

# FoHT MEETING MINUTES

## FRIENDS OF HIGH TOWN AGM 9TH JUNE 2013

### DETAILS

The meeting was held at Methodist Church Hall, High Town Rd on 09/07/13. The meeting started at: 7pm and finished at 8:30pm.

### 1. ATTENDEES

People present at the meeting:

Name	
David Landau Annie Bygrave Russell Cartwright Fiona Morton Kim Greig Lisa Wright Simon Barrow David Alexander	

### 2. APOLOGIES

People who were not present at the meeting:

Name	
Chris Grabham	Roxanna Whittaker
Marie-Louise Lowcock	Joan Samuel
Fiona Martin	Naomi Wynter-Vincent
Andy Malcolm	Linda Farrell

### MEETING ACTIONS

The following meeting actions were agreed:

Due Date	Action	Person responsible
13/8/2013	Push for PCSO to come to our meetings	DL
15/07/2013	Sort out stuff for FoHT Festival stall	AB, DL, FM
12/7/2013	Accompany judge for Green Flag status inspection	DL, AB
ASAP	Forward Highways email to group	AB
13/8/2013	Prepare budget options for marketing	F Morton, DL
13/8/2013	Invite speaker from Wardown Museum	F Morton, DL

### 3. Minutes

June 2013 Meeting minutes were approved.

#### 4. Prostitution & Drugs

DL: I contacted Shazad Khazam and asked if he would speak at today's meeting, or if not would he release my interview notes so that they could be read out to the FoHT members. He refused. His actual reply was "No and please do not email me anymore, I hope you respect my decision and comply".

DL: Where do we go from here?

KG: It is sad that Shazad doesn't see the point of FoHT or what we are trying to achieve.

LW: There was a discussion on prostitution at the last Ward Forum. The residents had a lot of issues and the discussion got very emotive. There seemed to be point scoring between certain factions going on. There was clearly animosity between the group leaders and the local council. At the meeting there was a lot of 'tit for tat' that invalidated a lot of the points being made. The Police suggested that there should be a separate public meeting, where this subject could be properly addressed.

KG: Firstly, I can't see how FoHT can have a position on it; there are a lot of different opinions. Secondly, non-communication with those who are 'upset' about the issue leaves us unable to move forward or improve the situation.

RC: I'm not convinced that all of the 2000 or so people signing the petition actually live in the area. However a dispersal zone is now in place so something has been done.

LW: There is a 3 month drive on prostitution by the police. [There will be ] feedback on Thursday [in the public meeting] on what has been done so far.

RC: No one has referred to the law. Are they looking at changing the law?

DL: Gavin Shuker is Chairman of a group that is looking at the laws on prostitution.

[Notes by AB: Group that GS Chairs is the All Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade. See an article in the Guardian that mentions it [here](#)].

DL: The Dispersal Zone is really only useful for breaking up groups of young people.

AB: What has that got to do with prostitution?

LW: It also refers to dispersal of a group of two or more persons.

[ Notes by AB on Dispersal Orders: [Home](#) » [Prosecution Policy and Guidance](#) » [Legal Guidance](#) » [D to G](#) » Dispersal Orders

##### **Dispersal Orders**

Sections 30-36 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (ASBA) gave police forces in England and Wales new powers to:

- *disperse groups of two or more people from areas where there is persistent anti-social behaviour.*
- *take home any young person under 16 who is out on the streets in a dispersal zone between 9pm and 6am and not accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.*
- *The period of the authorisation cannot exceed six months.*

KG: The PCSO should be coming to our group meetings.

DL: Have to follow up on this and push forward to get a PCSO to a meeting. *Action point DL*

DL: The drugs issue that we talked about before – I spoke to Riyadh who has been impacted by the drugs problems and asked him to come along to this meeting – but he hasn't come.

DL: So I will leave it open at the moment.

#### 5. Feedback from the High Town Team

- High Hats shop will be open for 18th July 2013. ML will be doing workshops in August. Related website (Lutonhats.com) will be showcasing the hat industries that are still left in the area. Caroline [Wallace] is asking for volunteers to man the shop. She will let us know exactly what is required later.
- Shop 33 – a grant of £30K has been awarded - project working with older people to get them online, assist with online shopping, emails etc.
- DL is now in Shop 33 on Wednesdays 11am - 6pm. (*aside: JS has some engravings of old High Town on display in the shop.*)
- Went to Travis Perkins and asked for a new noticeboard for the High Town gateway area. Have a written formal email from them. They have been in High Town for 10-15 years but the site was a builders merchant family business well before that and they have quite a lot of family photos from that time. I have told CG about this in case he wants to feed it into his historical work. They will be leaving the site soon. They had an agreement with the builders merchant to pay a lease for 100 years for the site so am not sure how they will be released from that.
- The font for the High Town Gateway sign is yet to be finished.
- Hat sculptures for Gateway – still waiting for artist to get back with prices of how much it will cost to recreate them.
- Mural or even a coat of paint for the fence/gates under the big billboard at Gateway? Landlord is not agreeing to anything.
- Wellbeck St –AM is proposing Groundwork put forward a plan to improve that square. Need money – are looking at funding. Plan is for a small square rather than just plantings. Want to engage people in Mediterranean Café, TV shop, flats & get them to play a role in keeping the area free of litter, undesirables, drunks etc.
- 23rd November: Your Say Your Way meeting – application for money and call for suggestions on usage. Open until 13th September 2013. Have you any bright ideas on how to spend £1000?

RC: Isn't it too small for a square? Plantings would be nice.

#### 6. High Town Festival

Go to website to find out more: [www.HighTownLuton.com](http://www.HighTownLuton.com)

Arts & Crafts Fair

Knockouts and other live bands playing

Shop 33 live music 12-6pm

Konni on at 1:30-2:15 pm

Freeholders live band from 9pm.

Painters live music.

Lee Nelson – poetry reading  
Chris Dogget – 'cello playing  
FoHT stall by community stage, Burr St car park. 12- 6pm.

Need the following for our stall:

Posters  
Membership forms  
Safe tin for float  
Banner  
Info sheets  
Photos  
Table & chairs

*Action point: AB, DL and FM to sort out the above.*

DA: You can probably borrow a table from the meeting hall

#### 7. Grandparents Day

DL: Still waiting to hear about this

#### 8. The Railway Tavern

DL: They have boarded up the first floor at last. Contacted Gemma Pike – certain planning conditions to be discharged before work can begin again on site. Have contacted officer concerned to chase this up.

#### 9. Nature Conservation Work

DL: People's Park entrance being worked on now. I am concerned that the fencing that has been put up is flimsy. That was using the money we helped to get. I think it ought to be something that lasts.

SB: They would have been better off using railway sleepers.

DL: Green Flag status – inspection and judging of the park this Friday at 2pm. Need to meet and accompany the judge around the site. Meet at Pope's Meadow at the Lodge. Judge is Scottish Director of The Institute of Groundsmanship. *Action point DL & AB*

F Morton: This [getting Green Flag status] makes you more eligible for grants – more likely to get grants when there are interested groups.

#### 10. Any Other Business

- Saturday 20th July is the LoHo Clean-up Day. Help to tidy up an area in Luton. There is free food. Hopefully we can do something similar for our area, learn from what they are doing and how they got the Council on board.
- Update on Ring Road: the development starts this month and should be finished by May 2014. Received an email from AM, forwarded from Highways. Will get AB to forward this to the group.  
*Action point - AB*
- Engineer on ring road can be contacted while he is working – he hopes to have WiFi.
- The FoHT website is moving [onto Wordpress]. NW-V has been working on it from Turkey.

DL: What should our marketing budget be?

F Morton: I have not been able to pin this down. How much do we want to achieve? Need to cost this up and do two or more better versions. *Action point F Morton, DL*

11. AOB

SB: Just for the group's information – there were two trees chopped down in Havelock Road. Land is privately owned and the owner paid for this. They were not council owned trees. I spoke to the workmen and they confirmed this. Apparently the owner wanted more space to put in a drive.

RC: St Matthew's School – new playground was installed and they were going to reinstate the hedging – they haven't. Perhaps it's the wrong time of year to plant?

SB: Probably needs to be done in the autumn or winter.

F Morton: Project at Wardown Museum. Get someone from museum to talk to us about it – next meeting perhaps? *Action point F Morton/DL*

Next meeting will be 13th August 2013.

End of meeting

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