

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



25 February 2022

Our Ref Royston and District Committee/8 March
2022
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Tony Hunter (Chair), Councillor Sarah Dingley (Vice-Chair), Councillor Ruth Brown, Councillor Adam Compton, Councillor Jean Green, Councillor Gerald Morris and Councillor Carol Stanier

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

to be held in the

**HARDWICKE HALL, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN
ROAD, ROYSTON**

On

TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda **Part I**

Item		Page
1.	WELCOME	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
3.	MINUTES - 20 OCTOBER 2021 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 20 October 2021.	(Pages 5 - 10)
4.	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II 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 Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
5.	CHAIR'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 Chair 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, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
6.	ROYSTON FIRST UPDATE To receive a verbal update from the Royston First Manager.	
7.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
8.	GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets. To bring to the Members' attention recent requests received for Committee grant funding, made by community groups and local organisation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barley Town House	(Pages 11 - 22)

To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officer has been involved in.

To bring to the Committee's attention some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

9. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The Chair to lead a discussion regarding any issues raised, including current and proposed highways schemes.

10. WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

To receive any verbal reports from Members regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE HARDWICKE HALL, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN
ROAD, ROYSTON

ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 2021 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Councillor Tony Hunter (Chair), Councillor Sarah Dingley (Vice-Chair), Adam Compton, Jean Green and Gerald Morris*

In Attendance: *Ashley Hawkins (Community Engagement Officer), James Lovegrove (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer) and Simon Ellis (Development and Conservation Manager)*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting County Councillor Fiona Hill. There were no public or registered speakers in attendance.*

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 47 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carol Stanier and Ruth Brown.

16 MINUTES - 9 JUNE 2021

Audio Recording – 59 seconds

Councillor Tony Hunter, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Gerald Morris seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 June 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

17 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 1 minute 22 seconds

There was no other business notified.

18 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 1 minute 27 seconds

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chair 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.

- (4) The Chair advised that the Boundary Review consultation was ongoing from 4 October 2021 to 8 November 2021. The Chair encouraged all, Members and public, to get involved and contribute to the review.

19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 5 minute 7 seconds

There was no public participation.

20 GRANT APPLICATION - HOME-START ROYSTON, BUNTINGFORD AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Audio recording – 24 minutes 9 seconds

The Community Engagement Officer presented a written submission from Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire regarding their grant application. He advised:

- Previous grant of £1050 had been made in 2019 for a similar project and the group had also received funding of £1885 from the Covid Support Fund in 2020.
- The group were expecting to see an increase in need and families being referred to them for support.
- The request was for £1221 to cover the cost of counselling support for 9 months for a vulnerable family in Royston. The group would also be contributing £300 of their own funds.
- Confirmed that the remaining balance would be £3351 following the approval of this grant request.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Gerald Morris

In response to questions Councillor Tony Hunter advised:

- Home-Start was a national charity.
- They worked on both a request and referral system which allowed referrals from various places, e.g. schools, GPs, County Council and for individuals themselves to request access to services.
- Revenues at Home-Start were reasonably good, but they were expecting more demand this year and fear funds could be stretched due to this.
- They usually do a lot of fundraising themselves, but have seen opportunities diminish due to Covid restrictions.

Councillor Tony Hunter, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Sarah Dingley seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1,221 be awarded to Home Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire to assist with costs for providing counselling support to one vulnerable family from Royston for a period of 9 months as outlined in 8.1.1 of the Grants and Community Update.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

21 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio recording – 30 minutes 35 seconds

The Community Engagement Officer presented the report entitled 'Grants and Community Update' and advised:

- Royston Choral Society had a grant application in the pipeline but was not ready to be presented at this meeting.
- A new bus shelter had been installed on Icknield walk and a further shelter planned for Melbourn Street, expected between mid-November 2021 and mid-January 2022.
- New bike racks had been installed at Therfield Heath.
- Refurbishment works at Trinity Life Church were expected to begin in mid-October 2021 and completed by January 2022. The Community Engagement Officer would release grant funds on completion of stages of the works.
- Officers at NHDC were working with the Walkandtalk Initiative to create a 5km and 10km signed route.
- Therfield, Royston and Kelshall Sports Association (TRAKSA) was required to reapply for grant funding, following issues with match funding and Land Lease. Funds would be released following successful match funding being found.
- An application from St John The Baptist Church had been delayed until later in the year due to gaps in the application paperwork.
- New signage to discourage littering had been purchased and were in place at identified sites in Royston.
- Several projects had been completed and more in progress using the section 106 money available for the area.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Gerald Morris
- Councillor Sarah Dingley
- Councillor Adam Compton

In response to questions, the Community Engagement Officer advised:

- Lease issues at the Therfield Cricket Ground had been resolved and a new 30 year lease had been granted.
- The Walkandtalk Initiative in Royston was not part of a wider organisation, but the possibility of linking with other groups could be looked into by Community Engagement Team.
- TRAKSA had secured match funding for the grant application, but the Community Engagement Officer would look at remaining Section 106 funds and see if that could be used for this project.

Councillor Tony Hunter, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Adam Compton seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Officer.

- (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 January 2020.

22 S106 OBLIGATIONS ANNUAL UPDATE

Audio recording – 5 minutes 15 seconds

The Development and Conservation Manager presented the report entitled 'Section 106 Obligations for Royston and District Area' and advised:

- The first Infrastructure Funding Statement was published in December 2020, with another to be published in December 2021.
- At the Cabinet meeting in March 2021 it was agreed not to pursue Community Infrastructure Levy's (CILs) as these were seen as too complex, not suitable for the rural nature of North Herts and uncertainty around the process.
- A Master Plan would be developed to help to shape developers ideas rather than reacting to plans.
- In Royston a large number of plans are already in action.
- Remaining Section 106 funds are generally for Community Open Spaces and Health. The surrounding villages also have small sums remaining.
- Future reports from the Development and Conservation Manager would be presented as an overview of the Master Plan, rather than focus on decreasing funds.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Tony Hunter
- Councillor Gerald Morris
- Councillor Sarah Dingley
- Councillor Adam Compton
- County Councillor Fiona Hill

In response to questions the Development and Conservation Manager advised:

- The 'Live to be Allocated' funds were available for use, but must be spent on the area and topic the funds were received for – not always a demand for these.
- Money for Health can only go to the NHS and often there are difficulties in ensuring this money is used, as the time and space is not available across the NHS to support this.
- Section 106 funds cannot be spent on salaries or ongoing costs.
- Have previously looked at using the money on a digitalisation programme for patient records.
- Interest raised from these funds is used as revenue by the Council and is spent across the district.
- The monitoring of funds close to expiry is managed by Officers at NHDC and ensure that money available is spent and does not have to be returned.
- Confirmed that the agreement for Health funding at the Newmarket Road site has been sufficiently negotiated that should the Royston Health Centre close or services be merged, the funds available could be spent at another location for other healthcare needs.
- The Council can request a variation of funds.

Councillor Tony Hunter, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Sarah Dingley seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Members note the content of this report.
- (2) That Members agree that a report shall continue to be presented on an annual basis to the Area Committee, which sets out full records of all Section 106 activity for the preceding financial year and which reflects changes in legislation and practice.
- (3) That, other than where a contribution has been negotiated for a specific purpose or project, Ward Members of the area where the Section 106 Obligation or Unilateral Undertaking funding is generated and the Area Committee be consulted prior to funding being allocated away from that area. Members must note that the discretionary funds are rapidly diminishing and will not be replaced under current legislation and practice, for reasons that are set out in this report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that there is a robust system for negotiating and managing Section 106 Obligations and Unilateral Undertakings, that records activity for each financial year and is placed in the public domain.
- (2) To ensure that the process is kept under constant review and Member scrutiny and that the risk associated with this activity is managed in an appropriate manner.

23 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Audio recording – 38 minutes 31 seconds

The Chair led a discussion regarding Highways Issues.

Herts County Councillor Fiona Hill gave the Committee a verbal update on some of the major highways works and projects which were underway, including:

- HertsLynx bus service, launched by HCC on 19 September 2021, between Town Hubs and Villages, had proved successful so far and the buses were being recognised by residents.
- Liaison with the police, PCC and Herts County Council Officers and other stakeholders regarding speeding and parking issues was ongoing and the new safety camera van had been out in the area.
- Improvements to the Littlington junction on the A505 had been completed. The impact of the improvements will not be known for a while.
- Most safety schemes (yellow lines), funded through the Herts Locality Budget, in Royston had been completed. Work in Layston Garden was still ongoing.
- Consultation regarding the Royston Parking Review was ongoing.
- A meeting had been held regarding ongoing utility issues on the Ridings Estate and the gas company took on board the issues raised.
- A10/London Road drainage scheme had been completed and investigation works were planned for Queens Road and other locations.
- There were several local improvements planned including; resurfacing at sites across the area, signal improvements, a new street light and pram crossings at Mill Road/Lumen Road area.
- Discussions had been held around moving the speed indicator signs on the A10 to Reed.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Adam Compton
- Councillor Jean Green

In response to questions, Councillor Fiona Hill advised:

- Congestion in Royston had been caused by issues with traffic signals caused by utility companies and there were two locations which had been affected.
- Utility companies have a long period in which they can repair any damage caused and Central Government would have to change the current legislation to deal with the problem.
- Work had been carried out at Reed End to attempt to stop flooding, but further work is required with consent of the landowner. The current situation will be investigated further.

24 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording – 47 minutes

Councillor Tony Hunter advised that he had recently attended the Home-Start AGM and Citizens Advice Bureau meeting and informed the Committee that both organisations were expecting to see a drastic uptake in requests and referrals to their services over the coming winter months.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm

Chair

**ROYSTON COMMITTEE
8 MARCH 2022**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF: THE POLICY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES: BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Committee Grant budgets
- 1.2 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officer has been involved in.
- 1.3 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 be recommended to consider allocating funding from their discretionary community budget towards the project below.

£500 to Barley Town House to assist with costs for essential repair and renovation works to the south facing windows, frames, doors, and timber at the building as outlined in 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee be recommended to allocate **£1,500** from the 2021/22 base budget for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative as outlined in 8.3.1.
- 2.3 That the Committee be recommended to allocate **£500** from the 2021/22 base budget for the annual maintenance of the planters on Royston High Street as outlined in 8.3.2.
- 2.4 That the Committee agrees that any unspent funds from the 2021/22 financial year be allocated to Community & Environmental Initiatives for the 2022/23 period.

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| <p>2.5 That the Committee be recommended to endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston.</p> |
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3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement 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 January 2020.
- 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 Council Plan.
- 3.4 The Committee is asked on an annual basis to provide financial support from its base budget for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative.
- 3.5 The Committee is requested to provide financial support from its base budget for the maintenance of the planters on Royston High Street.

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 regarding funding proposals for Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

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

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 With reference to the Council’s Constitution, Section 9.3 Area Committees will include budgets for the purpose of providing grants and discretionary budgets that may be used within the area of the Committee for economic, social and environmental well-being. Under the current grant criteria there is no upper limit outlined for grant funding to be allocated which can be decided at the Committee’s discretion.
- 7.2 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 2021/22. The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial year, including balances and past expenditure.
- 7.3 Funding available for the Committee to allocate during the remainder of 2021/22 is summarised below:

	2020/21 Carry Forward	2020/21 Base Budget	Total Budget Remaining
Royston	£0	£3,630	* £3,630

*Whilst the Committee has £3,630 left to allocate, £1,500 is allocated annually to the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative. This amount is due to be allocated at the March 2022 meeting and is outlined in 2.2 of the Recommendations Section. This funding is to be carried over to the 2022/23 financial year for payment. The Committee has also been asked to allocate £500 from its Base Budget for the annual maintenance of the High Street planters as outlined in 2.3 of the Recommendations Section. The funding therefore available to allocate at the remaining meeting of the year is £1,630.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

Applicant Project	Barley Town House Funding support to assist with the costs for essential repair and renovation works to the south facing windows, frames, doors, and timber at the building
Sum requested	£500
Total project cost	£4,931
Match funding	£3,342 from own funds, £595 from S106 funding (Pending) and £500 from HCC Locality Budget (Pending).
Previous support	Yes, £1,183 in 2015 to assist with costs for the purchase of new curtains for the building
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objective:	Build thriving and resilient communities

Barley Town House is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Committee to assist with costs for essential repair and renovation works to the south facing windows, frames, doors, and timber at the building. These works are essential to ensure the building remains fit for purpose.

Barley Town House is a registered charity. The Barley Town House Group was set up in 1939. Barley Town House is a listed building which was built around 500 years ago. The building is a popular venue in the community and is used by numerous community and business groups as well as for parties, weddings, and christenings. The group is made up of 6 Volunteer Committee members, 2 Part time paid staff and 7 volunteers. This building provides an invaluable facility for a great many residents of North Herts and without these works will deteriorate. It already is the heart of the local community. The group is putting in substantial match funding from their own funds and have also secured funding via S106 monies and HCC locality funding. The group last received funding in 2015 for replacement curtains. The application is criteria compliant.

8.2 Future Grants

The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) has been working with several groups / organisations who are seeking funding support from the Royston & District Committee. The applications below were not able to be tabled at the March meeting so have been deferred until a meeting in the 2022/23 financial year. Details of the application are included in the table below:

Group	Project	Funding Requested
Royston Choral Society	Funding support to assist with publicity, equipment and venue hire costs for concert to be held during early 2022.	Not known at this stage.
Royston Town Youth Football Club	Funding support to assist with costs for the purchase of 4 sets of mini goals for the club.	The goals are £2.5k per set. The Royston Community Engagement Officer has signposted the club to other funding streams including Sport England and the Football Foundation as funding required is greater than the Committee's annual budget.

8.3 Community Engagement Updates

8.3.1 Free After 3pm Parking Initiative in Royston

The Committee provides financial support on an annual basis for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative in Royston. As well as funding from the Committee (£1,500), there

are contributions from Royston First (£6,300) and the Herts County Councillors Locality Budgets of Councillor Fiona Hill and Councillor Steve Jarvis (£1,500 each).

This initiative encourages people to visit the town centre and helps to drive footfall for the local businesses.

8.3.2 Maintenance of Planters on Royston High Street

During the Pandemic, Planters were placed along Royston High Street to encourage social distancing. These were maintained during 2020/21 but for the 2022/23 financial year funding is needed to maintain the Planters. The contribution from the Committee is £500. This arrangement is for a trial period of a year and will be reviewed ahead of the 2023/24 financial year. As well as funding from the Committee, funding is also requested from Royston Town Council and Royston First. The maintenance of the planters will be carried out by John O'Connor's.

8.3.3 Royston Christmas Event

The Royston CEO worked with Royston First, Royston Town Council and Royston Events Partnership on the Royston Christmas Event which was held in Royston on Saturday 11th December 2021. This event proved really popular and helped drive footfall for the businesses of the town.

8.3.4 Bus Shelter for Melbourn Street

The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) continues to work with Royston Town Council and contractors Clear Channel on arrangements for the new bus shelter on Melbourn Street.

In preparation of the installation, which was due in December 2021, the Royston CEO arranged with the Grounds Maintenance Team for the tree in the vicinity of the area for the planned shelter installation to be trimmed back. This was carried out in September. Unfortunately, due to Covid and production delays the shelter works were delayed until 2022.

The works were scheduled to be carried out during early February 2022 but have been delayed until mid-March due to works already scheduled with Highways on Melbourn Street by Utility Companies.

Once installed the shelter will be maintained by Hertfordshire County Council.

8.3.5 Trinity Life Church Community Facility Project

Trinity Life Church was successful in its application for funding from the Community Facilities Capital Projects funding Stream, securing £50k to assist with the refurbishment and alterations of The Old School House Building. The project will include replacing the kitchen and toilets, improving disabled access and improving the rear office space.

Building works started in October and it is hoped the refurbishment project will be completed by March 2022.

The Royston CEO is overseeing the project and following site visits, has released two payments for the refurbishment project from the Community Facilities Capital Projects Fund. Prior to releasing the final payment, the Royston CEO will have a site visit to check on the works and sign off on the project.

8.3.6 Royston Rockets BMX Track - Resurfacing Project

The Royston CEO has been assisting Royston Rockets in identifying funding streams for the resurfacing of the BMX track on Burns Road. Royston Rockets had originally submitted a funding application to the Royston Committee, but this was not necessary as the Royston CEO was able to find £12k support from the S106 Community Facilities pot. The funding from S106 has now been allocated and will be drawn down when the resurfacing works are complete. The overall project cost for the resurfacing project is £16k. The club is providing £3k to the project and the remaining £1k has been secured via funds from Johnson Matthey.

8.3.7 Therfield Recreational Ground

The Royston CEO has been working with Therfield Parish Council on their plans for enhancing the park area in the village. The Parish Council has consulted with the young people of the village and the wish is for ground level trampolines for the park.

The Royston CEO in partnership with the Planning Team has been able to secure £5318.25 from S106 monies for the project. This funding has now been allocated and will be released to Therfield Parish Council on completion of the works.

8.3.8 Barkway Village Market Event

The Royston CEO is working with the organisers of the Barkway Village Market event which will be held on Saturday 7th May. The Royston CEO is assisting with the paperwork as required by the North Herts Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and is also liaising with funfair providers to arrange entertainment for the event.

8.3.9 Funding support for venues via the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants

The Royston CEO has signposted the numerous community buildings of the town including the Coombes Community Centre, Royston Day Centre and Royston Royal British Legion to funding that is available from NHC Business grants. Depending on the rateable value of the premises, each building will receive a grant of between £2.5k and £6k. This funding will be crucial for community venues which are still struggling financially due to the ongoing Pandemic.

8.3.10 Barkway Primary School

The Royston CEO is working with the Headteacher of Barkway School on a project to improve the heating system and extend the nursery and reception space at the venue.

This project is in the early stages, but the CEO is liaising with Herts County Council to establish if any S106 Education are available for the project.

8.3.11 Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Royston CEO is the link officer within the Community Engagement Team for people /groups looking to organise street parties as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The Royston CEO will be signposting groups to the Herts County Council link for road closures and will be providing support to groups with the required paperwork as required by North Herts Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The Royston CEO is currently working with residents from 8 locations across the district on planned street parties.

8.3.12 Accessibility and kitchen refurbishment project at Royston Town Hall

Over the last couple of months works have been carried out to improve accessibility and the kitchen layout at Royston Town Hall. Funding for this project came from S106 monies that were specifically allocated for works at Royston Town Hall. Works were completed during January 2022 and signed off by the Royston CEO.

8.3.13 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

- The Royston CEO has worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available. Under s106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions/obligations can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. This funding is commonly known as 'Section 106'.

Projects Completed:

- Fencing project at side of Coombes Community Centre to address anti-social behaviour
- Fencing project at Royston BMX to address anti-social behaviour
- Bike Shelter at Market Square Car park
- Bus Shelter at Icknield Walk
- Bike racks at Heath Sports and Social Club
- Kitchen and accessibility improvements in the main hall of Royston Town Hall.

Projects in process:

- Enhancement of sporting facilities at Royston Heath with the Conservators.
- The possibility of seeking a new venue for Royston Scouts currently based at Roysia School.
- Enhanced provision of Bus Shelters at potential sites within the town
- Provision of cycle racks around Royston Town Centre.
- Youth / Spectator Shelter to address anti-social behaviour around Coombes Area

- Resurfacing and lighting project on Public Right of Way Land linking Ivy Farm with Green Drift. (this project was on the work programme for 2020/21 but has been delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic)
- A505 Cycle Path project
- All weather Hockey pitch for Royston
- Barkway PC re the installation & disabled access to the Recreation Ground & Pavilion

If members have any projects in mind which may potentially benefit from utilising capital funds derived via the Planning process, please contact the Community Engagement Officer to investigate further possibilities.

The Community Engagement Team is also collating a database of future requirements in terms of community need across the District in preparation & response to potential developments arising from the Local Plan.

Such perceived need will be communicated to planning officers to assist when negotiating any new planning obligation with prospective developers. Similarly, if Members have any suggestions of suitable projects or possible future requirements within their wards please inform the Community Engagement Officer.

8.4 Highways Matters

- 8.4.1 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.
- 8.4.2 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 Sections 9.8.1 (a) and 9.8.1 (b) of the Council's Constitution in respect of the Area Committees' Terms of Reference, notes the following:- To allocate discretionary budgets within the terms determined by the Council and to allocate devolved budgets and activities within the terms determined by the Council. This is outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in January 2020. Section 9.8.2 (h) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference notes 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.
- 9.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.

9.3 Section 137 of the 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 As outlined in Appendix 1 Committee budget 2021/22.

10.2 The agreed base budget for this financial year is £6,000. The Committee has £3,630 left to allocate at the last meeting of the 2021/22 financial year. If the Committee agrees to the funding as requested by Barley Town House, the funding for the Free After 3pm Parking Initiative and the maintenance of the High Street planters, the amount of carry forward to the 2022/23 financial year will be £1,130.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, 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. Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

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

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix 1 - 2020/21 financial year budget sheet.

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.

18.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet January 2020.

ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2021/22

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2020/21	£2,645	£2,645	£2,645	£0	£0					
BASE BUDGET 2021/22	£6,000	£2,370	£2,370	£0	£3,630					
Total	£8,645	£5,015	£5,015	£0	£3,630					

2020/21	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Amount	Comments
CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2020/21	£2,645		Free After 3 Parking	£1,500	09/06/2021	£1,500	£0		
			Royston Town Youth Football Club	£794	09/06/2021	£794	£0		
			Royston Community Centre - stackable chairs	£351	09/06/2021	£351	£0		Total grant £1500. £1,149 from 2021/22 budget
Total	£2,645			£2,645		£2,645	£0	£0	

2021/22	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Amount	Comments
BASE BUDGET 2021/22	£6,000		Royston Community Centre - stackable chairs	£1,149	09/06/2021	£1,149	£0		Total grant £1500. £351 from 2020/21 c/fwd budget
			Homestart Royston & S.Camb	£1,221	20/10/2021	£1,221	£0		
Total	£6,000			£2,370		£2,370	£0	£3,630	

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