

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



10 June 2025

Our Ref Royston and Villages Community Forum
 18 June 2025

Contact. Community and Partnerships Team
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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

**HARDWICKE HALL, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN
STREET, ROYSTON, SG8 7BZ**

On

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2025 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
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**

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	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.	
3.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATIONS To consider community grant applications for recommendation to the Executive Member for Governance.	(Pages 5 - 16)
4.	PRESENTATION - BIN COLLECTIONS: WHAT'S HAPPENING Presentation by Cllr Amy Allen, Executive Member for Environment.	
5.	PRESENTATION - EVERYONE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES TEAM Presentation by Kirsty Jones.	
6.	COMMUNITY UPDATE To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team.	(Pages 17 - 18)
7.	ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL Presentation by Mayor Luke Haugh.	
8.	HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Presentation by County Cllr Steve Jarvis.	
9.	WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS To receive any verbal reports from Members and members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.	
10.	OPEN DISCUSSION To open the floor to questions and discussion relevant to Royston and the surrounding villages.	

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

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REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY COMMUNITY FORUM)

ROYSTON AND VILLAGES COMMUNITY FORUM 18 JUNE 2025

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

DIRECTORATE: GOVERNANCE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Community Forum on the current expenditure and balances of the Community Grant budget.
- 1.2 To bring to the Forum's attention details of recent requests received for Community grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To enable Forum Members to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Governance (formally Community & Partnerships) on grant applications.
- 1.4 To advise the Forum of the activities and schemes with which Community & Partnerships officers have been involved in and some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT THE COMMUNITY FORUM:

- 2.1 Considers and notes the information within this report.
- 2.2 Makes recommendations to the Executive Member for Governance (formerly Community & Partnerships) on the grant applications detailed below.
- 2.3 Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire - **£1,567** towards a home-visiting service for one family.
- 2.4 Barley Parish Council - **£1,500** towards two picnic benches.
- 2.5 Royston Day Centre - **£1,504** towards kitchen equipment and a new laptop, on condition of the total funding amount being confirmed.

3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Grant budget for Royston and Villages Community Forum 2025/2026 is **£10,825**.
- 3.2 No Community grant payments have been made to date for the 2025/2026 financial year.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to

the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships (now Governance) on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.8(b)(ii)A 5 of the constitution, in consultation with the Director: Governance. That decision will be subject to a 5 clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

- 4.2 Other issues raised in this report are for information and noting and therefore no direct legal implications arise.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 and under item 3.1 the Community Grant budget available is **£10,825**.
- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is **£4,571**.
- 5.3 If the applications outlined in Appendices 2-4 are recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Governance (formerly Community & Partnerships), there would be **£6,254** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2025-2026 financial year.
- 5.4 Precepting authorities have the ability to raise additional funds by raising their precept.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Good risk management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 6.2 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk Management, 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.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Community Grant funds are 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.

8. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The activities of the Community & Partnerships team are covered by existing budgets.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Terms of Reference for Community Forums, Section 9 of the Council Constitution updated April 2024.
- 11.2 Community Grants Criteria Policy March 2025.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1. Royston and Villages Community Grant Budget 25-26
- 12.2 Appendix 2. Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambs
- 12.3 Appendix 3. Barley Parish Council
- 12.4 Appendix 4. Royston Day Centre

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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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	£0	£10,825

FUNDED PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forum Date</u>	<u>Grant Allocated</u>
TOTAL ROYSTON AND DISTRICT		£0

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Appendix 2. Home-start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambs

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6122			
Name of Organisation	Home-start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambs			
Organisation Type	Charity			
Ward	Various			
Project Type	Family support			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None known			
Previous financial support within six years	Community Grants: July 2019 £1,050; October 2021 £1,221; November 2022 £1,221; January 2024 £1,485 Community Investment Fund: February 2024 £7,052 (Capacity building project)			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,567	Total project cost	£1,567	
Officer Summary				
<p>Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire (HSRSC) are requesting a grant towards home-visiting support for one vulnerable family living in Royston and/or the surrounding villages for nine months (the average time a family needs their support).</p> <p>The support aims to prevent the family from reaching crisis point, leading to family breakdown and children being taken into care, amongst other serious consequences.</p> <p>A highly-trained volunteer, with parenting experience, will meet with a 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.</p> <p>At the end of the support period, the family will be able to manage their family lives again without support and access mainstream support and local community networks.</p> <p>The cost home-visiting support for a child is £41.66 per week. This compares with £3,331 per week cost of a child in care (<i>House of Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee: Funding of local authorities' children's services – April 2019</i>).</p> <p>Five residents of Royston or one of the surrounding villages will directly benefit from Home-Visiting Support (assuming 2 parents and 3 children per family). Indirect benefit will include the wider community with an estimated benefit to over 30 additional residents.</p>				

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

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Appendix 3. Barley Parish Council

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6121			
Name of Organisation	Barley Parish Council			
Organisation Type	Parish Council			
Ward	Ermine			
Project Type	Picnic tables			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None known			
Previous financial support within six years	No			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,500	Total project cost	£1,512	
Officer Summary				
<p>Barley Parish Council would like funding towards two picnic benches near the children's playground in Barley Plaistow. The two wooden picnic benches currently in place, which are rotting, and having been repaired many times, are now at the end of their life.</p> <p>Many local families with young children and visiting families from further afield benefit from the picnic benches.</p> <p>The picnic tables they are aiming to purchase are made from recycled plastic, one with wheelchair access, one without. Both have a 25yr guarantee for material failure and are UV protected from colour damage.</p>				

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

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Appendix 4. Royston Day Centre

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6123			
Name of Organisation	Royston Day Centre			
Organisation Type	Day centre for older adults			
Ward	Royston Heath			
Project Type	Kitchen equipment and laptop			
Green option considered?	N/A			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	Cllr Bryony May is the NHC representative.			
Previous financial support within six years	No			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£1,504	Total project cost	£TBC	
Officer Summary				
<p>Royston Day Centre are requesting funding towards a new cooker and cutlery, due to the current equipment coming to the end of its life. The kitchen equipment is imperative to the running of the Day Centre.</p> <p>The group would also like funding towards a new laptop, as the one they are currently using has been repaired multiple times and is no longer cost effective to repair.</p> <p>This is an in-principle agreement for funding for Forum recommendation. Any funding recommended and in turn granted will only be released when the total funding amount has been confirmed.</p>				

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

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Districtwide Community Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Grants Policy was updated in March 2025. Some changes to be aware of include changes to the minimum amount that can be applied for, the maximum amount that can applied for and that Business Improvement Districts (BID's) can no longer apply as they have access to other funds via UKSPF. Please read the criteria in full on the NHC grants webpage Community grants North Herts Council. • The team are working alongside the Digital Transformation Team to develop an online platform for grant applications. • 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
<p>Community Partnerships Officer Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP Officer took part in the CVS Royston: Let's Talk event, which was held at Coombes Community Centre. The event aimed to explore the evolving landscape of volunteering and fundraising, and spark fresh ideas to help local groups adapt and thrive. • Attended various Parish meetings. • Engaged with community groups including Parkinsons, Fostering in Hertfordshire and Active in the Community.

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