

## Friends of High Town (FoHT)

### Minutes: 13.1.15

#### 1. Attendees

Simon Barrow, Lyn Bliss, Annie Bygrave, Natalie Feerick, Jean Godden, Jan Horner, Cllr Andrew Malcolm, Fiona Morton, Lisa Wright

#### 2. Apologies

David Landau; Luke Middleton

#### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

DL apologised for their late delivery and they will be sent ASAP

#### 4. Community Worker Appointment

- This is a Nehemiah Foundation appointment
- Will work under management of Hope Church, supported by them, FoHT and the Methodist Church
- It is Luke Middleton in High Town
- Official start date: Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### 5. Street Watch

- Inspector Bernadette White (Bedfordshire Police - Luton North) + Houghton Regis Street Watch coordinator, Peter Carrington spoke about potentially introducing the scheme in High Town
- Insurance is covered once a scheme is registered
- Patrolling in pairs – never alone
- Patrol initially with a PCSO
- Min. 2hrs/mth
- Compulsory induction course
- Register each patrol in advance (ideally 24hrs+) - put time and place on forum
- If police needed, then ask
- Ideally, 8 people needed as volunteers in High Town
- Can also report crime using email
- JH offered High Town Methodist Church Hall as a base, if needed
- 9 people at meeting interested in joining Street Watch
- LW volunteered as potential High Town coordinator

Action points:

- i) NF to email leaflet to DL, to advise other FoHT members through email and web

- ii) Make it agenda item for March meeting

## 6. Your Say Your Way (Participatory Budget) sub-committee

Deadline for bids: 13.2.15

LB outlined ideas discussed with Heather James, Community Dvlpt., Luton Borough Council:

- a) community newsletter
  - advertising events in High Town
  - produced 2x/year just before major events
  - delivered door-to-door, available at stalls and shops, etc.
  - JW offered to help
- b) participatory dance event
  - every 6mths
  - between other main High Town events
  - discussion about whether to have it outdoors or not – indoors thought better
  - Luton Irish Forum offered their hall for free, but would charge for Irish dancers – High Town Methodist Church Hall has a small fee, but members thought it better as it was a more central venue
  - date: 3.10.15 or 10.10.15

JW was working on:

- c) creating a community allotment
  - yet to ask St Matthew's Church if some of their land can be used

Action points:

- i) LB to contact DL about costs, dates
- ii) LB & JG to find venue and dance groups

## 7. Morrisons licensing application

Following a representation letter from FoHT, we were asked to clarify our case before the Licensing Panel to reject an 0600-2400 alcohol license for the M Local on High Town Road in favour of an 0900-2200 license. DL did so the week before.

- Morrisons WILL be allowed to sell alcohol 0600-2400, but conditions imposed on type of alcohol sold to curb street drinkers:
  - a) no single can sales
  - b) no high strength beers to be sold (6.5%+ alcohol) EXCEPT 'premium' beers, such as Speckled Hen
  - c) no spirits sold in bottles smaller than 350ml (allows half bottles, but not quarter bottles)

## 8. Park fitness equipment

- Following FoHT's input, LBC Parks Dept. decided to
  - a) locate any equipment on the Havelock Road side of Bells Close Recreation Ground
  - b) buy the equipment from 'The Outdoor Gym Company'

## 9. High Town Team (HTT) meeting

AM fed back as DL unable to attend

- Welbeck Square
  - a) Francis Martin to construct benches and bin screens from metal, as most cost-effective method
  - b) Construction should be complete in April

10. AOB

- a) JG: concerned that solar-powered light placed in tree on corner of Midland Road/Coupees Path during High Town Spring Clean 2014 has gone.  
AM: the tree was not a tree but an overgrown buddleia, the light was on private land, the clear-up had ensured this area remained almost entirely free of rubbish/flytipping since it was done and the land is now being redeveloped.
- b) LB: the only railway footbridge lift often not working and no alternative lift added or lift fixed more quickly; suggested a protest day, which meeting was keen on.
- c) DL: The Freeholder's former landlady Veronica McMahon is returning to operate the bar on High Town Road; its refurbishment is ongoing.

Action points:

- i) Put railway footbridge lift on agenda for next meeting.

11. Date of next meeting: 7pm for 7.15pm, 10.2.15, High Town Methodist Church Hall.