

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



18 November 2022

Our Ref Royston and District Committee/30
November 2022
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Tony Hunter (Chair), Councillor Gerald Morris (Vice-Chair), Councillor Ruth Brown, Councillor Adam Compton, Councillor Jean Green, Councillor Chris Hinchliff 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

WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. MINUTES - 12 OCTOBER 2022 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 12 October 2022.	(Pages 5 - 10)
3. 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.	
4. 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.	
5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
6. GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Engagement officer has been involved in.	(Pages 11 - 24)
7. HIGHWAYS ISSUES The Chair to lead a discussion regarding any issues raised, including current and proposed highways schemes.	
8. 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 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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

ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Councillor Tony Hunter (Chair), Councillor Gerald Morris (Vice-Chair), Ruth Brown, Adam Compton, Jean Green and Chris Hinchliff*

In Attendance:

Ashley Hawkins (Community Engagement Officer) and Louis Mutter (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer)

Also Present:

At the commencement of the meeting County Councillors Fiona Hill and Steve Jarvis and approximately 4 members of the public, including registered speakers.

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 3 minutes 3 seconds

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Carol Stanier.

48 MINUTES - 29 JUNE 2022

Audio Recording – 3 minutes 16 seconds

Councillor Tony Hunter, as Chairman, proposed and Councillor Ruth Brown seconded and, following a vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 29 June 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

49 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

50 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 3 minutes 45 seconds

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation and thanked those that attended the Town Talk
- (2) 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.

51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 4 minutes 10 seconds

N.B Councillor Ruth Brown advised that, as she was a member of the Church affiliated with Make Lunch, she would excuse herself from taking part in this item.

The Chair invited Cate Hall from Make Lunch to give a verbal presentation on their grant application.

Ms. Hall thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- Make Lunch will have been running for 8 years in February;
- Make Lunch provides meals and activities for selected families during the school holidays;
- The organisation aims to provide a meal twice per week to children who may otherwise not have a hot meal during the holidays;
- The leisure centre has kindly donated free leisure centre passes;
- This grant application is for £500 to contribute to a total project cost of £650 to purchase day cinema tickets for 45 adults and 96 children at Royston Cinema during October Half Term.
- Ms. Hall thanked County Councillors Fiona Hill and Steve Jarvis for contributing the remaining funds from their Locality Budgets.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Gerald Morris
- Councillor Adam Compton
- Councillor Tony Hunter

In response to questions, Ms. Hall advised:

- The annual budget of Make Lunch is somewhere between £8,000 and £10,000;
- That budget is made up of fundraising events, donations and support from other organisations;
- Make Lunch covers the whole of Royston and about a 3 mile radius outside of Royston including the local villages.
- Those wishing to receive support from Make Lunch are asked to register every year, so numbers change regularly but they try to keep as accurate record as possible.

52 GRANT APPLICATION - MAKE LUNCH

Audio Recording – 9 minutes 15 seconds

Councillor Jean Green proposed and Councillor Gerald Morris seconded and, following a vote it was:

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £500 be awarded to Make Lunch to assist with the costs of purchasing day cinema tickets for 45 adults and 95 children at Royston Cinema during October Half Term as outlined in the report.

53 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording – 10 minutes 20 seconds

The Community Engagement Officer presented the report entitled Grants & Community Update and highlighted the following key points:

- Having just awarded £500 to Make Lunch Royston the remaining budget of the Area Committee for the civic year stands at £6,632;
- Two projects are in the pipeline and may come to a future meeting for a grant application. Those organisations being the Royston Choral Society and Royston Community First Responders;
- 8.3.1 and 8.3.4 detail two S106 funding updates for 4 sets of new goals for the Youth Football Club and resurfacing the BMX track from Royston Rockets;
- Work is ongoing with the Royston Museum, the Town Council and the Community Centre to find funding for upcoming projects;
- 8.3.19 provides an update on the pathway between Green Drift and Ivy Lane, which has had work on the horizon for a few years now.

In response to a question from Councillor Gerald Morris the Community Engagement Officer advised that, should the Committee agree to use £1500 of their budget towards the 'Free after 3pm' parking initiative, the Committee will have a budget remaining of £5130 to allocate at the last two meetings.

Councillor Tony Hunter as Chairman proposed and Councillor Ruth Brown seconded and, following a vote it was:

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

54 **CONSULTATION ON NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**

Audio Recording – 15 minutes 10 seconds

The Senior Transport Policy Officer presented the report entitled Consultation on North Herts District Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan and highlighted the following key points:

- These plans set out improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure in Royston, Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock & Knebworth among others;
- The consultation is running until the 7th November and is entirely online;
- Now is the time for debate; to show opposition or support to ideas, before the consultation period ends.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Gerald Morris
- Councillor Adam Compton
- Councillor Ruth Brown

In response to questions the Senior Transport Policy Officer advised:

- The budget will be what the Council can secure out of a national budget; money is already being handed out to certain projects;
- Priority has been identified by a sense of a need for better infrastructure in a certain area. Page 108 details the top twenty highest scoring prioritised routes;
- One of the objectives of the consultation is to identify objectives, priorities and hierarches of need.

Councillor Tony Hunter as Chairman proposed and Councillor Jean Green seconded and, following a vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

(1) Notes the report;

(2) Be encouraged to individually and through the Area Committee, respond to the North Hertfordshire District LCWIP consultation draft attached as Appendix 1, and encourage residents and local organisations to do so too.

The Senior Transport Policy Officer informed the Committee that there would be a community drop-in event the Monday following from 3.15pm until 7pm in the Committee room.

55 INFLATIONARY INCREASE IN CAR PARKING CHARGES

Audio Recording – 28 minutes 55 seconds

The Chairman prefaced this item by informing the Committee that this was put on the agenda because the Committee did not have an opportunity to discuss the increase in parking charges before it was ratified at Cabinet and Council.

Councillor Ruth Brown commented that she was disappointed that the item was labelled 'Inflationary' as the parking charge increases are not in line with the current rate of inflation.

Councillor Tony Hunter responded that this item was named by officers and not by him.

The Chair invited Members to partake in a discussion.

The following Members took part in the discussion:

- Councillor Tony Hunter
- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Jean Green
- Hertfordshire County Councillor Fiona Hill
- Hertfordshire County Councillor Steve Jarvis
- Councillor Adam Compton
- Councillor Gerald Morris

Points raised in the discussion included:

- The % increase across the board is 1.9%. The Medium Term Financial Strategy says the Council should aim for a 2% increase;
- The only charge increasing is the 1 hour charge but does not include Princes Mews;
- Wanted to increase the likelihood that parkers stay longer as there is a direct link between longer car park stays and spending in the town;
- The 'Free after 3pm' parking policy has been in place for 10-15 years, no one knows how much it costs and whether it makes a difference. The Area Committee commits £1500 as does County Councillors;
- Some of the car parks affected by the price increases are used by people wishing to visit the GP surgeries and are in effect being penalised for doing so;
- Anecdotal evidence shows that car parks are empty up until 3pm and then suddenly they are full;
- The Town Council do not contribute towards the Free after 3pm policy even though they receive revenue from 2 car parks;
- Planters were put along the high street during COVID, taking away the 20 minute parking; received lots of complaints about this;

- Hertfordshire County Council officers and the BID have spoken to business owners and the majority are in favour of the planters and disabled spaces;
- Might be a good idea to write to the Town Council to ask them to put up some funding for Free after 3pm and explain the value and how its broken down at the moment.
- Initially the policy was free after 3:30 and was split between County Council and District Council, eventually the BID wanted it to be changed to 3pm.

Councillor Tony Hunter proposed and Councillor Jean Green seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee encourages the Community Engagement Officer to write to Royston Town Council about the payment breakdown of the 'Free after 3pm' parking policy and discuss cost sharing.

56 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Audio recording – 47 minutes 30 seconds

Councillor Tony Hunter invited Hertfordshire County Councillor Fiona Hill to provide an update to the Committee, including:

- Works due on Mill Road, Serby Avenue, Parthia Close and King James Way footpaths as well as some patching on the road on Serby Avenue next year.
- New signs in Barkway High Street and Cambridge Road will be due next year.
- Barley - works on London Road to be completed.
- Works on Masefield Way and Newmarket Road are due to be scheduled.
- Looking at footpath works in Shaftesbury Way, Melbourn Street and the High Street in 2023-24.
- Investigating a school sign on the A10 (Barley and Barkway Federated First Schools).
- Following a feasibility study carried out on Burns Road regarding speeding - the main issues are around Shakespeare and Hardy Drive where there have been a higher number of accidents - there will be a consultation on the mitigation measures suggested by HCC Highways.
- A Public Meeting took place regarding proposed cuts to the 915 bus service; need representations to the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Stagecoach, MPs and County Councils/Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Hertfordshire County Council Fiona Hill for her update and invited County Councillor Steve Jarvis to provide his update:

- Most work for this year has been completed;
- There was a plan for an enforceable 20 Mph speed limit around Tannery Drift School but that cannot be installed without speed humps. Those advocating for the speed limit did not want humps so instead there will be an advisory limit;
- Some resurfacing scheduled on Lancaster Road;
- There is a discussion ongoing about the pathway lighting on Green Drift but Hertfordshire County Council will not do any work on it until Anglian Water have accepted the sewage pumping station from the developers.

The Chairman thanked Hertfordshire County Councillor Steve Jarvis for his update.

57 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording – 55 minutes 50 seconds

The Chair led a discussion on ward matters and outside organisations. The following issues were discussed:

Royston Town Twinning Association

Councillor Ruth Brown advised:

- Had first visit in three years from the Mayor of Grossalmerode; the mayor and his wife stayed in Royston and they went treeplanting along with the Mayor of Royston thanks to North Herts officers;
- The mayor also visited Royston Fire Station, attended Silver Sunday and the Sustainability Event in Priory Gardens.

Royston First

Councillor Ruth Brown advised:

- The BID are now plastic free champions;
- The Audi and M&S car parks have had their lines redrawn;
- Have taken over some of the ad boards in the town centre and would be advertising businesses in the town;
- Collaborating with the Town Council on the Christmas Lights Event, going to be a 'Christmas Switch-on' on Friday 25th November; BID have also got more than 30 businesses signed up for the Christmas Windows event.

Visit to school

Councillor Hunter advised:

- He had visited a school alongside Town Councillor Michael Harrison, County Councillor Fiona Hill and District Councillor Carol Stanier.

The meeting closed at 8:33 pm

Chair

**ROYSTON COMMITTEE
30 NOVEMBER 2022**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF: THE POLICY & COMMUNITIES MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COUNCIL PRIORITIES: PEOPLE FIRST AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

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.
- 2.2 **£1,221** to Home-start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire to assist with costs for providing support service to one family in Royston as detailed in 8.1.1
- 2.3 **£740** to Royston Community First Responders to assist with costs for new uniforms and a mobile phone with contract as detailed in 8.1.9
- 2.4 **£750** to Royston Choral Society to assist with costs for putting on a performance of Haydn's Creation, including publicity costs and venue hire costs as detailed in 8.2.4
- 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.

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 July 2021.
- 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.

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.

7.1. 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 2022/23. 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 2022/23 is summarised below:

	2021/22 Carry Forward	2020/21 Base Budget	Total Budget Remaining
Royston	£630	£6,000	£6,630

8.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Grant Applications

8.1.1

Applicant	Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
Project	Funding support to provide critical home-visiting support for one vulnerable Royston family for 9 months (the average time a family needs our support).
Sum requested	£1,221
Total project cost	£1,371
Match funding	£150 from Councillor Fiona Hill's HCC Locality Budget
Previous support	Yes, £1,221 in 2021 and £1,050 in 2019 to provide counselling services to a vulnerable family.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objective:	People First

8.1.2 Home-start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire is a registered charity and has been operating in Royston since 1983. The group is made up of 7 Volunteer Committee Members, 6 part time paid staff and 51 volunteers.

8.1.3 The funding would enable Home-start to provide critical **home-visiting support** for one vulnerable Royston family for 9 months (the average time a family needs our support).

8.1.4 This support will aim to prevent the family from reaching crisis point, leading to family breakdown and children being taken into care, amongst other serious consequences.

8.1.5 Supported families struggle with diverse and often complex issues, which include: Post-natal depression ▪ depression ▪ social isolation ▪ bereavement ▪ domestic abuse ▪ drug abuse and many other issues. These issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

8.1.6 A highly-trained volunteer, with parenting experience, will meet with the family once a week for 2 to 3 hours – providing compassionate, practical and emotional support,

which is non-judgemental, confidential, free and tailored to each family's individual needs.

8.1.7 At the end of the support period, the family will be able to manage their family lives again without our support and access mainstream support and local community networks.

8.1.8 The application is criteria compliant.

8.1.9

Applicant	Royston Community First Responders
Project	Funding support to assist with costs for the purchase of uniforms and a new mobile phone with contract which will be used by the team purely for medical emergencies.
Sum requested	£740
Total project cost	£1,240
Match funding	£260 split between Councillor Fiona Hill and Councillor Steve Jarvis's HCC Locality Budgets. Also £240 from personal contributions.
Previous support	No
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objective:	People First

8.2.0 Royston Community First Responders is a Registered Charity and has been operating in Royston since 1994. The group is made up of 6 people who work from their own homes, but under the umbrella of the East of England Ambulance Service.

8.2.1 Royston Community First Responders are usually the first people on site to deal with a medical emergency, ahead of the Ambulance Service. The group has treated 350 between January and September this year, so is likely to assist around 500 casualties in 2022.

8.2.2 The group works in shifts which cater for 24/7 across 365 days of the year.

8.2.3 The group has secured match funding and the application is criteria compliant.

8.2.4

Applicant	Royston Choral Society
Project	Funding support to assist with costs for putting on a performance of Haydn's Creation, including publicity costs, equipment costs and venue hire costs.
Sum requested	£750
Total project cost	£6,500
Match funding	£2,250 ticket sales, £1,000 Membership fees, £750 from HCC Locality Budgets and £1,500 from the Brian Racher Trust (Pending)
Previous support	Yes, £750 in 2018 and £500 in 2016 for publicity and venue hire costs for concerts.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objective:	People First

8.2.5 Royston Choral Society is a registered charity.

8.2.6 The Group is made up of 10 Volunteer Committee Members and 60 volunteers.

8.2.7 The Royston Choral Society has been putting on concerts for the people of Royston since 1974. The aim of the group is to promote public education in and appreciation of choral music by the presentation of public choral concerts.

8.2.8 The funding requested is to assist with publicity costs including posters, flyers, tickets and programmes and venue hire fees. The application is criteria compliant. Under the grants policy, members may award up to 70% of the total project cost. The applicant is requesting £750.

8.2.9 The concert will be held on Saturday 25th March 2023 and will see the event return to Royston Parish Church for the first time since fire damage several years ago.

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

Group	Project	Funding Requested
Royston Community Radio	Funding support for the purchase of equipment including a gazebo and banners to promote Royston Community Radio.	£500

8.3.1 Community Engagement Updates

8.3.2 Ramped access to Market Hill Carpark

8.3.3 Royston Town Council have agreed to fund the feasibility study, and this will be carried out early in 2023.

8.3.4 Royston Town Council did request that the feasibility study included both the proposed location for the ramped access, as discussed at the site visit in June and a location further down the carpark next to the roadside. This location was not deemed suitable and so the feasibility study will focus purely on the site by the steps leading to the Market Car Park.

8.3.5 Creative Royston Festival

8.3.6 The Royston Community Engagement Officer (CEO) provided marshal support to the Creative Royston Festival event which was held on Saturday 24th September at Priory Memorial Gardens.

8.3.7 The event was well attended by the public and passed without incident.

8.3.8 Sustainability event

8.3.9 The Royston CEO provided marshal support for the first ever Sustainability event for Royston which was held in Priory Memorial Gardens on Sunday 2nd October.

8.4.0 Royston Christmas Lights Switch on Event

8.4.1 The Royston CEO is assisting Royston First with plans for the Christmas Lights Switch on Event which will be held by Royston Cross on Friday 25th November 2022.

8.4.2 Royston First have submitted a Town Police Clauses Act (TPCA) Road closure application for the event and the Royston CEO has secured the signage for the closure.

8.4.3 Royston Christmas Event

8.4.4 The Royston CEO is working with Royston First and the Royston Events Group with planning for their Christmas event which will be held on Saturday 10th December. The event will include the Elf Trial, funfair rides in Fish Hill Square, activities in Royston Parish Church and also, but yet to be confirmed, Santa's Grotto and music from the Royston Town Band.

8.4.5 This event was held for the first time in 2021 and proved extremely popular. As well as being a great community event, it also brought people into the town, to help drive footfall for the local businesses.

8.4.6 The Royston CEO will be suspending parking in Fish Hill Square for the event and will also be providing support with event set up and marshal support on the day.

8.4.7 Support for Organisations in Royston

8.4.8 The Royston CEO continues to sit on a number of groups within the Town including the Coombes Community Association, Royston Day Centre and Royston First Steering Group and any council related issues raised are addressed as required.

8.4.9 Funding support for venues in Royston

8.5.1 The Royston CEO is working with Royston Museum, Royston Town Council and Coombes Community Centre to find funding for upcoming projects at each venue. Royston Museum is seeking funding for a disabled access toilet and a fire door, Royston Town Council are investigating solar panels for the Town Hall and the Coombes Community Centre is seeking funding support to enhance the back stairwell area of the venue and the refurbishment of toilets and doors.

8.5.2 Community Salt Bins

8.5.3 During December, the Royston CEO will visit all of the community salt bins in Royston and replenish these accordingly.

8.5.4 The Royston CEO is working with Planning to ascertain if S106 monies can be used for any of these projects and will advise venues during the early part of 2023.

8.5.5 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

8.5.6 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.
- Bus Shelter at Melbourn Street.

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
- 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

8.5.7 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.

8.5.8 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.

8.5.9 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.

9.0 Highways Matters

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 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 July 2021. 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.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 Committee budget 2022/23.
- 11.2 The agreed base budget for this financial year is £6,000. The Committee has £630 to allocate from the 2021/22 carry forward. This gives the Committee a total of £6,630 to allocate across the 2 remaining meetings of the 2022/23 financial year.
- 11.3 If the Committee agreed the funding as detailed in this report, the Committee would have £3,919 to allocate at the final meeting of the financial year in March 2023.
- 11.4 Members should note that they also support the Free After 3pm Parking Scheme annually with a contribution of £1,500. This would leave £2,419 for the Committee to allocate at the March 2023 meeting.

12. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 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.

13. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

13.1 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.

13.2 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.

14. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

16. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

17. APPENDICES

17.1 Appendix 1 - 2022/23 financial year budget sheet.

18. CONTACT OFFICERS

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19. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

19.2 Review of Grant policy, Cabinet July 2021.

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ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022/23

SUMMARY/ TOTALS	Funding	Allocated	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Budget					
CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2021/22	£3,130	£2,500	£2,000	£500	£630					
BASE BUDGET 2022/23	£6,000	£0	£0	£0	£6,000					
Total	£9,130	£2,500	£2,000	£500	£6,630					

2021/22	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Amount	Comments
CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2021/22	£3,130		22/23 Free After 3pm parking	£1,500		£1,500	£0		
			Maintenance of Planters	£500	08/03/2022	£0	£500		
			Make Lunch Royston	£500	08/11/2022	£500	£0		
Total	£3,130			£2,500		£2,000	£500	£630	

2022/23	Funding		Project	Allocated	Date	Spent	Outstanding	Unallocated Amount	Comments
BASE BUDGET 2022/23	£6,000						£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
							£0		
Total	£6,000			£0		£0	£0	£6,000	

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