



e-bulletin August '09

Welcome to our first *e-bulletin* which is intended as a snapshot of our progress with the Royston BID.

Advisory Council

Royston First is directed by a steering group of Royston business ratepayers. The Advisory Council aims to meet every 6 weeks or as often as strategic input is required. Members of the Advisory Council are not remunerated.

The BID comprises a series of projects to be delivered over the next 5 years. Each project is assigned to a Working Party. Three to five Members volunteer to serve on each Working Party.

Your Advisory Council Members for 2009/10 are:

John Balodis (Woodenhouse Design), Alan Barlow (ABA), Cath Boughton (The Listing), Jim Bullard (Archers), Bill Davidson (Community), Norman Dawes (Meridian Line), Cllr. Fiona Hill (NHDC), John Gourd - Chairman (Johnson Matthey), Steve Jackson (Enfield Electrical), James Keatley (NPK), Ian Knowles (Sharman Knowles), Stephen Larcombe (Limbach Banham), Kay Makowecki (Godshaw Jewellers), Rupert Matthews (Fourways), Mike Mildwater (Hiremee), Nigel Reader (Borders & Bows), Oscar Sassoli (Penn Sassoli), David Smyth (WKH), Nick Tait (Syrris), Susan Thornton-Bjork (RTC).

Projects

Policing



The policing contract with Hertfordshire Constabulary has been signed and 2-man, uniformed late night patrols commenced on July 3rd. An initial 3 months has been committed with the option to extend/amend. The quarterly price for two eight-hour patrols twice a week is under £14K - a substantial saving from regular chargeout rates.

The initial brief for the (predominately) late-night patrols is that they come on shift at 7.00 pm and support the PCSO's in combating anti-social behaviour (we were having problems with gangs of up to 30 teenagers prowling the town centre). They then move to checking businesses premises throughout the town centre and industrial estates (reports will be posted through doors). The shift typically finishes with the officers foot patrolling the town centre in the vicinity of pubs, clubs and fast food outlets. Regular police patrols can be "abstracted" from Royston to deal with incidents in outlying areas. Our patrols are **in addition** to normal policing levels and are dedicated to Royston (officers can only be re-purposed in the case of extreme emergency). However, patrol priorities can be altered and **you are invited to submit your suggestions**.



Pigeons

We had hoped to be announcing significant progress with this project. Indeed, a great deal has been achieved: an experienced licensed contractor has been identified; a series of control measures have been proposed, investigated, priced and approved; and our modest budget of £2,000 has been used to attract £1,750 of match-funding from the District Council. However, just as we arrived at the point of launching this project, questions have arisen as to the most cost-effective way of achieving our goals. The Working Party will obviously pause to examine this new information prior to committing our resources and those of NHDC.

Shuttle Bus

A free shuttle bus is on course to commence operations for three months from October 5th. The bus will run at lunchtimes (12.05 - 2.00) and will loop the industrial estate (York Way and Orchard Road) before heading directly for the town centre (Melbourn Street). It is anticipated that the service will run every 15 minutes.

It is hoped that this bus service will make it possible for industrial estate workers to 'nip into town' to visit their bank or building society; 'do a bit of shopping' at Morrisons or any of the 80+ retailers; 'drop-off' their dry cleaning; or simply come in for 'a bite to eat' from one of the many sandwich shops, pubs and restaurants. Our aim is to introduce the facilities of the town centre to more local workers, with the attendant increase in lunchtime footfall for our traders.

Angel Pavement

This area of town constitutes one of the major gateways to the High Street but is in need of a bit of a facelift. Consequently, this Working Party finds itself facing the task of dealing with issues relating to planning, highways and conservation as well as trying to ascertain the wishes of over a dozen landlords and tenants! However, a preliminary list of improvements has been drawn-up and these are in the process of being scrutinised by various agencies and a commercial contractor. Once a 'shopping list' has been established, the alternatives will be distributed to traders and landlords for comment. So if you have an interest in Angel Pavement, **be prepared to feed us your thoughts!**

Other projects on their way ...

CCTV - a new column is proposed for Jarman Way protecting the hotspot of Jewsons yard and the surrounding area; another new column is proposed for Fish Hill to counteract anti-social behaviour in the car park and around the new toilet block; the purchaser of an additional mobile CCTV camera dedicated to Royston (we'll be looking for match-funding on this one).

Community Cinema

Although not due for delivery until 2012, preliminary work is already underway to identify the likely site for the project.



Parking - negotiations are underway to increase the number of free parking spaces in the town centre. Any agreement will then have to be legalised through the time-consuming production of the requisite Traffic Regulation Order.

Christmas Lights - building on the initial work conducted last year, a modest amount of BID funds have been leveraged into a whole new lighting scheme for the High Street.

We hope this e-bulletin has proved informative. Please feel free to email any questions or comments.