

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE

16th June 2010

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

10

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved during the past month.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will be taking place during the next few months.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. PROJECT/ACTIVITY/SCHEME DETAILS

3.1 Fish Hill Square, Royston Enhancement Update

From the short-list of consultants who tendered for the design and supervision of the enhancement works to Fish Hill Square we have appointed BDP as the successful consultants. BDP are now analysing all the survey work and feedback from workshops and will be undertaking further consultation with key stakeholders before preparing a draft scheme for consultation.

BDP's timetable indicates that they will have a draft scheme ready to submit to Royston Committee at the meeting in July to seek approval to consult on the proposal. The actual dates and form of the public consultation will be agreed once discussions with key stakeholders have been undertaken. It is anticipated that works will commence on site in Spring 2011.

3.2 Swift Close

CDO was contacted in March by a resident in Swift Close about the destruction of a fence between the rear of Blake Close and the rear of Swift Close. This fence has been damaged on several occasions in the past, and repaired at the expense of this Committee; the narrow strip of ground behind it has been used as a short cut by (apparently) younger people, some of whom throw objects at the houses in Swift Close.

CDO met with a group of the residents on April 12th, and a course of action was agreed. Any solution will need to permit users of the new 'desire path' to use the route without disturbing the privacy of the residents (whom the path overlooks, being 10 feet above garden level).

Efforts have been made to cost the fence as security fencing, but high costs have prevented some firms importing products useful for this purpose. The Chairman agreed expenditure of up to £500 to replace the existing fence 'as is', pending a more long-term solution. The Police are aware, as is the Council's ASB officer.

- 3.3 A letter of thanks was received from Royston Bowls Club for the grant which this Committee awarded them last financial year.

3.4 **Members' Surgery 3rd April 2010**

This surgery was attended by Cllrs Hill and Hunter as County and District Councillors, Cllr Marshall as a District Councillor, and Cllrs Inwood and R Smith as District and Town Councillors.

The surgery took place on Easter Saturday, and the level of attendance was markedly lower than that on previous occasions (there were 10 specific issues at the February surgery, which took place amidst occasional snow flurries). Members may wish to consider whether they wish to hold future surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Six people attended, with a total of seven issues, ranging from flooding in the Morton Street area, possibility of rebates for carers' parking charges, provision of a dropped kerb, broken glass as a hazard to animals, provision of parking spaces for disabled residents and dog noise.

3.5 **Youth Council**

The members of Royston Youth Council have made several attempts to attract younger people to their meetings in order to secure the succession. However, these have been without avail. However, it has been proposed to re-shape the Youth Council to include representatives from all Royston Schools, attending a plenary meeting four times a year to address issues common to them all. Four schools have responded positively to this approach, and officers are working to enable this to fit to the district-wide Youth Question Time event which will take place in October during Democracy Week. Much work remains to be done on this.

3.6 **Precious Court pavement.**

Members will recall that the unusual pavement configuration outside Precious Court – the former petrol station in Old North Road – has given concern as a trip hazard. The CDO has been in discussion with the Area Highways Manager, who states that the developer has not completed works to the frontage in accordance with the approved planning drawings. The Highways Development Control team in consultation with NHDC planning department will be trying to progress this issue with the developer.

3.7 **Other work**

CDO has assisted Royston Arts Festival in the preparations for the events taking place in the town centre this year.

The CDO continues to minute Royston First Advisory Council meetings.

The CDO has assisted an individual in the early stages of setting up a branch of an existing charity to aid local residents: Appendix G refers.

4. FINANCE REPORT

- 4.1 The budget sheets are attached as Appendix A.

- 4.2 A grant application has been received from Royston Arts Festival towards their costs for the 2010 Festival (attached as Appendix B).

- 4.3 The CDO has fast-tracked three grants, one of £250 to Barkway Parish Council for the preparation of its Parish Plan (attached as Appendix C), one of to Reed Parish Council for the preparation of that Parish Council's Parish Plan (Appendix E), and one of £150 to set up a local branch of the Depression Alliance (Appendix G). These are put before the Committee for their ratification.
- 4.4 A grant application has also been received from Barkway Parish Council for the printing costs of their Parish Plan, and this is attached as Appendix D.
- 4.5 An application has been received from the Royston Amateur Boxing Club for £1,000 towards the purchase of a second-hand minibus. This is attached as Appendix F.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.
- 5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2010/11.
- 6.2 The spreadsheet also details the pre-allocations carried forward from the previous financial year 2009/10 to the current financial year 2010/11.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 8.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external agencies / groups has taken place with regard to the funding proposals for Area Committee Discretionary Development Funds.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members note the budget and carried-forward expenditures set out in Appendix A;
- 9.2 That Members consider the grant applications from Royston Arts Festival, Barkway Parish Council and Royston Amateur Boxing Club;
- 9.3 That Members ratify fast-track grants made by the Community Development Officer;
- 9.4 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.

10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 To ensure that the Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

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