**FOURTH MEETING OF THE ROYSTON COMMUNITY NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2019**

**AT THE**

**COOMBES COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROYSTON**

**PRESENT**

Robert Smith -RCA and Joint Network Co-ordinator

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

Richard Williams- Royston Health Walks

Carol Read – Stand-by-Me Bereavement support for children

Peter Morgan –Royston Arts Society

Susan Thornton – Brian Racher Trust

Joan Germany – Royston Methodist church

Ivana Pakozdyova – Coombes Residents Group

Ray Munden – Rotary, Royston Wildlife group, Friends of Therfield Heath

David Wherrell – Royston and District Community Transport

Michael Young – Corvus Amateur Dramatic Society

Gillian Boyd – Royston speak out Club

Diana Barker – Melbourn Community Allotments

Sarah Hillman – Royston Community Health

Vivian Thomas – Coombes Residents Group

Cllr Fiona Hill- Herts County Council

**Apologies** received from: Julie Wilson (Parkinsons UK) , Trudie Harrington(Age UK), John Davies (Friends of Royston Healthcare), Yvonne Dyer(St Johns Parish Church),Cllr Tony Hunter (N.H.D.C), Sylvia Beamon (Coombes Residents Group),Sarah Mascall (HSRSC), Richard Julian (Garden House Hospice Care), Eunice Thrower (W.I. PM), Dan Amis (Melbourn Springs Residential Care), Carl Filby (Creative Royston).

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!. **Lauren McGuire Team Supervisor from Advocacy at Herts Help** gave us a very interesting and informative talk on their work and mentioned the huge range of services that Herts Help offer with 60 Navigators across the County working with residents to offer advice and help where needed. Advocacy also helps people to get their voice heard in cases of dispute and legal problems. Lauren also advised that groups and organisations need to ensure that they are on the Herts Help Web site :**www.hertshelp.net**  so that they can be referenced by enquirers. They can also be emailed on: [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net). Lauren handed out various info leaflets and flyers detailing all the services that they provide. Mention was also made about an event being held next week on the 17th October at the Ibis Forum in Stevenage from 10.30am -2.30pm being run by Herts Pohwer offering a range of info from local services for the disabled, elderly, vulnerable or lonely and their carers.

2. **NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCTIONS: Carol Read from Stand-By-Me Bereavement support for children**  told members about her group which provides information, support and advice for children and their families and the professionals who work with them, across Stevenage and North Herts They have an office in Hitchin but their main group is based in Stevenage, which some children from Royston have access to. They would like to have an outreach group here in Royston and are currently working with local schools and GP surgeries. They can be contacted on: [info@stand-by-me.org.uk](mailto:info@stand-by-me.org.uk) and their advice line is 07469 255 163. Lindsay also mentioned

**Richard Julian from Garden House Hospice who has set up a Compassionate Neighbours Scheme**  which currently runs a support group in Stevenage and also recently set up one here at the Community Centre. Julian had hoped to join us for the meeting but had been unable to. He can be contacted on 01462 679540 and their web site is : [www.ghhospicecare.org.uk](http://www.ghhospicecare.org.uk) if you would like further information.

**Dan Amis from the new Melbourn Springs Residential Care Home** had also hoped to join us for the meeting to find out what was on offer for his residents not only to attend and access but also volunteer with, where that was possible.

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

**Sarah Hillman from** **Royston Community Health** told the meeting about a very important **Public consultation being undertaken by our Cambs and Peterborough CCG,** which closes on 20th December. She was concerned that not many people knew about this and it was vital that we responded to it, as it concerned the future of health care services in our area. Due to budget problems, they were looking to cut back on Community Health services and want to know which ones we value the most. The form can be accessed and downloaded from their website:**www.roystoncommunityhealth.org.uk under the news tab,** but warned that the form can only be completed online in one go as it cannot be left half completed. It can also be sent in in hard copy if wished, the free post address is on the web site. Two public meetings are also being held, the nearest to us being Cambourn, details of this are also on the website. She asked all present to urge their members to complete this form so that as many views as possible can be represented. Please contact Sarah on [info@roystoncommunityhealth.org.uk](mailto:info@roystoncommunityhealth.org.uk) if you require any further information.

**Diana Barker from Melbourn Community Allotments** said that although the allotments themselves were doing really well produce wise, she was still experiencing problems trying to find volunteers to work them, especially from the vulnerable groups she felt would benefit from it.

**Ivana Pakozdyova from the Coombes Residents group** said she was settingup a new web site called the Royston Hub in which she hoped to display groups like Diana’s who needed volunteers and asked everyone to contact her (see her email address in the mail out) if they wanted to be on her web site. She would also have links to other web sites like Herts Help etc.

**Joan Germany from**  **the Royston Methodist Church** said that they were planning to enlarge the church premises with disabled toilets, a lift etc and had already raised £90,000 towards the total costs of £130,000. Once completed they would be able to do even more community work than they are currently doing..

**David Wherrall from RCT** said that they were planning to offer their community buses for shopping trips to the local supermarkets on Thursdays and possibly Fridays, for groups who could not normally get to them easily.

**Ray Munden from Rotary** reminded everyone about their Charity **Swimathon taking place at the Leisure Centre on Sunday 13th Oct and also their Memory Café** which meets every 2nd Monday of the month in the Town Hall from 10-12pm.

**Peter Morgan from the Royston Arts Society** drew attention to a new initiative celebrating 2020 b**ecoming the Hertfordshire Year of Culture also known as HYOC2020.** The campaign is being led by the Herts Association of Cultural Officers and they are encouraging organisations and individuals from across the County to get involved. More details can be obtained by emailing the project Co-ordinator Liz Gore at :liz.gore@hertsmere.gov.uk or telephoning her on 020 8207 7801. Royston Town Council had already agreed to get some local projects off the ground in 2020.

**Michael Young from CADS** said that Johnson Matthey were holding a **Wellbeing event** on their site to-morrow (10th) for their staff and wondered how many people knew about this and had been asked to attend with a stall etc? No one present had heard of this.

Lindsay said that she would contact the organiser Sarah Foster about any future events they might hold to ensure that all local relevant orgs. and charities were given the chance to attend.

**Lindsay** reported on behalf of the **Town Council’s Naturally Royston** team, that they were intending to launch a new project in 2020 to make **Royston a Plastics Free Community**. This was a national initiative being organised by Surfers Against Sewage and Letchworth and Buntingford had already signed up and achieved this status. She would be bringing further details about what this would involve and how members could get involved at our next meeting in February.

**The next meeting is now set for WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2020 10.30 am at the Coombes Community Centre.**