

FoHT MEETING MINUTES

FRIENDS OF HIGH TOWN OCT 2012

DETAILS

The meeting was held at Methodist Church Hall, High Town Rd on 9th Oct 2012. The meeting started at: 7pm and finished at 8:30pm.

ATTENDEES

People present at the meeting:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Fiona Martin	
Linda Farrell	
Russell Cartright	
Annie Bygrave	
Simon Barrow	
Roger Dixon	
David Landau	
Andy Malcolm	
Marie-Louise Lowcock	
Joan Samuel	
Roxanna Whittaker	
Nicola Scott	(speaker from Travel Luton)

APOLOGIES

People who were not present at the meeting:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Chris Grabham	
Fiona Morton	
Judy Dixon	

KEY FINDINGS AND DECISIONS

The following key findings and decisions were made:

- Guerilla gardening - date booked for Rainbow Charity plot tidy up –21st October at 10am
- Portas bid – decision to be made before 17^h Nov on what FoHT want to spend £10K on
- Action to be taken regards tidying up High Town Ward

The following meeting actions were agreed:

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Person responsible (email address)</i>
21st Oct 12	Rainbow Charity plot – dig up weeds & put down weed membrane	All volunteers from group
13th Nov 12	Buddhlia in Old Bedford Rd to be cut back	Andy Malcolm/Roxanna Whitakker to email someone at council to arrange this

30th Oct 12	Portas bid options	Annie Bygrave to get options list from Andy and send out to all members
13th Nov 12	Portas bid options	Members to provide feedback on their options choices to Annie Bygrave

Key:

[anything in square brackets] = assumed meaning of dialogue that was not actually spoken

Italics = a general direction of dialogue that was unrecorded or an action that was taken by a person or group.

Minutes From 9th Oct 2012 Meeting

Apologies given (persons as in the above table).

Topic 1:Talk from Nicola Scott – Travel Luton

Nicola told members that there had been a bid for a grant for local transport improvements. £5 million for improving infrastructure. A project group has been set up to inform people about local journey planning, cycle routes, walking routes and bus stops etc. Gives out an info pack on local transport to residents. Aiming for 10% reduction in car usage in Luton. Have already done this for Year 1 of project.

In Year 2 of project aiming to focus on providing info on the new busway esp. to those areas on and around the busway route. Smartcards for ticketless travel is going to be introduced.

In Year 3 are aiming to promote health improvements to local residents by cycling and walking instead of using car. Will provide cycle maps, bike locks. Also try to encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle.

www.travelluton.co.uk

Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Houghton Regis are all to be included. Website for Leighton Buzzard is

www.travelchoices.co.uk

Floor thrown open for Questions

Linda Farrell: How much of the £5 million is being used for the travel luton project?

Nicola: A very small amount.

Joan Samuel: Cyclists often cycle on the pavement – need to give info to cyclists about this

Nicola: Yes this can be a problem – and in some areas the cycle paths are actually on the pavement so it is an issue

Russell Cartwright: are timetables going to be given [in the information booklet] for all the buses, especially Grant Palmer services?

Nicola: This is a problem – these are not yet available and we are trying to work on this.

Russell Cartwright: I would like to see train times in the same book

Nicola: We would like this too but I'm not sure the resources are available, we will have to see. Real time information displays [for buses]are certainly being developed. All the newer bus shelters are already connected and are supposed to be set up.

Simon Barrow: Bike locks are no good without somewhere to lock the bike

Nicola: Market Square and George's Square both have bike parks where you can lock bikes – they are the racks shaped like bicycles. Also CCTV is to be improved over bike parks to help prevent theft.

David Landau: St Matthew's Primary School car traffic is heavy – few kids are walking or cycling to school – are you addressing this?

Nicola: Yes we are addressing this, in collaboration with other organisations.

David Landau: Is the cycle path to Harpenden complete yet?

Nicola: almost complete – they are cleaning and tarmacing the last part now.

David Landau: Luton cycle paths are in very poor condition – they have weeds coming through and damaged areas of tarmac which has not been laid properly – it has been slapped on top of earth.

Nicola: this is the type of feedback we need so that we can address these issues

Topic 2: Guerilla Gardening

David Landau: The first gardening date for the Rainbow's charity plot is Sunday 21st October from 10am - 12 noon. We will take a break afterwards at the Scandie café. If too many people turn up [to the Rainbow plot] there are others [gardening sites] nearby we can go to.

Topic 3. Portas Review Bid

David Landau: We have got the written letter of support from our local MP and are now waiting for the results of this request. Hopefully we will get the £10K from the bid.

Andy Malcolm: We will use the money to support community environmental and artistic projects. The 'Your Say Your Way' meeting is on 17th November 11am-2pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Will have a range of options and get views on what people would like to have done in High Town. There is a separate pot of up to £1500 from the local council also.

Discussion on what publicity we want for this. David had not thought about it. Leaflet distribution through the door or at the High Town exit to the station was suggested. Simon asked if the list of options would be available beforehand. Linda requested that the options to be put in the minutes on the website so that everyone could view them. Andy proposed we apply for funding to buy Xmas lights for High Town Rd. Annie asked Andy if he can provide all the options. He asked her to email him.

Topic 4: Tidying up High Town Ward

David Landau: Joan took photos of scruffy areas especially in Old Bedford Rd. These have been given to Andy to help in finding out who these areas are owned by and to put pressure on them to tidy up.

Joan Samuel: I took one set in September and another in October and there is not much difference between the two.

Photos were passed around the group. Discussion about this and other untidy areas in Station Rd.

Russell: the contractors are leaving it to the end. Should be doing it as they go along.

Joan: The rubbish behind the brand new railway railings will just be left there forever because it can't be got at.

David: Andy and Roxanna please would you email the required persons to cut back the buddhlia that is growing over the pavement in Old Bedford Rd.

Joan: Should I keep taking the photos?

David: No thank you Joan I think we have enough

Russell: [Re: the contractors work] We have have to cross the road so many times to get into town, anything happening to forward this?

Andy: I have spoken about this and there is not a lot we can do to facilitate the completion.

Roxanna: We have Ward Forums for the Area Commities – tell us your problems and we can help. Let us know. Next one is Bushmead Primary School 24th October 6pm.

Fly Tipping and Rubbish Collection Issues

David Landau: More publicity must be done on rubbish collection.

Fiona Martin: there is a problem in that [our] flats are not allowed to leave rubbish in the corridors until collection day as it is a fire risk, so the rubbish is put outside under a specific tree – it looks like we have dumped it but actually that is the site where the council picks it up from. They have told us to put it there.

Roxanna: often tenants put out the rubbish and don't know what to do with it. Landlords must be fined if they don't clean it up.

David: Need to speak to private landlords somehow. Can Andy and Roxanna find out if there is anyone in the council that can help with this?

Andy: The hotline of the council is 01582 510333 – they come to collect it the next day. It is the quickest way of getting it dealt with.

Fiona: What about signs on the walls with the council hotline number on? Put them at places where the council picks up from and next to areas regularly used for flytipping.

Topic 6: Groundwork – People's Park, Wardown Park, Pope's Meadow

David: Groundwork is going for new sources of funds and looking for £15K for improvements especially to the entrances to the parks. Russell is there any news?

Russell: Some money has been ring-fenced from a previous bid also. Council identified the priorities – to improve the entrances. Groundworks are drafting the application and we will sign it.

Any Other Business

Linda: Did anyone else get the new High Town Newsletter? I was surprised.

Discussion about the newsletter.

Roxanna: They had enough funding to produce three issues and the hope was that the community would take it up and continue with it after that.

Marie-Louise: We should have a Friends of High Town Facebook page.

David: We have one – you have to ‘Like’ it.

David: The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th November.

END OF MEETING
