

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 25 November 2009 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Mills (Service Manager – Grounds Maintenance)
Mary Caldwell (Planning Control and Conservation Manager)
Lois Stewart (Group Accountant)
Simon Young (Transport Policy Officer)
Alan Fleck (Community Development Officer)
Susanne Gow (Committee and Member Services Officer)

ALSO PRESENT: Helen McCormick – Hertfordshire Highways
2 members of the press
4 members of the public, including the public speaker.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Howard Marshall and Robert Inwood.

60. MINUTES – 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Royston and District Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2009 be approved as a true record of the proceedings, and be signed by the Chairman.

61. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised the Committee that three items of business would be discussed at the end of the Agenda, as follows:

- Disabled on-street markings;
- Skateboard park, Newmarket Road;
- Adoption of roads and amenity areas on the Twigdens estate.

The reason for urgency for these was the length of time taken by the cycle between Area Committees, and the need for action.

62. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

She mentioned that there had just been a short gathering, prior to this Committee Meeting, of representatives from organisations who had received grants from the Royston and District Committee over the past year. The representatives advised the Committee on the use to which they had put the grants they had been awarded.

The Chairman informed the Meeting that Item 9 on the Agenda would be taken immediately after Item 7 had concluded.

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.

63. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Rodney Dean addressed the Committee on behalf of the Royston Bowling Club. He gave members the background to the Club, and explained that it had opened on land donated in Green Drift many years ago. All maintenance work was carried out by volunteers, in fact the green keeper had tended the green free for over 15 years, while the current cost would be between £3,000 and £6,000 p.a.

The members of the Royston Bowling Club had agreed that facilities needed to improve, as the green was not absolutely level – a survey had shown that there was a variance of approximately 4 inches from the highest point to the lowest point. This meant that the green's surface had to be removed and the playing field levelled before being resurfaced – an exercise that was estimated at £22,000.

Mr Dean explained that Royston Bowling Club's membership included an England player and two Over-55s Champions. The Club hosted Hertfordshire County, Letchworth and District and touring side matches, as well as "friendlies". This meant that the green had to be in immaculate condition and be up to competition standard, as well as coping with constant use as a club green. He revealed that Royston Bowling Club had built up reserve funds and had applied for and received grants from elsewhere, but still needed £11,000 to enable the process of resurfacing the green to commence.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dean for his presentation, and informed him that the relevant grant application would be discussed later in the Agenda.

64. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PRIORY MEMORIAL GARDENS, ROYSTON

The Service Manager Grounds Maintenance (SM) presented the report of the Head of Leisure and Environment. He explained that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval for the proposed Management Plan relating to Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston for 2010 to 2015. It was intended to formalise agreement with the Royston in Bloom Working Party. This would enable North Herts District Council (NHDC) to submit an application for a Green Flag Award in January, judging for which would be carried out in June 2010.

The SM confirmed that there is a budget with a capital investment of £60,000 for play equipment for 2012 which was part of the Green Space Strategy. He also mentioned that the Priory Memorial Gardens contained wooden equipment that was unsafe and would be replaced. The play equipment was for toddler age to 14 years, and it was at the Newmarket Avenue play area that older children congregated. It was the SM's intention to engage with the Royston Youth Council to discuss their needs and ideas.

The Committee discussed the proposed Management Plan, and the matter of the height of the hedge being brought down to 3ft was brought up. This acted as a sound barrier to the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and to passing traffic. The main intention was to attempt to reduce the more formal scene set out in the past, running from the entrance to the Gardens to the sensory maze.

The Royston and District Committee agreed that the proposed Management Plan for Priory Memorial Gardens was very comprehensive and the Chairman thanked the Service Manager Grounds Maintenance for all his hard work in producing and presenting this excellent document.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Service Manager Grounds Maintenance be thanked for all his hard work in producing and presenting the Management Plan for Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston;
- 2) That the implementation of the Management Plan be approved, subject to comments and amendments as discussed by the Committee (i.e. concern over lowering hedge height, the sensory maze and the bandstand);
- 3) That North Hertfordshire District Council continues with its current regime of maintenance to ensure that Priory Memorial Gardens remains open to the public as intended.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To meet the North Hertfordshire District Council's strategic objectives to:

- 1) Provide a robust value for money approach for the future provision and maintenance of the Green Space provision within the District that meets the community's needs;
- 2) Promote first class leisure and cultural facilities to contribute to healthy living for all our citizens.

65. ROYSTON RAILWAY CROSSING - UPDATE

Helen McCormick of Hertfordshire Highways took the Royston and District Committee through the notes she had circulated on the progress of the Royston Underpass and wider cycle links, forming part of the Sustrans Connect2 project. She pointed out the relevant places on the related maps mounted on the Committee Room wall.

Members were informed that the Government Office for the North East (GONE) has called for a public enquiry and this is expected to be in March 2010, to be held either in the Coombes Community Centre or in the Methodist Church Hall.

Most objections appear to be compensation issues and these will be examined individually.

Mrs McCormick updated the Committee on the wider links to be provided:

- a) currently in consultation for links with the A10 Melbourn Road and Newbolt
- b) Garden Walk Cycle Link (near Greneway School) – a package of measures to enhance cycling.

She offered to return to inform the Royston and District Committee after the completion of the consultation process and the designs had been chosen. She explained that the Roysia Cycle Link would provide a traffic-free link between the new underpass and the school. On responding to questions from Members, she assured them that the line of cherry trees would not be removed. The link through the existing BMX track had not as yet been designed.

Members discussed the presentation, and it was clarified that a 'toucan' crossing was for both pedestrians and cyclists; that GONE dealt with all compulsory purchase orders (not just those in the North East of England); and that all routes are on third party land and therefore subject to their agreement. Proximity of the Guide hut to the fencing was discussed, as was the fate of overgrown and dead trees.

The Chairman stated that it was good to see a positive reaction to Royston residents' concerns, and thanked Mrs McCormick and the design engineers for meeting the residents when on site visits and dealing with their concerns. She asked that the Committee be kept up to date with this project, which Mrs McCormick agreed to do.

RESOLVED: That the progress made towards the Royston Railway Underpass be noted.

66. CORPORATE BUSINESS PLANNING 2010/2011 – EFFICIENCIES AND INVESTMENTS

The Group Accountant presented the report of the Strategic Director of Finance, Policy and Governance.

The object of the report was to consult with the Area Committees, Scrutiny Committee, Member Workshops, the Local Strategic Partnership and business ratepayers between November and December and then present to Cabinet their views on the Corporate Business Planning process. She went through the report and appendices starting at Appendix B. Options A and B were dismissed by the Committee and discussions were around variations to Option C.

The Committee went through the Efficiency Proposals, Income Increase Proposals, Investment Proposals and comments were made/questions asked as follows:

I/1 – this was considered to be very positive;

I/4– area-wide parking reviews: this would be discussed later in the meeting;

CI/5 – redevelopment of Royston Civic Centre site was welcomed and considered to be a positive contribution;

CI/6 – considered to be a positive contribution and a proposal made to put funding into Royston Museum, as it is a valuable facility for Royston;

CI/7 - considered to be a positive contribution;

CI/18 – investment in play areas as per the Green Space Strategy Action Plan: positive as stated by the Service Manager Grounds Maintenance.

DW2 Item 2 – adoption of a policy and programme for disabled parking bays, mandatory in the town centre and advisory elsewhere. This was noted and would be discussed later in the Meeting as a separate Agenda item (see Minute 74).

The Committee discussed the report and it was advised that in the past the Audit Commission had pressed Councils to raise money from car parking. Members proposed that car parking charges were abandoned after 3.30pm and 4pm, to encourage residents and visitors into Royston Town Centre. All Councillors supported no increase in 1hr parking charges.

The Committee was united against charging for on-street car parking, Sunday and evening parking and after 4pm, as, in its opinion, this would not work for Royston.

Some Members claimed that it was not easy to calculate these figures from the charts and they would like to see a smaller increase of 10p on Option C (2 and 3 hours), with the other tariffs kept the same with no increase. They asked the Transport Policy Officer to calculate the costs for: no car parking charges after 3.30pm (school pick-up time) and also after 4pm. He declared that he was working on Option D (similar to Option C, but with no charge at all after 4pm) to report to Cabinet, and would advise Members on the outcome of the income assessment of the tariff suggestions.

Some Members stated that they would like to see some of the town centre car parks becoming short-term only. This should not affect income, as those shoppers spending several hours in Royston Town Centre would use the long term car parks instead. This should have no adverse effect on shops and businesses in the town centre and it was suggested that to begin with, charging should be up to 3.30pm but this should be discussed in advance with Royston First BID. Parking attendants would enforce the relevant hours.

Councillor Burt put forward another proposal, and this was supported by one other Member. This was a variation on Option C, with no long term parking in short term car parks and free after 4pm. The Committee had agreed that no car parking charges should be applied for Sundays, in the evenings, for on-street parking and after 4pm, and the rise in charges to 80p for 2hrs and £1.30 for 3hrs proposed by Councillor Hunter was deemed more acceptable than the rises to £1 and £1.50 suggested, and the Transport Policy Officer was again asked to carry out the calculations and report to the Committee. He would also check the charges in the Morrisons car park and agreed to liaise with the Portfolio Holder for Finance on how to advise Members on the tariff option calculations.

A further option was put forward by the Chairman, that the Transport Policy Officer look at differential parking within the car parks in Royston and free parking after 3.30pm.

The Chairman thanked the Group Accountant and the Transport Policy Officer for their hard work and for the informative presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the following views and comments be included by officers in the report on the Draft Budget for 2010/2011 to Cabinet on 15 December 2009:

- 1) That the officers be thanked for their work in compiling and presenting the Corporate Business Planning 2010/2011;
- 2) That funding be put into the Royston Museum, as it is a valuable facility for Royston (ref CI/6 above);
- 3) That the options A, B and C proposed would **not** be agreed by the Royston and District Committee;

- 4) That officers investigate the proposal for a variation on Option C for no long term parking in the short term car parks and free after 4pm;
- 5) That the proposal for adding 10p on to all charges for 2hrs and 3hrs be considered;
- 6) That differential car parking be investigated in the car parks within Royston Town Centre with no charge being levied after 3.30pm;
- 7) That the option of free car parking after 3.30pm and also after 4pm be considered and costs calculated;
- 8) That absolutely **no** car park charges be levied for evenings, Sundays or for on-street parking;

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- 1) To ensure that all relevant Committees and groups are consulted on the proposed efficiency and investment proposals and afforded the opportunity to comment before Cabinet sets the draft budget in December 2009;
- 2) To ensure that the Council is able to adjust its base expenditure downwards to narrow the gap between the 2010/2011 District Requirement figure, as adjusted for anticipated capping limits, and the Service Spending Requirements;
- 3) To encourage shoppers into Royston Town Centre and to support the retail economy as one of North Herts District Council's key priorities (regeneration of town centres).

67. SECTION 106 AGREEMENT AND UNILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager (PCCM) introduced the report of the Head of Development and Building Control, which provided the Committee with an update on the comprehensive details of the current Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Undertakings in its area, as at 30 October 2009 for NHDC.

She referred to the chart set out at Paragraph 4.6 of the report, which showed the overall income levels associated with Section 106 monies for NHDC since 2001/02. The downward trend for 2009/10 was primarily due to the current national economic situation, which had also resulted in increased officer time spent in negotiations with developers over Section 106 contributions.

The PCCM tabled some updated information concerning County Council Section 106 monies.

She stated that a new NHDC Corporate Officer Group had been formed (comprising herself and officers from the NHDC departments most involved in Section 106 Agreements), which she hoped would be useful in moving forward appropriate schemes for expenditure of the Section 106 monies.

The PCCM informed the Royston and District Committee that there are some debtors for Royston, and that she is in dialogue to reclaim the money. She stated that funds are made up of an accumulation of monies which must be used for a related project (e.g. Section 106 monies funded the refurbishment of the forecourt of Hitchin Station). The Committee were updated that part of the funds would be allocated to strategies and this will be put to Cabinet on 15 December 2009. The PCCM explained that to prepare this report she had referred to the Royston and District June 2009 Minutes, to put together a timeline and date. She explained that the sustainable transport network would come back to the Committee, and that this did not include contributions from Hertfordshire County Council. Members were then invited to put questions to the PCCM.

The Committee discussed the report, and commented that: it is very important that none of the money is lost, and that the Committee moves forwards with funds and that it can be seen where the funds are spent; there are likely to be defaulters and officers from Legal Services should be consulted; planning permission for some of the smaller developments may lapse, making it impossible to recover the amounts owed.

The PCCM explained that some applicants pay for Unilateral Undertakings at the time of application, enabling the money to be put forward for any proposals. She confirmed that there would be an annual update on Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Understandings.

The Chairman thanked the Planning Control and Conservation Manager for presenting the report and for her clarification of the points raised.

RESOLVED:

That the Royston and District Committee:

- 1) Thank the Planning Control and Conservation Manager for her contribution and for the work carried out for the residents of Royston;
- 2) Note the contents of the report on Corporate Business Planning 2010/2011 – Efficiencies and Investments;
- 3) Note that an updating report on Section 106 monies and Unilateral Undertakings is presented annually or more frequently if appropriate;
- 4) Request that defaulters are chased for Section 106 monies.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- 1) To ensure that there is a robust system for negotiating and managing Section 106/Unilateral Undertakings;
- 2) To ensure that this is kept under constant review and that the risk associated with this activity is managed in an appropriate manner.

68. CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

The Community Development Officer (CDO) presented the report of the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Community Development. The items on ***Kipling Road, Youth Issues, Pigeons, Other Work, Traffic Accident Display*** and ***Members' Surgery*** required no updating, and there was to be a meeting regarding the ***Youth Council*** the following day (26 November).

Angel Pavement

The Community Development Officer (CDO) informed the Committee that the sum of £52,200 was available for Angel Pavement. The Town Centre Manager (TCM), on being invited to speak by the Chairman, stated that this was not a simple project, and that he and the CDO were seeking to get the best deal in a defined time scale (by the end of the Financial Year). He stated that he would give the Committee the broad parameters, and suggested that the Committee then authorise the Chairman to take decisions on their behalf. Herts Highways had revealed that they did not have funds for this project, although it was considered necessary, but they had called for reports on what lies under Angel Pavement. The week before, they and a representative of Hertfordshire Highways had visited the site. He appeared to suggest that there would be no objection to Royston First employing a subcontractor already employed on major town centre projects elsewhere in the North Herts District. However, the TCM had subsequently been informed that Herts Highways' partner, Amey Lafarge, had to oversee the subcontractor's work, and the CDO, TCM and the Royston and District Committee should resolve the decisions about the surface finish. It was thought that having another layer of management to oversee the contractor would slow down decisions and commencement of the work.

The lowest quotation for complete resurfacing with concrete slabs was £22,000 (£15,000 could be supplied by Royston First), with a possible variance of 20% making it £26,000 to £27,000. £11,000 or £12,000 would be sought from the Committee in terms of matched funding, and Herts Highways had yet to give the amount for maintenance. New street furniture would be required, i.e. planters, bins and benches. Another option discussed was repaving with York stone, for which an informal estimate was £39,000, and the contractor's estimate was from £45,000 up to £54,000 again with a variance of 20%.

The Committee discussed the options, and the point was raised that although York stone was decorative, it would not match the paving in Royston town centre as well as concrete slabs would. Various other options for material selections were discussed (concrete paviers, granite paviers and resin and chip finish), together with their suitability to the area and the ease and cost of maintenance and repair, and Members decided to look at finances after a final decision on materials had been made.

The TCM declared that he would like to work with a District Councillor on the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel on the materials and finances and it was proposed that a Working Party be set up to deal with this.

It was suggested that the small area of pavement in Market Hill should be included with Angel Pavement for refurbishment.

The Committee formally agreed that the Chairman would work on their behalf, and the Members making up the Working Group were agreed as: the Chairman, Cllr Peter Burt, Cllr Tony Hunter and the Town Centre Manager. The TCM raised the possibility of obtaining funding from Herts County Council, as the figure was not more than £25,000.

The Chairman thanked the Town Centre Manager for addressing the Committee on Angel Pavement.

Royston Hospital

The CDO updated the Royston and District Committee that he had been unable to obtain positive answers on what is planned for the Hospital in the Spring of 2010. He would update the Committee when he had obtained the necessary information.

Street Naming

Councillor F. J. Smith had tabled a Note on the naming of the small street running between Market Hill and Fish Hill and alongside the Corn Exchange, which currently had no name. The Note relayed the contents of a short article which he had written for the series ***A Question of Royston*** in August 2009.

Several suggestions had been noted in the article, and the Committee gave them due consideration during a debate. They agreed with the comment that the street was too short to be given a name linked with Royston's Town Twinning. At the conclusion of the debate Members supported the logical proposal that this street was named 'Market Link' due to its location. The CDO offered to pass this suggestion on to the Street Naming Engineer.

Flooding Issues

The CDO corrected the meeting date given in this item, stating that the meeting would take place on **Tuesday 8 December**, not 12th – which was a Saturday, at the Burns Road Community Centre. The Committee agreed to fund the hire of the Harris Room for the meeting.

The CDO then took the Committee through the budget spreadsheets and then went through the five grant applications, which the Committee approved. It was noted that there had been no formal quotation received from the Royston Day Centre and the sum was awarded subject to a quote being subsequently received. A Member commented that Royston and District Committee have supported the Young People of the Year organisation since its inception in 2005 by means of a grant and he considered that other parts of North Herts District Council should also be supporting this worthy cause.

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. It was suggested that the refurbishment of Angel Pavement be added to the list.

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 Community Development Officer be thanked and the actions taken to promote greater community capacity and well-being be endorsed;
- 3) That the Chairman be authorised to take decisions on behalf of the Committee, with regard to the refurbishment of Angel Pavement;
- 4) That a Working Group, comprising the Chairman, Cllr Peter Burt, Cllr Tony Hunter and the Royston Town Centre Manager, be formed to oversee matters regarding the refurbishment of Angel Pavement;
- 5) That not more than £25,000 be committed by the Committee to the re-paving of Angel Pavement;
- 6) That the Community Development Officer pass to the Street Naming Engineer, the Committee's suggestion of 'Market Link' as the name for the small street running between Market Hill and Fish Hill and alongside the Corn Exchange, currently without a name;
- 7) That the funding of the hire of the Harris Room in the Burns Road Community Centre, for a meeting on flooding issues, to be held on 8 December 2009, be agreed;
- 8) That the refurbishment of Angel Pavement be added to the list of projects on the Area Committee Work Programme for Royston.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- 1) To ensure that the Royston and District Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer;
- 2) To inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee, drawing attention to the current budgetary situation, assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget and ensuring that actions are performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance in the Grants procedure;
- 3) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Royston and District Committee to further the aims and Strategic Objectives of the Council;
- 4) The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by members of the community.

69. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON BOWLING CLUB

The Chairman declared a personal interest in this grant application, as she has previously granted monetary resources to the Royston Bowling Club from the Herts County Council Locality Budget. She remained in the room and voted.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Royston Bowling Club to assist with funding the levelling and resurfacing of the bowling green.

REASON FOR DECISION:

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

- 70. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON DAY CENTRE**
Councillor F. J. Smith declared a personal interest in this grant application as his wife is the Treasurer of this organisation. He remained in the room and voted.
- RESOLVED:** That a grant of £943 be awarded to the Royston Day Centre to fund the North Herts College Registration fee and the tutor's fees for adult education and handicraft classes.
- REASON FOR DECISION:**
To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.
- 71. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON DAY CENTRE**
Councillor F. J. Smith declared a personal interest in this grant application as his wife is the Treasurer of this organisation. He remained in the room and voted.
- RESOLVED:** That, subject to a formal quotation being received from approved suppliers, the sum of £261 be awarded to the Royston Day Centre for provision of two new cookers.
- REASON FOR DECISION:**
To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.
- 72. GRANT APPLICATION – YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE YEAR**
RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,000 be awarded to the Young People of the Year organisation to help promote a positive image of young people and the excellent work they often do in the community.
- REASON FOR DECISION:**
To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.
- 73. GRANT APPLICATION – BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL**
RESOLVED: That the fast-tracked grant of £250 to Barkway Parish Council for a Parish Plan be ratified.
- REASON FOR DECISION:**
To improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.
- 74. DISABLED MARKINGS**
Listed under Notification of Other Business, the Chairman raised the subject of the necessity for disabled markings in various places in the District, as per item DW2 in the NHDC Parking Strategy High Level Action Plan. Requests have been made in Willowside Way and Therfield, These would probably be in the Advisory category. The Committee agreed to assist with funding.
- 75. SKATEBOARDING IMPROVEMENTS**
This item had also been raised under Notification of Other Business. Cllr Smith had met with users of the skateboarding park on Newmarket Road, with whom he and the designers consulted. Members were informed of what would be required to update it and make it usable by the skateboarders and a plan was provided. The Committee was advised that the plans submitted would double the area that could be used, and modest quotations were supplied, the best of which was for £38,748.00. The CDO was asked to find out whether Visioning money and grants could support this project, and the Committee all agreed to offer their backing.
- 76. ADOPTION OF ROADS AND AMENITY SPACES ON THE TWIGDENS ESTATE**
The Chairman had raised this item under Notification of Other Business, and informed the Committee that she shared the concerns of the residents of the Twigdens Estate.

Discussion by the Committee resulted in the suggestion that Oliver Heald MP be requested to raise this matter again in the House of Commons. A letter to the developers, Twigdens (now Keir Homes), was also suggested and the Committee Member and Services officer agreed to deal with this.

77. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – MEMBERS’ REPORTS
Royston Community Association

Members were informed that Royston Community Association had held the Annual General Meeting at the Coombes Community Centre. The Association continued to be stable, was receiving steady rental income and making a profit.

Relate North Herts and Stevenage

The Committee were advised that the final Annual General Meeting of Relate North Herts and Stevenage had been held. The organisation is in the process of being formally dissolved, and from 1 January 2010 will no longer exist.

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

The Chairman then gave the Committee and all officers present her very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

78. NEXT MEETING OF THE ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Royston and District Committee is due to be held on Wednesday 20 January 2010 at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston.

The next Royston Surgery will be held on Saturday 5 December 2009 at Angel Pavement, Royston from 10.00 to 11.30am.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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Chairman