

**North Herts Council  
ROYSTON AREA FORUM**

**Meeting held on Zoom - Wednesday, 10 January at 7.30pm**

**NOTES**

**Present:** Councillor Chris Hinchliff (CH) (Chair), Councillor Matt Barnes (MB), Councillor Adam Compton (AC), Councillor Bryony May (BM). HCC Cllr Fiona Hill (FH)  
HCC Cllr Steve Jarvis (SJ)

**In Attendance:**

Claire Morgan (CM) (Community and Partnerships Team Leader) – Laura Hartley (LH) Technical Support (Community and Partnerships Officer)

**Also present:**

At the commencement of the meeting there were 5 members of the public, including registered speakers.

Meeting started at **7.30pm**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Ruth Brown (RB) Cllr Gerald Morris GM; Cathy Brownjohn (CB),

**2. Chair's Announcements**

**Cllr Hinchliff welcomed everyone in attendance.**

- Highlighted that the Forum is an informal, inclusive meeting to share ideas.
- Members were reminded they are making recommendations and not decisions for grant applications.

*Voted on the Minutes the last Royston and District Area Committee meeting in March 23 and agreed as correct.*

**3. Public Participation**

Claire Morgan, the Community and Partnership Team Leader, updated Members of community grant budgets. CM explained that there will be a shortfall in the budget of £319 and members needed to be aware that they may need to reduce the amount of each grant award requested.

Cllr MB announced an interest in regard to the Home-start grant as his wife works for Home-start.

As there will discussion around allocation of the shortfall affecting all three applications Cllr MB left the meeting prior to the grant presentations.

AC proposed that reduce the grant by £150 from Home-start as a decision from Royston Town Council is imminent to provide funding from their budgets. Cllr FCI agreed to provide the £150 shortfall from her HCC locality budget.

£85 reduction on the grants of both Reed and Resolve. Cllr SJ agreed to provide this amount from his HCC locality budget.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr CH

Agreed by three members present.

Shortfall will be provided by Cllr Fiona Hill and Cllr Steve Jarvis HCC locality budgets.

Question asked about 'Free after 3 subsidy' – CM explained a decision was made not to fund parking services out of community budgets. Referred the forum to the minutes of the March meeting where this was discussed.

Cllr FH mentioned that the Royston 'Town Council had been asked to cover the cost of Free after 3 and we have not been notified whether this has been agreed.

Free after 3 parking has occurred this financial year without a contribution from the Royston Community budget.

Received presentations in support of grant applications by the following:

**Amanda Hourmand from Home-start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire**

**Requesting £1635**

**Home-start vote**

proposed. Cllr AC: £1485 with a £150 reduction

seconded. Cllr CH

***Unanimous vote in favour of recommending £1,485.***

**Rob Lankester from Reed Cricket Club £2,000**

proposed. Cllr AC proposed £1,915 with an £85 reduction.

seconded. Cllr CH

***Unanimous vote in favour of recommending £1,915.***

**Laura Hyde from Resolve £1,000**

proposed. Cllr AC proposed £915 with an £85 reduction.

seconded. Cllr Hinchliff

***Unanimous vote in favour of recommending £915.***

ACTION: Community Partnerships officer to put Resolve in contact with the Royston Community Transport to assist with clients from the area getting to the centre in Letchworth.

***Cllr MB re-joined the meeting,***

#### 4. **Information Note: Grants & Community Update**

Claire Morgan, Community and Partnerships Team Leader, presented the Community Update.

Cllr AC Question asked about Remembrance Day events and whether NHC could support with the Royston event.

CM responded that the Community Partnership Team assist with the organisation of the North Herts event based in Letchworth, but the Council do not provide any financial support.

Cllr FH pointed out that Remembrance Events are Civic Events and that as Royston has a Town Council it is their responsibility to organize the Royston Remembrance events.

#### 5. **Presentations**

5.1 **Pete Worsey of Royston and District Community Transport** gave a presentation about their services.

5.2 **Alice Missler Herts Lynx bus service** gave a presentation about their services for Demand Responsive Transport.

Cllr AC wants to know progress on Free after 3.00 as it's an often raised as an issue.

Cllr MB asked the HCC Members about the damage to King James Academy

Cllr FH - the school are working with DFE and HCC on alternative accommodation. Looking at safety issues but they are trying to get the children back into mainstream school rather than working virtually.

Cllr SJ - The Rosia school is not in a good enough condition to be used as an alternative as it's stood empty for too long.

As an academy it's not up to HCC to fund as the local authority has limited powers.

BM – asked what proportion of the school is unusable – FH considerable it's the Senior School building and only one year can access classrooms however they can use the sports facilities.

Parts of the roof is not safe.

#### 6. **Ward Members activities**

No Update

#### 7. **Future Area Forums**

Members discussed ideas for topic for future Royston and District Area Forums

Cllr CH – 'Future of the local plan'  
Cllr AC highlighted that as a review is taking place so would need to be mindful of our legal obligations.

Management of green spaces in relation to environmental commitments

Cllr CH - Royston Leisure centre changes under the new contract  
Cllr SJ commented that this would be better once the new contractor has taken over, they can come and outline what services they'll be providing.

Information about future area forums will be shared on social media and posters go up around town. If you would like to be informed specifically about the area forums, please email [becca.edwards@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:becca.edwards@north-herts.gov.uk).

CM highlighted that it is usual for the Police to attend meeting rounds in March and perhaps the topic of Community Safety and ASB may be appropriate. Will need to confirm with Cllr Ruth Brown.

Suggested themes/topics from previous meetings to be discussed included:

- What the Council are doing to support the high street
- Cycle networks
- Community safety

Meeting closed 9.32pm.