

Friends of High Town (FoHT)

Minutes of the Meeting 8th Jan 2013

AGENDA

1. Attendees
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Last Meeting
4. Improvement & Regeneration on Midland Road
5. Hightown Gateway
6. Hightown Cleanliness
7. Rainbow Chariry Gardening
8. People's Park Fun Day
9. Action Points
10. Next Meeting Date

1. Attendees: Fiona Martin, Fiona Morton, Chris Grabham, Simon Barrow, Annie Bygrave, Andy Malcolm

2. Apologies: David Landau

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes are yet to be written up.

5. Improvement & Regeneration on Midland Road

FM Stan Carter (the arboriculturalist) is ill - but did reply that they are only putting in 2 trees and no plans in place for any other shrubs or plantings We can't use our HTT funding for planting (if HTT could spare the money). *[AB Post meeting comment quoting email from AM '...it will most likely come down to us to fund any additional planting']*.

FM Midland Road will be closed for 3 weeks to cars (not people & bikes) *[post meeting comment by Fiona - does seem to be open after working hours]*

6. Hightown Gateway

AM & FM reported back re: the Hightown Gateway options a and b:

- a. Thomas Heatherwick OR
- b. local artisans as an alternative if Heatherwick doesn't come through.

Discussion followed on the SNAP montage needing a new home.

7. Hightown Cleanliness

Kim Greig (new to the group) - spoke re flytipping and rubbish – she believes it can only be reported as dumped if outside the house and garden boundaries. Mentioned the clothes bank near Edward Street which is sometimes appearing to become a clothing tip.

AM gave out the council phone number for fly-tipping which is 01582 510333. AM also confirmed that Eric Pickles has given govt funding to save the current level of bin collection provision.

AM mentioned that Roxanna has dealt with stuff left on the premises of an owner in her role as councillor - he is not sure what she did - he will ask. *[AB Post meeting comment email received from Roxanna Whittaker as follows: 'Andy mentioned that you wanted to know the name of the person at the council who could help with dumping on private property. Her name is Sue Farmer, she works in Private Sector Housing and can be contacted on 01582 546507']*.

Proposal: Leaflet drop as a way of promoting council collection of large items to those in our area that do not know that the service is available.

FM suggested we make and distribute A5 leaflets - each person takes 1 or 2 roads - have the LBC phone number on, info on fly tipping & rubbish collection service, possibly also contact details of other relevant organisations on them.

AB said that £640 will buy 2000 leaflets with distribution *[Note by AB after meeting – Sorry I am totally wrong. It is 20,000 leaflets for £604 including distribution]*

Proposal: they could be done Feb and Sept/Oct to coincide with student change over at Bedfordshire Uni.

Letting agents need to tell their tenants more proactively about furniture collection service.

Proposal: A5 leaflet could be taken into letting agencies - contact them to see if they will take it?

Proposal: Leaflets to promote the FoHT group meetings with council info on the back? **Action point - AB to look at designing it.**

Notices of the FoHT meetings saying 'Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month' - could someone approach Doog and ask if they can go on his notice board (*outside St Matthew's School on corner of Havelock Rd and High Town Rd*) - FM can ask and will also check re the board in the park. **Action point – FM to ask about noticeboards. Action point - Annie to do notices.**

'33' Records were mentioned (aka SNAP) – they are going to have a community arts/interactive shop window - the leaflet info could be given to them for inclusion. The new premises is in the now-empty shop that was a carpet remnants place (craft shop prior to that).

Irish Forum do a lot of work with the Polish community so could give them the leaflets to distribute to their members and contacts.

AM stated his preference that promotion of council services should be done through the council.

8. Rainbow Charity Garden

AB told group that plants and shrubs had been collected and now need to be planted up in the Rainbow Garden. She has completed a planting plan. Dates for planting are now required. **Action point – AB to contact Abi Brown/Anthea Cowen re Beacon Group dates.**

9. People's Park Fun Day

Andy proposed another Fun Day could be done to follow up on the previous ones, and the wonderful jubilee last year. (Praise due to Judy and all involved) - Doog Moody & Mark Rivers to be approached re the music. AB suggested The Knockouts. Needs volunteers to help organise it. **Action point AB –to put Fun Day on next meeting agenda.**

[Follow up: FM had a chat with Mark Rivers whilst passing his garden - and he is interested in supporting the event as before].

[Follow up: AB was emailed by Mark Rivers saying he is keen to do festival again and that we need to pick a date for Fun day this year]

10. ACTION POINTS AGREED IN THIS MEETING:

- Design A5 leaflets with FoHT meetings promotion on one side and council collection number/info on the other (AB)
- Ask if our notices can go on local noticeboards – People's Park and St Matthews School (FM)
- Design A4 FoHT meeting notices (AB)
- Contact Beacon Group re Rainbow planting dates (AB)
- Put Fun Day on next Agenda (AB)

11. Next Meeting Date

12th February 2013