

ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE
13 June 2018

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

9

TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

**PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING / PROSPER AND PROTECT / RESPONSIVE
AND EFFICIENT**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations, which conform to the Authority's Grants Policy approved by Cabinet on June 14th 2016.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.
- 1.4 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 considers a Grant Application of £250 to Royston In Blue to help towards publicity and equipment costs for putting on the 5km fun run at Royston Heath as detailed in Paragraph 8.1.1.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers a Grant Application of £250 to the Singing Kettle Group to help towards publicity and equipment costs as detailed in 8.1.2
- 2.3 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community 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 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 June 2016.

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 Corporate 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 with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Funds.

6. FORWARD PLAN

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

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix 1 Royston Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget for 2018/19.

7.2 There was no carry forward from the 2017/18 financial year.

7.3 The Committee has £7,500 in total to allocate in the 4 meetings held in the 2018/19 financial year.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Update on Community Engagement & Grant Request

8.1.1 Royston in Blue

Royston in Blue organises the annual 5km fun run at the Royston Heath. The group is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee to assist with publicity costs and equipment costs including the hire of a race gantry.

Royston in Blue has been running the annual 5km run at the Heath since 2012. The event was set up as a fundraiser for the Teenage Cancer Trust. This is a very popular event for Royston and a substantial fundraising event for the charity.

The event in 2017 was supported by over 650 runners of all ages and abilities and helped raise over £14k for Teenage Cancer Trust. As well as raising money for the charity, the event also helps raise the profile of the town and increases the footfall for the local businesses.

This is the first time that the group has applied to the Committee for funding. The application is criteria compliant.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

8.1.2 Singing Kettle Group

The Singing Kettle Group is seeking funding support from the Royston & District Area Committee to assist with costs associated with promoting their new group. Costs include the purchase of computer and website software and advertising and publicity costs.

The Singing Kettle is a new community group that was set up in April 2018. The group is made up of 3 committee members and 7 volunteers. It is an unregistered charity. The group meets at the Coombes Community Centre and is open to all ages and currently has 10 members. The group provides opportunity for people to meet up and chat over coffee.

As well as mums and toddlers, the group is also attended by elderly residents of Royston. Their mission statement is to bring together community and family, taking time to socialise and catch up.

The group has craft and toys for the children but also undertakes other activities such as poetry reading to keep the older members entertained.

The group is applying for a start up grant of £250. This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

This organisation has not received an NHDC grant in the last five years.

8.1.3 Royston May Fayre

Royston Town Council held its annual May Fayre on Monday 7th May 2018 at Priory Memorial Gardens.

The Royston Communities Officer (CO) provided marshal support on the day. As always the event was well attended and enjoyed by the people of Royston.

8.1.3 Pathway at end of Green Drift

The Royston CO continues to liaise with Moody Homes, Redrow Homes and Herts Right of Way Team on the pathway at the end of Green Drift.

Redrow Homes have now successfully transferred the land to Meadfleet Management Company.

The Herts Right of Way Team is now liaising with Meadfleet and is preparing the creation order for the path.

The original plan was to enhance the pathway but this will now not be undertaken as part of the initial works. It is envisaged that once the pathway is adopted by the Herts Right of Way Team, the possibility of lighting the pathway

will be investigated. With this in mind it is deemed inappropriate to carry out any enhancements to the pathway for the time being.

8.1.4 Royston BMX

The Royston CO and Communities Manager continue to assist Royston BMX with their plans for a new practice strip at the venue. The group now has planning permission for the proposed 80m x 2.3m tarmac strip which will be used for training new riders and for sprint coaching sessions. The group has applied for funding support from Sport England. They have also gained permission to utilise some funding from collated s106 Developer Contributions related to the area to help meet any funding shortfall, estimated around £15k for the whole scheme..

8.1.5 Coombes Community Association and Royston Town Centre Working Group

The Royston CO continues to sit on the above groups on a quarterly basis and provide advice and support accordingly.

At the time of compiling this report, the centre manager was finalising an application to the Council's Community Facilities Capital Projects Improvement Fund, seeking funding support:-

- The installation of a platform lift to provide access to the upper floor to all centre users.
- The reconfiguration & refurbishment of the toilet facilities.
- Refurbishment of the kitchen within the under 5's facility.

The Centre manager with support from the Association's President & Chair, are due to present their funding application to the Capital Grants Member Panel on the evening of Wednesday 23rd May 2018.

The Royston CO will verbally update the Area Committee at the meeting if any outcomes relating to the Centre's application can be made known on the night.

8.1.6 Royston Pageant

The Royston CO will work with the Town Council, District Council and local groups in the setting up of a new event for the Royston calendar in 2019. The event currently named as the Royston Pageant, will be held for the first time on Sunday 23rd June next year.

The event will start with a parade commencing at Royston Cross and finishing on Fish Hill Square.

From Fish Hill Square, the event will move to Priory Memorial Gardens for falconry, archery, kids jousting, and school presentations of medieval drama and songs.

The Royston CO will sit on the planning group and will assist with licensing issues and road closure requirements for the Pageant.

8.1.7 Developer Contributions / s106 & other Capital Funding projects

The Royston Community Officer & Communities Manager have worked with external groups and colleagues in the Planning Department in the potential utilisation developer contributions and other sources of capital funding available.

Barkway Parish Council

- £6,819.93 of Sustrans contributions have been assigned for the provision of a new Bus Stop shelter serving the village.
- £8,076.45 of Play Space & Informal Open Space contributions have been assigned for the installation of a Zip Wire and associated land works at the recreation ground.
- Further contributions held under the Community Centres / Village Hall category are to be consider for further enhancements to the Community Room end of the pavilion at the Recreation Ground. Officers are waiting plans and costings associated to this initiative before formal submission to the Development & Conservation Manager to consider.

Other projects include several initiatives at Royston Heath with the Conservators and possibly seeking a new venue for Royston Scouts currently based at Roysia School.

8.1.8 Therfield School

Support and funding advice has been given to the Head of the school at Therfield re an Awards for All, small Big Lottery Funding Application re further enhancements to the outside communal play and educational areas.

Officers have recently been informed that Awards for All funding of £10k has been approved for the second phase of the project to create an external area which can be used by a number of local groups & organisations, including the Village's Pre-School Group which has limited external area at the village hall.

8.2 **Highways Matters**

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.

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 Section 9.8.2 (g) of Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference provides 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". The Area Committees also have delegated power under section 9.8.1 (a) & (b) to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.

9.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-

- An individual may generally do
- Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.

9.3 Section 137 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 The Royston & District Area Committee has £7,500 in total to allocate in the 4 meetings held in the 2018/19 financial year. The Committee has no carry forward from the 2017/18 financial year.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Performance, 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 a positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between all members of the community.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

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

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

15. APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix 1 - 2017/18 financial year budget sheet.

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 17.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.