**THIRD MEETING OF THE ROYSTON COMMUNITY NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 2019**

**AT THE**

**COOMBES COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROYSTON**

**PRESENT**

Robert Smith -RCA - Joint Network Co-ordinator

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

Richard Williams- Royston Health Walks

Ivana Pakozdyova – Coombes Residents Group

Sylvia Beamon – Coombes Residents Group

David Wherrell – Royston and District Community Transport

Jackie Cotton- Home-Start-Royston and S. Cambs

Cllr Fiona Hill- Herts County Council

Cllr Tony Hunter- North Herts District Council

Sarah Dingley – Black Squirrel Credit Union

Vivian Thomas – Coombes Residents Group

**Apologies** received from: Gillian Boyd (Royston Speak-Out Club), Yvonne Dyer, (St Johns Parish Church), Brian Norwood (Royston Methodist Church), Carl Filby (Creative Royston), Susan Thornton (Brian Racher Trust), John Davies(Friends of Royston Healthcare), Trudie Harrington (Age UK),Peter Morgan(Royston Arts Society), Amanda Jeavons, (Coombes Residents Group).

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1. **Kat Shepherdson** from Team Herts Volunteering gave us a very interesting and informative talk on recruiting and retaining volunteers which members found very helpful. Please see attached info sheets from her talk.

2. **Feed-back from our stall at the May Fayre.** Bob reported that we had made £78 from our raffle at the stall, which meant that we now hold £121.36 in the ring fenced account held in the RCA accounts. He thanked Cllr Fiona Hill for her kind donation of £100 from her Locality budget of which we had spent £56.54 on the banner and sundry costs. Some leaflets had been picked up by members of the public and there had been a couple of enquiries about general volunteering in the community, and also for Dave whose RDCT stand combined with ours. Discussion took place at this point about the lack of a local volunteering presence in Royston since the closure of the RVC two years ago. It was agreed that at our next meeting, the Forum could look at becoming a referral point for local volunteers to either Team Herts via Kat or the Broxbourne Volunteer Centre. Special thanks also go to Ivana, Vivian, Susan, and Diana for all their help with the stall on the day and especially to Diana for the wonderful raffle prizes she kindly donated. Thanks also go to Dave and his volunteers for their help during the day.

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

A. **Sarah Dingley,** told us all about the **Credit Union** run by Black Squirrel from Letchworth a branch of which, she had helped to set up here in Royston. It was currently open on Monday mornings at the Royston Evangelical Church manned by 5 volunteers. They had not had many customers so far despite extensive advertising and they were thinking of changing the day to a Saturday. Sarah explained that a Credit Union was a way for people to save small amounts of money and get small loans for up to £500, with only a 1% interest rate being charged by the CU. This saved people from going to loan companies etc and enabled people on low incomes to manage their money. There was a £2 charge to join the CU initially. The meeting discussed ways we could help to spread the word about this excellent new service n the town especially if Sarah could get flyers printed off which we could distribute among our groups and charities.

**B**. **David** told us that his **RDCT group** had recently sent out letters asking for funding help to businesses in the Town and the Industrial estate and had been very disappointed with the total lack of response although the new M &S Food hall had taken them on as their local charity and had put collection tins in their store with a further fund raising event from the staff planned.

**C.** Lindsay reported on behalf of **Peter Morgan** from **the RAS**, that they currently had a Members Exhibition on show at the Royston Museum until 20th July and their Young Artist Awards competition was also currently running with a deadline of the 31st July.

**D**. **Carl from Creative Royston** had asked for attention to be drawn to the imminent Historical Pageant taking place in the Priory Memorial Gardens and the Royston Music Fest at the Old Bull Inn on Sunday 7th July.

**E**..**Ivana** is currently doing a Digital Art course and is very willing to kindly help other groups and organisations with their web-sites etc if they should need it. Please contact her at her email address shown in the mail out list.

4. **NEXT** **MEETING:**  It was agreed that CLLR FIONA HILL would see if she could arrange for a speaker from **Herts Help** to give a short talk on the service this County wide advice and support Network offers to vulnerable members of the community. It was also agreed to discuss the possibility of asking Kat Shepherdson to organise a Volunteers Fair in Royston in 2020 and also our possible role in being a first stop local conduit for potential volunteers.

**The next meeting is now set for WEDNESDAY October 9thTH 2019 10.30 am at the Coombes Community Centre.**