

ROYSTON WARD ALLIANCE

Notes

**Monday, 9th November 2015
6.30pm the Grove, Royston**

Present: Cllr Caroline Makinson (Chair), Cllr Malcolm Clements, Cllr Tim Cheetham, Fred Harston, John Craig, John Clare, Mick Birkinshaw, Graham Kyte, Stephen Croft, Dan Wildsmith, Voluntary Action Barnsley and John Openshaw (Secretary).

In Attendance: Paul Jolley, Community Development Officer.

1. Apologies for Absence, None received.

2. Lets Grow

The chair welcomed Dan Wildsmith the local food network coordinator of Voluntary Action Barnsley, who gave a very informative presentation on the Lets Grow project across the whole of Barnsley. The project is part of Barnsley's Cities of Service programme and its aims are to improve health and well-being, engage more people in growing fruit, veg, herbs, inspiring a more active lifestyle, creating a stronger community and a new way of utilising public green space. To date some 529 people have been involved in the project across Barnsley generating 4819 hours of volunteering. Some of the projects have included Community Orchards, Herb gardens, container gardens in primary schools we have 6 grow networks established. There is a lack of growing spaces or the awareness of available land to grow on, or the lack of knowledge of how to acquire land to grow on. The project often require very little money for all the resources to grow, the project may need more funds for the future for seeds/seasonal plants but the planting of meadow areas does save money on maintenance. The project is committed to giving basic training and help in horticultural skills getting individuals and groups growing. The focus of the project is on small scale projects help is available to allotment holders or individuals seeking an allotment.

The chair gave an overview of the 'adopt a planter' scheme in Royston where volunteers maintain a number of planters and sites around Royston. M A recent meeting with Carlton Community College has seen a group from the college adopt a couple of planters on Cross Lane.

The Chair also introduced the Allotment initiative in Royston in Partnership with Groundwork bringing uncultivated plots back into use and reducing the waiting lists. At a previous meeting it was proposed that we identify additional sites for allotments. Information was sought on a site on Church Hill, this is identified as a housing site but alternatives have been identified, West End, currently a grazing site, Little Westfield's, 20/24 Meadstead Drive and Dove Hill, and Winter Avenue. It was agreed that site meetings would be arranged with Groundwork and Dan to evaluate the sites.

The Chair thanked Dan for his presentation.

3. Royston Canal Club

John Clare gave an overview of the work of the club which is reaching its 4th anniversary. When the club took over the Canal from the fishing club it inherited a number of issues, a low water level, and low fish stocks. The club developed plans to address the low water level, increase fish stocks, install and repair fishing platforms, restore and repair canal banks and finally become sustainable.

With the help of various partners the club resolved the low water level. In the first 2 years the Coke plant supported the restocking of the fish. With the help of Yorkshire Wild Life Trust 45 platforms were installed or repaired. This was on the back of their work with water voles along the canal in Royston. We hope that their work with the water voles will support the club further.

The club currently has around 150 permit holders which generate an income of around £1,000 per year. The Club maintain $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of canal tow path this added to canal banks totals over 2 miles of maintenance. The club would like to cut back larger trees to a more manageable level and are seeking support for some equipment, added to this is the cost of rent and insurance for the year.

It was proposed that the canal and its maintenance is included in the Barnsley in Bloom initiative next year, this was supported.

4. Declarations of Interest

John Craig, declared a non-pecuniary interest in the funding application by the Neighbourhood Watch.

John Clare, declared a non-pecuniary interest in the funding application by the Royston Canal Club.

5. Correspondence & Communications,

No correspondence received.

6. Notes of the previous meeting,

With a minor amendment to the section 6 of the Environmental Enforcement report, Members agreed that the notes of the meeting held on the, 21st September 2015 were a true and accurate record.

7. Matters Arising

French Drain, works to start by the end of November.

Planters & Barrels, Letters of thanks to individuals maintaining the planters were posted. All the plants for the winter bedding were collected and the compost was distributed. A further 60 plants are required for the Church Street Site. Members wanted to register their thanks to John Craig for his support in the distribution of the plants and compost.

Directory, the directory is currently being delivered to homes across Royston. The Community Development Officer distributed copies to members who agreed to issue to locations across Royston.

Cheque presentation, the presentation to Royston Dynamos went ahead on the 1st November.

DIAL, sessions are currently being advertised; a number of posters would be placed in the Grove.

Volunteering, the recording of hours would be updated.

Christmas Event, due to a number of issues the event will now take place in the Albert Shepherd VC Centre, 23rd November 3:15pm to 5:30pm there may be a small charge for young people to see Santa. A number of volunteers came forward to support the project. The light's switch on will take place on the Well.

Children's Centre, members sought clarification on the application from the centre, the secretary reported that to date no application had been received.

8. Area Council Update

The chair gave a verbal update on the Area Council. **A home grown Apprentices Scheme** has been commissioned by the Area Council. This will be a 12 month project with apprentices working in the parks across the North East Area.

Employability For Under 16's, a summer holiday scheme has been commissioned where young people will undertake 1 week of employment and 1 week classroom session preparing them for the world of work.

Youth Development Fund, the fund supported applications from Karisma (£1073.83) and Messi Monkeys (£541.00).

9. Project Updates

Allotments, reported earlier.

Children's Centre reported earlier.

10. Funding Opportunities Members were informed of Sportivate funding aimed at inactive 11-25 year olds. The priority in this round of funding, for projects delivered between April and September 2016 is women, girls, disability and young people between 19 and 25 years.

11. Early Years Provision and Children's Centres, No further information to report.

12. WW1 Commemorations. The secretary gave an update on the project proposed by Experience Barnsley. The secretary agreed to distribute copies of an application received together with an overview of the project. The cost to each of the 21 Ward Alliances across Barnsley would be £335.71.

13. Ward Alliance Funding Update

The chair gave an update on the funding available.

Applications Received,

- a) **Royston Guides, New Guide Group in Royston**, members recommended an allocation of £1280.00.
- b) **Royston Neighbourhood Watch, Planters**, members recommended an allocation of £3418.69.
- c) **Barnsley FC's, Us Girls Activities**, members recommended an allocation of £675.00.

- d) **Royston Canal Club, Canal maintenance**, members recommended an allocation of ££1000.00.

14. Ward Alliance Members Actions

Lets Grow, the secretary to distribute copies of presentation

Allotments, the Chair agreed to arrange site meetings at locations identified.

Directory, member's to deposit copies at locations across Royston.

Planters & Barrels, Members record thanks to John Craig for his support.

Christmas Event, members volunteered to assist at the event.

DIAL Project, Secretary to display posters in The Grove.

WW1 Commemorations, Secretary to distribute application and project brief.

15. Any Other Business

Robin Hood Allotments, members asked that the hedge bordering Robin Lane and The allotments be cut. A request would be made to Groundwork.

Smawell Lane Car Park, A request has been received from a group in Notton to support clean ups in the car park and routes from Notton into Royston. Members agreed to arrange a joint event with an open invitation to the group in Notton.

CAB Report, The secretary had distributed the report prior to the meeting, members discussed the content and at ways of promoting the sessions.

Rabbit Ings, Mick Birkinshaw highlighted an issue with dog walkers on the site allowing dogs to foul the football pitches, a proposal to install a fence/hedge around the pitches was tabled. A request for further details and costs was made with funding opportunities available.

16. Decisions Agreed.

- a) **Royston Guides, New Guide Group in Royston**, members recommended an allocation of £1,280.00.
- b) **Royston Neighbourhood Watch, Planters**, members recommended an allocation of £3,418.69.
- c) **Barnsley FC's, Us Girls Activities**, members recommended an allocation of £675.00.
- d) **Royston Canal Club, Canal maintenance**, members recommended an allocation of £1,000.00.

17. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 14th December 2015, 6:30pm at The Grove

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:45pm