

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 9th January 2008 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room Town Hall Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Yolanda Hayes, Town Council, Councillor Smith (Templars Gate Residents' Group), Kim Thorpe, Councillors, Mayne and Kennedy and Ian Hirst
Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk) and Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk) in attendance

Apologies:

Councillors Prime and Davidson, Betty Skyrme (WRVS), Neil Fairey and Andrew Mills

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held 14th November were approved for signing by the chairman.

Anglia in Bloom:

2008 Competition - Susan reported receipt of the entry form for the 2008 competition, after discussion it was decided to leave making the final decision to enter until the next meeting.

Seminar Anglia in Bloom - Angela presented her report to the committee on the Anglia in Bloom seminar, comments received on Royston's entry for 2007 were to include a 5 year forward plan for the committee and keep doing what we are doing.

Portfolio – Kim had agreed to take on the task of the portfolio along with the help of Yolanda and Sandra – it was agreed to wait and see if the team were going to enter the 2008 competition before doing any further work on it. Comments made by judges were to leave extra space for the judges to make their comments and not to include the photos of the area they see on their visit.

Sponsorship – We will need to obtain sponsorship again this year for the hanging baskets. Susan agreed to contact the Brian Racher Trust to see if they could help again. Rod agreed to contact Alan Fleck about an area Committee Grant.

Street Furniture: Angela agreed to contact Andrew Mills about who is responsible for the benches around the town.

Fundraising:

Angela reported that the latest fundraising event raised £135 for the committee. Angela suggested getting re-cycling bags made up with the Royston in Bloom logo on to help raise the awareness of the committee and to promote re-cycling; these could be sold at the Blooms Night event and the May Fayre. Angela will check out costs with Pelmark.

Other suggestions for fund raising were selling plants at the May Fayre.

Blooms Night: 10 April 2008

Sandra to check if Country Homes and Gardens were still willing to sponsor this event otherwise she will try Bury Fruit Farm or Mill End Nursery. The date had been added to the Town Diary and was advertised on the web-site.

Royston in Bloom 2008:

Members discussed the categories for the competition and it was agreed to keep them the same for this year. There was further discussion on the idea of giving prizes for the winners. These could be funded for the money raised so far by the committee.

Community Projects:

The project, which was hoped Groundwork Hertfordshire would get involved in, has had to be deferred until the estate is adopted by North Hertfordshire District Council; this had been delayed due to uncompleted works on the Templars Gate estate.

Greenfingers Gardening Club will be running the Sunflower Competition again.

Councillor Prime will update the committee at the next meeting on his progress about Open Gardens.

Angela agreed to make contact with the railway station manager about enhancing the appearance around the station.

The bat boxes needed to be monitored.

The Twinning Association were willing to help with improving the Grosselmerode Gardens.

Greenfingers Gardening Club to apply for a Community Award for the planting of the flower - bed outside the health centre.

Any Other Business:

Angela agreed to do a letter to organisations/voluntary groups asking for help when the committee needed it with projects.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th March 2008

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 6.55pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 12th March 2008 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room Town Hall Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Yolanda Hayes, Town Council, Councillor Smith (Templars Gate Residents' Group), Kim Thorpe and Councillors, Mayne, Davidson and Prime Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk) in attendance.

Apologies:

Councillor Kennedy, Betty Skyrme (WRVS), Ian Hurst, Neil Fairey, Andrew Mills and Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk)

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 9th January were approved for signing by the chairman.

Anglia in Bloom:

2008 Competition – after discussion it was decided, because of the work involved and as key personnel will not be available, not to enter the Anglia in Bloom competition this year. This decision was approved, unanimously, by all members present.

Portfolio – Yolanda will collate information for the portfolio, with Kim overseeing it. It was agreed that, for this year, a draft portfolio be produced. Sections were distributed between committee members as follows:

- Section A & B – 1 - Local Authority & 'in Bloom' group – Neil Fairey
- Section A & B – 2 – Business & Commercial – Bill Prime to liaise with Geraint Burnell & Chamber of Commerce
- Section A & B – 3 – Residential Front Gardens - Judges of R-I-B
- Section A & B – 4 &
Section D – 3 – Community Involvement - Lindsay Davidson
- Section C – 1 – Management of Natural Area - Sandra Restall
- Section D – 1 & 2 – Cleanliness & Condition of Environment – Philip Mayne to liaise with John O'Connor
- Section E - 1 & 2 – Marketing, Publicity & Promotion and Organization and Innovation in Attracting Sponsorship – Angela Louch.

Draft submissions to be done by 20th June 2008.

Blooms Night: 10th April 2008

- Helen Lindhurst, from Mill End Nursery, Rushden, will be attending to demonstrate planting and answer any questions. Demonstration items will be donated to the raffle. She will also bring a variety of plants which will be available for purchase on the evening.
- Flyers have already been distributed and R-I-B entry forms will be available on the night.
- WIam to do raffle
- Sandra & Yolanda to setup display
- Refreshments: Lindsay, Kim and Jean (Council staff to purchase tea, coffee, squash, milk, sugar and biscuits)

Royston in Bloom 2008:

- Closing date for entries: 5 pm. Thursday 19th June 2008
- Judging date: week commencing 23rd June 2008
- Judges: Proposed – David Banister, Alan Restall and Neil Fairey (Angela will contact them).

- Prizes: it was decided to give certificates and shields only.

Sponsorship of Hanging Baskets

Sponsorship has been received from:

- NHDC - grant £6,421 – 35 hanging baskets & 4 planters
- Brian Racher – 20 hanging baskets (to be confirmed)
- R. Tutton & WKH – 1 hanging basket each
- RTC – 6 hanging baskets

The committee discussed the different avenues for sponsoring hanging baskets, roundabouts etc. to see if there could be an easier way of combining all the information which would then cause less confusion.

Open Gardens

Bill Prime had received a good response – 12 gardens. He proposed to group them into areas for easy visiting. **Open Gardens Day to be Sunday 6th July 2008** - entry to be by programme. It was agreed to set-up a working-party to discuss arrangements and prepare correspondence, posters, programme etc.: Bill Prime, Sandra Restall, Angela Louch and Susan Thornton-Bjork/Jean Waldock

Community Projects:

- Two schools, Tannery Drift and Icknield Walk, had responded to Lindsay re: the Litter-pick-up project. Litter-pick-ups arranged for April.
- The Royston Youth Network Group was supporting the 'Hope 08' competition run by the Churches for youngsters involved in the community. Youngsters may be interested, as part of R-I-B, in monitoring the bat & bird boxes.
- The Committee were pleased to note that the car park in Coronation Avenue had been resurfaced but the fence still needs repairing.
- They were also pleased to report that the Guides and the Greenfingers Club had received grants from the Community Chest Awards to improve the landscaping around the Guide Hut and the land between the town hall and the health centre.
- To raise funds the Committee had applied for a pitch at the May Fayre to sell plants, sale or return, from Mill End Nursery.
- Angela had checked with Pelmark to see if they would sponsor recyclable bags – they could not help with this but agreed to donate R-I-B sticker labels.

Any Other Business:

Sandra had contacted Neil Holme-Smith about a tree walk but he only conducted walks around Welwyn.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30th April 2008 at 5.30 pm.

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 7 pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 30th April 2008 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room Town Hall Royston.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council) Betty Skyrme (WRVS) Ian Hirst (Allotment Association) Neil Fairey, Andrew Mills (NHDC) Councillors, Mayne, Davidson and Prime, Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk) and Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Kennedy and Smith, and Kim Thorpe

Minutes: The notes of the meeting held on 12th March 2008 were approved for signing by the chairman.

Future Meeting Times:

After discussion by all members it was decided to change the times of the meetings until 2.30pm for the next two meetings and review it on the agenda again. The next two meeting dates will be on the 11th June and 30th July starting at 2.30pm.

Blooms Night 2008:

Angela reported the event had been very successful with over 70 people attending. She had received lots of feedback on what a good evening it had been. The raffle had raised over £70 and refreshments £30. Thank-you letters have been sent to the WI for doing the raffle and to Helen Lindhurst, from Mill End Nursery, Rushden for the demonstration. It was agreed to carry on with the event for next year.

Royston in Bloom 2008 Competition:

Judges – Celia Walpole and Alan Restall have agreed to be judges again this year. Neil Fairey will confirm if he is available at a later date, if not he will recommend someone.

Award Presentation: - The date for the Awards was agreed as Thursday 25th September 2008 at 7pm in Market Hill Rooms.

Open Garden Event:

Bill reported he had now got 14 gardens for the Open Day but unfortunately one had pulled out because of another commitment. He will try and get another one. Six replies and been received so far. Programmes will be available from the Town Hall during the week before the event. Posters were given out to advertise the event. A further notice for the people opening their gardens with Open Today on will be given at the next meeting. The committee gave their thanks to Bill for organising this event for Royston and if it went well it could be an annual event.

Sponsors:

Andrew Mills reported that they may soon have a sponsor for the Twigdens Roundabout.

Susan reported that it had been agreed that NHDC would invoice Royston Town Council for Hanging baskets at the end of the financial year (March 2009) Royston Town Council will be responsible for collecting all sponsorship money and forward it to NHDC.

The budget previously provided by NHDC for hanging baskets had now ceased and it would be up to the committee to apply to the Royston Area Committee each year for money for the baskets. John O'Connor will continue to sponsor the baskets in Priory Gardens.

Community Projects:

1 -Guide Hut Angela reported that work was ongoing

2 -Coombes Community Centre – 1 tree has been broken by vandals

3 - Health Centre Bed – The Greenfingers Gardening Club had received a Community Award from Royston Town Council and the bed had now been planted up by members of the club.

4 - Sponsor a Bulb – The bulbs that had been planted following this event had made a wonderful show. It was decided to organise Sponsor a bulb again at the Framers Market on October 5th 2008. Susan to check with the Farmers Market to see if this was ok.

5- Litter Picking- Lindsay had provided the school children who had done the litter picking with stickers and rubbers so they had some recognition of what they had done.

Thanks went to Lindsay and Philip for their help with this project.

6 – Bat/bird boxes – The boxes put up by the committee needed to be surveyed to see if they were being used.

Suggestions for new projects

Lindsay said that Tannery Drift School wanted trees planted in front of the school. If the school or the parents association contacted the committee, help could be given in advising them what trees to plant and in planting them but they would have to pay for them. Parents had already planted up a bed in front of the school.

Angela would like to do some tree planting on a field off York Road but it was not know who owned this field.

Lindsay asked about the area on the entrance to St Mary's Park estate as this could be enhanced, especially as it is the main entrance road to the town's main car-park.

It was thought that this was NHDC land. It would be a good area for bulbs if the soil was suitable.

Ian reported that the land by the new Speed Activated Sign in London Road had been cleared and it was a good time to try and keep this cleared. Neil reported this would be County Council land.

Any Other Business

Portfolio: Yolanda had been working on the draft portfolio. Lindsay and Philip had done their bit.

May Fayre:

- Angela and Sandra will get the plants from Mill End Nursery on Sunday
- the Town Council's Gazebo will be made available
- Set-up time is after 10am
- A rota was organised for the stall.
- Posters and application forms for the In Bloom competition were given to Sandra.

Green Flags:

Andrew reported that North Herts District Council is proposing to enter the Priory Gardens for a National Award – the Green Flag. Run on similar lines as the Blue Flag scheme for Beaches the Green Flag is aimed at recognising good management of public open spaces. It would involve a management plan covering 5-10 years for the Gardens and he was asking if the 'Royston in Bloom Working Party' would support the application as this would show evidence of NHDC working with the Community.

An Awareness Event is being held in the Council Chamber at the District Council offices on Wednesday 21st May giving information on Green Flag Awards and Andrew invited anyone to attend.

Members were delighted to hear of this and fully supported the idea. It would be a good opportunity for local residents of Royston to give their ideas of what they would like to see in the Priory Gardens.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7pm.

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 11th June 2008 at 2.30pm in the Room 11, Town Hall, Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council) Betty Skyrme (WRVS) Ian Hirst (Allotment Association) Neil Fairey, (NHDC) Councillors, Mayne, Davidson, Prime and Smith
Susan Thornton-Björk, Town Clerk gave her apologies for arriving late.

Apologies:

Councillor Kennedy, Rita Turner, Kim Thorpe, Andrew Mills and Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk)

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 30th April were approved after the amendment of field to verge under the new projects heading and the inclusion of Memorial after Priory under the Green Flag heading. They were then signed by the chairman.

Royston in Bloom:

Entry forms were slowly coming in, no entries as yet for categories 6 and 7. The three judges were confirmed as Alan Restall Greenfingers Gardening Club, Gary Watling and Neil Fairey from NHDC. Judging date was set for 23rd June 2008.

Open Gardens Day, 6th July:

There were 10 confirmed entries so far, this was agreed to be enough for people to get around to, in the afternoon. Posters will be made available for putting up on the day. Sandra was preparing the entry programmes; these would be sold by the Restall's, Richardson's, and Clark's, and the Allotment Association. They will also be available from the Town Hall from the 30th June 2008. Angela will organise containers for donations and labels.

Green Flag Award Priory Memorial Gardens:

Betty, Sandra and Angela attended the information evening at NHDC offices on the 21st May. Neil reported that the district had entered Letchworth Norton Common for an award this year and this will be judged on the 21st July. It is hoped to enter the Royston Priory Memorial Gardens next year. Andrew will be producing a strategy for the gardens which will be followed and monitored. It was agreed to have this item on every agenda for information.

Portfolio:

The portfolio had been divided into sections and these have been given to members of the committee.

Community Projects:

The flower bed by the health centre was suffering from cyclists riding through it, it was suggested to put in wooden blocks to try and stop this.

Any Other Business:

Royston May Fayre – Angela reported what a great day it had been and that they sold all the plants purchased and made a profit of £208. Thanks were given to Angela for getting the plants. It was agreed to give an update of, money made so far by the committee, at the next meeting.

Comments were made about the weeds around the Town Hall and offices, Susan informed the committee that these were being dealt with by the Town Council.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30th July 2008 at 2.30pm

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 3.45pm