

Royston Town Talk – Wednesday 2nd December 2020

In attendance:

Cllr Tony Hunter (NHDC)

Cllr Ruth Brown (NHDC / Royston Town Council)

Cllr Jean Green (NHDC)

Cllr Gerald Morris (NHDC)

Cllr John Davison (Royston Town Council)

Cllr Michael Harrison (Royston Town Council)

Cllr Marguerite Phillips (Royston Town Council)

Cllr Steve Jarvis (HCC/NHDC)

Cllr Fiona Hill (HCC)

Ash Hawkins (NHDC Officer)

Anna Gouveia (NHDC Officer)

Tony Hunter chaired the Town Talk and opened the informal meeting at 6.15pm. Tony welcomed the members of the public and asked for any questions.

There were two members of the Public in attendance at the meeting who had joined as observers but also commented on the Town Centre, which was a theme for the meeting.

As part of Central Government's social distancing measures, planters had been placed along the High Street. The Members of the Public commented saying that the town centre was looking good and the planters were a good addition to the Town.

Community Engagement Officer Ash Hawkins informed the group that one of the planters located at the top of John Street was damaged. Fiona Hill stated that the planter in question had been reported to Highways and would be repaired.

A question was raised about the mud/silt on the pavement on the London Road A10 and also Barkway Street. Fiona Hill and Steve Jarvis said this was an ongoing issue and that they would report it to Highways.

Ruth Brown provided an update on the cigarette butt issue in the High Street. Ruth informed the group that street cleaning was tackling the issue but that the cobbled areas were particularly difficult to clean. Ruth stated that a site visit was being organised to do an audit of the High Street to determine the areas most littered by cigarette butts and that replacement cigarette butt bins could be installed, or ones currently installed could be relocated around the town.

Ruth Brown then provided an update on the dual waste and recycling bins for the town stating that these were due to be delivered on 8th December and would hopefully be installed before the end of December 2020. There would be 9 dual waste and recycling bins in total installed in the High Street.

Marguerite Phillips raised an issue regarding litter in the Car park on the Heath opposite McDonalds. Marguerite said there was an issue with rats due to the collection of litter left by visitors to the carpark.

Ruth Brown stated that the carpark was owned by the Conservators and that the issue had been reported to them. Fiona Hill said that the issue should be reported to Environmental Health. Ruth Brown agreed with Fiona Hill but stressed that Environmental Health were under additional pressures due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Steve Jarvis suggested that better management of the emptying of the bins would help tackle the issue.