



**Friends of High Town  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
9<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

- 1.) Attendees reminded that in order to vote an annual membership subscription was payable.  
**Attendees** David Landau (Chair); Kevin Poulton; Lyn Bliss; Piotr Mikucki; Maureen Allen; Tricia Smyth; Robert McClennon; Kim Greig; John Wright; Russell Cartwright; Jeremy Williams; David Alexander
- 2.) Apologies received from Fiona Morton (Treasurer), Luke Middleton (Media & Marketing Officer), Chris Grabham, Cllr Andy Malcolm, Pete Savage, Philippa Collier, Csaba Sipeki, Caroline Anderson, Ryad Khodabocus and Saida el Moujahid.
- 3.) Monies were collected from all members that wished to vote in the meeting.
- 4.) The chair reported on the key events and activities of the past year. Full report attached at the end of the minutes, some highlights in the report include.

**Building Works Watch.**

Railway Tavern, worked completed, building yet to be leased.  
Painters Arms, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor conversion completed  
Freeholder, conversion to B&B , work still in progress  
Peri Peri Chicken, Change of Front representation made to LBC  
17 High Town Rd, ongoing issue, (to be discussed in OGM)  
TV Repair Shop, ongoing issue (to be discussed in OGM)

Proposal to build Block of Flats on Back Street car park awaiting consultation from LBC to be release , and update to High Town Masterplan.

**Outreach**

Work continues to reach out to include the diverse nationality within High Town, Polonia Community Group (a Polish Dance troupe) were included in last year festival.

Dialogue for greater co-ordination in forthcoming year with St Matthews C of E was initiated.

Work with other local associations including the Community Centre & Irish Forum continues.

Funding was secured to hold a Talent Show through the LBC "Your Say, Your Way", the show took place in December 2016, and was well attended. The winners will be part of this year's festival.

FoHT will be manning a stall at the forthcoming festival (further details will be given at the OGM later)

We are seeking to secure funding from different source to repeat the show this year.



The annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser was held to raise funds for High Town Methodist Church, in appreciation for their support in providing a free space for us to hold meetings and events throughout the year.

***Friends of High Town would like to formally acknowledge their ongoing support.***

### **Events**

#### *Litter Picking / Fly Tipping*

2 Clean up days had been co-ordinated in the year, (October & March), the latter had seen 50+ Volunteers, and over 100 bags of rubbish collected. Further such events are planned for the forthcoming year.

#### *High Town Community Gardeners.*

Numerous activities and events including  
The restoration of the triangle of land between High Town Rd & Midland Rd.  
Revitalisation of the Brick Planters, removing burr bushes and replanting.

### **Crime & Safety (through the High Town Improvement Action Group)**

Burglary Reduction Scheme, pressure on LBC Officer  
Prostitution, attendance of multi-agency meeting recording a reduction in this area.  
Motor Bikes, seen a significant drop, but is an ongoing issue, Chair reminded attendees to report using 101 and the operation meteor email address.

### **Parks**

Representative of FoHT will accompany the inspectors from "Green Flag Status" on an inspection of Pope's Meadow on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017.  
Natural Benches in People's Park have been stolen, LBC are investigating. (to be discussed at OGM)  
The Bandstand in Wardown Park has been given approval and work will commence after the Luton Carnival.

### **High Town Team**

Welbeck Square Scheme has been postponed indefinitely, due to the tragic fatal incident.  
High Hat Shop, was used by local artist space, on a short term basis, the long term future is still unclear.

### **High Town Community Worker**

A new post introduced last year, which was taken up by Luke Middleton, funding ends in July 2017.

### **Summary,**

The outlook remains similar to last year, in supporting the founding aims of the association, with an emphasis this year of adding increased accurate information to residents. A determination that the committee will meet more regular and the dissemination of minutes and records is on a timelier basis.



Looking to increase both active and passive members, and involve a wider range of community groups in actions to further enhance High Town.

Lastly , Thank you to all the active members of Friends of High town, and the residents that have taken part of the previous year, and look forward to more success in the forthcoming year.

The attendees thanked David Landau for all his hard work during the previous year.

- 5.) There was nothing to further to add by the Secretary, which was not encompassed in the Chairs report.
- 6.) Summary of activities
  - 2 Videos have been produced and published onto social media sites including “You Tube” (High Town has Talent & Big Clean Up)
  - Facebook has increased to 248 followers
  - Twitter has recorded an increase in likes from 236 to 296
  - The mailing list stands at 95 members.
  - Production of both bi-Annual newsletters was completed (the spring newsletter is awaiting distribution)
  - Funding was secured for 2 Notice Boards, this is an ongoing project.
  - All annual maintenance tasks such as domain name renewal were successfully undertaken.
- 7.) No formal report from the Treasurer was submitted, it was stressed that this is a vital element for an AGM, and the Chair was tasked with following up, to produce a summary breakdown of the financial position over the past 12 months.
- 8.) The Committee resigned their positions.

The Chair thanked the committee for their efforts during the past 12 months, particular acknowledgement and a small presentation went to Maureen Allen, who had acted as Secretary for past 3 years and who wasn’t seeking re-appointment. The work of Luke Middleton was also acknowledged and confirmation that he would also not be seeking re-appointment.

Elections were held for the positions, with the following results returned:-

Chair	David Landau
Secretary	Lynn Bliss
Treasurer	Fiona Morton
Media & Marketing	Kevin Poulton

- 9.) In acknowledgement of the work load undertaken by the Chair, the floor proposed that a role of “Vice Chair “ be introduced, it was agreed to consider the idea, and present a more fully developed proposal at a future meeting.



The meeting was closed with the Chair thanking everyone for their attendance