

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Royston and Ermine Ward – Parishes of Barkway, Barley, Kelshall, Nuthampstead, Reed and Therfield)

**Meeting held at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston
on 25 April 2007 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Councillors: Mrs F.R. Hill (Chairman), Mrs E. Beardwell, P.C.W. Burt, A.F.Hunter, R.E.Inwood and F.J.Smith.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Kim Sawyer – Corporate Legal Manager
Kate Poyser – Planning Officer
Tom Rea – Area Planning Officer
Alan Fleck - Community Development Officer,
Susanne Gow – Committee Administrator.*

ALSO PRESENT: *Approximately 50 members of the public.*

114. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the speakers at Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation, who would all speak at Agenda Item 8 – Planning Applications, after the Area Planning Officer had provided any updates to the Planning Application reports.

The Chairman welcomed the speakers at Agenda Item 8 – Planning Applications.

115. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of other business.

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr H. Marshall.

117. MINUTES – 14 March 2007

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2007 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

118. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Agenda Item 8 – Planning Application for 16-20 Green Drift, Royston

Councillor R. Inwood declared a personal interest in that a member of his immediate family was resident in Green Drift and that he would remain in the room for this item and reserved the right to speak and vote.

Councillor E. Beardwell declared a personal interest as she was a resident in Green Drift and that she would remain in the room for this item and reserved the right to speak and vote.

Councillor F. Hill declared a personal interest in that she carried out work for Estate Agents currently marketing two properties in Green Drift and that she would remain in the room for this item and reserved the right to speak and vote.

119. CHAMPION NEWS

The Royston Community Development Officer (CDO) provided a review of his activities since the last meeting of the Royston and District Committee, held on 14 March 2007.

The CDO reported that a welcome trend was that the Therfield session of Out 2 Play which had concluded the Council scheme, had 16 attendees, which was more than the 3 or 4 attending each session last year. Sports Development staff will be holding free Multi-Skill sessions in Barley, Barkway and Therfield during this summer.

With reference to the movement of heavy vehicles in Lower Gower Road, Royston, the

CDO stated that the issues were mainly regarding the hazards caused by reversing vehicles, to residents and their property.

RESOLVED: That the Royston and District Committee endorse the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for the promotion of greater community capacity and well being.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To keep members of the Royston and District Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in the Royston and District Area.

120. ANNUAL GRANTS, DEVELOPMENT, DISCRETIONARY AND VISIONING BUDGETS 2006-2007

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the two grant applications as presented at Appendices B and C be noted;
- (2) That the current expenditure and balance of the Development Budget as set out at Appendix A be noted;
- (3) That £1000 be awarded to SCooTS towards the provision of motor scooters to young people in the Royston Rural Area;
- (4) That up to a maximum of £2160 be allocated for the continuation of the subsidy to an elderly persons' half fare concession on the local bus service between Royston and Cambridge;

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To allow the Royston and District Committee to continue with its support to local voluntary organisations, and to further the aims and strategic priorities of North Herts District Council.

121. GRANT APPLICATION – SCooTS

RESOLVED:

That there had been three enquiries in the Royston area about support for Scooter and Cycle Transport Solutions (SCooTS). These enquiries had translated into two actual users.

SCooTS is seeking a grant of £1000. Councillor F. Hill proposed and it was agreed that the Committee support this application.

122. GRANT APPLICATION – CONCESSIONARY BUS FARES

RESOLVED:

That to continue the concessionary bus fares on the route between Royston and Cambridge, Stagecoach has stated the cost would be £2160. In the Financial Year 2006/2007 the cost was £1125. As this was an extremely large rise, Councillor F. Smith asked the CDO for the reason for the size of the increase. The CDO will investigate and clarify this to the Committee at the next meeting.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To allow the Royston and District Committee to continue with its support to local voluntary organisations and further the aims and strategic priorities of North Herts District Council.

123. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee heard three oral presentations as follows:

Application Ref. 06/02712/1 – 16 to 20 Green Drift, Royston, SG8 5DA

John Verrall spoke as an objector's representative.

John Crawley spoke as the applicant's representative.

Application Ref. 07/00510/1 – 65 Garden Walk, Royston, SG8 7JE

Mrs Margaret Horritt spoke as an objector.

Alan Stuart spoke as a representative for the applicant, Marcon Construction Ltd.

Application Ref. 07/00380/1HH – 1 Cherry Drive, Royston, SG8 7DA

There were no objectors.

Mrs Nicole Morgan spoke as the applicant.

RESOLVED to determine the planning application as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control and as indicated in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and Location	Decision
06/02712/1	16 to 20 Green Drift, Royston, SG8 5DA Erection of 14 dwellings with associated garages, parking spaces, access road and other works (As amended by drawing Nos. 073:02B, 03B, 04C, 06C, 07A, 08A received on 12 February 2007).	REFUSED (see (a) below)
07/00510/1	65 Garden Walk, Royston, SG8 7JE Demolition of 65 Garden Walk and erection of two four-bedroomed dwellings fronting Garden Walk, with new shared vehicular access (as amended by drawing nos. 01 C, 02 D, 03 C, 07 A and 08).	REFUSED (see (b) below)
07/00380/1HH	1 Cherry Drive, Royston, SG8 7DA Two storey rear extension. Single storey front extension. Insertion of dormer window to front elevation to create living accommodation in roof space.	Conditional permission (as per report)

(a) With regard to planning application reference 06/02712/1 that a decision on determination be **REFUSED** for the following reasons:

1. **Layout of the development:** That the layout of the development pays inadequate regard to the character and visual qualities of the site and the street scene of Green Drift, and as such would be contrary to the objectives of Policy 21 – Landscape and Open Space Pattern, and Policy 57 – Residential Guidelines and Standards of North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2, with Alterations and Planning Policy Statement 3 – Housing;
2. **Overdevelopment of the site:** That the proposal represents an over-development of the site by reason of the inadequate size of the private amenity space of Plots 5, 8 and 9; the inadequate number of parking spaces; and the cramped appearance of the terraced houses;
3. **Traffic management:** That the proposal may compromise highway safety and amenity by reason of the number of existing vehicular accesses in close proximity to the site and the increase in traffic the development would generate.

(b) With regard to planning application reference 07/00510/1 that a decision on determination be **REFUSED** for the following reason:

That the proposed development would, by reason of its inappropriate design and appearance, be out of keeping with the visual amenities of the locality. The development would therefore be contrary to the provisions of Policy 57 of the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations and the guidance relating to new housing developments as set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS 3) 'Housing' (2006).

With the Chairman's agreement, a member of the public addressed the meeting and was pleased to publicly thank all Members of the Royston and District Committee for their hard work and care for the interests of the town and people of Royston.

124. PLANNING APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT

The Area Planning Manager confirmed that no appeals had been lodged or determined since the Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2007.

He informed the Members that a letter had been sent to the manager of the Barracuda Bar in Royston, with regard to signs being put up to determine the Smoking Area, but there had been no response. The Officer suggested that enforcement action be taken.

Councillor F. Hill recommended that the Committee endorsed this suggestion, and the recommendation was unanimously supported by the Committee.

125. VOTE OF THANKS

Before the closure of the meeting, Councillor F.J. Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for her hard work and skilful chairing of the Committee meetings. He also thanked the Officers for their efforts. This latter vote of thanks was endorsed by Councillor F. Hill, and the Members concurred.

In response the Chairman wished to place on record her thanks to all officers and Members of Committee for their professional duties and support, including attendance by members of the press in the Civic Year 2006 – 2007.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

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Chairman