

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE

13th June 2012

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

TITLE OF REPORT: CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS
COUNCILLOR MRS TRICIA COWLEY**

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.
- 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

This year's round of Citizenship Classes has now finished, and a summary of the comments made is attached as an Appendix to this report, Appendix P.

3.2 Other work

- 3.2.1 Some time has been spent towards enabling on-line grant application, using an e-form on the NHDC website.

Some savings have been achieved already: formal letters to organisations about grant awards can now be generated from the database, merged to Word documents and sent off as an email attachment, saving a record on the system.

- 3.2.2 CDO assisted at discussions between NHDC, Royston Community Transport and the Royston Volunteer Centre towards re-housing those organisations following the announcement of the closure of Royston Hospital.
- 3.2.3 CDO attended the opening of the Royston Heath Archery Club's new range on April 28th; this had been facilitated by a grant from this Committee.

4. FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE / CONSIDERED

- 4.1.1 A spreadsheet showing the detailed spend to date of the Area Committee budgets is enclosed as Appendix A.
- 4.1.2 A grant application has been received from Royston Arts Festival for 2012 Festival publicity materials & hire charges, and is attached as Appendix B.
- 4.1.3 A grant application has been received from Royston Town Council for support for Museum wardens, and is attached as Appendix C.
- 4.1.4 A grant application has been received from Barkway Village Hall for the village hall cinema project, and is attached as Appendix D.
- 4.1.5 A grant application has been received from Friends of Therfield School to provide seating for children and parents during events, and is attached as Appendix E.
- 4.1.6 A grant application has been received from Royston's Open Secrets for an annual exhibition, and is attached as Appendix F.
- 4.1.7 A grant application has been received from Young Enterprise for Local 'Learning by Doing' classes, and is attached as Appendix G.
- 4.1.8 A grant application has been received from Barkway Community Group for Diamond Jubilee Celebration, and is attached as Appendix H.
- 4.1.9 A grant application has been received from Rotary Club of Royston for purchase and installation of a flagpole, and is attached as Appendix I.
- 4.1.10 A grant application has been received from Mortimer Road Jubilee Street Party for Jubilee Street Party, and is attached as Appendix J.
- 4.1.11 A grant application has been received from Barkway Parish Council for Jubilee commemorative mugs, and is attached as Appendix K.
- 4.1.12 A grant application has been received from Wheatfield Crescent Street Party for Wheatfield Crescent Jubilee Street Party, and is attached as Appendix L.
- 4.1.13 A grant application has been received from Royston Methodist Church for Jubilee Flower Festival, and is attached as Appendix M.

4.2 Memoranda of Understanding

4.2.1 Members should be aware that as yet no funds have been approved for Memoranda of Understanding, discussion having been deferred.

4.2.2 Currently this Committee funds four MoUs:

Organisation	Amount	Start date
Royston Cave	£940	26.11.08
Royston Community Transport	£2,740	26.11.08
Royston Town Twinning	£220	20.04.09
Royston Volunteer Centre	£3,430	20.04.09

4.2.3 Members will note that MoUs run for three years, and that those of the first two organisations are due for renewal.

4.2.4 Members are asked to consider future commitments under the MoU process and to note that any further award of MoU grants will remain subject to a 7.1% annual reduction each year of the 3 year term of the understandings; Members may wish to explore and discuss options to reduce or remove some grants in favour of others, provided the overall 7.1% saving from the Area Committee's MoU budget can be achieved.

4.2.5 All current recipients of the MoU funds have been contacted, and have indicated that they wish their funding to continue, and have provided information on their activities over the last three years in the form of annual reports. The CDO has summarised these and they are attached as Appendices N & O. The CDO has been in discussion with the Clerk to Royston Parish Council, who indicated that she also wished the funding to continue, to support environmental monitoring of the Cave.

4.3 BENCHES

A request has been received for the provision of a Bench in Briary Lane. Members may wish to consider whether they wish to provide a bench at this location, and whether to support its provision from their existing budget. A bench to match those existing elsewhere would cost of the order of £1,000 (£800 for the bench and £200 for installation).

Members may also recall that a bench was removed from the High Street for repair – they may wish to identify a site for its replacement.

4.4 HIGHWAYS WORKS

An update provided by Hertfordshire Highways is attached as Appendix Q.

4.6 Section 106 AGREEMENTS

A list of projects, which the Committee has agreed to support where possible with Section 106 monies, is attached as Appendix R. Members are asked to indicate if they wish to make any additions to this list.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Terms of Reference in relation to Area Committees confirm that they may establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations which includes discretionary grant aid/financial support. However, this does not include grants for district wide activities.

5.2 Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Council has power to do anything which it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. This would apply on the basis that financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations improves the economic, social or environmental well-being of the District or part of it.

5.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

5.4 The Committee has delegated powers to administer funds from the budgets described.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In the past few years there has been no inflationary allowance to the main Area Committee Budget and the 2012/13 baseline budget has stayed the same as the previous year.

- 6.2 The MoU Budget is subject to a 7.1% reduction each year through to financial year 2015/16.

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 Standard for Local Government.

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 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 £1000 to Royston Arts Festival for the 2012 Festival publicity materials & hire charges.
- 9.3 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £960 to Royston Town Council for support for Museum wardens.
- 9.4 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £500 to Barkway Village Hall for its village hall cinema project.
- 9.5 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £400 to Friends of Therfield School for provision of seating for children and parents during events.
- 9.6 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £500 to Royston's Open Secrets for their annual exhibition.
- 9.7 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £0 to Young Enterprise for Local 'Learning by Doing' classes.
- 9.8 That the Committee considers ratifying a grant award of £200 to Barkway Community Group for their Diamond Jubilee Celebration.
- 9.9 That the Committee considers making a grant award of £200 to Rotary Club of Royston for the purchase and installation of a flagpole.
- 9.10 That the Committee considers ratifying a grant award of £200 to Mortimer Road Jubilee Street Party for Jubilee Street Party.

- 9.11 That the Committee considers ratifying a grant award of £200 to Barkway Parish Council for Jubilee commemorative mugs.
- 9.12 That the Committee considers ratifying a grant award of £115 to Wheatfield Crescent Street Party for Wheatfield Crescent Jubilee Street Party.
- 9.13 That the Committee considers ratifying a grant award of £200 to Royston Methodist Church for Jubilee Flower Festival.

10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

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

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Finance spreadsheet.
- 11.2 Appendix B - Grant Form, Royston Arts Festival
- 11.3 Appendix C - Grant Form, Royston Town Council
- 11.4 Appendix D - Grant Form, Barkway Village Hall
- 11.5 Appendix E - Grant Form, Friends of Therfield School
- 11.6 Appendix F - Grant Form, Royston's Open Secrets
- 11.7 Appendix G - Grant Form, Young Enterprise
- 11.8 Appendix H - Grant Form, Barkway Community Group
- 11.9 Appendix I - Grant Form, Rotary Club of Royston
- 11.10 Appendix J - Grant Form, Mortimer Road Jubilee Street Party
- 11.11 Appendix K - Grant Form, Barkway Parish Council
- 11.12 Appendix L - Grant Form, Wheatfield Crescent Street Party
- 11.13 Appendix M - Grant Form, Royston Methodist Church

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