

Royston Ward Alliance Notes

16th September, 2013

Held at The Grove, Royston

Present:

Councillor Tracey Cheetham (Chair), Councillor Tim Cheetham (Vice Chair), Howard Lavender, Mick Birkinshaw, Fred Harston, Martyn Guilemer, Graham Kyte, Stephen Croft, Father Matt Bullimore.

In Attendance:

Caroline Donovan

Councillor Tracey Cheetham welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Royston Ward Alliance.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from John Openshaw.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Adoption of the Chatham House Rules

All present agreed to adopt the Chatham House rules.

3. Agreement of the Ward Alliance Terms of Reference

The model Terms of Reference were circulated. After careful consideration the Group agreed to adopt these Terms of Reference for the Royston Ward Alliance.

It was agreed to actively seek a Youth Representative to be a Member of the Ward Alliance.

4. The role of Secretary and Treasurer

It was agreed that John Openshaw would be approached to take on the role of Secretary and Treasurer for the Royston Ward Alliance. It was also agreed that a bursary of £500 per annum would be paid to facilitate the meetings and keep the accounts up to date.

5. Royston Scrutiny Steering Group

The Chair explained that there had been a significant number of Expressions of Interest received for membership of the Royston Ward Alliance.

It was recommended that a Royston Scrutiny Steering Group should be formed which Bill Newman had agreed to Chair, and it was noted that there were 5 other members who had confirmed membership. The purpose of the Group would be to:

- provide a scrutiny function to the Ward Alliance.
- be responsible for the Volunteering element of the Ward Alliance, and to try to increase the number of local residents who take part in Volunteering.
- be responsible for applying for extra funding for the Ward Alliance initiatives.

It was agreed that the first meeting of the Scrutiny Steering Group should be held in November, and that the Group would report back to the Ward Alliance via the Chair.

6. Consideration of the Ward Priorities

A discussion followed with regard to the Ward priorities. After careful consideration all present agreed that the priorities for the Royston Ward Alliance would be as follows:

- Health and Wellbeing
- The local Economy and Anti-Poverty measures
- Youth Provision
- The Environment

7. Consideration of a Ward Plan

The Group were updated that they would need to consider potential projects, which were within their Ward Alliance priorities, and which would then form the basis of their Ward Plan.

8. Update with regard to Funding

Caroline explained to the Group that there were essentially three different funding streams for the Ward Alliance to consider, which were as follows:

£10,000 from the Devolved Budget, which was not time limited. The funding has to be matched by Volunteer hours.

£5,000 from Public Health, which was not time limited, and spend would need to follow the Five Steps to Wellbeing criteria.

£2,000 from Public Health, which would need to be spent by the end of March 2014, and spend would need to follow the Five Steps to Wellbeing criteria.

However, she explained that spend was encouraged to benefit local residents and improve the local community as soon as possible, and that all projects would have to reflect the four Priorities which the Group had agreed.

9. Consideration of Potential Projects

A discussion followed with regard to potential projects which the Ward Alliance could consider. It was suggested that Events in the Park should continue as an effective

form of communicating with local residents. It was also suggested that public meetings run in a similar way to the Area Forum meetings should be held once or twice a year. It was noted that advertising and promotion of the Ward Alliance was essential and discussions were held with regard to the Ward Alliance having its own Web Site. It was suggested that Public Celebration ceremonies, and regular Newsletters should also be considered.

With regard to the Environment, discussions were held with regard to the planters in the Village and the possibility of commissioning a local gardener to look after them. A scheme to look at helping with unkempt gardens was also discussed.

With regard to Youth Provision a discussion took place with regard to the delivery of a programme of activities for young people. It was agreed that further information with regard to the Youth Provision in the area would be useful.

With regard to the local Economy and Anti-Poverty measures a discussion took place with regard to the possibility of providing a Debt Advisor. It was agreed by all present that the Group needed to make some provision for the most vulnerable in Society. It was agreed to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau and Credit Union to gather further information. The possibility of forming a time banking scheme was discussed together with the use of a Community Bank with `Royston Dollars`. Father Matt updated all present with regard to the potential provision of a Food Bank in Royston.

10. Date of Next Meetings

Monday, October 21st, 2013, at 6.30 pm at The Grove, Royston.

Tracey thanked everyone for attending, and for their positive input into the inaugural meeting of the Royston Ward Alliance.

11. Decisions Agreed

The Chair requested that a Decision Log was noted:

- It was agreed to actively seek a Youth Representative to be a Member of the Ward Alliance.
- It was agreed that John Openshaw would receive a bursary of £500 per annum to facilitate the meetings and keep the accounts up to date.
- It was agreed that a Royston Scrutiny Steering Group would be formed.

12. Actions Agreed

- Tracey agreed to look into the cost for a Debt Advisor one day a month, and to look at potential Web site addresses.
- Father Matt agreed to obtain a further update with regard to the provision of a Food Bank in the village.

- Tim agreed to investigate whether the Local Authority would host the Web Site. He also agreed to contact the Youth Council with regard to inviting a Youth representative to become a member of the Ward Alliance.
- Stephen agreed to contact Carlton Community College with regard to the Web Site becoming a project for students.
- Howard agreed to contact the Gardening Club with regard to environmental projects.
- It was agreed that all present would `spread the word` at their respective Community Groups.