

FREE after 3

Royston First's hard fought for parking initiative to get all parking in the car parks free after 3.00pm will become a reality by August and will remain in place at least until March 2011.

Ever an emotive subject, Royston's parking tariffs have been the subject of fierce lobbying for many months. In the end, joint action between NHDC officers, the Parking Portfolio holder (Cllr. Brindley – our thanks to him), the Royston & District Area Committee of NHDC and Royston First has resulted in this major initiative for Royston. The implementation has faced a number of challenges but a collective desire to do the best for our town coupled with NHDC's new policy to view each town's parking needs individually has yielded a meaningful result. We look

FREE

forward to those on the school run, businesses from the industrial estate and motorists from our hinterland all nipping into Royston for those end-of-day needs.

Other parking related projects are planned for later this year. Watch this space!

Now you see them...

Perhaps surprisingly, we are happy that our display on the glass of the empty former Woolworths store lasted less than 6 months! Our reason for being so positive is of course that our images have been removed to reveal a completely revamped retail space.

We extend a warm welcome to Store 21 in their new position at the heart of our High Street.



UPDATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2010



a catalyst for change

RING OF STEEL

Automatic Number Plate Recognition has over the past couple of years become the policeman's technology of choice when it comes to crime prevention and detection. A camera based system, ANPR takes digital images of number plates going past and matches them against the number plates of vehicles known to be used in crime. At the same time, searches are completed against databases of lost and stolen number plates and taxed/insured vehicles. Any vehicle displaying a suspect number plate is then identified to the police with details relayed to in-car terminals... all within 2 minutes of the vehicle passing a camera!



After a very successful local trial with a couple of cameras, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Royston & District Area Committee of North Herts District Council are combining to situate ANPR on half the approach roads to Royston. The Advisory Council of Royston First recently unanimously voted to sponsor cameras on the remaining half. This will achieve, two years ahead of schedule, the protection of all Royston's businesses with ANPR... not just the main industrial estate as originally envisaged.

All parties contributing to this project are acutely aware of the civil liberty and privacy issues associated with such surveillance. It should be emphasized that the technology focuses on identifying the vehicle – with no interest in speed, driver ability, phone usage, etc! Vehicles that are on the road legally and not being used for criminal purposes will be of no interest. No additional hassle will accrue to legal motorists... indeed the need for random stopping of vehicles will be obviated by the technology.

Royston will become, as far as we are aware, the first town in the UK to be completely protected by ANPR. For once our comparative isolation in the top corner of Hertfordshire has worked in our favour!

Royston First welcomes Knibbs Meat Safe

One of the propositions in our original Prospectus was to test whether it was possible to successfully target and recruit new retailers. Our formula was to identify an obvious gap in Royston's retail offer and attempt to fill it with an established business. As our research indicated a strong demand for a specialist butcher, this is where we started.

Having already approached a number of leading local butchers and with a couple of ongoing 'negotiations', we were ourselves contacted by a company considering where next to expand their existing chain. Having established that Knibbs are a quality local supplier with outlets in Haslingfield, Newnham and Burwash Manor, we did our best to persuade them to choose Royston. The proof of our success is plain for everyone to see in Church Walk.

More bang for your buck!

In the past we had been aware of funding that was only available on a 'part' or 'matched' basis. It was hoped that the monies from the BID levy would enable us to attract such funding to Royston. We are pleased to say that such has indeed been the case.

During our first year of operation, we succeeded in attracting £61,950 of additional monies to projects on which we spent £114K. A 54% uplift is a result that far exceeds our most optimistic forecasts. The figures are likely to be lower in Year 2, but we already know of over £20K that has been committed. We would like to thank the Royston & District Area Committee of NHDC, the Brian Leslie Racher Trust, the Royston & District Chamber of Commerce, Hertfordshire County Council and Royston Town Council for their financial support over the past twelve months.

It should be mentioned that we have also received support in terms of goods and services. North Herts District Council does not charge us for fulfilling the duties placed on them by the BID statute – this benefits Royston First by up to £20K per annum. Royston Town Council have, at their own expense, completed survey work on the Town Hall related to our Community Cinema project and also do not charge Royston First for administrative support. Our accounts are prepared by WKH at no cost... and indeed the time our 21 Advisory Council members spend working on Royston First is all donated.

We thank all the above mentioned (and any we have failed to mention) for all their support.

Angel Pavement

Toward the end of 2009, Royston First and officers at NHDC teamed-up to apply for a grant from Hertfordshire County Council. Early in 2010 we heard that the HCC Vibrant Towns initiative had awarded Royston £22K to assist with refurbishing Angel Pavement. These monies combined with an allocation from the Area Committee of NHDC will allow us to extend the project to include the Market Hill edge of the Pavement and should ensure that we are able to select a stone finish (as opposed to concrete pavers).

We achieved our first project meeting with Hertfordshire Highways in June. This has now put in motion a £3.5K design project which will deliver a detailed specification by the end of July. Then, because this is a public highway project, there will be a statutory 90 day consultation period - after which the work will commence!



Royston First AGM 16th September 2010

In accordance with the 2003/4 Business Improvement District legislation, the Royston BID is contained under the umbrella of a limited company, the Royston First BID Company Ltd. This is a not-for-profit company owned and administered by the companies within the BID boundary. The company is directed by a 20 member Advisory Council comprising of volunteer representatives from stakeholders and levy paying companies.

The first Annual General Meeting will take place at 6:00pm Thursday, September 16th. The venue will be the downstairs Heritage Hall at Royston Town Hall. At the meeting, the first year accounts will be presented and current members of the Advisory Council will be on hand to answer questions. This will be followed by formal elections conducted amongst those present for appointments to the Advisory Council for Year 2 of the Royston First BID. This year there will also be the election of a new Chairman to replace John Gourd who is stepping down after a year in office.

Any company within the BID district and paying the BID levy is entitled to nominate a representative to stand for office and vote at the AGM. All attendees at the meeting will be asked to sign a declaration identifying themselves as the nominated representative of their company. Advisory Council Members will be asked to serve a minimum of one year and to attend quarterly meetings. In addition, they may be asked to serve on one or more Working Parties according to their skills and experience.

Your representatives 2009/10

The Royston First Advisory Council is responsible for directing/delivering the actions specified in the BID Prospectus. All businesses within the BID boundary are entitled to propose candidates for the RFAC. The volunteers for this year are listed below, together with the business or organisation they represent.

Alan Barlow (ABA)
Cath Boughton (The Listing)
Jim Bullard (Archers Residential)
Bill Davidson (Citizen)
Norman Dawes (Meridian Line)
Cllr. Fiona Hill (NHDC)
Steve Jackson (Enfield Electrical)

James Keatley (NPK)
Ian Knowles (Sharman Knowles)
John Gourd – Chairman (Johnson Matthey)
Rick Hollway (The Automation Partnership)
Stephen Larcombe (Limbach Banham)
Kay Makowecki (Godshaw Jewellers)
Rupert Matthews (Fourways)

Mike Mildwater (Hiremee)
Oscar Sassoli (Penn Sassoli)
Nigel Reader (Borders & Bows)
David Smyth (WKH)
Nick Tait (Syrris)
Susan Thornton-Bjork (RTC)

The following individuals volunteered their time to serve on the Advisory Council for Year 1 of the Royston First BID. Our thanks goes to each and every one of them.