

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON & 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 4 October 2006 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: *Tom Rea (Area Planning Officer), Alan Fleck (Community Development Officer for Royston) and Donna Levett (Committee & Member Services Officer).*

ALSO PRESENT: *County Councillor Doug Drake and 6 members of the public.*

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and informed them that, following the declaration of prejudicial interests by two members of the Committee, the running order for the agenda would be altered. The Committee would therefore consider Agenda Item 8 – Planning Applications – as the final item of business.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

46. MINUTES

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 August 2006, which had been circulated in the Agenda.

In response to a question, the Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the planning application and conservation area consent application relating to Heath House, Princes Mews, Royston, would not be considered at the meeting as the applicant was still undertaking the daylight and traffic impact assessments the Committee had requested. On completion and submission of these statements, the applications would be brought back to the Committee for determination.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to Minute 34 – Notification of Other Business – whereby she had provided an oral update with regard to the flooding problems experienced in Royston. She informed the Committee that the Highways Authority had stated that further information could only be provided as a result of a formal request from the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel (NHHP JMP) following a referral from the Committee. She therefore sought the Committee's support in making such a referral, to ensure that the Committee and residents were fully aware of the situation and steps being taken in Royston.

In relation to Minute 39, the Chairman read the following statement to the Committee:

"Following the retirement of the Chief Engineer there has been some delay in the reallocation of duties, including those of North Herts District Council / North Herts Highways Partnership liaison officer. The Head of Leisure & Environmental Services will shortly be meeting with representatives of Herts County Council to resolve the issue, following which it is hoped that the recommendations relating to schemes for inclusion in the NHHP Discretionary Budget made at the meeting of the Committee held on 23 August 2006 (Minute 39 refers) will be addressed."

County Councillor Drake further informed the Committee that the resurfacing works in York Way, Royston, identified as a priority scheme by the Committee, were scheduled to take place in the week commencing 5 November 2006. Further resurfacing works would be carried out in Kneesworth Street and Melbourn Street, Royston in the week commencing 23 November 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2006 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

- Minute 33 – final sentence of the third paragraph to terminate at “...*the public conveniences at the Bus Station could be retained.*”
- Minute 37 – final sentence of the second paragraph should read “...*this project had been suspended....*”
- Minute 38 – a copy of the letter to the Chairman of the Committee from the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport should be appended to the Minutes (this had been omitted).
- Minute 39 – resolution (3) – this should refer to Barkway **Street**, Royston.

REFERRED TO THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

- (1) That a report detailing those highway issues that contributed to recent flooding problems in Royston, the steps taken to address them and those planned for future implementation be prepared and reported back to the Royston & District Committee;
- (2) That those schemes identified in Minute 39 of the meeting of this Committee of 23 August 2006 be placed in the Joint Member Panel’s Discretionary Budget for 2006/2007 and detailed costings provided, in order that the funds allocated by the Committee for highways works could be attributed to those projects.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) The production of accurate Minutes to reflect and record the business conducted by the Committee.
- (2) To ensure the Committee and residents of Royston are kept apprised of issues relating to flooding in Royston and measures being taken to address them.

47. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed consideration of the following additional item:

- (1) Highways Work Programme 2007/2008. This item, presented by County Councillor Doug Drake, to be considered as Agenda Item 11.

48. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor F.J. Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 – Planning Applications: Application Ref. 06/01055/1 – Johnson Matthey Plc, Orchard Road, Royston - as he received a pension from the applicant company. Councillor Smith withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.

Following advice from the Committee & Member Services Officer, Councillor R.E. Inwood also declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 – Planning Applications: Application Ref. 06/01055/1 – Johnson Matthey Plc, Orchard Road, Royston - as he held shares in the applicant company. Councillor Inwood also withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.

49. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were presented for consideration by the Committee under public participation.

50. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for Royston presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which advised them of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for Royston since the meeting of the Committee held on 23 August 2006, and brought to their attention some important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

The Community Development Officer for Royston informed the Committee that, following negotiations and the intervention of the County Councillor for Royston, the problems with the installation of electrical supplies via power bollards in the Market Place had been resolved.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for Royston to promote greater community capacity and well-being for communities in the Royston & District area be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in the Royston & District area.

51. ANNUAL GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2004/05

The Community Development Officer for Royston presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with a grant application that had been received.

RESOLVED: That the current expenditure and balance of the Development Budget be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) The report was intended to apprise Members of the financial resources available to this Committee. It drew attention to the current budgetary situation, assisted in the effective financial management of the Committee's budget and ensured actions were performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance contained in the Grants procedure;
- (2) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

52. GRANT APPLICATION – KELSHALL VILLAGE HALL

The Committee considered an application for funding from Kelshall Village Hall, to fund the installation of fencing for an outdoor children's play area. The provision of this area would allow a playgroup to be held at the Hall.

The Committee acknowledged the Cabinet criteria for considering such applications but felt that the need for such facilities in the Kelshall area and the Village Hall's previous success at raising funds for other projects warranted additional support in this instance.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £1,065 be awarded to Kelshall Village Hall as a financial contribution toward the installation of fencing for a children's play area.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

53. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Prior to the consideration of the application by the Committee, the Area Planning Officer provided the following updates:

- Environment Agency – following the submission of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) by the applicants, the objection has been withdrawn
- Hertfordshire Highways – no objection, subject to 4 additional conditions and a total of £40,000 contributions under a Section 106 Agreement.
- Paragraph 4.3.8 – this should state that there would be 86 new employees as a result of the proposed works.

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the applicant had indicated their agreement to the contributions requested by Hertfordshire Highways.

RESOLVED: To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Head of Planning & Building Control as submitted to the Committee in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
06/01055/1	Johnson Matthey Plc, Orchard Road, Royston Erection of new production building incorporating service link to existing production building, warehouse and technical building following demolition of existing single storey buildings, provision of 88 parking spaces, revised access from Beverley Close and alterations to internal road layout, new vent stack, acoustic fencing and additional landscaping and ancillary works (as amended by drawing no. P26 Rev A and P24 Rev B dated 31 July 2006).	GRANTED (see (a) below)

- (a) **RESOLVED:** That, with regard to Planning Application reference 06/01055/1, planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the applicant company first entering into an agreement under Section 106 and the conditions as set out in the report of the Head of Planning & Building Control, together with the following additional conditions:

13. No part of the development shall be occupied prior to the implementation of the Approved Travel Plan as reviewed from time to time [or implementation of those parts identified in the Approved Travel Plan of being capable of being implemented prior to occupation]. Those parts of the Approved Travel Plan that are identified therein as being capable of implementation after occupation shall be implemented in accordance within the timetable contained therein and shall continue to be implemented as long as any part of the proposed development is occupied.

Reason: To reduce the likely number of car trips made and promote reduction of road traffic in the local area.

14. Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted a one way system shall be implemented on the internal network of access roads as detailed on drawing no. 0624/P01/H including the erection of "IN" and "OUT" signs at the entrance and exit to the site to the Local Planning Authority's satisfaction. The signs must be provided in accordance with the Traffic Regulation & General Directions 2002 and to the satisfaction of the highway authority in order to prohibit banned movements to and from the site this

arrangement shall be permanently retained as provided and maintained thereafter.

Reason: To ensure that the impact of the traffic associated with the use of the development on the free and safe flow of traffic is minimised. In the interests of highway safety and amenity.

16. Before first occupation or use of the development the access roads and parking areas as shown on the approved drawing number: 0624/P01/H shall be provided and maintained thereafter.

Reason: To ensure the development makes adequate provision for the off-street parking and manoeuvring of vehicles likely to be associated with its use.

17. Best practical means shall be taken at all times to ensure that all vehicles leaving the development site during construction of the development are in a condition such as not emit dust or deposit mud, slurry or other debris on the highway, in particular (but without prejudice to the foregoing) efficient means shall be installed prior to commencement of the development and thereafter maintained and employed at all times during construction of the development of cleaning the wheels of all lorries leaving the site.

Reason: To minimise the impact of construction vehicles and to improve the amenity of the local area.

54. PLANNING APPEALS

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following planning appeals had been lodged since the meeting of the Committee held on 23 August 2006:

Appellant	Sun Hill Daycare
Reference number	05/00493/1
Address	The Maltings, Green Drift, Royston
Proposal	Change of use of Units 1 and 2 from B1 to Use Class D1 (day nursery with the use of six on site parking spaces) for a temporary period of three years
Method	Written Representations
Appellant	Excellent Nails
Reference number	06/00586/1LB
Address	11a High Street, Royston
Proposal	Retention of non-illuminated fascia and projecting signs
Method	Written Representations

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that the no appeals had been determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 23 August 2006.

55. CAR PARKING IN KNEESWORTH STREET, ROYSTON

The Chairman informed the Committee that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda on the advice of Legal Services, as active investigations were underway.

The Committee expressed their concern at the situation and stated that the report must be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report in relation to car parking in Kneesworth Street, Royston be brought to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 15 November 2006.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Committee is apprised of the situation and given the opportunity to comment on the loss of car parking in Kneesworth Street, Royston.

56. HIGHWAYS WORK PROGRAMME 2007/2008

The Chairman had agreed consideration of an additional item with regard to the proposed work programme for Hertfordshire Highways in 2007/2008. This item was considered as an urgent item in order that the Committee's comments could be fed back to the meeting of the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel (NHHP JMP) to be held on 16 October 2006.

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Drake addressed the Committee. He informed them that, at a meeting with Hertfordshire Highways, he had been informed that the Integrated Works Programme would no longer be brought before Area Committees for comments, as had been the case previously, as a result of the withdrawal of funding by North Herts District Council. County Councillor Drake had felt concern at that situation, so he had brought a copy of the draft Integrated Works Programme for the Committee's information, which was due to be considered by the NHHP JMP at its meeting to be held on 16 October 2006, in order that the Committee's representatives on that Panel could be adequately prepared to speak on the Committee's behalf about the schemes and proposals contained therein.

County Councillor Drake informed the Committee that the gullies in Royston were due to be checked soon, and Lower King Street and the narrow section of Kneesworth Street would be closed to facilitate this. These works would contribute toward the anti-flooding measures previously discussed. He also confirmed that the A10 had now been de-trunked, which meant that works to address safety issues at Barkway Street, Royston and the installation of a vehicle-activated speed sign (VASS), both of which the Committee had allocated funds toward) could now be implemented, and suggested that the Committee could request that these be identified as a priority. In response to a question from the Committee, he stated that fuller details of the proposals for the draft Integrated Works Programme 2007/2008 would be contained within the report to be presented to the NHHP JMP, which was due to be published on Friday 6 October 2006.

Councillor H.M. Marshall drew the Committee's attention to an additional highways project that was encountering difficulties. Reed Parish Council had submitted a request for funding to the Parish Challenge Panel, to install a footpath from Blacksmiths Lane to the village's school, so that children could arrive and leave safely. However, Councillor Marshall informed the Committee that they had now been informed the scheme must be implemented in early 2007 or the money would be lost, and there were concerns that the Parish Challenge Panel's decision would not be made in time.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Drake for his presentation to the Committee and the information provided. She asked the Committee to provide any further comments or feedback on the draft Integrated Works Programme 2007/2008 to the Committee & Member Services Officer, who would also refer them on to herself and Councillor Burt as the Committee's representatives on the NHHP JMP.

RESOLVED: That the information provided by County Councillor Drake be noted.

REFERRED TO THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

- (1) That the cost for the installation of railings for the protection of properties and pedestrians on Barkway Street, Royston be established and reported back to a meeting of the Royston & District Committee to allow funding to be allocated to this priority scheme;

- (2) That the installation of vehicle-activated speed signs at London Road and Baldock Street, Royston proceed, utilising the matched funding allocated by the Royston & District Committee at its meeting of 20 April 2005 (Minute 114 refers).

REFERRED TO THE PARISH CHALLENGE PANEL: That the application by the Reed Parish Council for funding to install a footpath be considered as a matter of urgency due to the time constraints imposed by the Highways Authority.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure highway safety in the Royston & District area.

The meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

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Chairman