

## FoHT 12 JAN 2016 MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Attendees:

David Landau (Chair), Annie Bygrave (stand-in Secretary), Jean Godden, Kim Greig, Lisa Wright, Pete Savage, Jeremy Williams, Chaba Sipeki, Luke Middleton, Cllr Andy Malcolm, David Alexander, Betty Curran, Raj Desai, Russell Cartwright, Jan Horner, Lyn Bliss

### 2. Apologies:

Maureen Allen (Secretary), Fiona Morton (Treasurer), Chris Grabham, Linda Farrell, Joan Samuel

3. Minutes of last meeting - sent out a week previously. No objections received.

### 4. a) Hightown Community Sports and Arts Centre (LB)

Feedback from meeting with Katrina Lewis, who is a new HCSAC staff member, employed to engage with the community.

Katrina has a 'MeTime' space for events on her website. Needs feedback on what people would like to see (as events, facilities?) at the centre. **AP: Secretary/DL to email our members to ask for feedback**

LB was given extensive list of activities, but still does not seem to be complete. Asked for FoHT to go on their email list to be notified of events - manager asked us to go their website to sign up for this. **AP: Secretary/DL.**

LB suggested notices are put on Greenbank Music Village community noticeboard.

Katrina Lewis has organised 'Nordic Walking' - not much take-up. Wants to encourage more outdoor events, meeting at centre first. Wants coffee meet ups at centre.

Keen to be involved in High Town Festival.

Café sign to be put outside to say 'Café Open' to encourage people in.

Website not user-friendly - they are working on it.

BC: At first there were many different activities including bowls, painting, Over 50s exercise group.

Lot of line dancing events seem to take over later and I didn't like that so stopped going.

JG: No signposting from HTR to community centre.

AM: Highways open to the idea so we need to push it through. **AP: AM.**

### (b) Newsletter (DL)

LM & DL will meet JNB Publishing have agreed to publish newsletter for free.

### (c) Railway Tavern (DL)

DL: Another letter sent to owner of The Railway Tavern re. building security. Saw people climbing in windows. Squatters? Fire risk? Asked council to intervene.

KG: Building now boarded up, lights on, they are developing the property.

LW: Workmen down there since last Thursday.

DA: Wearing high vis jackets but no helmets.

AM: Have pushed council to bring pressure to bear. Section 251? Owner was ill, now better and has started development.

JG: Would like the hoardings decorated.

DL: If building is done quickly we may not need it.

JG: In Wheathampstead - hoarding has been decorated in local history by local artist

DL: Your Say Your Way meeting - ask for funding?

RD: What are plans for building?

DL: Original plans stand.

(d) High Town Conservation Area meeting (DL)

(e) High Town Conservation Area planning applications (DL)

No contact with council yet, but this is to be done.

-54 Duke St: objection to aspects of plans to build flats. Application withdrawn.

-45 York St: 'The Freeholder' application to change to a B&B - decision pending.

LW: Painters Arms: to redevelop upstairs into 3 smaller self contained flats. Making a new side access.

AB: Upstairs of Painters Arms is a huge dilapidated flat needing a lot of renovation. The redevelopment into 3 small flats is probably a good thing.

DL: Outside needs to stay as is, it is a Grade 2 listed building. So far the outside been kept the same so this may not be an issue.

(f) Christmas Tree Festival (DL)

Decorated a tree for this. Looked attractive.

JH: Would like a repeat of the festival next year. Raised £1600-1700 for the Organ Fund. Organ due to be finished by Sept 2016.

DL: Additional likes on FoHT FB Page due to FM posting photos from the festival.

5. Nuisance motorbikes (DL)

Problem across Bedfordshire. Not sure if it is the same group of bikers.

Group discussion. Points raised were:

- Wheelies going past mums and kids outside St Matthews School.
- Old lady nearly knocked down. Very shaken.
- Cat killed in Round Green.
- Have been dealing with these riders in Dunstable. Not out to have fun - aim is to intimidate. Police can't easily catch them. Advice is - phone 101 to police immediately you see them. Give descriptions. Will take time. Just keep phoning 101.

- Police motorbike units are in area.
- Use the Force Control email for photos. Don't take risks though.
- Police can't pursue in case one of them gets killed or a member of public gets injured.
- Streetlife - address of one of them was put up.
- Bikes can be impounded
- Round Green residents want to set up an action group. Cllr Mark Rivers will tell us when meeting is to be held.
- These guys are past intervention.

## 6. Parking permits and one-way system consultation (DL)

- proposal to extend permit scheme within High Town or time limited parking
- one way system Colin Rd/Ridgway Rd/Talbot Rd

DL: Lack of parking spaces for increasing number of cars, inc. commuters

### *General discussion*

BC & DL: Problem with buses - cannot reverse so cars have to reverse all the way up Kingston Rd.

There is nowhere for cars to pull in (due to parking of cars on both sides of the road)

BC: needs to be a one-way system- parking limitations won't work.

LB: Propose one way system but that group does not agree with the proposed plans. Group suggests either (a) make bus route one way UP Ridgway Rd, DOWN Kingston Rd or (b) DOWN Ridgway Rd and UP Kingston Rd. (c) Reconsider (leaving out?) Colin Rd and Talbot Rd.

AP: DL to propose this

DL: Permits - £50 per year, 2 permits per house.

LB: Suggest this is a money making scheme by council. Do not agree with the council not allowing a permit for any car to park in the road eg visitors/family. Do not agree with carers not getting free parking automatically. Carers would have to go in and out (up and down steps) to put permit in their car and then do it again when they leave.

LW: They can apply for a Blue Badge for their cars and avoid the problem.

DA/BC: Parking on pavements an issue.

DL: Final decision - should parking permits be fully implemented in High Town?

### *Vote held.*

Results - 50:50 split between Yays and Nays. Rest abstained from voting.

AP: individual members to email Chris Godden or respond to leaflets/letters from council if you want to put your view / DL to represent different views of the group

## 7. AOB

(a) LB: Your Say Your Way grant: 2015 Dance Festival. Feedback documents have been sent to council. Thanks due to Fiona Morton for doing finances and preparing docs. Some money is left over. Will be used to buy bunting for next High Town Festival.

(b) LB: AP Ask Luton Mainline station manager to put sign at end of walkway if lift is 'Out of Order'

AM: re. station - the council is running a Twitter campaign - #stateofthestation. Twitter complaints and suggestions send to that.

(c) High Town Master Plan implementation was dropped temporarily due to council members illness/leaving. New person now involved and will move it forward.

Welbeck Sq refurb. Now got money in funds for project. Hopefully going ahead this year.

(d) DA: Bottom of Hitchin Rd - what is development going on?

AM: Development is some affordable housing, some private housing. Will be finished soon.

(e) RD: Sex worker approached him and asked for cigarette while neighbour was with him. Refused to give her a cigarette, then she started throwing stones. Called 101. Police woman answering refused to speak with Raj (he was afraid and 'het up' on phone). Raj not happy about the way he was treated by police.

DL: FoHT will continue to monitor action plan to end street prostitution

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016