

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 30th July 2008 at 2.30pm in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Neil Fairey (NHDC), Ian Hirst (Allotment Association) and Councillors, Mayne, Davidson and Kennedy.

Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk arrived at 2.55 pm) and Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk) in attendance.

Apologies:

Councillors Smith and Prime, Betty Skyrme (WRVS), Kim Thorpe, Yolanda Hayes and Andrew Mills

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 11th June 2008 were approved and then signed by the chairman.

Royston in Bloom 2008:

- Neil Fairey, on behalf of the judges, reported that there had been a good number of entrants for this year and on the whole the standard had been very good. The marks in the allotments section had been very close.
- The working group were disappointed at the low number of entrants for categories 6 & 7.
- Members thanked Sandra and the judges for their involvement.
- The judges would like to propose that a new style of criteria marking be adopted for next year which would give a better incentive for progressing through the medals – details to go out with the next meeting agenda.
- It was also suggested that a new young persons' category be introduced: original planting using recycled materials.
- Royston in Bloom Presentation Evening: Thursday 25th September 2008, 7 pm in the Market Hill Rooms.

Open Gardens

The event had been very successful, despite the weather. £247.57 had been raised. The working group were disappointed that there had been no press coverage of the actual day. The event could, in the future, be staged at different times of the year to accommodate the various garden flower displays. Thanks were sent to Bill Prime for organising the event. Angela had also written to all the participants thanking them for opening their gardens and inviting them to come and view her garden sometime in September.

Funds to-date

Good balance in the accounts - £802.45. A £100 of the balance had been raised last year on the 'Sponsor-a-Bulb' stall and could therefore be used this year to plant extra bulbs or to plant some trees. It was suggested that the verges at Studlands Rise or on The Green, Kneesworth Street would be suitable sites. The other £700 could be used for other Community Projects.

Green Flag Award Priory Memorial Gardens

Neil Fairey reported that they had just missed out on the Norton Common award but were awaiting the judges' comments which were due any day. They should be able to get moving on the Priory Memorial Gardens in September/October, entry to be sent off next February with judging next June. Once the criteria is set the RIB team should be able to help with the arrangements. A history of the gardens would also be needed. Members enquired about the Festival of Britain plaque, which was being recast in brass, and were assured that it would be back in place soon – the original, although damaged, would be donated to the Royston & District Museum. The RIB team would like to donate some bulbs or a tree for planting in the gardens.

Portfolio Update

The report from Kim and Yolanda was discussed. A good start had been made on the portfolio and now that most of the draft was place updates would be needed on a regular basis. Any reports still outstanding should be submitted before the next meeting. Thank you to Kim and Yolanda for all their hard work.

3 pm. Fire Alarm – room vacated. Meeting resumed at 3.10 pm.

Community Projects:

- Monitoring of bat and bird boxes still to be done – maybe from next April
- Neil reported that the verges on the Twigden estate had been adopted by NHDC but not the play area as yet – Angela would liaise with Robert Smith
- The entrance verges to St Mary's Park could be smartened up.
- Royston residents could be invited to suggest possible projects – RIB team to do a survey on the 'Sponsor a Bulb' stall or at the next Blooms Night.

Any Other Business:

- **Hanging Basket Sponsorship:** The list of sponsors from NHDC is not up to-date and some sponsors from past years have now withdrawn. New sponsors are needed for next year and it was felt that this project needs looking at now.
- **Roundabouts:** Roundabouts are usually sponsored for a 3 year term. The Twigden and Tesco roundabouts now have sponsors – Ashiana Spice and Class Cuts by Carlo. Now that the Twigden estate is being adopted by NHDC they will be looking for a sponsor for the roundabout on the estate – maybe the Twigden Residents Association would be interested!
- **Verges near Somerfield Store:** Members felt that Somerfield may like to sponsor the flower beds near to their store.
- **Flower bed by the Health Centre:** Cyclists are still riding through the flower beds.
- **RIB sticky labels:** Angela had received a 1,000 RIB labels which had been kindly donated to the team from BSP Labels.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th September 2008 at 2.30 pm. in Room 11

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 3.30 pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 10th September 2008 at 2pm in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Ian Hirst (Allotment Association) Councillors, Mayne, Davidson, Smith, Betty Skyrme (WRVS), Yolanda Hayes, Neil Fairey (NHDC) Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk) and Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk) in attendance

The Chairman welcomed April Warburton to the meeting

Apologies:

Councillor Prime and Andrew Mills

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 30th July 2008 were approved and then signed by the chairman.

Royston in Bloom 2008 Awards Evening:

The Sunflower award will also be presented at this event. Sandra to notify Town Hall office of winners so invites can be sent.

The doors will be open from 6pm for arranging the display and tables.

Susan will arrange for the display boards to be taken to MHR and will purchase wine, juice and nibbles.

Angela will notify the local press.

Sponsor a Bulb:

Angela has booked a pitch at the Farmers Market for the 5th October. Sandra, Angela and Betty will run the stall. It opens at 10am and will close around 12 pm to 1pm. Angela will arrange to get the bulbs.

Suggested areas to be considered for planting of the bulbs are:

- Grass bank Priory Memorial Gardens opposite Town Hall around the new memorial plaque (when sited)
- Grass bank along front Evangelical Church
- By hoarding on A10 London Rd
- Grass banks at entrance to Templars Gate Estate
- Area in Newmarket Road near Valley Rise
- Entrance to St Mary's Park

Green Flag Award:

Neil reported that NHDC have put in an appeal against the decision of Letchworth Common not winning an award and were awaiting the outcome. Neil reported he is going on a Management Plan training course which will help with the planning of the Priory Memorial Gardens entry.

Portfolio for Anglia in Bloom:

Yolanda reported that Kim Thorpe had now stopped working on the portfolio due to other commitments.

She also reported that she now needed to collect digital photos of planting around the town so she can record a diary of the towns planting through-out the year. This could then be used for the display on judging day.

Community Projects:

Councillor Smith reported that the new play area on Templars Gate was now waiting for a safety inspection and it was agreed that the area around this site would be a prime area for a future project. Angela will contact Ground Force to seek their help with this project.

Greneway School have asked the Allotment Association to help with information about having an allotment site at the school.

It was agreed to add a new category to next year's Royston in Bloom, which would involve recycling in the garden. The Greenfingers Club will encourage children to do gardening using recycling materials. It would be judged as work in progress

New Members:

It was agreed to contact all members listed as on the committee, and see if they still wanted to be part of the committee and to also ask for suggested times when they could attend committee meetings.

Any Other Business:

Blooms Night: It was agreed to set the date for next year's event as Tuesday 21st April 2009 in the Town Hall.

Date of next meeting:

7th January 2009 2.30pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 7th January 2009 at 2.30pm in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair) Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club) Ian Hirst (Allotment Association)
Councillors, Burt, Davidson, Mayne, Smith, Betty Skyrme (WRVS), Yolanda Hayes, Les Baker.

Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk) in attendance

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Burt and Les Baker to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Apologies:

Councillors Kennedy, Prime, Jean Waldox, April Warburton, John Droy and David Renoulf

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 10th September 08 were approved and signed by the chairman.

Sponsor a Bulb:

Angela report once again there was good support at the Farmers Market with lots of bulbs being sponsored by residents of Royston. Planting of the bulbs has now been completed in the following locations:

Royston Hospital

Templars Gate Estate

Flower bed out side Royston Health Centre

Grosselmerode Garden

Area around Memorial Tree at the edge of the Priory Memorial Gardens

Area at bottom of Sun Hill

Angela gave her thanks to all who helped with this project. It was agreed to repeat the event in October 2009

Green Flag Award – Priory Memorial Gardens:

No further information available at the moment: Angela to contact Andrew Mills (NHDC) to get update and let members know by email.

Anglia in Bloom 2009:

2009 Entry - The Entry Pack had now been received, although all members agreed in principle that Royston should make an entry this year it was agreed to wait until the March meeting before finally agreeing to send in the entry form.

Portfolio: - Les Baker had joined the committee to help with the editing of the portfolio for the 2009 entry. Les asked that any photos be emailed to him.

Yolanda asked that, thanks be recorded to John O’Connors team of workmen for allowing photos to be taking while they are doing their work in Royston.

Community projects:

Councillor Burt tabled some information about the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens and suggested it may be a good project which could involve the Royston in Bloom team. It would involve adopting species of plants or trees and holding them as a National Plant Collection and could be located in the Priory Memorial Gardens. Advice would need to be taken to identify an appropriate species for the local conditions. This could provide an attractive display, enhance the park and attract a different group of interested people to the town (both visitors and researchers). The plants would be on display all year round and be listed in a national category, increasing publicity for Royston and also preserving part of nature for future generations. Further information available at www.nccpg.com

The committee was very supportive of this idea and agreed to pursue it further and bring further information back to the next committee meeting.

Other projects:

1. Templars Gate project was still on hold as the land had not as yet been adopted.
2. School litter picks are being planned for April time
3. Roman Way and St Mary's schools have shown interest in Gardening projects using recycling materials.
4. Allotment Association to contact Greneway school about their proposed allotment and will report back to the next meeting. They have also established links with Tannery Drift and Studlands.
5. Town Spring Clean day – it was agreed to focus on areas other than the town centre for this and to involve the street cleaners. A day in March was proposed for people to clean up their own streets and arrangements would be made for the rubbish to be collected. Angela, Lindsay and Sandra agreed to stay after the meeting and talk about this.
6. Hanging baskets for 2009, Angela agreed to check to with NHDC about these.

It was agreed that the project of the King James I garden being created by the Friends of the Museum at Royston Museum should also be included in the portfolio.

Committee Members:

The committee member list has been update and there are now 19 members on the committee. Some cannot attend the meetings during the day time but still wish to be involved.

Helpers for projects included;
 Greenfingers Gardening Club
 Royston Allotment and Gardens Association
 TimeBank

Lindsay reported that the Royston Youth club are looking to be involved with community projects and will check to see what help they can give.

It was agreed to approach the Trinity Church Youth Group also to see of they would like to be involved.

Any Other Business:

Angela tabled a calendar of events for 2009. (Copy with minutes) It was agreed to move the Spring Clean Day to March.

The Open Garden Day event was to be held earlier in June following request from owners of gardens opened last year. It was agreed to plan tree planting in the town for November 09.

There being no other the business the chairman closed the meeting at 3.40pm

Notes of the meeting of the Royston in Bloom Working Party held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 2 pm in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston.

Present:

Angela Louch (Chair), Sandra Restall (Greenfingers Club), Yolanda Hayes (Town Council), Councillor Smith (Templars Gate Residents' Group), Neil Fairey (NHDC), and Councillors Davidson, Kennedy and Mayne, Ian Hurst (Allotment Association), April Warburton and Les Baker
 Jean Waldock (Assistant Town Clerk) in attendance.

Apologies:

Betty Skyrme (WRVS), Andrew Mills (NHDC), John Droy and Susan Thornton-Bjork (Town Clerk)

Minutes:

The notes of the meeting held on 4th February 2009 were approved and signed by the chairman.

Memorial

The Working Group had been sorry and sad to hear of the death of Councillor Bill Prime and wished to have noted their thanks and gratitude for all his support over the years. Members considered the possibility of planting a tree in his memory but after discussion decided that they would prefer to have a Royston in Bloom trophy in his name which could be awarded each year to a young persons project.

Royston Big Tidy-up Week – 29th March to 5th April 2009:

- Copies of a draft poster with the new Crow logo were circulated. The Working Group were pleased with the logo but suggested some changes to the wording on the poster.
- A draft letter to local organisations was also discussed and approved. Angela will update the letter and email it, with a list of organisations, so that the office can send them out. She will also forward information and health & safety guidance to Susan for the town council website.
- Press coverage by the Crow has been arranged and photo-shoots for
 - Monday 16th March 10.30 am in the Priory Gardens at the back of the Church – Oliver Heald to join the group – please attend if possible
 - Sunday 29th March 11.30-12 noon in the Priory Gardens – members to be joined by Church volunteers
 - Tuesday 31st 10 am Tannery Drift School
- The Big Tidy Up organisation will supply stickers, tabards, sacks and badges but volunteers need to have their own gloves.
- The NHDC Cleansing team and Sheila Needham have been very supportive. Contractors will be delivering the bins, which will be situated at different locations around the town, at the beginning of the week and they will be collect at the end of the week. The Street Cleansing teams, contact Daniel Kingsley, will be asked to concentrate on Garden Walk, Burns Road, Woodcock Road up to the Leisure Centre and Green Drift.
- All Risk Assessments will be sent to the Town Clerk before the start of the week.
- The Working Group were pleased that tidying-up work had started on the old cinema site but were concerned about the mess created by the pigeon population and asked if anything could be done about it before Anglia in Bloom judging day.

Blooms Night: 21st April 2009

- RIB Working Party members to donate prizes for the raffle.
- George Dawson, Anglia in Bloom Chairman of the Judges, will give a 20 minute talk at the beginning of the evening followed by speaker Ken Akers who will give a talk on Alpine plants (fee: £60 plus mileage). Country Gardens are donating £50 towards the speaker's fee. Country Gardens will also be bringing plants to sell.
- Sandra will email details to Susan for the Blooms Night poster
- Refreshments: Lindsay, Betty and Jean (council staff to purchase tea, coffee, squash, milk, sugar and biscuits)
- Yolanda and April to setup display – to include examples and ideas of what can be done for each RIB competition category
- RIB entry forms will be available on the night.

The Town Clerk arrived at 2.45 pm.

Sponsorship

- The Crow's proposed sponsorship terms were discussed and accepted
- There will only be 20 hanging baskets in the town this year - 5 of the 20 hanging baskets will be sponsored by Royston Town Council.

Royston in Bloom 2009

- All the categories for last year were discussed and it was agreed to keep 1-4 & 6-8 the same but to change the wording on category 5 to : Best entry young persons' project (best use of recycled materials). Category 5 will then be for the Bill Prime trophy and category 6 will stay as the Tom Potters trophy.
- The Working Group discussed the Crow's suggested competition entry form and agreed on some changes which Angela will pass on to them

Green Flag Award Priory Gardens – nothing to report

Portfolio Update

Les confirmed that the portfolio was coming together and category A was complete but he was still awaiting contributions for most of the other categories photographs etc. Yolanda was still awaiting a response from the Media Group at the Meridian School with regard to the video appeal.

Open Gardens 2009

To go on agenda for next meeting.

May Fayre 2009

After discussion it was agreed, for this year, not to sell plants but to have the display boards up in the gazebo in the Priory Gardens.

Royston Railway Station – report for next meeting

Anglia in Bloom

It was agreed by all that Royston be entered into the AIB competition for this year. Entry fee £66 to come from funds. Funds at the moment stand at £692.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2009 at 2 pm. in the Committee Room

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 3.35 pm