

## **Report for Royston Town Council**

### **GP & Highways committee**

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

## **North Herts Council Royston Area Forum**

### **Community Investment Fund**

A new fund has recently been opened, offering grants of £5-20k to 'not for profit' organisations who support residents of North Herts, to help build capacity.

### **Leisure Centre**

Outdoor gym equipment has been installed at Royston Leisure Centre (funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund) and a grant has been secured to provide covered cycle racks. The Council is applying to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for match funding to install solar panels on all leisure centres. The new Leisure Contract will start from April 2024 and includes a gym extension for Royston.

### **Environment**

North Herts Council had a stand at the recent Sustain-Ability event in Priory Gardens to promote climate change action, which included giving away bee bombs for wildflower planting and promoting the Herts Reusable Nappy scheme.

### **EV charging points**

NHC has been awarded funding from OZEV to install EV charging points in The Warren car park.

### **Free after 3 parking**

Based on surveys done in June, the amount of potential lost income has been calculated and will be discussed with the BID later this month. The BID prospectus for 2024-29 has been published and includes the continuation of the 'Free after 3' scheme. Local businesses will be balloted in November.

### **High Street Recovery**

The board of members and officers (including representatives from County, North Herts, Town Council and BID) have agreed to make the temporary parking arrangements permanent and to replace the planters with bollards.

### **Youth Democracy Day**

As part of UK Parliament week in November, students from local schools have been invited to attend an event in the Council Chamber, which will include meeting local MPs and taking part in a debate. County, District & Town Councillors recently visited KJAR and some Year 11 students from Royston may attend.

*Ruth Brown*

*Chair*

*Royston Area Forum*