

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**Meeting held at Catholic Church Hall, Melbourn Road, Royston.
on 24 August 2005 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Note: Councillor A.F.Hunter joined the meeting at 8.17 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: *Planning Control & Conservation Manager, Area Planning Officer, Community Development Manager and Committee & Member Services Officer.*

North Hertfordshire District Manager – Hertfordshire Highways.

ALSO PRESENT: *County Councillor D. Drake.*

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that Planning Applications at Agenda Item 10 and Planning Appeals at Agenda Item 11 would be taken after Agenda Item 5.
- (2) The Chairman also welcomed the newly appointed Area Planning Officer for Royston, Simon Ellis.
- (3) The Chairman confirmed that a representative from Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service would address this Committee at its meeting to be held on 16 November 2005 concerning the future arrangements for Fire and Rescue Services at Royston.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

30. MINUTES – 13 JULY 2005

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2005 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

- (1) Councillor P.C.W. Burt confirmed that he had attended the meeting on 13 July 2005;
- (2) **Minute 18** - Councillor F.J. Smith confirmed the correct spelling for Dr. Peter Gough;
- (3) **Minute 19** – The Planning Control and Conservation Manager provided the following amendments:

Planning application 04/01425/1- 25 Priory Close, Royston

The reason for the Council's decision to refuse permission:

- (a) The proposed dwellings and access road would give rise to backland development out of keeping with the general pattern and character of surrounding residential properties. The introduction of the proposed access and associated engineering works would specifically, give rise to an overbearing and contrived form of development. This access, together with the introduction of the proposed dwellings, deep into the application site, would result in overlooking, loss of privacy and a general reduction of residential amenity prejudicial to the reasonable enjoyment of adjoining residential properties

Planning application 05/004931- The Maltings, Green Drift, Royston

The reason for the Council's decision to refuse permission:

- (b) The occupation of the units within the Maltings by a day nursery would give rise to an unacceptable level of vehicular and pedestrian activity to and from the narrow confines of the site which together with the below standard design of access to the site would compromise safety within and in the vicinity of the site.

31. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other items of business were presented for consideration by the Committee.

32. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

33. KNEESWORTH STREET/ QUEENS ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - UPDATE

The North Hertfordshire District Manager confirmed that the NHHP Joint Member Panel had requested that he provide an explanation to the Committee on the delay in completion of road safety works at the junction of Kneesworth Street and Queens Road, Royston.

The Manager advised that this project had not commenced as planned, certain elements of design were not finished before work started and pre-work had been insufficient to locate utilities and more investigation on utilities delayed the start. There was also a delay in the provision of the electronic controls for the new signalling installation. Unfortunately there had been an excessive amount of vandalism each evening which delayed completion and the reliance on one appointed contractor to undertake small works had been improved by the appointment of another contractor.

The Committee noted that extra work was still required at the junction and that the junction would be resurfaced in the week commencing Monday 10 October, including investigation of poor drainage and repair to the roundabout at Palace Gardens whilst Queens Road was closed. Although Members acknowledged that each crossing was a separate phase, they agreed that in the interest of improved road safety that at least one pedestrian crossing should have an audible tone/alarm, preferably at the Kneesworth Street crossing.

Considerable concern was raised as to the weakness of communication during the construction phase and the Manager confirmed that a detailed press release would be distributed concerning the final works in October.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the information provided by the North Hertfordshire District Manager for Hertfordshire Highways be noted;
- (2) That the North Hertfordshire District Manager be requested to undertake the necessary engineering work which would provide an audible tone/alarm for the pedestrian crossing at Kneesworth Street;
- (3) That the North Hertfordshire District Manager be requested to ensure that all works to complete this important pedestrian crossing are finished in the week commencing Monday 10 October 2005;
- (4) That the North Hertfordshire District Manager be requested to ensure that a detailed and informative press release is issued to the local media which will communicate to local residents the next phase of works and completion targets.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Royston and District Committee are regularly updated with progress on road maintenance issues in Royston and surrounding areas.

34. HEALTH WALKS PROGRAMME

The Community Development Manager presented the report on behalf of the Health Development Officer, which described the background to the Health Walks. The programme was very much in keeping with the strategic objectives of this authority and the National Health Service commitment to 'develop local action to tackle obesity and physical activity'.

At the moment three volunteer walk leaders guide a walk which occur two or three times a week across the District and usually attracts 10 to 11 walkers. The aim of the project is that within the next twelve months 16 walk leaders would be recruited to lead a weekly walk in each town and many of the villages in order to make this provision accessible to as many people as possible. The walks would be graded according to levels of fitness and last for up to one and a half-hours.

The Manager advised the Committee that the programme would be managed by the Countryside Management Service with key inputs from the 50+ team and the Health Development Officer. The Committee were pleased to note that the programme would be expanded to include Workplace walks and Mother and Toddler Walks.

The Manager described the sources of funding and that the project had requested local funding via grants from the five Area Committees Development Budgets, and the Committee noted that the Countryside Management Service required £4,000 to set and publicise the project. Contributions were expected to be: £760 from Stevenage and North Herts PCT and £350 from Abbott Healthcare. The balance could be met by an allocation of £434 from Royston Committee (Letchworth = £578, Baldock = £434, Hitchin = £578 and Southern Rural = £867). The Committee then reviewed the Project Cost Sheet as presented at Appendix 1 to the report which identified the items expenditure up to £4,001.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Royston and District Committee support the Health Walks Programme proposed for Royston and North Hertfordshire;
- (2) That a grant of £434 be allocated from the Development Budget 2005/2006 as a one off contribution to the start up costs of the Health Walks Programme as applicable to Royston.

REASON FOR DECISION: To provide resources that would match funding from other partners for the establishment of an expanded Health Walks Programme.

35. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Manager (CDM) presented this report on behalf of the Community Development Officer (CDO) and provided a review of the activities undertaken since the last meeting held on 13 July 2005.

The CDO with the Royston Mayor had completed the school visits and the results of the consultation had been presented at Appendix A. The Committee noted that the CDO had investigated various methods of restricting access by motor bikes to Newmarket Road and a field beyond Garden Walk and one possible method that could be used was a 'Motorbike Inhibitor' where tubular steel hoops allow pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs to pass but not by bikes with handle bars. The Committee noted that the cost of an inhibitor was not in itself expensive but the costs of making such access points suitable for use by closing and making good the access point on either side could be considerable and might be the deciding factor as to progress.

The Committee noted that investigations were underway to determine how Priory Memorial Gardens could become an alcohol-free zone, a memorial bench for Frank Letts had been ordered and discussions were in hand with Sunhill Daycare over alternative premises

The Committee were pleased to receive confirmation that the Biking Project would commence on 14 September and the CDM proposed a further contribution in the region of £500 – in addition to the £4,000 already granted by the Royston Committee for the project specific to Royston. This additional funding would be jointly with Letchworth Area Committee.

The CDM provided a comprehensive update on visioning activities by the CDO which *inter alia* included: Crossing at Kneesworth Street/Old North Road; Youth summer projects; Promotion of Royston and the work of the Town Centre Manager; Development of more market special days; Development of internet facilities at Coombes Community Centre; Improvement to voluntary sector co-ordination and the

Royston Community Network. At the Chairman's invitation County Councillor D. Drake confirmed that contrary to the statement at Paragraph 3.14 that there had been progress on the provision of a footbridge over the railway line at Burns Road/Coombelands. Public consultation meetings would be held on 19 and 22 September at Coombes Community Centre and Royston Town Hall respectively, both meetings would start at 6.30 p.m. The Community Development Manager agreed to investigate the apparent lack of communication about developments on the provision of the footbridges.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the information provided on activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer be noted;
- (2) That the Community Development Officer be requested to undertake a consultation with local residents on the installation of such Motorbike Inhibitors and ascertain whether any other legitimate users might be excluded by the installation of an inhibitor;
- (3) That the Community Development Officer be requested to undertake a full costing exercise to be prepared and presented to a future meeting of the Royston and District Committee;
- (4) That an additional sum of £500 be allocated to the Biking Project from the Visioning budget.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Royston and District Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer and to encourage responsible citizenship and create safer communities with less crime and less fear of crime.

36. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET 2005/2006

RESOLVED: That the 2005/2006 funds in the Visioning Budget of £5,690, the Small Areas Grants Budget of £1,264 and the Development Budget of £18,736 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To advise the Royston and District Committee of funds available for disbursement in the year 2005/2006.

37. GRANT APPLICATION – STANDALONE CCTV CAMERA IN BURNS ROAD, ROYSTON

RESOLVED: That a grant of £375 be awarded from the Committee's Discretionary Budget for 2005/2006 to cover the costs of the re-location of a CCTV camera from the skatepark to a wall mounting at Burns Road Community Centre.

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow the Royston and District Committee to provide financial support to schemes which assist in the provision of public safety.

38. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee heard an oral representation regarding the following:

05/00870/1 – Trident House, Royston Road, Barkway, SG8 8BU.

Mr S. Mahmoud spoke as the applicant.

RESOLVED: To determine the planning applications as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Building Services Control and as indicated in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and Location	Decision
05/00983/1	Land at 10 Melbourn Road, Royston, SG8 7DE Change of use of dwelling to a dental practice (within use Class D1).	Referred to Licensing and Appeals Committee (see (a) below)

05/00928/1	Land at 11 John Street, Royston, SG8 Continued use of premises as a recruitment agency.	Conditional Permission (as per report)
05/00953/1	Land at 16 Church Lane, Royston, SG8 Installation of entrance doorway with security shutters on Melbourn Street frontage.	Conditional Permission (as per report)
05/00786/1	Land south of Cokenach Estate, Cambridge Road, Barkway, SG8 Erection of new grain store buildings, incorporating new access onto Cambridge Road (B1368) and internal driveway with estate following removal of existing grain storage facilities.	Conditional Permission (as per report)
05/00870/1	Trident House, Royston Road, Barkway, SG8 8BU Single storey front extension and part single and part two storey side extensions to create a one bedroom terrace dwelling house with one parking space and alteration of existing vehicular access.	Conditional Permission (as per report)

- (a) **RESOLVED:** That, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the directions of refusal of planning permission by the Highways Agency, the planning application be **REFERRED TO THE LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE** for determination as the Committee were minded to grant planning permission contrary to the provisions of Policy 35 of the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations. It was considered that the need to provide a NHS dental facility for Royston far outweighed the policy presumption against the loss of a residential property.

39. PLANNING APPEALS

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager confirmed that no appeals had been lodged since the meeting of this Committee held on 13 July 2005 and that no appeals had been determined since the meeting of this Committee held on 13 July 2005.

The meeting closed at 9. 29 p.m.

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Chairman