

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 10th January 2007 at 5.30 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Town Hall.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall, Ian Hirst, Rita Turner, Yolanda Hayes, Betty Skyrme, Daphne Lodge, Councillors Rod Kennedy, Bill Prime, Philip Mayne & Lindsay Davidson.
Officer in attendance Town Clerk.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Neil Fairey, Andrew Mills and David Renouf

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 22nd November 06 were signed and approved as a correct record after the alteration in **Note 5 Guide Hut**, Dead tree to removed by HCC not NHDC.

Notes from the Sub –Committees on Judging and The Portfolio were accepted. It was agreed to discuss the portfolio requirements at the next meeting.

3. Update Community Projects:

Murketts. It was agreed that the working party would meet on Saturday 27th January 2007 at 10.30am to do some more planting. They would be replacing the plants that had died since last years planting. Angela would also clear the Cherry Tree suckers.

Coombes Community Centre. Angela has now met twice with Bill Davidson and Neil Fairey to see what could be done to the area around the community centre. At the moment, the plants in the long bed at the front of the building need pruning every year and often look untidy. It is proposed to revamp this bed with slow growing plants; areas for new trees have also been identified. Neil will get a price for this work and then Angela will source funding.

Guide Hut. The dead tree has now been removed but it now leaves a large gap in the hedge. What to do about the hedge is still an issue, the ivy has also killed a lot of it. The agents who work for HCC say the hedge must be a clipped hedge the same as the school. Further thought into this project is needed.

Heath Centre Flower Bed. This area is in need of attention. Angela has spoken to the Practice Manager and they have no funds available to improve this area. Angela is proposing to ask the Gardening Club if they would do the weeding and planting and to also ask members of the club for donations of plants for this area.

Homestart Bed. Angela showed members the new plaque donated by Homestart for erecting on this site.

4. Sponsorship:

The Town Centre Manager had agreed to include in his circular to all retailers in the town centre the request for sponsorship for hanging baskets. Angela agreed to do a letter requesting sponsorship to the Pubs and Clubs. This should include the Lions Club, Manor House, Friends of Royston & District Hospital, WEA, etc. Members would be requested to follow up the letters once they had been sent. It was also suggested to apply to The Brian Racher Trust for funding. It was also agreed to contact The Listings, Archer's re The Adobe and to advertise on the council web site that sponsorship is needed.

5. New Members:

The Lions Club have agreed to send a new representative along to future meetings. It was good to see the increase in numbers on the working party and the enthusiasm of all members.

6. Categories and Judging;

Categories:

All members contributed to the discussion about changing the categories and it was agreed to include a new category '**Best Young Person's Project (individual)**'. Hopefully this would encourage young gardeners to enter as they would not be competing against groups or schools, it was also agreed to rename some of the other categories. The categories agreed are:

1. Best Front Garden
2. Best Front Garden (Easy Maintenance)
3. Best Front Container Garden
4. Best Kept Front Street or Community Area
5. Best Entry Young Persons Project (Schools or Youth Clubs)
6. Best Entry Young Persons Project (Individual)
7. Best Entry from Pubs, & Commercial Premises
8. Best Kept Allotment

After discussion it was agreed to keep the judging for the Young Persons Project the same so the winning entry would be able to have their name engraved on the Tom Potter's Cup. Further discussion still needs to take place about changing to the Gold, Silver, Bronze awards system. The sub-group will discuss this further and come back to the next meeting with further suggestions.

7. Blooms Night 26th April 2007:

Ian will ask if a member of the Allotment Association will be part of the panel. Royston in Bloom will be launched at the In Bloom evening on **Thursday 26th April**. The council office will produce entry forms and posters and do Press Releases.

8. Any Other Business:

May Fayre. Sandra and Rita will do the May Fayre stall again this year. It was agreed they would also run a raffle and members were asked to donate any items to do with gardening for prizes.

Gardening Club. The Gardening Club would be running their Sunflower competition again this year.

Litter Pick. Lindsay reported that she had attended a Governor's meeting at Tannery Drift School and put forward the idea of the children doing a litter pick in their road. This was agreed in principle. Lindsay agreed to check to see if they needed help with extra adults and to organise a date which was suitable to the school. The team would provide the necessary equipment i.e. gloves, bags and litter pickers.

The idea of having Tee-shirts for members to wear when they are involved in projects was discussed and Angela agreed to look into this further.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 7.02pm.

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 14th February 2007 in the Committee Room on the Town Hall

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Gardening Club), Ian Hirst (Allotment Ass), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Neil Fairey (NHDC), Betty Skyrme(WRVS) Councillors Davidson and Mayne

1. Apologies:

Apologies received from Rita Turner, Daphne Lodge, Andrew Mills and Councillor Prime

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 10th January 2007 were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Judging Criteria Royston in Bloom:

Before deciding on the way forward for this year it was agreed to wait for details from Anglia in Bloom about the Gold, Silver and Bronze scoring system.

Closing date for the competition will be 21st June with the judging taking place on the 25th and 26th June. Judges this year will be Alan Restall and Neil Fairey. It was agreed to ask David Bannister if he would also be a judge.

4. Sponsorship:

Hanging Baskets: - Neil Fairey reported that NHDC Royston Area Committee had agreed a grant to pay for 4 pyramid planters and 48 baskets, for the town centre area.

John O'Connors (Local Landscape/Gardening Contractors) will also be sponsoring the 12 baskets on the lamp-posts in the Priory Memorial Gardens.

This leaves 14 baskets to be sponsored. Angela was in the process of producing a letter to be delivered to retailers, clubs and organisations requesting further sponsorship for these.

T-Shirts: Angela reported that she had obtained sponsorship from Pelmark of Flint Cross for 12 polo shirts printed with "Working for cleaner brighter Royston" underneath the In Bloom logo. These will be worn by members of the team when out and about on project work.

5. Community Projects:

Murketts: Angela reported what a fantastic morning it had been with a large turn-out for the planting and thanked everyone for their hard work. There had been publicity in the Cambridge Evening News.

Guide Hut: The compost had been delivered and Daphne is going to organise a Sat morning for the planting with the Guides. The issue regarding replacement of the hedge are still on-going.

Coombes Community Centre: The community centre had applied for a grant from the Brian Racher Trust towards costs of landscaping the area outside..

Litter Pick: - Lindsay had arranged with Tannery Drift School for some of the pupils to do a litter pick on 30th March 2007 between 1.30 and 2pm. This would be around the school area. Angela will arrange press coverage. Lindsay will check with the school about gloves for the children.

Future projects for consideration:

The former shrine at the entrance to St Mary's Park, King James Way could be made a feature of. Councillor Davidson will check with residents of St Mary's Park to see if anyone is interested in supporting this.

An area at the entrance to The Warren which used to be planted up and kept nice has become neglected; further investigations into this will be made to see if it is part of the District Council contract.

2. **Blooms Night:**

Susan will arrange for posters to be done. Entry will be free again this year.
A member of the Allotment Association will join the panel on Blooms Night.

7. **Fund Raising:**

It was agreed to arrange a plant bring and buy sale in May at the Coombes Community Centre.
Yolanda reported that the W.I. group had arranged a coffee morning and will donate the proceedings to Royston in Bloom.

8. **Portfolio**

The portfolio was progressing well. The Allotment Association asked if they could contribute by having a section and it agreed they could have 2 pages.

9. **Any Other Business:**

Tree Planting launch of Anglia in Bloom - The theme for the 2007 launch for AIB is going to be Planting a Tree. Every entrant in the AIB competition are invited to do the same. The date for this will be March 21st first day of Spring. It was agreed that Royston should be involved and plant a tree. It was agreed to plant a tree at Coombes Community Centre as part of their project. Angela would arrange the tree.

Mill End Nursery Rushden: Angela is in the process of arranging a visit to Mill End Nursery. She will fix a date for after the Blooms Night event.

A505 bypass Royston: Members were disappointed to hear Neil Fairey (NHDC) report that this section will be removed from their maintenance contract as from the 1st April 2007 as it was now classed as a high speed road. It will now be under the control of Hertfordshire Highways and therefore will not be cut as regularly.

Leisure Centre Landscaping: Angela reported that the new contractors for the landscaping at the leisure centre were now in place and the area was looking very good. A big improvement to what it was.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th March 2007

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 14th March 2007 in the Committee Room on the Town Hall, Royston.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Gardening Club), Ian Hirst (Allotment Ass), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Betty Skyrme(WRVS) Rita Turner (Gardening Club)
Councillors Davidson, Kennedy and Mayne

Before the meeting started members were issued with their new Royston in Bloom polo shirts which were sponsored by PELMARK.

1. Apologies:

Apologies received from Daphne Lodge, Andrew Mills, David Renouf and Councillor Prime

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 14th February 2007 were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Royston in Bloom Judging:

Susan reported that David Bannister was unable to help with judging for the Royston in Bloom competition on 25/26 June this year as he would not be available, he would like to be considered next year.

4. Sponsorship information Update:

Angela reported that she had delivered a number of sponsorship requests letters and details were taken from various members to chase up. Sponsorship received so far from Watts Knowles £130.00, Trinity Life Church £130.00 and Mark Weatherhead £30. Susan also reported that the Brian Racher Trust was willing to sponsor up to 10 hanging baskets.

Angela reported that the Homestart sign for sponsoring the bed by the Health Centre was now in place.

The Greenfinger's Gardening Club were arranging to look at the small flower bed near the Health Centre on Sat 31st March 2007 to see improvements could be down.

Susan agreed that she would add the names of all sponsors to the Royston in Boom page on the Town Council's web site.

5. Community Projects:

Guide Hut:

Angela reported that the Girl Guides had received a Grant from the Brain Racher Trust for the removal of tree stumps and replacement of fencing and hedging at the Guide Hut in Garden Walk.

It was hoped to organise the planting of the tubs soon.

Coombes Community Centre:

The tree planting was all arranged for the 21st March to coincide with the launch of Anglia in Bloom. The tree had been donated by Mill End Nursery of Rushden.

The Mayor had been invited and children from Roysia School Gardening club have been invited to do the planting. The Press had also been invited for a photo shoot.

Tannery Drift:

Councillor Davidson reported that the litter pick was all arranged, (Friday 30th March 2007 at 1.30pm) the school was to provide gloves for the children. The Press had been invited.

Shrine! King James Way:

Councillor Davidson reported that she had been in contact with St Mary's School who were keen to get involved with this project. Ideas were still to be sort as to what could be done with this

project. It was suggested that a competition could be arranged so the children of St Mary's School could give us their ideas.

Lindsay is going to meet with the Deputy Head at St Mary's.

Bat Boxes:

It was hoped to have an update on this project from the Guides at the next meeting.

6. Blooms Night:

Sandra had produced a poster to advertise the event. Susan agreed to distribute this through the office.

Country Homes and Gardens had agreed to have plants for sale. They now only had 1 person available for the panel. After discussion it was agreed for Susan to ask David Bannister if he would like to join the panel for the evening. It is hoped to get some questions in advance.

Yolanda will check with WI to see if they will help by donating raffle prizes for the evening.

An open evening visit to Mill End Nursery Rushden has also been arranged. It was agreed to advertise this at Blooms Night and to make a list of those interested in attending. A £2 commitment charge would be asked for, so that numbers of visitors could be forwarded to the Mill End Nursery in advance.

7. Portfolio 2007:

Councillor Kennedy reported that information was being gathered and the portfolio was slowly coming together. Ian Hirst provided information from the Allotment Association for inclusion. More pictures were needed.

8. Any Other Business:

It was agreed to write to the District Council to see who is responsible for the roundabout at the entrance to the Twigden Estate and the one just inside the estate. Members are keen to try and get the planting on these roundabouts tidied up.

A letter had gone to the Leisure Centre to say how nice the landscaping was looking now and that we would inform them of the judging date of Anglia in Bloom.

9. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting was agreed for 11th April 2007.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.45pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 11 April 2007 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room on the Town Hall, Royston.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Gardening Club), Ian Hirst (Allotment Ass), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Betty Skyrme(WRVS) Daphne Lodge, (Brownies) David Renouf, Neil Fairey (NHDC),Councillors, Kennedy and Prime
Susan Thornton-Björk in attendance

1. Apologies:

Apologies received from Rita Turner (Gardening Club) Andrew Mills (NHDC), Councillor Mayne and Davidson

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 14th March 2007 were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Royston in Bloom Judging:

It was agreed to contact Anthony Pigg to see if he could help on judging day. Councillor Kennedy agreed to do this.

4. Sponsorship:

Further sponsorship has been obtained for hanging baskets from Curwens Solicitors, Mr Tutton, and Mr S Findlay. A letter would be sent to the Brian Racher Trust to inform them that they now only need to sponsor 7 hanging baskets.

5. Community Projects:

Guide Hut hedge and planters, Daphne confirmed that the Grants had now been received and work had started on the removal of stumps and old hedge. A new fence was still to be put up and the hedge planting will take place in the autumn.

A date is to be arranged in a couple of weeks for planting of the new planters.

Coombes Community Centre, Councillor Prime reported he was extremely grateful for the help from the Committee and gave his special thanks to Angela. The trees have been planted and will need regular watering; the next stage is to remove the old bushes at the front of the building. It has been arranged with the Under 5 Group from the Community Centre to organise the planting. It will make a big difference to the area.

Tannery Drift School Litter Pick, The litter pick went well with pupils being very enthusiastic on the day. It was good to see children getting involved in community projects. It was agreed to follow up on this exercise by contacting other schools in the area. Sandra agreed to talk to teachers about this when she contacted the schools regarding the Sunflower competition.

Bat Boxes: No update at present, it was agreed to check with local residents to see if they were interested in monitoring the boxes for activity.

King James Way, Councillor Davidson reported that St Mary's School children's parents had gone and looked at the area around the Shrine! It was very crumbly and was decided that perhaps this was not a project to pursue at this time. The school is still very interested in being involved with Royston in Bloom and have decided to do a garden within the school grounds and enter the competition.

Future Projects: It was agreed to think about more projects for the future, ideas connected with bulb planting by school children in September, and The National Tree planting week in November 07.

It was also agreed to try and find out who owns the hoarding board on the A10 as you come into Royston and to try and get that area tidied up.

6. Blooms Night:

Susan reported that David Bannister had agreed to be on the Question Time Panel.

Neil had arranged for a person from the Waste Awareness team to come along as well.
Betty and Daphne agreed to do the refreshments.
Lindsay agreed to collect names for the Mill End Nursery visit on the 10th May and the £2 required to book.
Rod agreed to collect questions in advance.
Entry forms for Royston in Bloom to be available.
Previous portfolios and certificates from the Anglia in Bloom competition to be available for display.

7. May Fayre 2007

It was agreed to use the display boards from Blooms Night and have more entry forms available.

8. Portfolio 2007.

Progress was well on the way with this year's portfolio with a lot of information already available.
There was still further information to be added. It would be printed by the Stationary Cupboard.

9. Any of Business:

The roundabout to the Twigdens estate is still proving to be a problem it was still on Hertfordshire Highways contract and therefore does not get cut that often, and it only gets a rough cut. It was agreed to chase this up again.

The committee needed to look at other ways of generating money to enable more projects to be undertaken. Members needed to get their thinking caps on and come back to the committee with ideas.
David agreed to search for some ideas.

10. Date of Next meeting: 9th May 2007 5.30pm

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 6.45pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room on the Town Hall, Royston.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Gardening Club), Ian Hirst (Allotment Ass), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Councillors Mayne and Davidson, Susan Thornton-Björk and Jean Waldock in attendance

1. Apologies:

Apologies received from Rita Turner (Gardening Club) Andrew Mills (NHDC), Neil Fairey (NHDC), David Renouf, Councillors Kennedy and Prime

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 14th April 2007 were approved and signed by the chairman after the amendment to note number 5 Coombes Community, that it will be the Time Bank doing the planting not the Under 5 Group.

3. Blooms Night:

All agreed that the evening went well with about 60 people attending. The raffle organised by the WI AM group raised £94, thanks goes to them. Letters of thanks have been sent to all members of the panel. It was agreed to make a bullet list of points to address for next year's event.

A few names were collected for the visit to Mill Lane Nursery on the 10th May 2007.

4. Royston in Bloom:

Judges: Celia Walpole had agreed join Neil Fairey and Alan Restall for the In Bloom judging.

Certificates/Prizes: Susan agreed to design the new certificates for the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards. It was agreed that the overall winner of each category would receive a Royston Crow shield.

Awards date: The date for presenting the Awards was agreed for Thursday 13th September 07 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

5. Anglia in Bloom:

Portfolio: Sandra reported an email from Rod which says he now has the design and layout in place ready for adding the information and photos. Yolanda to check room bookings diaries and will arrange two meetings with Rod and Sandra to discuss further details.

Judging Route: The route for the judges from Anglia in Bloom cannot be finalised until after the Royston in Bloom winners have been announced. Other areas of the town to be considered to be included in the route; are Coombes Community Centre, the Evangelical Church, Murkett's waste ground, the Guide Hut, Priory Gardens, and the Leisure Centre.

Transport and Guides for judging day: This will be discussed at the next meeting when the judging date is known.

6. Funds available:

Details of funds available were noted, copy with notes.

Angela reported receipt of an email from David Renouf about some fund raising ideas. After discussion it was agreed in principle to go with one of the suggestions Buy a Bulb to support Royston in Bloom:

This would involve having a market stall (Susan to see if we could have one when the Farmers Market was on in October) and getting people to sponsor a bulb for 20p. The bulbs would then be used to plant in an area within the town, as yet to be agreed. Possible sites could be Twigden's roundabout, in front of the hoarding on the A10, or around the 'shrine' in King James Way.

7. Community Projects:

Murketts: Angela asked for volunteers to help with the watering of the trees at the back of the Evangelical Church / Murketts site, if we had another dry spell.

Coombes Community: The Time Bank had now become involved and are helping with this project. The date set for planting up the newly cleared beds is 26th May at 10.30am

Guide Hut: Fencing now completed, new hedge to be planted in the autumn.

Future project suggestions:

Car park Sun Hill/Coronation Avenue, even though this area has had some work done to it recently and the car park is used more, it could still do with some further improvements to it.

Bulb planting, look for areas around the town to suggest for planting of bulbs

Spring Clean Royston Day, Suggestions were made to arrange a date to ask everyone in the town to tidy up the area outside their house. It was agreed to arrange publicity and advertise a date where all of the community could help by clearing the area outside their house of rubbish. It was agreed to look into this further.

All members were then asked to come back to the next meeting with any further ideas for future project.

8. Any Other Business:

Angela gave her thanks to Sandra for doing the Royston in Bloom stall at the May Fayre and giving out Royston in Bloom entry forms

Susan reported a letter received from Anglia in Bloom asking us for any material about advertising events in connection with Anglia in Bloom at shows they attended. It was felt that this was not something we could become involved in.

9. Date of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting has been changed to 20th June at 5.30pm

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 6.40pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 20th June 2007 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room on the Town Hall, Royston.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Gardening Club), Ian Hirst (Allotment Ass), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Councillors Mayne and Davidson, Neil Fairey NHDC, Andrew Mills NHDC
Susan Thornton-Björk and Jean Waldock in attendance

The Chairman welcomed a new member, John Drog from Hertfordshire Careers Service, to the committee.

1. Apologies:

Apologies received from Councillors Kennedy and Prime, and Betty Skyme

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 9th May 2007 were approved and signed by the chairman after the amendment to include Silver Gilt after Gold in item 4.

3. Royston in Bloom:

A number of applications have been received so far, it was hoped a few more would come in before the closing date on Friday. Angela agreed to chase up some of last year's entries who had not yet entered.

Judging arrangements were in hand, it was agreed to email Sandra a copy of the allotment site for identification of plots entered. Neil agreed to take photos of the entrants as they went round. Neil will ask schools if they could produce a small one or two page portfolio of their entry which can be given to the Anglia in Bloom judges.

4. Portfolio:

Angela explained to the new member of the committee that a sub-group had been working on a portfolio which shows all the work the committee has done over the last year. The portfolio will then be sent to the Anglia in Bloom judges before they come to Royston. Members of the committee were invited to view the draft portfolio on the computer at the end of the meeting.

The winners of the Royston in Bloom competition will be added to the portfolio after the judging next week.

It was agreed that we will need 6 copies to be printed by the Stationary Cupboard, 2 for Anglia in Bloom judges, 1 NHDC, 1 Library, 1 Museum, and 1 for the Town Council.

5. Anglia in Bloom:

The judging date was set for Monday 16th July 2007; judges will arrive at 1.45pm, time allowed for the judging is 2 hours, with additional time allowed for press interviews and young people's projects.

Details of the directions, names of guides, contact phone numbers, itinerary, and two copies of the portfolio will need to be forwarded to the judges at least 5 days beforehand.

Sandra will notify the schools of the Anglia in Bloom judging date.

Angela agreed to contact the volunteers who had been involved in the previous community projects to see if they could be present when the judges visited these areas of the town during their tour.

A copy of the route will be emailed to Melvin Flack and Neil Fairey beforehand.

Lindsay agreed to help with the refreshments in Market Hill Rooms, Philip will also be available. We will let Lindsay know numbers to cater for nearer to the date.

It was agreed that Angela, Rod and Neil, if available, will accompany the judges on the tour, if Neil is not available, it was agreed to ask Celia.

Meltax have agreed to provide a people carrier for the tour. This is provisionally booked for 2.15pm from Market Hill Rooms. This sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

Yolanda will organise the display of work done over the last year for the judges to view at Market Hill Rooms. All members are invited to be present, if possible, and asked to wear their Royston in Bloom T-shirts.

6. Community Projects:

The Gardening Club are hoping to clear and plant up the bed outside the Health Centre this weekend.

Susan reported that Councillor Prime on behalf of Coombes Community Committee, would like to give their thanks to the Royston in Bloom Committee, especially Angela, and to TimeBank for all the help they have provided in the new planting at the Centre.

Angela reported that some of the tree-guards at Centre were in need of attention.

Arrangements have been agreed for the committee to have a stall at the outside Farmers Market on the 7th October; this would be to get members of the public to sponsor a bulb. The bulbs will then be planted, in an area yet to be agreed, in Royston. Now that the Twigdens' roundabout is under NHDC gardening contractors, it is thought, that this could possibly be one sites for the bulbs. Members were asked to bring further suggestions back to the next meeting.

Members are still concerned over the state of the car-park at the top of Coronation Avenue. An approach to the owners 'North Herts Homes' will be made, to see if we can work in partnership with them and get the area tidy up.

Concerns were also raised over the condition of the 'town ditch' which has become very overgrown and looks very untidy, investigations will be made to see who owns the 'town ditch'.

7. Any other business:

Neil raised his concerns over the amount of vandalism occurring in Priory Gardens, a number of fences have been damaged this week. It seems to have increased since the security camera has been moved to another area; this will be reported to members of the council.

Members were shown a draft print-out of a sticker the Crow wants to produce for the entrants of the Royston in Bloom competition. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 11th July 2007

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 11th July 2007 at 5.30pm in the Committee Room in the Town Hall, Royston.

Present: Angela Louch (Chair), Betty Skyme (WRVS), Ian Hirst (Allotment Ass), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Councillors Kennedy, Mayne and Davidson, Susan Thornton-Björk and Jean Waldock in attendance

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor Prime, Sandra Restall, Neil Fairey, Andrew Mills, Rita Turner and John Droy

2. Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held 20th June 2007 were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Royston in Bloom:

A list of the winners of the Royston in Bloom competition was presented to the committee.

There had been good press coverage of the winners in the local papers.

As there had been no entries in Category 5 section, it was agreed to put this on a future agenda for discussion.

The awards evening date was confirmed as Thursday 13th September.

4. Anglia in Bloom:

Susan confirmed that the portfolio had been sent to the judges on the 10th July. Copies were available for team members to view. The Chairman and other members gave their thanks to Rod and the other members of the Sub-working party for an excellent job.

The final arrangements were discussed for the judging day on Monday.

- The route for the judges on Monday had been forwarded to the Landscaping Contractors and the Street Cleansing team.
- Arrangements were made for a small team to tidy up the Manor House on Saturday morning
- Yolanda and Jean will set up display in Market Hill Rooms on Sunday
- Celia, as a judge for Royston in Bloom competition will be joining the Anglia in Bloom judges on their tour of Royston, as Neil is unable to.
- Angela has arranged for 2 members of TimeBank to man Market Hill Rooms while the judges are on their tour of the town. Phillip will also be available.
- Transport arrangements by MELTAX had been confirmed.
- The Press has been invited to meet the judges at Tannery Drift School and after the tour at Market Hill Rooms.
- Lindsay will provide refreshments with the help of ladies from TimeBank

5. Community Projects:

The Coombes Community Centre area will be weeded by members of TimeBank and Angela will tidy trees.

Susan reported that the Town Ditch is owned by Anglian Water Board and they will arrange for the area around Stamford Avenue to be tidied up. Ian reported that this was being done today.

It was agreed to discuss details about the Bulb sponsoring at the next meeting.

6. Any Other Business:

The date for the Anglia in Bloom Awards has as yet, not been agreed, but it would be in the early part of September.

Ian said he would be interested in attending the Anglia in Bloom seminar.

Angela mentioned another fund raising idea for the committee; volunteers are needed by a company that is carrying out a survey on the leaflets that are in packets of medicine, a fee of £15 is paid to each individual. If committee members were willing, they could take part and donate their £15 to the Royston in Bloom Fund. Angela will find out further details.

3. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 5th September @ 5.30pm, Yolanda and Lindsay gave their apologies.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 5th September 2007 at 5.30pm in the Committee room Town Hall Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch, Sandra Restall, Ian Hirst, Rita Turner, Councillors Mayne and Prime.
Susan Thornton-Bjork and Jean Waldock in attendance

Election of Chairman:

It was Resolved that Angela Louch be elected as chairman for the following year and Rod Kennedy be elected vice-chairman.

Apologies:

Cllr Davidson, Cllr Kennedy, Yolanda Hayes, Neil Fairey, Andrew Mills, David Renouf, John Droy,

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held 11th July 2007 were approved for signing by the chairman.

Royston in Bloom Awards Night: 13th September 2007:

Angela reported that she had been unable to secure a sponsor for the Community Street award sign this year. She had contacted the winners and they were happy to arrange their own sign. The certificates have been printed and the shields have been engraved. Susan will arrange the refreshments and Ian Hirst, Councillor Mayne agreed to help with the refreshments on the night. Sandra will organize the display. Susan will check that the press will be in attendance.

Anglia in Bloom Awards:

The Anglia in Bloom judges toured the town and were very impressed with the amount of work the Working Party had achieved especially with the different community groups working together. They were also particularly impressed with the planting on the roundabouts and Priory Gardens and also the lack of litter about the town. Angela thanked everyone for their help. Angela, Sandra, Neil, Andrew, the Mayor and the Mayoress will be attending the awards at the Suffolk Showground on the 12th September 2007.

Community Projects:

Bulb Sponsoring: It is proposed to have a stall at the Farmers Market on Sunday 7th October to promote Royston in Bloom and to ask the general public to participate in Sponsoring a Bulb that will later be planted around the town.

The Farmers Market runs from 10am to approx 1pm. A half stall will be available on the day. Bill Prime and Jean Waldock offered to help on the day.

A stamped receipt book would be needed.

Cost of sponsoring a bulb will be 20p a bulb or 50p for 3.

Discussion then took place as to where these bulbs could be planted. It was agreed to check with Andrew at NHDC to see if some could be planted on the Coombes Roundabout and the Burns Road mini-roundabout. Other suggestions were Health Centre bed, grass area at The Green and the Grossalmerode Garden. It was agreed to try and get photos of these suggested areas displayed on the stall.

The following suggestions were made to be considered for future projects:

- An Open Garden Event** – Councillor Prime to get more information on this
- Guide Hut** - Further planting, hedge yet to be planted
- Health Centre Bed**, Greenfingers Garden Club to help

Grosselmerode Garden, improve condition of benches
Manor House, improve area further,
Car-park area Coronation Avenue, Angela agreed to write to the Area Manager Mr D Sangster at North Herts Homes,
Railway Station

All these suggestions would be explored further.

New Members:

More members are sort to bring new skills and ideas to the Working Party. It was agreed to contact various organisations in the town to see if they could send a representative to the meetings. Groups to contact are WI AM and PM, Meridian School Council, Meridian Youth Council, The Scouts, St John Ambulance, and the Methodist Church, a general letter could be sent to them all requesting for someone to join the Working Party.

Any Other Business:

Sandra reported what an excellent day it had been at the Allotments Open Day. The Greenfingers Club together with the Royston Allotments Garden Association (RAGA) are looking at organising a show for Royston. It was advised that they could apply to the Town Council for a Community Chest Award and also the Brian Racher Trust.

Susan reported that she had received an email from David Renouf advising that, the Manor House were going to give a donation to the Royston in Bloom group, towards the work members of the Working Party and done for them.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14 November 2007 at 5.30pm

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 6.55pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 14th November 2007 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), R Smith (Templars Gate Residents' Group), Kim Thorpe, Councillors Davidson, Mayne and Prime.
Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk) and Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk) in attendance

Apologies:

Cllr Kennedy, Rita Turner, Ian Hirst, Neil Fairey, Andrew Mills, David Renouf and John Droy,

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held 5th September 2007 were approved for signing by the chairman.

Anglia in Bloom 2007:

Angela reported that Royston had won a SILVER in the Town Category and been nominated for the Environmental Quality Award and the Public Open Space Award. The awards event had been very enjoyable and the Royston in Bloom t-shirts had been much admired.

Angela then went through the Judges report for Royston's entry. It was agreed to write to the District Council about the condition of the street furniture as this had been commented on by the judges. Other areas to look at for next years judging were the weeds in and around the car-parks and the site of the old cinema.

Angela and Yolanda will be attending the Anglia in Bloom seminar on the 15th November and will report back to the next meeting on this.

The committee gave their thanks to Angela for all her hard work and the enthusiasm she has for being involved with Anglia and Royston in Bloom.

Fund Raising:

Angela had organised a fund- raising event for the 28th November. 10 volunteers are required to give 40 minutes of their time to proof read medical instruction sheets and answer questions. Each volunteer will receive £15 for the Royston in Bloom funds. Forms were handed out to members; any one interested should contact Angela by the 25th November.

New Members:

Robert Smith informed the committee that a member of the Templars Gate Resident Group wants to join the group only they can't make the 5.30pm start so he will attend when possible and report back. Discussions were made of the start time of the meetings being made later but that would then mean other members not attending.

It was agreed to contact WI and Coombelands Resident Group to see if they had anyone who would like to join the team.
It was agreed to get together names of contacts that would be willing to help on projects, but were not part of the main committee and did not have to attend meetings.

Groundwork Hertfordshire:

It is possible to get the help from this organisation to design a project and obtain funding for it and then do the work. Members were asked to come up with ideas for a project that could be led by them. An area at the back of Templars Gate estate near to the children's play area was mentioned.

Community Projects:

Sponsor a bulb:

This event at the Farmers Market had gone very well with over a hundred people sponsoring a bulb. These have now been planted in the following areas.

- Gosselmerode Gardens – 3 areas
- Junction Valley Rise/Newmarket Rd, near to vets
- Burns Road, around cherry tree by small roundabout
- Around 'Shrine' King James Way

Most of the planting had been done by a Group of Volunteers from 'Hertfordshire Careers' organised by John Droy, they had also provided a lot of the bulbs making the cost of all bulbs planted £35.

Open Gardens:

Councillor Prime reported that so far he had got 7 gardens that were interested in the Open Garden Event next summer. It was suggested that he needs to get about 12. The idea would be that a programme would be available at the first garden advertised for a small fee; this would give all the details of the other gardens open for people to visit. Councillor Prime will report back to the next meeting on further progress.

Other projects for consideration;

Gosselmerode Garden & the Health Centre area to be tidy up, Town Twinning Association keen on this.
Area around the railway station

Any Other Business:

Blooms Night 2008 - booked for 10 April 2008 Town Hall

Royston in Bloom logo: Angela will see if she can get some stickers made up of the logo.

Portfolio: Kim Thorpe was interested in producing the portfolio for the 2008 entry; she will meet with Sandra and Yolanda to discuss this.

May Fayre 2008 – 5th May – it was agreed to have a stall to raise funds for the Royston in Bloom at the May Fayre Event – possibly to sell plants/raffle.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th January 2008.

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 6.45pm and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.