accompanying closure of Hitchin and Letchworth Museums. Members were informed that residents of Hitchin highly valued Hitchin Museum, and were concerned at the possibility of its closure and the Museum moving to the Town Hall building. He confirmed that the proposed cost would be approximately £3.5 to £5M, and the savings only £120,000 to £140,000, meaning that a return on investment would take approximately 35 years, certainly not “value for money”.

Mr Parker stated that there was not another public facility in Hitchin which could be used for as many community events and by as many organisations as Hitchin Town Hall and that groups from Mothers and Toddlers to St John’s Ambulance, the Hitchin Camera Club and fitness and dance clubs to name a few, would find their meetings curtailed by the loss of Hitchin Town Hall, as would those residents who hired the venue for private parties and wedding receptions because of its size and location in the heart of the town.

Mr Parker revealed that over 3,000 signatures had already been gathered on a petition to save Hitchin Town Hall from being turned into the North Herts Museum to the detriment of the town and to retain it as a community venue for the use of local residents. He invited the Committee to attend a forthcoming meeting on 15 October at 7pm in Hitchin Town Hall, to take part in a discussion on the future of Hitchin Town Hall.

The Chairman thanked Mr Parker for his presentation and ensured that Members were aware of the date and time of the aforementioned meeting on the future of Hitchin Town Hall.

#### **45. POLICE UPDATE**

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Jason Thorne and Sergeant Jon Vine to the Royston and District Committee Meeting.

Inspector Thorne thanked her, and stated that the situation regarding policing in Royston had improved considerably over the summer months. He gave the statistics, demonstrating that crime overall had reduced by 27.4% over the past year, compared to 8.2% the year before. Dwelling burglary had shown the greatest reduction in North Hertfordshire (down 53.8%), and motor vehicle crime and criminal damage had also fallen. In contrast, theft from persons was up 16.7% and theft from shops showed a rise of 53.3% over the previous 12 months.

Inspector Thorne summarised for the Committee his reports on dwelling burglaries, vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, and revealed plans for measures to be taken around Halloween and Bonfire Night (31 October and 5 November) to ensure the safety of Royston residents and prevent misuse of fireworks. He related the diversionary activities used in the summer to prevent vandalism and anti-social behaviour, especially in Priory Memorial Gardens and Burns Road, and stated that the Police had received positive feedback on their CSI Day for young people, when the young people had taken part in a mock investigation with prizes awarded at the end of the day.

Drug-related activity, the Committee were assured, was being targeted by the Police, and enforcement was sending a strong message to anyone considering engaging in this activity. This would continue well into the future.

Inspector Thorne assured the Royston and District Committee that despite the reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, the Police were not complacent and continued to work hard to crack down on any perceived offences. Shoplifting had increased, and was being countered with high visibility policing to deter offenders and reassure the town centre retail outlets and shoppers.

Hare coursing was prevalent at this time of year, explained Inspector Thorne, and there had been an increase in those arrested under the Hunting Act, which is the main

legislation used to tackle this type of offence. However, it was early days yet, as this was the peak period for hare coursing, so the problem could not be counted as having been solved.

Finally, Inspector Thorne informed the Committee that monthly Police surgeries continued within Royston and within each Ward, both town and rural. He assured the Members that shoplifting and burglary were still prevalent, although membership of Neighbourhood Watch was increasing.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Thorne and congratulated him on his presentation and on the excellent results achieved by the Police. Members discussed the presentation and commented favourably on the results revealed. A suggestion was made that the Police could hold a Community Day such as had been organised recently by the Royston Fire Brigade. This had shown graphically the outcome of drivers speeding, and covered what happened at the point of impact, both to the car and the driver and passengers inside it. It was evident that this event had had a salutary effect on spectators. The Chairman suggested setting up a similar Police Community Day, possibly aided by a grant from the Royston and District Committee.

Committee Members commented on the efficacy of Police efforts against hare coursing and the possible effects on drivers, of Speedwatch, which was due to be trialled by North Herts District Council shortly. This initiative was not currently used in Hertfordshire, but had had some success in other counties.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Inspector Thorne be thanked for his excellent presentation and the hard work done by the Police for the safety of the residents of Royston;
- (2) That the Community Development Officer liaise with the Police to investigate setting up a Police Community Day on the lines of the Royston Fire Brigade event, with a contribution from the Royston and District Committee.

**46. CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT**

The Community Development Officer (CDO) presented the report of the Acting Head of Community Development and Cultural Services. The items on the **Youth Council** and the **Members' Surgery** on 1 August required no updating, and **Bus Routes In Royston** would be discussed as Item 14 at this Committee Meeting.

**Angel Pavement**

Relating to the item on Royston First's BID Group regarding refurbishment of the paving at Angel Pavement, the Town Centre Manager, on being invited to speak by the Chairman, stated that a working party from Royston First had visited the site. They had noted the cracked and broken paving slabs and random patches of tarmac, and had consulted Toppesfield Limited, who had laid the paving in Baldock Town Centre and who co-ordinated with Herts Highways. It was confirmed that nothing relating to refurbishment of Angel Pavement was on Herts Highways' 5-year Plan and the budget for various options had been calculated. The Town Centre Manager requested that the Royston and District Committee take this issue to the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel for matched funding and declared that the preferred option from those suggested was to repave the area using York stone paving slabs. The figure provisionally quoted for this was £110 per m<sup>2</sup>, giving a total cost for the area of £35,000. He assured the Committee that Royston First had already allocated £15,000 for this project, but other sources of funding would be required.

The Committee agreed that it was vital that Angel Pavement was refurbished, but legal ownership of, and responsibility for, the footpath had to be established before any work was considered in the area. The point was raised that it was possible to obtain York stone paving slabs at a lower cost than that quoted, and that the tender system should be used for this purpose. The general result of Committee discussion was positive, and the Chairman confirmed that the Committee agreed in principle to support the refurbishment, subject to funding being obtained.

It was agreed that repaving Angel Pavement in York Stone was the best option, as this would be consistent with other areas in Royston Town Centre, and that this material was also easier to maintain, the cheaper surfaces being harder to keep clean.

The Chairman asked the Town Centre Manager and the CDO to obtain accurate costings for resurfacing Angel Pavement, preferably with York stone, and moved that the record show that the Royston and District supported this scheme, and would refer it to the NHHP-JMP for scheme approval.

The Chairman thanked the Town Centre Manager for his report on Angel Pavement and for his work for Royston and its residents.

### ***Flooding in Royston***

The Chairman thanked the Contracts and Projects Manager, Leisure Division (CPM) for his successful work to solve the flooding issue at the Royston Leisure Centre, and for raising the level of protection from flooding from 10-year storm return (as required by building regulations) to 100-year storm return. When invited to speak by the Chairman, the CPM took the Committee through the process, step by step. He declared that local residents had given very positive feedback and that the site will be carefully monitored in the future.

The Chairman again thanked the CPM for his hard work and for the positive end result achieved, giving a good long term solution to improve the drainage at the Royston Leisure Centre.

The CDO had no updates to his reports as published in the Agenda on the ***Barkway Parish Plan***, various meetings he had attended and promotional work. He updated the Committee that **all** the trees in the Morrisons car park were to be removed.

The CDO then went through the four grant applications, and the Committee approved them.

The Community Development Officer suggested that recipients of grants awarded by the Royston and District Committee might be invited to a future Committee Meeting to inform Members how they had used the grants they had received.

Finally, Members were reminded to add projects to the Area Committee Work Programme for Royston through the CDO, as and when they came to their notice.

The Chairman thanked the CDO for his hard work for the residents of Royston.

### ***RESOLVED:***

- 1) That the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development and Visioning Budgets be noted;
- 2) That the Committee thanks the Community Development Officer and endorses the actions taken to promote greater community capacity and well-being;
- 3) That the Committee commit funds to support refurbishment of Angel Pavement and that this be referred to the next meeting of the North Herts Highways-Joint Member Panel on 19 October 2009 for possible matched funding;
- 4) That the Community Development Officer and the Royston Town Centre Manager obtain accurate costings for the work required at Angel Pavement and investigate the legalities of responsibility for and ownership of the roadway and footpath in the area;
- 5) That the Committee request that the Contracts and Projects Manager, Leisure Division monitors the situation of flooding in Royston to ensure that the work carried out has resolved the problem of flooding on the Twigden estate from surface water running off the Royston Leisure Centre car park and Meridian School playing fields;
- 6) That the grant application for Therfield Pre-School be brought before the Committee solely for ratification, payment having already been made when sanctioned by the Chairman;

- 7) That the maximum amount be awarded to Royston Museum, as £500 of the total sum had already been fast-tracked.

**RECOMMENDED TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP-JOINT MEMBER PANEL:**

- 1) That the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel be requested to accept the repaving of Angel Pavement, Royston as a funded scheme within the Joint Member Panel Discretionary Budget for 2009-2010 as a matter of urgency;
- 2) That the North and East Hertfordshire Service Manager be requested to undertake an examination of the current status of the paving surface at Angel Pavement, Royston with the Royston Town Centre Manager and prepare a cost estimate for repaving Angel Pavement with York stone in the designated area;
- 3) That the North and East Hertfordshire Service Manager be requested to advise the Royston Community Development Officer of the cost estimate for presentation to the next meeting of the Royston and District Meeting, to be held on 25 November 2009, in order to ascertain the amount of matched funding available.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

To ensure that the refurbishment of Angel Pavement is of a standard and appearance consistent with the rest of Royston Town Centre .

47. **GRANT APPLICATION – HOMESTART ROYSTON & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE**  
*The Chairman declared her interest in this grant application, as she is a member of Homestart, with no pecuniary interest.*

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £1,150 be awarded to Homestart Royston & South Cambridgeshire for assistance with the cost of a training programme for volunteers.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

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

48. **GRANT APPLICATION – NHDC INTERNAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT**  
**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £500 be awarded to NHDC Internal Budgetary Support towards the cost of an additional pole for a temporary/’mobile’ CCTV camera at the top of Fish Hill, Royston.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

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

49. **GRANT APPLICATION – THERFIELD VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL**  
*The Chairman declared her interest in this grant application, as she knows several members of Therfield Pre-School Committee.*

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee grant the sum of £500 to help fund the provision of an outdoor shelter at Therfield Village Pre-School.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

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

50. **GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON MUSEUM**  
*Councillors Beardwell, Burt and Inwood declared an interest, being members of Royston Town Council, which runs Royston Museum, and Councillors Beardwell and Burt are on the Royston Museum Sub-Committee.*

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £702 be awarded to Royston Museum for the conservation of 10 Whydale etchings in their possession.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

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

**51. INTERIM GREEN SPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE**

The Service Manager – Grounds Maintenance (SM) presented the Report of the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services. He declared that he was attending the Royston and District Committee Meeting to receive comments from the Members on the Interim Green Space Management Strategy which had been distributed to them.

The Committee discussed the Interim Strategy, and made the following comments:

- The Strategy was to be commended, but required more provision of land for cemeteries on both the western and eastern sides of Royston. Land was available adjoining the eastern cemetery, and officers were requested to investigate and identify what suitable land was available in the Royston area for additional cemeteries;
- Members had met with skateboarders on the Newmarket Road playing field, and had discussed with them necessary improvements to the skateboarding facilities at this location. The SM was requested to investigate additional facilities and report back on what could be included within the Outdoor Play Facilities Action Plan;
- Hedges on roads, footpaths, playing fields and cemeteries needed to be cut back, as many were very overgrown, causing problems of passage for all users. Doubts were raised as to which was the responsibility of North Herts District Council (NHDC) or of Hertfordshire Highways;
- The play area in Betjeman Road was proposed for closure and this was considered to be totally unnecessary by the Committee, the play area being well used by mothers and children during the morning and after school. The Service Manager revealed that this play area had suffered from vandalism, and there were other nearby facilities which could be used instead. The Chairman commented that installation of good quality play equipment was likely to diminish the effects of vandalism and improve the area for play by children;
- The future of the bandstand in Priory Memorial Gardens was put forward for consideration. The Service Manager revealed that a Management Plan had been produced for Priory Memorial Gardens and a range of options for future use of the bandstand would be presented once the Management Plan had been completed. Investigations were required to ascertain what was under the bandstand before any work was planned. A Member commented that it may well have been built on top of an air raid shelter. Any provisional schemes would be costed once the bandstand foundations had been investigated. The Service Manager was requested to bring the options to the next meeting of the Royston and District Committee on 25 November 2009;
- The need for land suitable for more allotments in Royston was also suggested and agreed by the Committee and they requested that suitable sites be identified.

In response, the Service Manager confirmed that:

- There was an ongoing programme of work covering all cemeteries, until 2010;
- Hedge maintenance throughout Royston was under contract until 2012. A future meeting with Hertfordshire Highways would confirm in whose responsibility care and maintenance of the hedges lay.

The SM stated that NHDC Grounds Maintenance would discuss with Royston Town Council any additional land for allotment use and he asked the Committee to inform him of any further issues they had, and he would attempt to bring them to an agreed resolution.

The Chairman thanked the Service Manager for his presentation of the report and for his declared intention to help resolve the problems identified by the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the Chairman thanked the Grounds Maintenance officers for the preparation and presentation of the Interim Green Space Management

Strategy for North Hertfordshire;

- 2) That investigations were undertaken to acquire additional land suitable for use as a cemetery in Royston, with cost not being considered as a barrier;
- 3) That improvements to the skateboarding facilities on the playing field in Newmarket Road be investigated and brought back to the Royston and District Committee for approval;
- 4) That NHDC officers liaise with Hertfordshire Highways officers as to who is responsible for cutting back and maintaining the hedges on roads and footpaths and ensure that this is done urgently as a pedestrian and traffic safety issue;
- 5) That the hedges adjoining playing fields and cemeteries are cut back and maintained on a regular schedule;
- 6) That the Royston and District Committee unanimously do not support the closure of the play area in Betjeman Road as part of the Interim Green Space Management Strategy;
- 7) That the range of options for future use and siting of the bandstand contained in the Management Plan for the Priory Memorial Gardens be brought to the next meeting of the Royston and District Committee on 25 November 2009;
- 8) That NHDC act as a facilitator for any additional land suitable for more allotment sites in Royston.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

To ensure that the Interim Green Space Management Strategy provides and maintains a robust value for money approach for the community needs of Royston.

**52. HITCHIN TOWN HALL MUSEUM DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY – UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services (HCCS) took the Committee through the report, and outlined the lack of basic facilities in both Hitchin and Letchworth's current historic museum buildings. She stated that the conclusion had been drawn that further investment in these buildings was not economically viable.

The HCCS referred to the Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams Architects Option Report and proposals for an Option E and stated that this combined the best elements of Options C and D, as set out in para. 4.6 of the Report. She informed the Committee that the full Feasibility Study would be going to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 13 October 2009 and then to that of Cabinet on 20 October 2009 and Council on 3 December 2009.

The Committee discussed the report, and one Member commented that it was difficult for Royston Members to consider Hitchin and Letchworth Museums moving into Hitchin Town Hall, due to the distance, and the fact that Royston had their own museum, run by Royston Town Council. He agreed that most public buildings in North Hertfordshire were nearing the end of their lives, and cited Baldock Town Hall, Letchworth Town Hall, Letchworth Museum and Hitchin Museum, none of which he considered 'fit for purpose'. The Member agreed that to have all the contents of these ageing museums in one place made sense, i.e. Hitchin Town Hall as the new North Herts Museum.

Hitchin Town Hall appeared to be the only building in Hitchin suitable for this purpose, and was not in intensive use at the present time. The Committee Member considered that this was the only sensible and objective solution to the problem with which the North Herts District Council was faced. He concluded that it was imperative that there was a Museums Service in North Herts, and referred to Mr Chris Parker's address on Hitchin Town Hall as the North Herts Museum under Public Participation (Minute 44), saying that Mr Parker had pointed out the considerable revenue saving that could be

made. He stressed that it was essential that asset management was considered, and that this was a perfect example.

Another Member of the Committee found it harder to make a decision on this subject, and questioned the value of public opinion, stating that the final decision should reflect the wishes of the community and be 'value for money'. Yet another commented that 10 years ago Hitchin Town Hall was already falling into disrepair to some extent, and he questioned that it was fit for purpose.

The HCCS commented that the current community users could still be accommodated once the building became the North Herts Museum, but that compromises needed to be made. The main hall is currently used, but not to the extent it could be, and the Lucas Room and gymnasium would still be available for use after the conversion.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Cultural and Community Services for her presentation and the work done so far on the Study and stated that the Committee hoped that she had taken on board all their comments and concerns. She stressed that the Committee was not being asked to make a decision on this matter, as this was outside their remit, but they were asked to note: the progress of the works to produce the Feasibility Study in line with the published brief; the process by which the Study findings would be reported and considered; and the process for consideration and agreement of any actions arising from the conclusion of the Study by the various NHDC committees to which it would be presented, to create an important community facility for the District.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the Head of Community and Cultural Services be thanked for her presentation and the work carried out to date and requested that she carefully consider the points raised by Mr Chris Parker of *Keep Hitchin Special* in his earlier presentation, as well as all the comments of the Royston and District Committee;
- 2) That the progress of the works to produce the Feasibility Study in line with the published brief be noted;
- 3) That the process by which the full Feasibility Study findings would be reported and considered be noted;
- 4) That the process for consideration and agreement of any actions arising from the conclusion of the Study by the North Herts District Council's various Committees also be noted.

**53. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – MEMBERS' REPORTS**

**Royston Community Association**

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

**North Herts Homes**

This organisation is run very professionally, and there have been many changes. They are to appoint four Governance Champions, out of which the Royston Member is to be the Champion for Sustainability.

**North Herts Centre for Voluntary Service**

The Committee was informed that this is an excellent organisation, and covers the whole of North Hertfordshire.

**Relate North Herts and Stevenage**

Due to funding problems, this branch was no longer able to continue. It was therefore to formally dissolve and merge with Relate Central (currently Welwyn Hatfield and Broxbourne). The same service will continue to be provided, and the Member asked the Committee to offer their support as before.

The Chairman thanked Members for their updates on the organisations at which they represented North Herts District Council.



**54. RAILWAY UNDERPASS**

***Declarations of Interest were made by Cllrs Beardwell, Burt and Inwood, as they are all Members of Royston Town Council and on the Town Council's Finance Committee which own the allotments affected.***

The Chairman gave an update on the progress to date of the Railway Underpass.

She informed the Committee that Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) were currently taking place, and officers were willing to have meetings with residents to allay their concerns regarding CPOs.

She stressed that safety considerations were paramount, as on both sides of the Railway Underpass were situated schools, a health centre, allotments and dwellings.

**55. A10/GARDEN WALK IMPROVEMENTS**

The Chairman introduced this item, and suggestions emerging from Committee discussion covered new signage required in the area, together with an extension by 20 metres of the double yellow lines. It was also suggested that Hertfordshire Highways ensured that an extension of parking restrictions in this location be implemented at the same time, and that double white lines were placed in the centre of the roadway at the junction of Garden Walk and the A10, to obviate use of the wrong lane when turning out of Garden Walk.

It was also suggested that the relevant authorities were reminded that this was part of the Safer Routes to Schools scheme. **Action: SG – letter to Jaipal Bheemreddy, Herts Highways - completed.**

**56. A10 LONDON ROAD, ROYSTON – CHANGES TO SPEED LIMITS**

The Chairman announced that there were speed limit signs ranging from 60m.p.h. down to 30m.p.h. downhill on the A10 London Road. Members discussed the speed limits in this area, and in the interests of safety disagreed with the implementation of a 40m.p.h. speed limit in the location suggested by Hertfordshire Highways. They would like to see the introduction of a buffer zone, at a point before the top of the hill and close to Fox Farm, together with warning or rumble strips. It was considered that this, together with the use of traffic islands in Royse Grove/Layston Park would achieve all the necessary objectives.

It was suggested that a letter was written to Lance Holman of Hertfordshire Highways giving the views of the Royston and District Committee and asking for alternative solutions. **Action: SG – letter to Lance Holman, Herts Highways – completed.**

**57. BUS ROUTES IN ROYSTON**

This item had been referred from Champion News and the Chairman, in introducing it, stated that a petition had been passed to the Royston and District Committee via Committee Services, North Herts District Council by Mr Terry Hutt of the Pensioners' Action Group in Royston. As Mr Hutt had stated, when Morrisons had replaced Somerfield in Royston, there was no longer a delivery service run by the supermarket, and this was a problem for people in the outlying parts of the town, such as Coombelands, who had no transport of their own to travel to the supermarket. This was made even worse by cutting the No. 16 and No. 17 bus routes.

The Committee discussed this problem and put forward several suggestions, such as replacing the routes that had been cut with Nos. 16A and 16B, to run on alternate routes; introducing a 16<sup>1/2</sup> bus route which can be adapted to residents' requirements; or investigating the establishment of a shuttle bus, linked in with the Royston Town Centre Manager, Geraint Burnell.

The Chairman also raised, for safety reasons, the rerouting of the bus which runs down Tannery Drift, it travels past a school and in some places has to mount the pavement to pass parked cars, making the situation for pedestrians, cyclists and other traffic

extremely hazardous. It was proposed that this route returns through Kneesworth Street, as was the case before, and that Kneesworth Street is properly enforced.

**Conclusion**

- a) That the Royston and District Committee strongly request that Hertfordshire County Council call for the bus companies to reinstate the bus into Royston Town Centre from areas such as Coombelands and other surrounding roads in Royston Town Centre, to enable all Royston residents to access the Town Centre for shops and services; **Action: SG - letter to Keith White, Herts Highways with these proposals – completed.**
- b) To reroute the bus travelling via Tannery Drift back through Kneesworth Street as was the case previously, for safety reasons.
- c) That the Committee is confident that enforcement would not be an issue in Kneesworth Street.

**58. NEXT MEETING OF THE ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Royston and District Committee is due to be held on Wednesday 25 November 2009 at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston.

The next two Royston Surgeries are due to be held on Saturday 3 October and Saturday 5 December 2009 respectively at Angel Pavement, Royston from 10.00 to 11.30am.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

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Chairman