**SECOND MEETING OF THE ROYSTON COMMUNITY NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2019**

**AT THE**

**COOMBES COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROYSTON**

**PRESENT**

Robert Smith -RCA and Royston & District Community Health CIC Joint Network Co-ordinator

Lindsay Davidson- RCA and Make Lunch . Joint Network Co-ordinator

Richard Williams- Royston Health Walks

Amelia Whittam – Friends of Therfield Heath

Peter Morgan –Royston Arts Society

Susan Thornton – Brian Racher Trust

John Davies – Friends of Royston Healthcare

Ivana Pakidzyova – Coombes Residents Grou

Sylvia Beamon – Coombes Residents Group

David Wherrell – Royston and District Community Transport

Pamela Greenbank - W I PM

Gillian Boyd – Royston speak out Club

Diana Barker – Melbourn Community Allotments

Jo Adams- Home-Start-Royston and S. Cambs

Trudie Harrington – Age UK –Hertfordshire

Kevin Clark – Royston Chess Club

Cllr Fiona Hill- Herts County Council

Cllr Tony Hunter- North Herts District Council

**.Apologies** received from: Julie Wilson (Parkinsons UK), Ray Munden and Sarah Hillman (Rotary and Community breakfast), Yvonne Dyer, (St Johns Parish Church), Brian Norwood (Royston Methodist Church),Kay Makowiecki (W.I. A.M), Carl Filby (Creative Royston)

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!. Three new members: Susan Thornton, Richard Williams, and Amelia Whittam, introduced themselves and explained who they were representing.

2. **FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSION OF PREVIOUS MEETING RE OUTCOMES.** All agreed that they would like the RCA to have a stall at the **May Fayre on Monday 6th May,** to advertise the Network and it’s various members. It was also agreed to hold a raffle on the stall to attract interest.

**Action:** Any groups wanting to have brochures/flyers etc advertised on the stall to bring them in to the Centre by **18th April** and leave in the office upstairs. **Bob** to submit an application through the RCA for £100 to Fiona Hill’s Locality Budget funding to purchase a Banner and cover any admin costs. **Lindsay** to book a stall with RTC, and to liase with Diana Barker for Raffle Prizes as she has a number of items which she kindly offered to donate. Any money raised from the Raffle would be donated at the Group’s discretion at our next meeting, or could be kept in a ring fenced budget in the RCA funds for the sole use of the Network.

David Wherrall said that RCT would be celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year, so may well have a stall also but would liase with us re joint working on the day. Barbara and Ivana both offered to help with the Stall and Group reps were encouraged to visit and support the Stall during the day if at all possible.

3. **INFORMATION/UPDATES FROM MEMBERS.**

**Amelia Whittam, Chair of** **the Friends of Therfield Heath** explained that they were a fairly new group who were looking for new members to join them. They planned to hold a lot of events this year and worked closely with the Conservators and Natural England, but were open to all Royston residents who used the Heath.

**Richard Williams from Royston Health Walks** said that his group although they were fairly new in Royston, now had 74 members and met every Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm on the Heath for gentle easy walks which appealed to all ages and capabilities. He was able to run his group at a very low cost because of few overheads but also felt that Social Prescribing was not working very well in Royston due to the lack of support from local Doctor’s surgeries compared to other areas of Hertfordshire and S. Cambs. His group was ideal for people to be referred to, but this was not happening and he got all his members through word of mouth and good advertising.

**Susan Thornton** who was a Trustee with the **Brian Racher Trust** explained that her Charity would look at funding any groups who wanted to run a project within the Royston area, and encouraged people to apply, application forms could be downloaded from the Town Council Web site.

**Lindsay** reported on behalf of **Carl Filby** **from Creative Royston** who was absent from the meeting, that the theme for this year’s Arts Festival would be “Our Planet” with a view to highlighting environmental issues in which some of the Network members may have an expertise. If they wish to get involved in the Festival they would be welcome to contact Carl (secretary@creativeroyston.org) or for more details visit their Website : www.creative royston.org.

He also wanted to draw members attention to an Arts Quiz they would be holding at the Old Bull in Royston on the 1st March and if anyone wanted to enter a team to please contact him or just turn up on the night if they cannot find 4 team members and they could be assigned to another team. Details again on the website or through Carl.

**Gillian Boyd from the Royston Speak out Club** told the meeting about the financial struggles her group was having due to an increase in rent for their use of the Barn Day Centre and discussion took place on the difficulties of finding funding for running costs as most funding available was often just for projects. **Cllrs Hill and Hunter** both explained about the decrease in money from Central Government that local councils were now experiencing, which was reducing at the rate of 20% a year which in turn made it very difficult for them to help many local charities and groups. Apart from grants through the County Cllrs locality budgets and the Royston Area Cttee

**John Davies from Friends of Royston Healthcare,** also reminded members that his group had funding available for any groups or individuals with health care related issues. They had recently funded play therapy counselling for vulnerable children at Therfield Village School.

**Jo Adams-Home-Start Royston & S. Cambs** said that they were constantly having to fund raise and were organising a Choir Concert on 2nd March, at the Meridian School, they had their monthly literary lunches at the Old Bull and were also planning a Black Tie Dinner and Ball at Fowlmere Village Hall later in the Spring-all details can be found on their web site and on their social media sites. She also said that families can refer themselves to Home-Start, they do not need to be referred by a Health care professional.

4. **CAN RCA NETWORK BE OF ASSISTANCE:**

**Sylvia Beamon from the Coombes Residents group** suggested that the Community Centre could become a Community Hub like the one in Melbourn, offering a café, quiet spaces for children to do their Homework after School and Adults who just wanted a quiet place to read etc. She also asked if any inter-generational meetings were being organised by any group between children and the over 60’s. **Cllr Fiona Hill** said that this had already happened on occasion. **Cllr Tony Hunter** pointed out that often the issue was not so much funding but finding and retaining the correctly qualified staff to run this type of service in the Community. The very successful Youth Drop in that used to run at the Centre had had to close down because of a lack of qualified staff to run it.

5. **FUTURE CONTENT OF MEETINGS:**  It was agreed that Lindsay would try and organise a short talk on recruiting and retaining volunteers from our local volunteer Centres either in Broxbourne or Letchworth. for our next meeting in June.

 **The next meeting is now set for WEDNESDAY JUNE 26TH 2019 10.15 am at the Coombes Community Centre. Please note change of date and earlier start time.**