

9 March 2026

Our Ref Royston and Villages Community Forum  
18 March 2026  
Contact. Community and Partnerships Team  
Direct Dial. 01462 474230  
Email. [community@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:community@north-herts.gov.uk)

To: Members of the Area Forum: Councillors Tim Johnson (Chair), Bryony May (Vice-Chair), Matt Barnes, Ruth Brown, Cathy Brownjohn, Ruth Clifton, Sarah Lucas and Martin Prescott

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE ROYSTON AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY  
FORUM**

to be held in the

**HARDWICK HALL, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, SG8 7DA**

On

**WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2026 AT 7.30 PM**

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Alajooz  
Director – Governance

**\*\*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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> 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.	
<b>3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS</b> To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Governance.	(Pages 5 - 12)
<b>4. PRESENTATION - CITIZENS ADVICE</b> Presentation and Q&A by Rosie Lane and Tom Hogan.	
<b>5. PRESENTATION - ROYSTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB</b> Update on the Club's 150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.	
<b>6. COMMUNITY UPDATE</b> To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Partnerships Team.	(Pages 13 - 14)
<b>7. ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL</b> Update by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of Royston Town Council.	
<b>8. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b> Update by County Councillor Ruth Brown.	
<b>9. WARD MATTERS &amp; OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS</b> To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
<b>10. OPEN DISCUSSION</b> Discussion of topics not raised in the meeting.	

11. **FUTURE AREA FORUMS**  
To discuss topics for future meetings.

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# Agenda Item 3

Appendix 2. North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Services Limited

**=Document Control:**

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	CG-251			
Name of Organisation	North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Service Limited			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward				
Project Type	A volunteer fair and volunteer summit to support the North Herts Year of Volunteering.			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	Cllr Ruth Brown			
Previous financial support within six years	Funding agreements from NHC: 21/22 - £20,800 22/23 - £21,216 23/24 - £26,640 (which includes a one off extra £5k for a volunteer conference) 24/25 - £22,073 25/26 - £22,514 NHPF October 2024 - £14,622			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,000	Total project cost	£1,800	

**Officer Summary**

[North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Services Ltd](#) (NHCVS) are the only local infrastructure organisation supporting and connecting the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector across our area.

NHCVS are leading the North Herts Year of Volunteering - a 12-month programme from April 2026 to April 2027 - in partnership with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, North Hertfordshire Council and local VCFSE organisations. This is a coordinated effort to make volunteering more accessible, flexible and sustainable.

Working alongside local groups, the programme will:

- Review and help reshape volunteering roles to better reflect how people live
- Encourage volunteering among under-represented groups
- Promote the personal benefits of volunteering

Funds are being requested towards two events in Royston: a volunteer summit which will help local VCFSE organisations reimagine how volunteering is designed, presented and accessed; and a volunteer fair, where local groups can engage with the public about their community offer and volunteering opportunities.

\*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

Funding would be used towards the hire of Royston Town Hall and Coombes Community Centre, and marketing materials.

NHCVS are also applying to both Baldock & Villages Community Forum and Hitchin Community Forum for £1,000 for similar events.

\*Please note, any funding recommended and then granted would only be paid out on receipt of relevant quotes.

## ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

### SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2025/26

<u>Original Budget</u> <u>2025/26</u>	<u>Carry Forward</u> <u>Budget 2024/25</u>	<u>Total Funding</u> <u>2025/26</u>	<u>Grants</u> <u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u> <u>Budget</u>
£10,300	£525	£10,825	£7,896	£2,929

### FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
<b>Home-Start Royston, Buntingford &amp; South Cambs</b> - home-visiting service for one family.	25th June 2025	£1,567
<b>Barley Parish Council</b> - two new picnic benches	25th June 2025	£1,512
<b>Royston Day Centre</b> - Kitchen equipment and a new laptop	25th June 2025	£1,424
<b>Barkway Parish Council</b> - display units for the reading room	24th September 2025	£1,350
<b>Barley Community Garden</b> - veg trugs and gardening equipment	24th September 2025	£1,043
<b>Resolve</b> - key worker staff members	24th September 2025	£1,000
<b>TOTAL ROYSTON AND DISTRICT</b>		<b>£7,896</b>

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Reference	CG-251			
Name of Organisation	North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Service Limited			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward				
Project Type	A volunteer fair and volunteer summit to support the North Herts Year of Volunteering.			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	Cllr Ruth Brown			
Previous financial support within six years	Funding agreements from NHC: 21/22 - £20,800 22/23 - £21,216 23/24 - £26,640 (which includes a one off extra £5k for a volunteer conference) 24/25 - £22,073 25/26 - £22,514 NHPF October 2024 - £14,622			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,000	Total project cost	£1,800	
<b>Officer Summary</b>				
<p><a href="#">North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Services Ltd</a> (NHCVS) are the only local infrastructure organisation supporting and connecting the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector across our area.</p> <p>NHCVS are leading the North Herts Year of Volunteering - a 12-month programme from April 2026 to April 2027 - in partnership with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, North Hertfordshire Council and local VCFSE organisations. This is a coordinated effort to make volunteering more accessible, flexible and sustainable.</p> <p>Working alongside local groups, the programme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and help reshape volunteering roles to better reflect how people live</li> <li>• Encourage volunteering among under-represented groups</li> <li>• Promote the personal benefits of volunteering</li> </ul> <p>Funds are being requested towards two events in Royston: a volunteer summit which will help local VCFSE organisations reimagine how volunteering is designed, presented and accessed; and a volunteer fair, where local groups can engage with the public about their community offer and volunteering opportunities.</p>				

\*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

Funding would be used towards the hire of Royston Town Hall and Coombes Community Centre, and marketing materials.

NHCVS are also applying to both Baldock & Villages Community Forum and Hitchin Community Forum for £1,000 for similar events.

\*Please note, any funding recommended and then granted would only be paid out on receipt of relevant quotes.

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	CG-248			
Name of Organisation	Friends of Reed School			
Organisation Type	Registered Charity			
Ward				
Project Type	Piece of trim trail equipment for the playground.			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None known			
Previous financial support within six years	N/A			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,500	Total project cost	£3,744	
<b>Officer Summary</b>				
<p>The Friends of Reed School (FoRS) are applying for funds towards a piece of play equipment to complete their trim trail. The rest of the trim trail is already in place, but due to funding difficulties the final piece of equipment could not be installed at the same time.</p> <p>FoRS have undertaken various fundraising activities since the rest of the trail was installed, and if the requested funding is granted, they would be able to start the purchase almost immediately.</p>				

\*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation

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## Districtwide Community Updates

- The North Herts Heroes Awards judging panel took place in January, and the winners have been selected. They will be celebrated at the awards event on Thursday 19 March, where they will be recognised as outstanding individuals who make a positive difference in our local community.
- The new Community Grants Application platform launched on 17 November. The application form can be found here [Community grants | North Herts Council](#). If councillors or organisations would like any guidance on this, please speak to the Community Partnerships Officer or get in touch with the team via [community@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:community@north-herts.gov.uk).
- Working with North Herts CVS and Letchworth Heritage Foundation on an upcoming districtwide
- volunteer campaign.
- To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, a video was shared via North Herts Council socials on 27 January and can be viewed on the NHC YouTube page - [Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 - North Herts Council](#)
- Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.
- Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.
- Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.
- Sharing and disseminating information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory, and non-statutory agencies

## Area Community Updates

The Community Partnerships Officer Update:

- Visited the well-attended Welcome to Royston event, which was a huge success.
- Visited the recently refurbished Royston Museum.
- Attended various community groups meetings, including the Therfield Heath Conservators AGM, the Royston Coombes Association (RCA) quarterly meeting and the Community Breakfast.
- Continuing to communicate with Parish Councils to make closer links with the parishes and local groups.

A reminder to Councillors that they are very welcome to arrange any meetings or ward walks with the Community Partnerships Officer.

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