

<b>ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE</b> 28th July 2010
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<b>*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No.</b>
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**TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Development Grant Funding made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved.
- 1.4 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**

**3.2 Swift Close**

The CDO has liaised with the Council's ASB officer to try to resolve land ownership issues. Some progress has been made, but the residents are naturally concerned that there is no visible progress. Whilst the residents' initial view was to permit pedestrian traffic past the back of their properties, permitting this has led to further irritation, and it is now proposed to seal off the access with a security fence. As discussions and efforts to find additional funding are still progressing, a verbal update will be brought to the meeting.

**3.3 Members' Surgery 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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

Five issues were raised, that of the obstruction of sightlines over the A10 roundabout immediately adjacent to the Twigden estate, and drain clearance there; prevalence of litter on The Heath; a request for additional litter-bins at two locations in Queens Road; a pothole at The Warren, and a suggestion for an alternative bus route for the No.17. Lastly, one contact asked about progress on a dropped kerb already requested: CDO contacted the Highways Engineer who did provide a date "in the next 2-3 months".

CDO checked litter on The Heath (very little found) and wrote back to surgery contact; the Warren pothole has been repaired.

### **Youth Council**

The last meeting of the Youth Council in its current format took place on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other work**

#### **Fish Hill Square, Royston Enhancement Update**

BDP, our consultants, are working up options for the enhancement of Fish Hill Square prior to going out to consultation. People who live, work and visit Royston will then be able to make comments on the options put forward for consultation in the autumn. Following a launch event the exhibition will be on display in Royston library for the whole of the consultation period and the information will also be available on the NHDC website.

The outcome of the public consultation will be reported back to members at a Royston Committee meeting to 'freeze' the design. This will then allow BDP to prepare detailed drawings and tender documents prior to tendering for the contractor to carry out the enhancement works.

It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in the new year and works will commence on site in Spring 2011. The enhancements will hopefully provide a catalyst for further improvements within the town centre.

#### **Dog fouling**

The CDO has liaised with the NHDC Animal Warden regarding the provision of dog waste bags. Until four years ago, bags were distributed by the Animal Warden, but this is no longer the case.

The CDO has samples of such bags obtained from a supplier in Scotland: they can be overprinted with a logo and a message or strapline. CDO will provide a verbal update at the meeting about costs.

#### **Youth shelter**

CDO has sought the views of NHDC Parks Maintenance staff and the Police about usage of the Youth Shelter. NHDC staff are removing occasional graffiti as it arises, and removing bottles and cans. They have been contacted by some mothers of small children using the adjacent play area, and the Police comments note a few such cases. NHDC experience from other shelters in the District backed up by recent conversation with a PCSO, suggests climbing will die down in time.

Any application of anti-vandal paint will require application of appropriate notices, and annual cleaning and re-application of the paint: come autumn, falling leaves will stick to the paint in an unattractive way.

### **Community Development Grants Database**

The Grants Database has been upgraded to permit email notifications from within the program, working towards enabling emails to be sent to grant recipients, rather than letters as at present, thereby reducing costs.

## **4. FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee Development budget is enclosed as Appendix A.
- 4.2 A grant application from the Royston Town Youth Football Club outlined in Appendix B.
- 4.3 A grant application from the Royston Community Association outlined in Appendix C.
- 4.4 A grant application from the Barley Town House outlined in Appendix D.
- 4.5 A grant application from the Royston Museum (shown as Royston Town Council) in Appendix E.
- 4.6 A grant application from the Depression Alliance outlined in Appendix F.
- 4.7 A grant application from the North Herts. Over 50s Forum outlined in Appendix G.
- 4.8 A grant application from the Friends of Therfield School outlined in Appendix H.
- 4.9 A grant application from the Royston Town Council (Drop-in Art Session) outlined in Appendix I.

## **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 1 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.
- 6.3 In addition, the spreadsheet includes the balances relating to allocated Visioning Budgets available within the Royston & District area.

## **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 Members to consider a grant award of £1,250 to the Royston Town Youth Football Club outlined in Appendix B.

9.3 Members to consider a grant award of £1,200 to the Royston Community Association outlined in Appendix C.

9.4 Members to consider a grant award of £482 to the Barley Town House outlined in Appendix D.

9.5 Members to consider a grant award of £500 to the Royston Museum (shown as Royston Town Council) in Appendix E.

9.6 Members to consider a grant award of £460 to the Depression Alliance outlined in Appendix F.

9.7 Members to consider a grant award of £250 to the North Herts Over 50s Forum outlined in Appendix G.

9.8 Members to consider a grant award of £200 to the Friends of Therfield School North Herts outlined in Appendix H.

9.9 Members to consider a grant award of £90 to the Royston Town Council (Drop-in Art Session) outlined in Appendix I.

## **10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

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

10.2 This report is intended simply to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation,

assists in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget and ensures actions are performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance in the Grants procedure.

- 10.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the Strategic Priorities of the Council.
- 10.4 The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by members of the community.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix A – Spreadsheet of Committee Delegated Budgets 20010/11
- 11.2 Appendix B – Grant Report for the Royston Town Youth Football Club
- 11.3 Appendix C – Grant Report for the Royston Community Association
- 11.4 Appendix D - Grant Report for the Barley Town House
- 11.5 Appendix E - Grant Report for the Royston Museum
- 11.6 Appendix F - Grant Report for the Depression Alliance
- 11.7 Appendix G - Grant Report for the North Herts. Over 50s Forum
- 11.8 Appendix H - Grant Report for the Friends of Therfield School
- 11.9 Appendix I - Grant Report for the Royston Town Council

## **11. CONTACT OFFICERS**

- 11.1 Alan Fleck, Community Development Officer. Ext: 4274.  
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