

**North Herts Council
ROYSTON AREA FORUM**

**Meeting held at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston, SG8 7DA
On Tuesday, 11th June 2024 at 7.30pm**

NOTES

Present: Councillor Ruth Brown (RB) (Chair), Councillor Bryony May (BM) (Vice-Chair), Councillor Matt Barnes (MB), Councillor Ruth Clifton (RC), Councillor Chris Hinchliff (CH), Councillor Martin Prescott (MP)

In Attendance: Becca Edwards (BE) (Community and Partnerships Officer), Helen Rae (Community Health & Wellbeing Team Leader)

Also present: At the commencement of the meeting there were 26 members of the public.

Meeting started at **7.30pm**

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Cathy Brownjohn, Cllr Tim Johnson

2. Chair's Announcements

Cllr Brown welcomed everyone in attendance.

- Highlighted that the Forum is an informal, inclusive meeting to share ideas.

All councillors and officers present introduced themselves.

3. Public Participation – Grant Applications

Cllr Brown informed those present that there is £11,001 available in the Royston grant budget. Received presentations in support of grant applications by the following:

Nicola Parr (NP) presented the [Royston Swimming Club \(RSC\) application](#).

Members and members of the public enquired and received satisfactory answers about:

- How RSC are funded.
- If the club has felt any impact by the closure of Melbourn Sports Centre.
- The ability to expand with more coaches.
- The club's total budget for the year.

Royston Swimming Club vote

MP proposed. CH seconded.

Unanimous vote in favour of recommending Royston Swimming Club's application for £1,295 towards training new swim coaches.

Andrew Lee (AL) presented the [Barkway Preschool application](#).

Members and members of the public enquired and received satisfactory answers about:

- Type of PE equipment.
- How the Preschool is funded.
- Capacity.
- The preschool's total budget for the year.

Barkway Preschool vote

MP proposed.

BM seconded.

Unanimous vote in favour of recommending Barkway Preschool's application for £1,218 towards iPads and sports equipment.

Jo Honey (JH) presented the [Outside of the Box application](#).

Members and members of the public enquired and received satisfactory answers about:

- Location of the organisation.
- Age range catered to.
- The CIC's business plan.
- Capacity

JH read a testimony from a visitor:

"Thanks for chocolate making - Xx and I both had fun. They enjoyed making chocolates and being able to do it their own way and be creative. I loved getting to sit and have a cuppa and mix with other parents as it's isolating having a child that can't go to school or leave the house much. I felt emotional as they've not even been in the same room with other children in over 4 years".

Outside of the Box vote

CH proposed.

RB seconded.

Unanimous vote in favour of recommending Outside of the Box's application for £1,294 towards Chrome Books and sensory mats.

RB thanked all grant applicants and BE, then went on to explain the role of the Community Partnerships Team and their importance in helping NHC link in with the community.

4. Community Update

Becca Edwards, Community and Partnerships Officer, presented the [Community Update](#).

In addition to the Community Update, BE noted that:

- The Community and Partnerships Team visited the recent Go Vol Herts Volunteer Fair, encouraging groups to contact [GoVol Herts](#) if they need support in finding volunteers.
- BE attended the NHC Health and Wellbeing Network Meeting for professionals, which launched 11 June.
- It is a delight to see the colourful umbrellas that Royston First have started to put up in the town.

5. [Royston Town Council \(RTC\)](#)

Mayor John Rees introduced himself and shared information about the following:

- **RTC 50th Anniversary**
RTC celebrated their 50th anniversary, holding an event at the Town Hall. Photos from the past 50yrs were displayed and staff from the Royston Museum attended. In the afternoon, Town councillors from the past 50yrs came together.
- **Residents Survey**
At the end of last year, RTC undertook a survey of residents. The results are in and have been published in this month's The Listing. The Town Council are currently going through the results and forming an action plan based on the findings.
- **The Mayor's Notebook** every Saturday at 2pm on [Royston Radio](#). Featuring information about what RTC is up to, upcoming events and more.
- **Town Crier** – RTC has a three-monthly column in The Listing.

RB noted that RTC also have community grants and the Mayor's Trust fund.

[Grants - Royston Town Council](#)

JR The Mayor's nominated charity for the year is [Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cams](#).

BE shared information about NHC Community Grants - available [here](#), and information about County Councillors' Locality Budget can be found [here](#).

6. Presentation – [Mind in Mid Herts](#)

Sharn Tomlinson, CEO of Mind in Mid Herts, presented, and made points including:

- Mental health affects everyone. Mind want people to think about mental health like they do their physical fitness.
- NHC have been supporting Mind for 10yrs across N Herts, including in Royston.
- Mind Organisational Structure - There are two Mind organisations in N Herts. Herts Mind network cover a wider area, but Mind in Mid Herts are the group that do most support work in Royston itself.
- Have had to stop some groups in other N Herts towns, but have received funding to continue in Royston.
- Mind in Mid Herts have two groups running in Royston.

- There is a Mind worker in Royston who can meet people on an individual basis if necessary, with the aim to get them into groups. The groups aim to be fun rather than working on individuals' issues.
- Available services include counselling, sports groups and more.
- Support can be via phone, online or in person.

Members and members of the public enquired and received satisfactory answers about:

- Health inequalities funding.
- Where the support in Royston is based.
- How to refer in.
- The preschool's total budget for the year.

7. Presentation – North Herts Council

Helen Rae, NHC Health & Wellbeing Team Leader, presented, making points about the following:

- [Healthy Hub](#)
- Community Wellbeing projects
- [Everyone Active](#)

Full notes can be found at the end of this document.

Members and members of the public enquired and received satisfactory answers about:

- Seated exercise.
- Possibility of a youth club.

8. Presentation – Herts County Council (HCC)

Councillor Fiona Hill presented an overview of the recent Health Scrutiny Committee Board meeting, making points about the following:

- Ambition for a bespoke health provision in Royston.
- Healthcare provision in Royston is complicated due to South Cambs / Herts ICB both covering various aspects of provision.
- Dr Gary Houston gave a list of what each ICB is responsible for and expressed that it is important for cross working.
- Phase 2 of the Let's Talk Royston consultation is coming later this year.

There was discussion around:

- Partnership working between Herts CC and the ICBs.
- Concerns that there has been no resolution regarding healthcare in Royston for many years.
- The ICB's Let's talk survey and the questions that were / were not included.

RB thanked people present who have contributed to working towards a better health provision in Royston.

The Health and Scrutiny Board report can be found [here](#) and the full meeting can be viewed [here](#).

9. **Presentation – [Granta Medical Practices](#)**

Tim Harrison, CEO of Granta Medical Practices presented, making points and responding to questions about the following:

- The NHS/Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the work being done in Royston.
- Closure of medical practices across the country.
- Budget pressures.
- Granta's engagement with patients via a survey previously distributed.
- Increase in staffing.
- Inability to meet the needs of the town, partly due to the inadequate size of the health centre.
- Potential of / need for a new medical centre.
- Level of service.
- Communication between the practice and patients.
- Need for diagnostics in town.
- The closed hospital
 - NHS Properties' objection to selling the hospital.
- NHS funding of patients.
- Granta's financial reserves.
- If there is anything North Herts Council can do to support in the search for / securing a new site.

10. **S106 Update**

Cllr Brown shared that most of the [S106](#) monies have been allocated but a few haven't. HCC haven't spent all the contributions.



Royston s106 @ June
2024.pdf

11. **Ward Matters**

MB noted that the [Burloes planning application](#) is open for comment.

12. **Future Topics**

Cllr Brown asked Members and members of the public for suggestions for future forums. The following suggestions were made:

- Employment, skills development, enterprise
- Education
- Young people / youth provision

Meeting closed at 21:30.

North Herts Healthy Hub:

The Healthy Hub is a countywide project which is funded by Hertfordshire County Council. Each district has a version of their own Healthy Hub and while each hub is slightly different, the same wellbeing support is available in each one.

Residents can access stop smoking support, help with healthy eating and weight management, advice on getting active, drugs and alcohol support, financial guidance and mental health support. For the North Herts Healthy Hub this support is offered virtually support via phone and email. Residents attending any of our community wellbeing projects can also get face to face advice from colleagues.

Since the launch of the Healthy Hub back in 2020, the service has been able to support people who are socially isolated to find groups and activities within their community, access food support through various different services and also provide mental health advice and support. No two requests are ever the same!

Community Wellbeing projects:

Using funding from various sources including North Herts Council, the UK shared prosperity fund, HCC's Health Inequalities money, lottery funding and more, the Council's Community Wellbeing team directly deliver or deliver in partnership a range of projects tailored to meet the needs of different local communities. In and around Royston these currently include:

- Monthly adult craft sessions, bringing together people from the community to take part in a mindful activity.
- Regular family cooking sessions for preschool children and their families to explore food and tastes as well as learning basic cooking skills.
- Weekly seated exercise classes for older adults. Funded by NHC and facilitated by AITC and Making Movement.
- Coordinating a Royston Wellbeing Network to bring together wellbeing professionals from the area to share knowledge and create connections to improve support for residents.
- Funding a Mind outreach worker to support Royston residents through two weekly wellbeing groups – a chat café and a creative café.
- Working with Make Lunch Royston to run simple healthy cooking sessions for the children who attend the lunch clubs in the summer holidays.
- Air frying and slow cooking courses from September 2024 with appliances for participants who need them.

Community Wellbeing sessions at Heritage Hall that Healthy Hub attends:

Adult craft session – 10am-11.30am

19th June – Card Making with the Art in Martins

3rd July – Needle Felting with the Art in Martins

18th September – Adult craft with the with the Art in Martins

16th October - Adult craft with the with the Art in Martins

13th November - Adult craft with the with the Art in Martins

18th December - Adult craft with the with the Art in Martins

Children's preschool cookery sessions 9.30-10.30am

10th July

4th September

9th October

6th November

4th December

Summer Family Craft session:

21st August

Seated Exercise

Royston Mondays -1.30-2.30pm

St Mary's Church Hall

Melbourn Rd,

SG8 7DB

Mind in Mid Herts

Thursday wellbeing group 11-12.30pm

Friday craft group – 1.30-3pm

Info about Everyone Active Community Outreach programme:

Since Everyone Active took over the leisure centre in Royston in April they have been developing and investing in new programmes including:

- Friday lunchtime pickleball beginners sessions launching in July
- New outdoor buggyfit classes available now.
- Exercise on referral supported programme available for 6 months at discounted rate if referred by a health professional for long term health conditions.
- Memberships available for children and young people who are cared for or care experienced – referred through Herts County Council.
- Memberships for people living with Parkinsons and their carers through a partnership with Parkinsons UK.
- Looking to develop a regular health walk from the leisure centre.
- Relaunch of the under 5's soft play session with new equipment.
- Revamped the very successful gymnastics sessions enabling more gymnasts to join and offer more sessions and drastically cutting the waiting list.
- Looking to launch a youth club type session.
- No Strings Badminton for Seniors on a Tuesday Morning.
- This Girl Can Week (24th-30th June) – In Royston will offer buggyfit, boxercise and yoga - all free for women and girls.
- Adult and Junior Table Tennis sessions.
- Walking Sports – Walking Netball, Walking Tennis, Walking Football.
- Community Outreach Classes – Local Community Centres and Village Halls – looking to develop these from the community consultation data.
- Outdoor Fitness Sessions – Every Monday and Friday – using the new outdoor gym.