

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE

12th January 2011

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS

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 next meeting of the Youth Council is scheduled for January 13th.

3.2 Other work

3.2.1 Angel Pavement

The Angel Pavement Project Board met on December 15th to assess some design issues and to clarify funding. Other issues addressed included day-to-day project management, and the flow of information. Work is scheduled to commence on site on January 10th.

3.2.2 Dog fouling

Members will recall that the discussion of provision of free bags at certain sites was halted when some safety issues became clear. A source of bio-degradable bags made of starch has since been identified, and a sample has been requested. These bags are significantly cheaper than those previously identified, at £39.88 per thousand, available in batches of 1000. It is hoped that a sample bag will be available for the meeting.

Discussion with a grant applicant regarding DogWatch in Royston led to the suggestion that NHDC Enforcement and Police Community Support Officers extend their regular patrols to cover areas particularly affected by dog fouling to liaise with residents and distribute poo bags. The NHDC Enforcement Officer has extended her patrol area to cover the area of concern, has put up additional warning stickers and reported back on some fouling on 29th December. This work is obviously on-going and an update will be provided to the Meeting.

3.3 Fish Hill Square, Royston Enhancement update

We are working with the Meridian School art department students to design a sculpture feature for the new square and will be going into the school at the end of January with the designers to present the brief for the project. We will do a press release at the same time.

Meetings are being held with Herts Highways to discuss details of lighting, materials, maintenance and traffic management to enable our designers, BDP, to prepare detailed drawings for tender.

In the spring we will be consulting on the renaming of the square based on the shortlist produced from the scheme consultation in September last year.

4. FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee budgets is enclosed as Appendix A.
- 4.2 Members will note under Capital Visioning that £3,500 is shown as recovered. Whilst this sum was invoiced early in December, the invoice has not yet been paid.
- 4.3 The revenue figure remaining available for disbursement is £8,630, all capital monies having been allocated or spent.
- 4.4 A grant application has been received from Royston Town Council for staffing costs, and is attached as Appendix B.
- 4.5 A grant application has been received from Hertfordshire County Police for a DogWatch scheme, and is attached as Appendix C.
- 4.6 A grant application has been received from Ignite for room hire support costs at Coombes Community Centre. This payment was authorised by the CDO in consultation with the Chairman, and is attached for ratification as Appendix D.
- 4.7 A grant application has been received from HomeStart for support costs, and is attached as Appendix E.
- 4.8 A grant application has been received from Royston Town Council for financial support for hanging baskets, and is attached as Appendix F.
- 4.9 At their last meeting Members agreed a grant of £11,500 to Royston Museum – this will be paid as £9,354 from the Capital Visioning budget topped up with £2,146 from the Revenue budget.
- 4.10 Members also re-affirmed their intention to award £10,000 to Royston Town Council for safety and disability improvements at Royston Town Hall & Royston Museum.
- 4.11 The remaining revenue funds should be re-allocated as the sum of £8,630. This comprises £2,724 under Revenue Visioning, £443 and £1,930 under Small Area Grants, £3,251 from Discretionary Budgets, and £1,500 and £928 otherwise un-allocated, less the £2,146 top-up to the Museum grant – please see the spreadsheet attached as Appendix G.
- 4.12 Members may wish to note that the applications outlined in Appendices B & F could be deferred until the new financial year without significant impact.

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 20010/11.
- 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 consider a grant award of £1,250 to Royston Town Council as outlined in Appendix B.
- 9.2 That Members consider a grant award of £425 to Royston DogWatch as outlined in Appendix C.
- 9.3 That Members ratify a grant award of £200 to Ignite as outlined in Appendix D.
- 9.4 That Members consider a grant award of £1,000 to HomeStart as outlined in Appendix E.
- 9.5 That Members consider a grant award of £4,000 to Royston Town Council for support for hanging baskets as outlined in Appendix F.
- 9.6 That Members authorise re-allocation of remaining budgets to enable the above as delineated in Appendix G.
- 9.7 That Members consider re-allocating remaining funds to grant applications listed above.
- 9.7 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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