

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS & 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 Youth Council**

The Youth Council met for the first time in its new incarnation on September 22nd. Eleven young people attended from a range of schools in and around Royston. The new structure is 'federated', with delegates from schools in the town and the surrounding villages meeting twice a term.

The second meeting was held on November 11th, and again 11 young people attended from schools in Royston. There was considerable practical discussion of issues around a possible Outside Art programme in Royston, and how it might best be achieved.

The new Youth Council will meet once early in each half term.

Youth Shelter

The CDO has contacted the shelter manufacturer, who makes no additional component to deter climbing and who commented:

"Our experience is that whatever deterrent is provided there will always be those that will be even more determined to overcome any obstacle and in doing so potentially put themselves at even greater risk.

Although climbing is not recommended or encouraged on these shelter type products the most important aspect is to ensure climbing is not 'encouraged'. Those determined users who do gain access should therefore have the ability to overcome, and foresight to assess, the risks they are taking."

The NHDC Parks and Spaces Officer noted that the Youth Shelter is not play equipment, so there is no requirement on the Council to provide a soft surface around or under it.

3.2 Other work

CDO has assisted the Facilities Manager in the survey of village halls, which is to be mentioned elsewhere at this meeting.

CDO continues to maintain aspects of the NHDC website, keeping village hall records up to date.

CDO continues to support meetings of Royston First and offers assistance to the Town Centre Manager with various initiatives.

CDO expedited obscene graffiti removal at request of a member of the public on play equipment visible to small children.

CDO attended the launch of the Burns Road Neighbourhood Watch Group event at the Community centre on October 23rd.

Grants database and CDO now administering PRG Awards and this year's Rural Grants Programme.

CDO also supporting North Herts. 50+ Forum (now run by the voluntary / community sector) and the Chairman's Community Awards 2010/11 scheme.

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 However, whilst Capital Visioning funds are all committed, they are not attributed to any particular projects. Members will note that on the spreadsheet Appendix A the Capital Visioning Unallocated funds are stated as zero. That is not strictly true. The following table reflects the reality.

£62,700	Budget
£23,046	Angel Pavement *
£15,300	Barkway/Barley
£15,000	ANPR commitment not yet spent**
£53,346	Total
£9,354	Balance
£3,500	Recovered expenditure (see below)
£12,854	Available to disburse ***

Notes	*	£3500 of this figure to be recovered from JMP – Design costs.
	**	Agreed in principle at the Meeting on 17 th March 2010 (Minute 104 refers)
	***	Members will recall that at the March 17 th they also agreed in principle to allocate £10,000 of capital funding to safety and disability improvements at Royston Town Hall & Royston Museum.

4.3 Under Small Area Grants, £2,930 remains uncommitted and under Discretionary Awards, £1,757, **totalling £4,687**, as shown on the spreadsheet Appendix A.

4.4 Additionally, £2,724 remains committed to Environmental Projects under Revenue Visioning, with a further £343 Environmental Projects under Small Area Grants, and a similar £1,000 under Discretionary Budgets, **totalling £4,067**.

- 4.5 Further, there are a number of awards which have either been over-budgeted, or have been paid for through other routes – such as the Swift Close fence: Members allocated £500 and the Committee ultimately paid only for site clearance, £46. Adding these items together **totals £2,332.**
- 4.6 In summary, the Committee has **£11,086 to disburse** under existing revenue budgets, of which £4,067 comes under the umbrella of Environmental Projects.
- 4.7 A grant application from the NHDC Children’s Services Team, outlined in Appendix B.
- 4.8 A grant application from Reed Parish Council, outlined in Appendix C

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 Members consider a grant award of £300 to the NHDC Children's Services Team, outlined in Appendix B.
- 9.3 That Members consider a grant award of £499 to Reed Parish Council, as outlined in Appendix C.

- 9.4 That Members indicate whether they wish to re-affirm Capital commitments to fund Police ANPR cameras and Safety & Disability improvements at Royston Town Hall & Royston Museum.

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

- 11.1 Alan Fleck, Community Development Officer. Ext: 4274.
Email: Alan.Fleck@north-herts.gov.uk.
- 11.2 Lois Stewart, Group Accountant. Ext 4566
E Mail: lois.stewart@north-herts.gov.uk