

## Friends of High Town (FoHT)

### MINUTES: 10.3.15

1. Attendees – **Not Collected**
2. Apologies  
Lyn
3. Minutes of the last meeting  
These were received. No comments.
4. Your Say Your Way  
A joint bid for a twice yearly Hightown Newsletter and the Dance festival has been submitted.
5. Street Watch update – NF  
Natalie reported that not many forms had been submitted.
6. The Railway Tavern - RC  
This is still a matter for concern. David will try to contact the owner.  
Russell Cartwright will provide a fuller report for the next meeting.
7. High Town Team (HTT) meeting – DL & AM  
The team met this morning.
  - i. The development of Welbeck Square has been included in the Capital programme of LBC for 2015-16. A parking notice for the square has been published and passed last week for future implementation.
  - ii. Re: The Gateway at the station end of HTR: a recognised supplier of materials has been found and his name will be proposed to the planning meeting.  
The final design will be simpler than originally envisaged.  
A comment was made that the Gateway sign does not appear on the High Town master plan.
  - iii. Branding for HTR. It was suggested specific branding for signs in HTR (and other shops etc? font, images, design costs, reflecting history of the area.
  - iii. Arts for all – money for 1950s vintage day.
  - iv. Caroline Wallace to investigate empty shops – owners, status etc. Some apparently empty shops are being used for other purposes eg storage, retail warehouses.
  - v. Morrisons: there will be no room to install cycle racks – lack of space.
  - vi. Mark Cronin (Barnfield Studio School) reports there will be fewer trades, moving towards science, airport, business.)
8. High Town Festival – DL & AM  
This will be on 14<sup>th</sup> July.  
Commitments to help for one hour slots would be appreciated.
9. Spring Clean – DL  
Will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. Hope church and “Made in Luton” are already planning to cover a wider area.

## 10. Outdoor Gym equipment – SB & DL

This has been installed in Peoples' Park. It is for aged 12+. Several people observed that it was being enthusiastically used. (nb. It has been noted and much approved on a local chat site.)

## 11. AOB

- i. It was agreed to hold the Dance Festival on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Russell was concerned about the birds who had lost their habitat where the shrubbery had been cut down to the ground on the corner of Cobden St and HTR.
- iii. Russell also mentioned the idea of planting a hedge on the perimeter of the school.  
(Simon Barrow?)
- iv. **General tidiness??**
- v. **ANDY:**
  - \* asked who owned some **woodland** behind houses in Hitchin Road.
  - \* queried whose **cars** were being stored in the Dye works (North St)
  - \* **Travellers** keep returning to one of the car parks – quite away from houses. Not causing problems. Phone the police if concerned.
  - \* **The Green Man**: planning permission has been granted for flats.
  - \* **Corner of Dudley Road and North St**: 52 Flats to be built. Concern was expressed that there is no facility for parking but this is not considered necessary as the flats are very close to the station. Andy will investigate further.
  - \* Pigeons under the Hitchin Road railway bridge are still a menace. Network Rail is being slow to respond to complaints.

## 12. Notices & information exchange

### a) Hope Church – food events

Jeremy (Hope Church): Local churches are planning a series of events including a “Big Lunch” where people will be encouraged to invite their neighbours to lunch. A Moroccan themed event has already taken place and was sold out. There was also a mention of Picnics in the Park. These events will be advertised.

b) **Josh and Katherine**, local film makers, gave a presentation about a feature length musical film they are planning. It will be based in Hightown, will be fun and happy, and will use members of the community. They are looking for “Your Say, Your Way” funding. Details to come.

c) **Central area** committee meeting will take place at the Methodist Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. 6.30 pm Ward Forum re local issues and disbursements. 7.45 pm Area board.

## 13. Date of next meeting.

April 14<sup>th</sup> – will be the AGM; annual subs of £2 will be due!!