

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE

22nd June 2011

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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 Discretionary 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 during the past month.
- 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 Youth Council

The Royston Youth Council was re-structured at the beginning of the academic year 2010-11, with delegates invited from local schools. Reminder emails were sent out to schools in advance of each meeting on the second Thursday of each half term, and initial results were promising, with up to 12 young people attending. However, by the Easter term the attendance had dropped to two young people, one school having arrived on the previous day despite the reminders. An additional meeting to discuss involvement in the May Fayre was attended by one young person (plus the Head Girl of Meridian, who had been involved since the Youth Council's inception). Accordingly there was no involvement of the Youth Council in the May Fayre this year.

Citizenship

The CDO attended most of the Citizenship classes which took place between February 14th and March 31st. The content is included in a separate report to this meeting as Appendix P.

3.2 Royston BID

The CDO has continued to liaise with the Town Manager, attend some Working Party Meetings and produce the Minutes of the Advisory Council.

3.3 Other work

Angel Pavement

The works have been completed with the exception of the power connection to the bollards. Some of the snagging has not yet been completed. CDO was in dialogue in mid May with the contractor Mouchel about the installation of appropriate plugs and sockets for the intended users, and with the Town Clerk about billing arrangements for the power used.

A meeting of the Angel Pavement Working Party took place on May 20th to update the participants on the current situation. Councillors Hill, Hunter and Burt attended, with the CDO and the Town Manager.

Grants database

The grants database was updated at Finance's request to permit internal generation of cost codes in order to save time and resources. The work was completed ready for the start of the new financial year, but has not been implemented, as Finance have yet to confirm the validity of the codes provided.

Parish Challenge

CDO participated in the assessment of applications, and as usual minuted the Panel's meeting. The grants database was enhanced beforehand to enable it to generate a significant amount of the reports hitherto prepared by hand. This did save staff time during the assessment and report-preparation phases and the production of grant award notification letters.

North Herts 50+ Forum

Support has been provided to North Herts 50+ Forum, an independent body supporting older people in the District, with their establishment of a Royston branch at Royston Town Hall on April 27th.

Community Halls Strategy

CDO has assisted with the survey work and publication of the forthcoming NHDC Community Halls Strategy.

Surgeries

Some works requested by the CDO to Hertfordshire Highways are still outstanding, especially for trimming of hedgerows adjoining Garden Walk and Great North Road where new growth is impeding pedestrians – and especially wheelchair users.

Other issues

CDO assisted with some work on Barkway Street Market, with the preparation of the schedule for the visit of the High Sherriff of Hertfordshire to the District on July 4th, with some Olympic torch-bearing issues, and endeavouring to assist the Royston BMX Club, who are trying to enlarge the BMX track at Burns Road.

3.4 Highways Work Programme

NHDC Area Committees are being invited during the 2011 meeting cycle to consider any final joint funding contributions. Requests for new schemes will be considered depending on the complexity to produce a cost estimate, and if new schemes are proposed then members should indicate a provisional level and amount of joint funding, taking budgetary issues into account.

Upon receipt of the proposed additional schemes for matched funding, the Lead Assistant District Manager from Hertfordshire Highways will be requested to present costed schemes to the next meeting of the JMP on July 25th 2011 for a decision on which schemes they wish to support.

Members are requested to propose any schemes and projects that will be considered at the Joint Member Panel at their meeting on 25th July 2011.

The JMP Highways Work Programme for Royston & District is attached as Appendix O.

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. There is £3,810 available in the Small Area Grants Budget, and £18,990 in the Discretionary Budget, a total of £22,800.
- 4.2 A grant application has been received from Depression Alliance for rental support and incidental costs, which is attached as Appendix B.
- 4.3 A grant application has been received from Cokenach Cricket Club for provision of sight screen, which is attached as Appendix C.
- 4.4 A grant application has been received from Rotary Club of Royston for support for Technology Tournament, which is attached as Appendix D.
- 4.5 A grant application has been received from Royston Town Council for support for Art Event room hire in Easter holidays, which is attached as Appendix E.
- 4.6 A grant application has been received from Royston's Open Secrets for 2011 event, which is attached as Appendix F.
- 4.7 A grant application has been received from Royston In Bloom for Royston Railway Station decoration 2012, which is attached as Appendix G.
- 4.8 A grant application has been received from Barkway Parish Council for Barkway Speedwatch project, which is attached as Appendix H.
- 4.9 A grant application has been received from Royston Arts Festival for the 2011 Festival , which is attached as Appendix I – a list of events for the Festival is attached as Appendix I-a.
- 4.10 A grant application has been received from Royston Town Council for hanging baskets for town centre, which is attached as Appendix J.
- 4.11 A grant application has been received from Royston Town Council for Museum staffing costs, which is attached as Appendix K.
- 4.12 A grant application has been received from Royston 2012 Coordinating Committee for promotion of 2012 Jubilee, Olympics and Priory Anniversary, which is attached as Appendix L.
- 4.13 A grant application has been received from Royston Extended Schools for £1,000, which is attached as Appendix M.
- 4.14 A grant application has been received from Royston First for "Free After Three-Thirty", which is attached as Appendix N.

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 2010/11 to the current financial year 2011/12.

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 The great majority of the voluntary and community projects that are funded by the Council have equality and social inclusion as a key objective of their purpose. Such projects work very closely with and for the more disadvantaged and potentially socially excluded within our communities.

7.2 All activities undertaken by the Council, its committees, Community Development officers or agencies working on its behalf are to be conducted in accordance with the NHDC Corporate Equality Strategy and relevant Equalities legislation, including the Equality Duty which came into force on 5th April 2011 and requires the authority to have 'due regard' to the needs of specific groups in its activities.

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 the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being.

9.2 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £700 to the Depression Alliance for rental support and incidental costs.

9.3 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £810 to Cokenach Cricket Club for the provision of a sight screen.

9.4 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £750 to the Rotary Club of Royston for the support of their Technology Tournament.

9.5 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £70 to Royston Town Council for the support for Art Event room hire in the Easter holidays.

- 9.6 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £3,460 to Royston's Open Secrets for the 2011 event.
- 9.7 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £100 to Royston In Bloom for the Royston Railway Station decoration project in 2012.
- 9.8 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £2,000 to Barkway Parish Council for the Barkway Speedwatch project.
- 9.9 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1,000 to Royston Arts Festival towards costs of the 2011 Festival.
- 9.10 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £4,000 to Royston Town Council for hanging baskets for the town centre.
- 9.11 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1,296 to Royston Town Council for Museum staffing costs.
- 9.12 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £500 to Royston 2012 Coordinating Committee for the promotion of 2012 Diamond Jubilee, Olympics Celebrations and Priory Anniversary.
- 9.13 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1,000 to Royston Community Hub CIC towards staffing costs of the new organisation.
- 9.14 That the Committee considers making a Grant Award of £1, 500 to Royston First towards the costs of the "Free After Three" parking subsidy.

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

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Budget expenditure, balances, and carry forwards from the Development Budgets and allocated Visioning Budgets.
- 11.2 Appendix B – Grant Form - Depression Alliance
- 11.3 Appendix C – Grant Form - Cokenach Cricket Club
- 11.4 Appendix D – Grant Form - Rotary Club of Royston

- 11.5 Appendix E – Grant Form – Royston Town Council – Art Event
- 11.6 Appendix F – Grant Form – Royston’s Open Secrets
- 11.7 Appendix G – Grant Form – Royston in Bloom
- 11.8 Appendix H – Grant Form – Barkway Parish Council, Speedwatch
- 11.9 Appendix I – Grant Form – Royston Arts Festival, List of events as Appendix I-a.
- 11.10 Appendix J – Grant Form - Royston Town Council – Hanging Baskets
- 11.11 Appendix K – Grant Form - Royston Town Council – Museum staffing costs
- 11.12 Appendix L – Grant Form - Royston 2012 Coordinating Committee
- 11.13 Appendix M – Grant Form – Community Hub CIC, supporting documentation as Appendix M-a
- 11.14 Appendix N – Grant Form – Free-After-Three-Thirty Parking subsidy
- 11.15 Appendix O – JMP Highways Work Programme for Royston & District
- 11.16 Appendix P – Summary of points from Royston Citizenship Sessions

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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