

ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

News from your Town Council – March 2021



Make sure you take a look at the council's brand new redesigned website: www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk for all the latest information and news.



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Thursday 11 March 2021

7.30 pm

Royston Town Council would like to invite all Royston residents to attend this online meeting where you will learn what your Town, District and County Councillors have been doing on your behalf over the previous year.

The Zoom meeting link will be published on the town council website:

www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk and Twitter @Roystontown.

Meeting ID: 965 2020 1824

Passcode: Royston.

At the meeting you will have the opportunity to ask questions that are of interest or concern to you.

The Town Mayor's Community Trust Fund awards will be made and special community awards presented to local residents who have made a significant contribution to the life of our town.

May Fayre 2021

Due to on-going restrictions and with enormous regret, we must announce that Royston's May Fayre for this year has been cancelled. We know that this will be a huge disappointment for everyone but hopefully we can look forward to staging this spectacular event next year.

Royston Town Council 2021-22 Budget

The Coronavirus has touched all our lives.

This current financial year has been unprecedented. In the past, around one third of our expenditure was covered by our income, the rest from the Royston Town Council precept (the Royston Town Council part of Council Tax). Without this income, our precept would have to increase by a third to maintain the current services. This year, hiring of rooms and halls has been much reduced and completely stopped during lockdown, the Royston Cave has not opened, the cinema is shut, market activity and parking has reduced, so our income has fallen significantly. We are making every effort to reduce our expenditure including cancelling planned projects and are grateful for the Government grants.

The Royston Town Council precept for 2021-22 for a "Band D" property next year will rise from £48.49 to £50.90 per year, an increase of £2.41 per year. In setting this budget we have taken out planned discretionary spending and made the assumption that our income will start to recover from the middle of 2021.

Let us hope that 2021 will be a better year for us all.

John Davison - Leader of Royston Town Council

Thank you to the Royston Community

Royston Town Council would like to say a big thank you to the whole town for your excellent community spirit during the pandemic.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who came forward to help with mutual aid, including the fabulous Royston vs. Coronavirus, Royston Talks and Royston & District Community Transport.

It was wonderful to see individuals and smaller groups organising activities, such as the multiple VE Day socially distanced street parties and doorstep carol singing, which brought together streets and neighbourhoods. During the first lockdown several ladies joined the Royston Scrubs Group and spent nearly four months sitting at their sewing machines making PPE for our local hospitals. Children (and their parents) enjoyed the fairies in the woods and the various window trails, including a bear hunt, Halloween trail and the Creative Royston Window Walk.

It is a testament to our local businesses that many have helped out by feeding NHS workers or vulnerable children, or offered printing facilities for parents to help with homeschooling and similar assistance. A thank you goes, too, to all who have shopped local and helped to support our town businesses.

Lastly, but by no means least, thank you to every single resident who has gone out of their way to help a neighbour with shopping or other essential everyday tasks during the pandemic. You are what makes our community special and we thank you all.



Our Green Spaces

ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

Green Walk Plantation is a hidden gem of woodland in the heart of Royston, nestled on the hill between The Warren, Shrubbery Grove and the Beldam estate. It can be accessed from the bottom of the Barkway Road and emerges onto open farmland at the brow of the hill. From there it connects to other paths across to the A10 to the west and Grange Bottom to the east.

This green space provides tranquil off-road running or walking routes, easily accessed from anywhere in Royston and was the site of the first 'fairies in the woods' during the first lockdown. Here the beauty of nature can be appreciated through the changing seasons, from the bright summer sunshine to the colours of autumn and the crisp winter frosts. During these difficult times, it offers a wonderful opportunity for fresh air and exercise, which are so important to our mental and physical wellbeing.



The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of both Green Walk and Stile Plantations and is currently investing in a programme of cutting and planting which will ensure that these precious green spaces continue to be available for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Sustainable Travel Town

Several months ago we reported that Royston Town Council had applied to become a Sustainable Travel Town. We are pleased to report that Royston, along with Letchworth and Stevenage, has been chosen in the first wave to continue with our efforts to obtain this status. A total of 8 Hertfordshire towns applied, including many much larger than ourselves.

The aim of a Sustainable Travel Town is to cut pollution in the town centre, and to provide better bus routes within the town itself, together with better facilities for walkers and cyclists. We will continue to work with our colleagues at both County and District on this project, and keep you all advised on our progress.

Newsletter supported by:



ROYSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS

A list of all Councillors' names and contact numbers is given below, together with details of the wards they represent. All Town Councillors serve in a voluntary capacity and are elected for a 4 year term of office. Councillors are not paid and do not receive any allowance for attending meetings.

Town Mayor: Cllr Robert Inwood Deputy Mayor: Cllr Mark Hughes

Palace Ward

Brian Bylett	07765 253227	cllr.brian.bylett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Ian Coll	01763 244595	cllr.ian.coll@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Mark Hughes	07860 108085	cllr.mark.hughes@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Robert Inwood	07846 309896	cllr.robert.inwood@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Iain Leggett	01763 230978	cllr.iain.leggett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

Meridian Ward

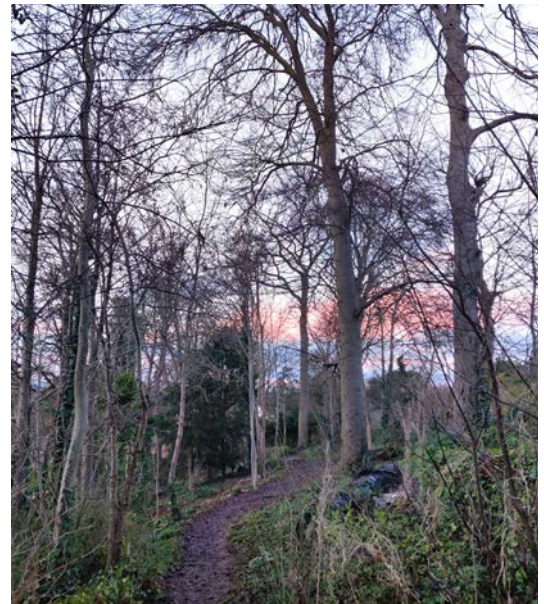
Mike Harrison	01763 220055	cllr.michael.harrison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Marguerite Phillips	07903 715533	cllr.marguerite.phillips@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
F John Smith	01763 243082	cllr.fj.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Philip Smith	01763 244775	cllr.philip.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Vacancy		

Royston South Ward

Thomas Perry	07854 609201	cllr.thomas.perry@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Carol Stanier	01763 220744	cllr.carol.stanier@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

Royston West Ward

Ruth Brown	01763 230290	cllr.ruth.brown@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
John Davison	07802 907700	cllr.john.davison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Emma Squire-Smith	01763 661701	cllr.emma.squire-smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk



Bicycle Rack in Market Hill Car Park

A covered bicycle rack is soon to be installed in the South-West end of the Market Place car park. The cost of the shelter and its installation will come from Section 106 money. This is a fund received from developers, negotiated by North Herts District Council Planning Department when planning permission is granted. For large developments it can be very considerable sums including contributions to the NHS, education, transport, recreational facilities and other community amenities.



ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

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www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Miss Caroline Mills
town.clerk@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk