

Public Document Pack

2 March 2018

Our Ref Royston and District
Committee/14.3.18
Your Ref.
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Tony Hunter (Chairman), Councillor Bill Davidson (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Sarah Dingley, Councillor Jean Green, Councillor Fiona Hill, Councillor Ben Lewis and Councillor Gerald Morris.

You are invited to attend a

MEETING OF THE ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

to be held in the

**ROOM 11, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN STREET,
ROYSTON**

On

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2018 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,



David Miley
Democratic Services Manager

Agenda **Part I**

Item		Page
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
2. MINUTES - 29 NOVEMBER 2017	To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on the 29 November 2017.	(Pages 1 - 6)
3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS	Members should notify the Chairman of other business which they wish to be discussed by the Committee at the end of the business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest which requires they leave the room under Paragraph 7.4 of the Code of Conduct, can speak on the item, but must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
5. HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY	To receive a presentation from Sergeant Guy Westwood, Hertfordshire Constabulary.	
6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	To receive petitions and presentations from members of the public.	
7. HIGHWAYS ISSUES	The Chairman to lead a discussion regarding any issues raised, including current and proposed highways schemes.	
8. GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES OFFICER	To receive an update on activities in Royston and surrounding Districts.	(Pages 7 - 16)
9. WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS	To receive any oral reports from Members regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	

Agenda Item 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE ROOM 11, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN STREET,
ROYSTON ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2017 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors Councillor Tony Hunter (Chairman), Councillor Bill Davidson (Vice-Chairman), Sarah Dingley, Jean Green, Fiona Hill, Ben Lewis (from 7.40pm) and Gerald Morris.*

In Attendance:

Ashley Hawkins (Communities Officer) and Ian Gourlay (Committee and Member Services Manager)

Also Present:

*Grace Doneghan (Anglian Water) and Hannah Wilson (Anglian Water).
At the commencement of the meeting, County Councillor Steve Jarvis
and 5 members of the public.*

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

33 MINUTES - 13 SEPTEMBER 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Royston and District Committee held on 13 September 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

34 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

35 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting, especially the representatives from Anglian Water;
- (2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded; and
- (3) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

36 PRESENTATION FROM ANGLIAN WATER

The Chairman welcomed Grace Doneghan and Hannah Wilson from Anglian Water to the meeting.

The Chairman explained that very unpleasant smells from the sewerage system had been experienced by residents in and around the Ivy Farm development in Royston. This had been going on for years and he was aware that Anglian Water had been working to rectify the problem, but he asked for a progress update and highlighted concerns over the proposed expansion of the overall Ivy Farm site with the addition of several hundred new houses. He

commented that there were problems with the existing sewerage system and that there were concerns that this could escalate over the next few years.

Ms Doneghan provided an update on progress. Anglian Water had carried out odour logging in the area. McDonalds had a privately owned pumping station. Sewerage was pumped all the way to the manhole at the edge of Ivy Lane and then gravitated down towards Mackerel Hall.

Ms Doneghan stated that Anglian Water thought that McDonalds had been ill-advised in the design of the wet well in the pumping station. Anglian Water had been working with the McDonalds Maintenance Manager in order to improve the condition of the wet well.

Ms Doneghan advised that Anglian Water were also in the process of setting up a meeting with Redrow Homes to ensure that the pumping station on the Ivy Farm estate was working correctly. NHDC Environmental Health would also be invited to this meeting. Anglian Water would update local residents on the outcome once this meeting had taken place.

A resident who lived in Downlands advised that he had been in contact with Anglian Water and NHDC Environmental health regarding the matter, and that he was expecting them to have reported back to him some 4 months ago. He asked if the Ivy Farm and McDonalds pumping stations could be co-ordinated so that they vented out at different times, because when they vented at the same time the amount of sewage was so great that much of it ended up on Royston Heath. The Anglian Water representatives undertook to take this matter back to their HQ and provide a response.

Following a comment from a resident, Councillor Hill advised that she and the Committee Chairman had attended a meeting in London with Oliver Heald MP and various representatives from Anglian Water, and had raised the issue of sewage on Royston Heath. They were informed that this would be impossible as, due to changes in gradients in that location, the sewage would not be able to travel uphill.

Town Councillor John Davison, who also lived in Downlands, stated that that he had been in e-mail correspondence with Anglian Water for over 2 years. He had been advised by Anglian Water that Redrow Homes had not co-operated with Anglian Water and that the only time they had visited the site it had been unlocked. He was therefore surprised at any inference that the Redrow Homes pumping station was working correctly.

Ms Doneghan understood that there was going to be a site meeting to ensure that it was working correctly.

Town Councillor Davison resident did not believe it was working correctly. He had witnessed the discharge down the Mackerel Hall sewer at a colossal rate. This was the responsibility of Redrow Homes and the effluent was grey, odorous and travelling at high velocity. From his experience as an engineer (now retired), he considered that there were three problems. The first was infrequent pumping, and so the tank was septic. Secondly, the treatment regime was incorrect. Thirdly, it was pumping at too high a flow rate.

Town Councillor Davison had been advised by Anglian Water that McDonalds were co-operating in trying to resolve the matter. However, he suspected that the volume of sewage from McDonalds was relatively small compared to that from the Redrow Homes development.

Town Councillor Davison stated that the Water Industries Act had obliged Anglian Water to adopt private pumping stations that had been in place before July 2011. He asked if Anglian Water had any obligations to adopt pumping stations that had been installed since July 2011.

Ms Doneghan replied that the developer could put forward an application for Anglian Water to adopt their pumping station in accordance with the post-2011 rules. Anglian Water would

inspect the design and installation and would look to adopt it when it was more than 50% complete.

Another resident stated that the Anglian Water representative he had been dealing with had advised him that Anglian Water were intending to adopt the pumping station within the next 18 months.

Ms Doneghan commented that she would need to check if an application had been made to adopt. She assured residents that, if so, there would be vigorous testing of the system by Anglian Water beforehand, in advance of formal adoption.

Town Councillor Davison advised that the Anglian Water representative had been endeavouring to arrange a meeting with Redrow Homes for two years, and so he wished her good luck in her latest attempt to arrange such a meeting. He explained that the odour issue in Downlands was as a result of the vented manhole covers. It was a very old sewerage system, and the vents had been filled with black plastic bags and bitumen. He asked if Anglian Water had plans to replace all of those manholes with sealed manholes.

Ms Doneghan replied that she would need to take that issue back to the Anglian Water Maintenance Team for a response.

A resident who lived at the top of Ivy Lane was of the view that it appeared to be a constant "make do and mend" culture. The odour never disappeared, it merely varied in its intensity. In the summertime it was at its worst. He felt that the system was not fit for purpose, and considered that whatever seemed to be done to alleviate the problems had little or no effect. He and his neighbours wished to see the system fixed properly, particularly in the light of all the additional houses proposed to be built in the vicinity in the future, and before any planning permission was granted for these extra dwellings.

Town Councillor Rod Kennedy commented that he had objected to the original planning permission for the Ivy Farm development as there was no proper sewer along Baldock Road. He had first complained in 2013 and the smell from the sewer had been very odorous for over 2 years. He lived in Heathfield, next to Ivy Lane, which had no sewers as the properties all had septic drainage systems. The existing sewer primarily served the Heath Sports Club. When the pump sewer was built, a pipe was installed which he described as about 4 inches in diameter, running down Ivy Lane and Baldock Road, connecting where the Sports Club system joined the sewer. That sewer was never designed to carry the amount of sewage it was expected to handle now.

Town Councillor Kennedy considered that the primary fault was that the pipe and sewer was not large enough for its purpose. A completely new sewer was needed, but of course that would cost money, which developers were not always keen on funding. He re-iterated the comment that it was imperative that no further planning permission be granted until there was a proper pipe, with a large enough diameter, to carry away all the sewage emanating from the Ivy Farm site. He felt therefore that the problem could not be resolved by fixing a pumping station, but by the installation of a new sewer and he was not sure whose responsibility it would be to carry out such a scheme.

Ms Doneghan circulated an analysis carried out by Anglian Water of development sites that had or were about to come forward in Royston. It showed the site of the dwellings just approved for Ivy Farm, plus the extra 279 dwellings for which a planning application had recently been submitted. In respect of the latter, Anglian Water had suggested that they would wish to see a foul water condition imposed on any grant of planning permission because they considered that any additional flows from that site would lead to flooding.

In respect of the proposed development of 279 new houses, Ms Doneghan advised that Anglian Water Liaison Managers were aware of this development and were going to make contact with the applicant to ensure that when any planning decision Notice was published

there would be early engagement with the developer in order to produce a feasible drainage strategy and solution for the site, which may involve a new sewer system or upgrades to the existing system to enable the additional flows from the site to be managed.

Hannah Wilson added that, in accordance with Planning law, Anglian Water was unable to ask for “betterment” when commenting on planning applications. Developers could not be asked, through Planning, to improve existing issues with systems. Anglian Water could suggest conditions and design and model solutions for each development.

Town Councillor Davison commented that he had been given information that Anglian Water had a plan in mind which would not connect to the Baldock Road or the Mackerel Hall sewer. He asked if that was still the case.

Ms Doneghan was unable to commit to any kind of strategy or solution at the current time.

Town Councillor Davison understood that the Anglian Water engineer present at the meeting in London referred to earlier had unequivocally stated that the sewerage relating to the proposed new development of 279 homes would not connect into the Baldock Road or Mackerel Hall sewer. This was confirmed by the Committee Chairman, who had also been present at that meeting.

Ms Doneghan commented that if Anglian Water were aware of issues with the existing system then they would not wish to connect to it and cause further problems for any residents. She was unable to confirm that Anglian Water would definitely install a new sewer for the 279 homes, but they would ensure that there was a feasible drainage strategy and solution, whether that be upgrading the existing network or on-site storage.

Town Councillor Davison asked why Anglian Water appeared reluctant to involve NHDC Environmental Health in trying to resolve what was clearly a major environmental issue, in order to ensure that Redrow Homes co-operated with Anglian Water, as Environmental Health Officers had separate powers under various other environmental legislation.

Ms Wilson replied that Anglian Water could only ask and advise other bodies, such as Environmental Health, and it was for those bodies to determine whether or not they wished to take action under their own powers.

The Chairman thanked Ms Doneghan and Ms Wilson for their attendance at the meeting. He summarised the themes raised throughout the debate, following which the Committee,

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Anglian Water be requested to provide answers to the questions raised at the meeting and a definitive statement to the Committee in respect of their position regarding the sewerage situation at the Ivy Farm development and the surrounding area;
- (2) That, when received, the above answers and statement be conveyed to all interested parties, including the residents in attendance at the meeting; and
- (3) That the Committee send a letter/e-mail to the local MP with a view to a change in legislation to give water companies the powers to adopt sewerage systems from developers.

REASON FOR DECISION: To take steps towards an expectation that the sewerage problems in the area will be resolved.

37 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The Committee was informed of ongoing and forthcoming highways matters in the Royston area.

Councillor Hill advised that the following Highway Schemes were being put forward to be carried out in 2018/19 for funding from her Hertfordshire County Council Highways Locality Budget: the second part of Valley Rise; Poplar Close; Newsells Road (Barkway); Newmarket Road/Dacre Green; footpaths in Burns Road; drainage in Newmarket Road; bollards near Fish Hill Funeral Directors; viability studies re: traffic calming near Coombes Community Centre in Burns Road; possible Traffic Regulation Orders in John Street and Limekiln Road; possible additional speed indicator devices.

Councillor Hill stated that three schemes which were not completed, but which would be funded from the 2017/18 year were signage near Coombes Community Centre; and signs in Newsells and Nuthampstead.

As Councillor Steve Jarvis was in attendance at the meeting in his role as County Councillor, the Chairman invited him to advise the Committee of any updates on highways matters in his County Division. Councillor Jarvis advised that his 2018/19 Highways Locality Budget would definitely include the resurfacing of Downlands and the possibility of speed indicator devices on Baldock Road or Baldock Street.

The Chairman was not sure if the scheme was on the current Integrated Works Programme (IWP), but he noted that the highway surface Coronation Avenue and Sun Hill was in a poor condition. In respect of Coronation Avenue, Councillor Jarvis commented that this had been deferred as water utility works need to take place first, and that the works to Sun Hill would be a potential inclusion in his 2018/19 Highways Locality Budget, if not included in the IWP.

Councillor Green was disappointed that it had proven unfeasible to place some barriers between the bollards opposite the entrance to John Street. Councillor Hill advised that this had been investigated.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update on highways issues be noted.

38 GREEN SPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - PROGRESS: INFORMATION NOTE

The Committee considered an Information Note prepared by the Parks and Countryside Manager in respect of progress regarding the Green Space Management Strategy.

The Committee was informed that work was ongoing to secure possible sources of alternative funding for the retention of the Farrier Court and Betjeman Road play areas.

RESOLVED: That the Parks and Countryside Manager be advised that the progress statement for the Farrier Court play area should be identical to that for the Betjeman Road play area.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comment on the Green Space Management Strategy Information Note.

39 COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Communities Officer presented the report of the Communities Manager entitled Community Update and drew the attention of Members to the current level of unallocated funds in the Development Budget.

The Communities Officer advised that there had been no grant applications since the last meeting of the Committee. However, there was the annual request for the allocation of funds

Wednesday, 29th November, 2017

of £1,500 from the Committee's budget in support of the "Free after 3pm" parking initiative scheme for Royston in 2018/19.

The Communities Officer reported that the Royston Means Business Christmas Event on Royston High Street, scheduled to take place on Saturday, 2 December 2017, had been cancelled.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the actions taken by the Communities Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston and District be endorsed; and
- (2) That the release of £1,500 be agreed for 2018/19, in support of the "Free after 3pm" parking initiative scheme for Royston, to be combined with funding from Hertfordshire County Councillors' Locality Budgets and Royston First.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep Members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in the Royston and District area.

40 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

A number of Members updated the Committee on Ward and Outside Organisations, as follows:

Royston Schools Academy Trust consultation on changes and mergers

Councillor Hill advised that the deadline for responses to the above consultation was Friday, 1 December 2017. The Trust was looking to move onto two sites (Greneway/Meridian School site).

With the Committee's support, the Chairman, in consultation with Councillor Hill, undertook to submit a generally positive response to the consultation, along the lines of the Royston Town Council response, but with concerns over some highway issues in the vicinity of the site. The important thing was that the Trust maintained an excellent level of education for the children of Royston.

School Visits

Councillor Morris raised the issue of visits by councillors to schools in the Ermine Ward, and was encouraged by the Committee to contact the schools to arrange such visits.

Coombes Community Centre

Councillor Davidson advised that the Coombes Community Centre's AGM was to take place on Monday, 4 December 2017. It was the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Centre, and hence a plaque would be unveiled and refreshments provided. He commented that all Members of the Committee would be welcome should they wish to attend the event.

The meeting closed at 8.31 pm

Chairman

**ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE
14 MARCH 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

8

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

**PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING / PROSPER AND PROTECT / RESPONSIVE
AND EFFICIENT**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy approved by Cabinet on June 14th 2016.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.
- 1.4 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will take place during the next few months.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers an in principle grant award of £2.5k to Royston First, subject to officers receiving the appropriate supporting documentation in line with the Authority's grant criteria and as detailed in 8.1.1
- 2.2 That any unspent funds from the 2017/18 financial year be allocated to Community Initiatives.
- 2.3 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Officer.
- 3.2 This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- 3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Corporate Plan.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However in the course of debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items included within this report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects.
- 5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 Royston Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2017/18.
- 7.2 There was no carry forward from the 2016/17 financial year.
- 7.3 So far the Royston & District Area Committee has awarded / allocated £8,200 of its £10,700 budget for the 2017/18 financial year.

This includes £1,500 that was allocated at the November 2017 meeting for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative scheme for Royston. As the Committee has already catered for the initiative in the current financial year, the £1,500 agreed will be carried over to cover the initiative in 2018/19.

- 7.4 The Committee has £2,500 left to allocate at the March 2018 meeting.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Update on Community Engagement & Grant Request

8.1.1 Royston First

Royston First is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee to assist with a new initiative within the town and surrounding villages to help reduce theft from vans particularly in town centre locations and thefts from sheds / outbuildings in the rural areas. This project is aimed at supporting previous victims of such crimes, and making them and others less likely to become victims of such crimes in the future.

There are two strands to the project: a PIR alarm unit, and a DNA property marking scheme.

The PIR alarm units are a very simple battery powered unit that can be mounted in the rear of the van and has a key fob to arm/disarm. If the van door is opened without the key fob an 110db alarm will sound with the intention of scaring off the would-be thief.

The DNA property marking scheme (SelectaDNA) is in a solution form, similar to nail varnish. It gets painted onto specific areas of the tools, and dries clear. The solution then glows purple under UV light, and is hard to remove. The solution itself contains the man-made DNA; each pot has a unique sequence. Also each pot has a number of microdots with a unique serial number on them which can be read under a microscope. The kit from SelectaDNA contains warning stickers which are hard to remove, and one should be put on each bit of kit marked. There are also window stickers to put in the windows of the vans to warn would-be thieves all property is marked. Each kit has a registration card to fill in and send back to Selecta, who keep a register. Any stolen kit that is recovered and has a patch that glows purple, or a sticker saying Selecta can be sent to Selecta for identification in order to return to the rightful owner.

SelectaDNA has a deterrent effect – most criminals do not want the risk of getting caught with such easily identifiable property, and will tend to avoid obviously marked kit. There is also the advantage that when property is found that is thought to be stolen it can be easily checked, and returned to the rightful owners.

Royston First is seeking £2.5k of a total cost of £5k for this initiative which will be administered by Royston Police Personnel. This funding will allow for the purchase of 200 units of both the PIR alarm units and the DNA property marking kits.

8.1.2 Royston May Fayre

Royston Town Council will again be holding its annual May Fayre on Monday 7th May 2018 at Priory Memorial Gardens.

The Royston Communities Officer (CO) will again provide marshal support on the day and will assist the organisers with arrangements for parking and waste management.

8.1.3 Pathway at end of Green Drift

The Royston CO continues to liaise with Moody Homes, Redrow Homes and Herts Right of Way Team on the pathway at the end of Green Drift.

Redrow Homes are currently liaising with their Solicitors to progress the legal transfer of the land to Meadfleet Management Company.

The Herts Right of Way Team is now co-ordinating the project and will be finalising details of the land adoption with Moody Homes and Redrow Homes.

In terms of works, the initial plan is now to remove the gates and to erect the Right of Way Signage. This would bring it up to the required specification for it to be adopted as a Herts Right of Way Path.

The original plan was to enhance the pathway but this will now not be undertaken as part of the initial works. It is envisaged that once the pathway is adopted by the Herts Right of Way Team, the possibility of lighting the pathway will be investigated. With this in mind it is deemed inappropriate to carry out any enhancements to the pathway.

8.1.4 Royston BMX

The Royston CO is assisting Royston BMX in finding funding for a new practice strip at the venue. The proposed 80m x 2.3m tarmac strip which would cost in the region of £13k, would be used for training new riders and for sprint coaching sessions. The project is currently at the planning application stage.

8.1.5 Coombes Community Association and Royston Town Centre Working Group

The Royston CO continues to sit on the above groups on a quarterly basis and provide advice and support accordingly.

8.1.6 Festival of the Cave

The Royston CO will work with the Town Council, District Council and local groups to establish a new annual event for the town focusing on the town's wealth of history. The idea is to explore the possibility of a large scale event, along the lines of a historical festival, including re-enactments.

A meeting is planned for April 2018 to gauge the level of support for such an event which would compliment the Towns Calendar which already includes the Royston May Fayre and both the Kite and Arts Festivals. If there is support for the activity, it is likely that the first Festival of the Cave event will be held in 2019.

8.1.7 S106 Matters

The Royston CO and CM continue to work with local groups to secure funding for projects. This includes the Therfield Pavilion Project, a number of initiatives at Royston Heath with the Conservators, a disabled access lift for Coombes Community Centre, a new venue for Royston Scouts and funding for kitchen refurbishment works at Barkway Village Hall.

8.1.8 Therfield School

Support and funding advice has been given to the Head of the school at Therfield re an Awards for All, small Big Lottery Application re further enhancements to the outside communal play and educational areas. It is hoped that this second phase of the project will secure funding to create an external area which could be used by a number of local groups & organisations, including the Village's Pre-School Group which has a limited external area at the village hall.

8.2 **Highways Matters**

This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

Any new proposals or revised schemes will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

9. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Section 9.8.2 (g) of Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference provides that they may: "establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities". The Area Committees also have delegated power under section 9.8.1 (a) & (b) to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.

9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-

- An individual may generally do
- Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.

9.3 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.

10. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 All Area Committees saw a 55% decrease in funding in the 2016/17 financial year. There are 4 meetings in the 2017/18 Committee cycle and members must ensure that sufficient funding is available for all meetings. The Royston Committee had an original budget of £10,700 for the 2017/18 financial year. £8,200 has been allocated / expended thus far, leaving £2,500 for the Committee to allocate.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Performance, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 All projects that are assigned area committee funding are assessed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on any part of the local community. The only deviation to this is where a minority or marginalised group may specifically receive funding or allocation of resources to address a particular area of need or 'gap' in provision.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - 2017/18 financial year budget sheet

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 16.1 Author: Ashley Hawkins Community Officer
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- 16.2 Contributors: Anne Miller, Assistant Accountant
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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 17.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.

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ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2017/18

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
DEVELOPMENT BUDGET 2017/18	£10,700	£8,200	£6,700	£1,500	£2,500					
Total	£10,700	£8,200	£6,700	£1,500	£2,500					

DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS										
	Funding			Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Amount	Comments
Base Budget 2017/18	£10,700			Rotary Club of Royston	£1,000	14/07/17	£1,000	£0		
				Creative Royston (Royston Arts Festival)	£1,500	14/07/17	£1,500	£0		
				Corvus Cornix Basketball Club	£200	14/07/17	£200	£0		
				Royston & District Community Transport	£3,000	14/07/17	£3,000	£0		
				Royston Swimming Club	£1,000	29/09/17	£1,000	£0		
				Free After Three Parking	£1,500	29/11/17		£1,500		To be released and spent in 2018/19
Total	£10,700				£8,200		£6,700	£1,500	£2,500	

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