



Royston Town Council Annual Report 2017/2018

15th May 2017 – 13th May 2018



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www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

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Royston Town Council's Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Town Council during the Civic year and the financial report for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Statement from the Town Mayor 2018-2019

I feel very privileged and honoured to be standing as your elected Mayor 2018-2019. I have lived in Royston for just over 35 years and can truly call this place my home. We have a fantastic community spirit, bringing together people from all walks of life. We all need to feel connected in some way and I honestly believe Royston is a place where you can find a warmth and welcome that is second to none.

We have a very successful Community Cinema, a lively Leisure Centre, a wonderful Heath with sporting facilities. There are numerous places to spend an evening out, from some very fine restaurants to diverse pubs, all offering a very warm welcome. Plus, of course, coffee establishments where you can chill out in the afternoons with friends whilst checking out our local shops. Some highlights of the town's calendar must be the May Fayre, the Kite Festival and not forgetting the Royston Arts Festival. All very different but great fun for all the family. On top of these great events are the town's numerous clubs. So whether it's team sports, dancing, BMX, cycling or, for the musically minded, there's the Royston Town Band, the list goes on and on. Whatever your interest why not try one out.

I am so thankful for our volunteers who help support our Community Support Groups, also to the churches in Royston who offer support, help families celebrate and pray for our town. I have chosen to concentrate my fund raising for the Mayor's Trust Community Fund so that our wide range of groups that are working for the benefit of our town can continue to be supported financially. I would like to encourage the many worthy causes to apply when the time comes in January 2019.

I am reminded that our motto for the town is from good things to better. So, let us take what is good about our town and work to make it even better!



Town Councillor & Royston Mayor 2018-2019
Iain Leggett

Royston Town Council

There are three tiers of local government in Royston; Town, District and County. Details of what each council is responsible for can be found on the Town Council's website at [Who does What- Council Services - Royston Town Council](#).

Also on our website, further details can be found about the Town Councillors, council meetings, minutes and other general information and useful links - www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

All Town Councillors serve in a voluntary capacity and are elected for a four year term of office. Councillors are not paid and do not receive any allowances for attending meetings. The Mayor is elected annually in May at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Ten Members serve on each of the principal committees: Finance, Planning and General Purpose and Highways.

The Councillors that held office during the year 2017/2018 were:

Mayor: Councillor Vera Swallow

Deputy Town Mayor: Councillor Iain Leggett

Chairman Finance: Councillor F John Smith

Chairman Planning: Councillor Lindsay Davidson

Chairman General Purpose & Highways: Councillor Mike Harrison

Royston Heath

Cllr Lindsay Davidson (Conservative)

Cllr John Davison (Conservative)

Cllr Victoria Hulström (Conservative)

Cllr Rod Kennedy (Independent)

Cllr Marguerite Phillips (Conservative)

Royston Palace

Cllr Sarah Dingley (Conservative)

Cllr Mark Hughes (Independent)

Cllr Robert Inwood (Labour)

Cllr Ben Lewis (Conservative)

Cllr Laura Whitford (Independent)

Royston Meridian

Cllr Mike Harrison (Conservative)

Cllr Iain Leggett (Conservative)

Cllr F John Smith (Conservative)

Cllr Vera Swallow (Conservative)

Cllr Rita Turner (Conservative) (until December 2017)

Sadly we said goodbye to Rita Turner in December 2017 when she passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly. Rita is missed, not only for her long standing commitment to her role as a Town Councillor but also for her good humour and sense of fun.

From 3rd May 2018, Royston Town Council is split into four wards; Royston Meridian (5 Councillors), Royston Palace (5 Councillors), Royston Town West (3 Councillors) and Royston Town South (2 Councillors).

The Full Council meeting and principal committee meetings are open to all members of the public and press. At the beginning of each meeting time is set aside to allow members of the public to make representation to the various committees about items on the agenda.

Copies of the agendas are posted on the Town Hall notice-board and web-site. A calendar detailing the meetings for the coming year is also available on the web site.

The Town Council's Planning Committee makes recommendations on all of the planning applications for Royston. The Committee commented on over 100 applications throughout the year. Final decisions on all applications are made by North Herts District Council (NHDC).

School Visits

Royston Town Council organised another successful round of visits to local schools during the spring term 2018. Town, District and County Councillors visited a total of six schools to talk about their various roles in local government and to get the children's views on the town they live in. Of all the children asked, 99% liked living in Royston which is a very encouraging statistic!

Naturally Royston Working Party



Members of the Naturally Royston Working Party have again been very busy this year. They arranged the environmental section at the May Fayre which included a live hive of bees, birds of prey and an upcycled crafts stall.

Other projects undertaken:

Children's Photographic Competition – the winning entries in the competition were used to produce a calendar of images of Royston. The winners all received free copies of the calendar and the money raised from its sale, which was over £500, was donated to the Mayor's Community Trust Fund.

Royston Front Garden Competition – the Naturally Royston team travelled around Royston nominating residents' front gardens for entry into the new Competition. Judging took place in July 2017 and the top 3 winners received £100, £50 and £25 respectively, plus an award certificate.

If you are interested in joining the working party please contact the Town Clerk – town.clerk@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Silver Sunday, a National Celebration of the over 65's

Once again, Royston Town Council organised a FREE showing of a classic film at the Royston Picture Palace Cinema in the Town Hall. Over 130 older residents attended and had free tea and cakes before watching "West Side Story". Free transport was also provided for those that needed it with the generous help of Royston Community Transport.

Green Street Allotments

The allotment site in Royston is owned and managed by the Town Council. There are no vacant plots at the moment, if you are interested in obtaining a plot contact the Town Council by email enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01763 245484 to be added to the waiting list, it is approximately 2 to 3 years wait for a plot. You must be a Royston resident to rent an allotment.

Royston War Memorial

Royston War Memorial in Melbourn Street was erected in 1922 in memory of the Servicemen of the town killed in the First World War. Later it was extended to include those who were killed during the Second World War. It is now a listed monument and becomes the centre of attention each year for the annual Remembrance Day Parade.

Royston Town Council have recently received Listed Building Consent to carry out reparation and renovation to the War Memorial. The works also include the installation of two ramps at

the Memorial which will ensure that access is improved for all. It is hoped that the work will be finished in time for the Remembrance Day parade in November 2018.



Royston is proud to have its own Museum and Art Gallery which is a vital cultural and tourist attraction. It sits at the heart of the Royston community and celebrates the wonderful stories of the town and its people.

The museum is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday throughout the year. Regular events at the Museum include Knit and Natter, printing workshops using the original 1855 Crow printing press, reminiscence groups, toddler dance workshops, adult movement classes and many schools and community groups have private visits to the Museum.

In 2017, the Museum achieved full accreditation renewal from the Arts Council and also a forward planning consultation was undertaken from which a forward plan was produced with the main aim being to be the centre of the community in Royston.

The Town Council's thanks go to the Friends of the Museum, the Royston & District Local History Society, the Royston & District Local History Society Trustees of the Collection, and the goodwill of its loyal band of volunteers and supporters, and not to mention our curator and her assistant, all who help to keep the museum open for all to enjoy. www.roystonmuseum.org.uk

Royston Annual May Fayre

One of the Town Council's annual events is the May Fayre. In partnership with other organisations and volunteers, the Town Council continues to run this yearly event in the Priory Memorial Gardens taking place on the first Bank Holiday in May. It gives local charities and voluntary organisations a chance to fund raise for themselves. Admission to the event is free.

This year was the busiest yet with hundreds of people enjoying the day. There was fun for all the family with the Town Band keeping the crowds entertained with their music and regulars such as the miniature railway, the Punch and Judy show and the Novelty Dog Show which had a record number of entries. Free bungee trampolines were provided thanks to a grant from the Town Council. New attractions this year included Professor Crump (see picture below) and a hive of live bees and birds of prey in the eco-corner.



Running alongside the May Fayre was the Historical Car Show which was organised by the Rotary Club.

Community Halls & Royston Picture Palace

Other services the Town Council provides include the provision of public halls, namely the Town Hall and Market Hill Rooms. Our two community halls are hired out to various local organisations, community groups and privately to members of the public for children's parties, fitness classes and social events such as quizzes.

The Town Hall is used as a state of the art, digital cinema every Friday and Saturday evening throughout the year. A children's matinee is held on the first Saturday of every month.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers who give up their time to help put on the performances; without them the show could not go on.

The Leete Charity Trust

The Town Council is the sole Trustee of this charity. The charity provides grants towards further education for students who live, or attend a school, in Royston. The grants are made from the interest earned on the Trust's investments. During the last year, a total of £1,500 was awarded to 9 young people going on to further education.

Details and an application form can be downloaded from the Town Council's web-site.

Green Walk Plantation & Stile Plantation

Two small plantations link the town centre to open countryside and footpaths. These plantations are a hidden secret of the town and are used for walking and wildlife spotting. The Town Council have added information boards and benches to sites and undertake additional tree planting when required to compensate for the natural loss of some of the woodland.

Royston Cave

A heritage site, owned by the Town Council. The Cave has been centre stage on a few occasions this year, and has been frequented by visitors and celebrities and their production companies from all around the world.

The Royston and District local History Society manage the opening of the Cave to visitors on the afternoons of Saturdays and Sundays and Bank Holidays, from Easter Sunday to the end of September, and Wednesday afternoons during August, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Private visits are available at other times by arrangement with the cave manager.

Entry price for 2017 was £5 for adults, £4 for seniors and £1 for children over the age of 5. Babes in arms were free. Special openings for groups were charged at £80 per session.

During 2017, 2,461 adults and 614 children visited the Cave on normal openings, a further 1021 visited as part of a special opening.

Details about the Cave can be found at www.roystoncave.co.uk.

At the Annual Town meeting in March 2018, the Mayor, Councillor Vera Swallow presented the Community Trust Fund Awards to:

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE OF GRANT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Royston Arts Society	To assist with the cost of hiring the Heritage Hall for the Autumn Art Exhibition which forms part of Royston Arts Festival.	£230
Rotary Club of Royston	To assist with the cost of providing tables for the schools Technology Tournament.	£250
Home-Start Royston and South Cambridgeshire	To purchase two pay as you go mobiles for use by two HSRS coordinators when away from the office.	£280
Royston Speak Out club	To assist with the cost of a summer outing.	£300
Royston Photographic Society	To assist with the cost of hiring the Town Hall for Royston Arts Festival	£152
Girl Guiding Royston District	To refurbish the outside space at the Guide HQ in Garden Walk.	£450
Team Paula – Sepsis Trust	To make a charity donation to the UK Sepsis Trust.	£500

The Community Service Awards were presented to:

Rita Turner – In recognition of her services to the Royston community over many years as a Town Councillor.

Peter Andrew – In recognition of over 20 years fund raising and organising outings for MENCAP.

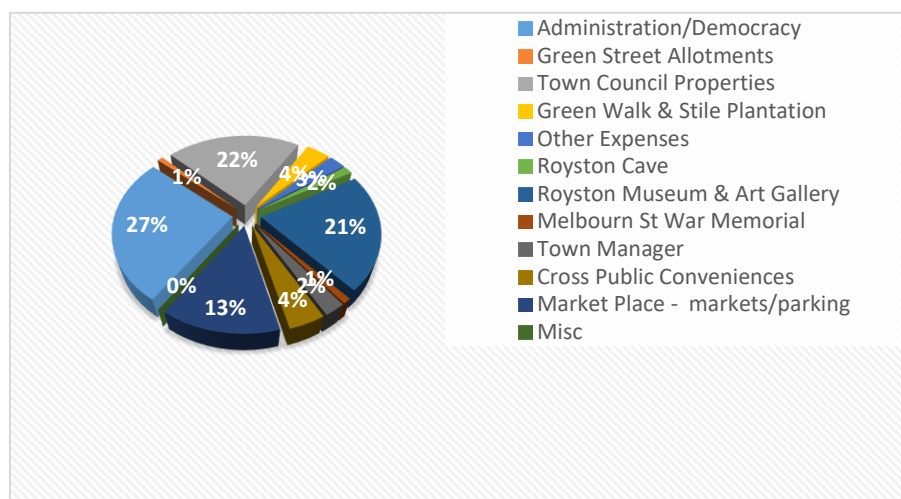
Sid Seward – In recognition of his fund raising efforts for MENCAP which include the annual charity golf day.

Royston Town Football Club – In recognition of the successes achieved including their promotion last year to the Evo-Stik League Southern: Premier Division.

Royston Town Council Finances 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2019

The Royston Town Council part of the Council Tax for 2018-2019 has not been increased from last year and remains at £42.53 per Band D household.

EXPENDITURE	Budget	Out-turn	Budget
	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19
Administration/Democracy	111,653	109,171	116,523
Royston Museum & Art Gallery	86,199	87,418	88,254
Town Council Properties	90,916	88,654	95,250
Green Walk & Stile Plantation	12,436	15,752	12,317
Other Expenses (Civic Functions, May Fayre, Christmas Lights, Town Crier, Donations)	12,672	11,084	13,610
Royston Cave	5,992	6,015	5,781
Green St Allotments	3,915	3,704	3,797
Melbourn St War Memorial	3,513	4,007	3,467
Town Manager	10,000	10,000	10,000
Public Conveniences	16,857	17,039	4,000
Market Place - Markets and Parking	66,655	54,911	59,948
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	420,808	407,755	412,947



INCOME	Budget	Out-turn	Budget
	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19
Interest	400	550	300
Royston Museum & Art Gallery	850	903	1,000
Town Council Properties	68,820	73,056	65,170
Green St Allotments	4,900	5,410	5,150
Market Place - Markets/Parking	55,825	57,262	55,000
Precept	280,760	280,760	283,609
TOTAL INCOME	411,555	417,941	410,229

