

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE 22nd September 2010
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*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No.
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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

3.1 Angel Pavement

The Angel Pavement Working Party met again on September 8th to consider the estimates received for re-paving. This estimate, for paving works only, stands at £56,546.34.

- 3.1.1 External funds available for the project stand at £37,000, being £15,000 from Royston First and a grant of £22,000 from Vibrant Towns. The cost to this Committee therefore stands at £19,546. The overall cost will rise by 3.5% if the order is not placed by the end of September, as part of a routine annual uplift. The Working Party agreed to accept the estimate.
- 3.1.2 The Working Party comprises Cllrs. Hill, Hunter and Burt. In view of the need to maintain oversight of the project, it is suggested that the Working Party continue

its life as a Project Board, meeting during the implementation phase as various milestones are reached.

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 still 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 12th June 2010**

Ten people attended the surgery with a total of 16 individual issues, of which 7 were Highways related. These covered hedge and tree growth issues, blocked street drains, A10 speeding issues, and the location of a roundabout. Other issues included disability access, footpaths, weed growth, a planning issue and lack of ventilation in a public convenience.

Highways Issues

Newmarket Road: Herts. Highways have indicated that they will consider the use of different materials to reduce tyre noise on Newmarket Road when the existing surface needs to be replaced. With regard to additional speed restriction signage, there are legal constraints in place: Hertfordshire Highways officers are investigating what further provision can be made.

Barkway Road: It is clear from evidence now to hand that there is speeding in this road, and Members may wish to consider what action they wish taken.

Other work

Two enquiries were received about overhanging trees; in one case the tree was not on public land but intemperate response by an occupier led the complainant to seek further advice, which was provided.

Assistance has also been provided to a group seeking to find a premises for artistic activities.

Scrutiny Youth Facilities Task & Finish Group

This Task & Finish Group convened on September 7th to visit Royston. It visited Meridian School to see the premises of the Connexions-run Youth Club there, Priors Memorial Gardens, to The House Drop-In Centre in Market Hill to meet the organisers, Burns Road BMX track to see an event in progress and meet the organiser, and Coombes Community Centre to see a Boxing Club training session.

Community Development Grants Database

The database is being expanded to incorporate recording and monitoring of Performance Reward Grants to partner agencies on behalf of the North Herts Local Strategic Partnership.

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.

To date all Capital Visioning funds are committed; £2,930 remains uncommitted in the Small Area Grants, and £9,472 remains uncommitted in Discretionary Awards. £12,302 is therefore currently available.

- 4.2 A grant application from the Royston Volunteer Centre, outlined in Appendix B.
- 4.3 A grant application from Royston Town Council, outlined in Appendix C.
- 4.4 A grant application from the Rotary Club of Royston, outlined in Appendix D.
- 4.5 A grant application from the Royston Fire Station, outlined in Appendix E.
- 4.6 A grant application from the Royston BMX Club, outlined in Appendix F.
- 4.7 A grant application from the Royston Fire Station, outlined in Appendix G.

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.
- 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 That the Angel Pavement Working Party be re-formed as the Angel Pavement Project Board.
- 9.3 That Members consider a grant award of £1,000 to the Royston Volunteer Centre, outlined in Appendix B.
- 9.4 That Members consider a grant award of £192 to Royston Town Council, outlined in Appendix C.
- 9.5 That Members consider a grant award of £400 to the Rotary Club of Royston, outlined in Appendix D.
- 9.6 That Members consider a grant award of £1,000 to the Royston Fire Station, outlined in Appendix E.
- 9.7 That Members consider a grant award of £255 to the Royston BMX Club, outlined in Appendix F.
- 9.7 That Members consider a grant award of £1000 to Royston Fire Station, outlined in Appendix G.

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 application from the Royston Volunteer Centre
- 11.3 Appendix C - Grant application from Royston Town Council
- 11.4 Appendix D - Grant application from the Rotary Club of Royston

- 11.5 Appendix E - Grant application from the Royston Fire Station
- 11.6 Appendix F - Grant application from the Royston BMX Club
- 11.7 Appendix G – Grant application for Royston Fire Station
- 11.8 Appendix G – Committee Work Programme

11. CONTACT OFFICERS

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