

Minutes for FoHT Minutes: December 2016

1. Apologies: Maureen, Csaba,
2. Present: David Alexander, Lyn Russel, Pete, Nick Berg, Philippa Collier, Kim Greig, Chris Grabham, Simon Barrow, Andy Malcolm, Annie Bygrave, Gary Churchman, Dennis, Luke Middleton
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** - went out in good time, corrections from David:
[David will give me corrections, 4a, 4e iv, - David's speculation, 6 - HTT - Hart Hill adventure playground - feedback via Heather James, etc]
4. **Matters Arising** - a) High Town's Got Talent – LM
 - **High Town's Got Talent** Credit to David Landau and Luke Middleton, performers include: Pete Bliss, Mouse Assassins, Galaxy Gymnastics, Sarah - doing some gospel singing (via Greenbank), Christina's daughter, Richard Lees. Prize - playing at the festival & prize draw to take place at the event.
 - Lynn Bliss will be working to get feedback for the event and FoHT and find out more about what people would like on in the centre.
 - The event was FREEE! 2pm - 5pm, Riyadh and fair trade selling table. - leaflets, distributed to shops and bag drop done at the school,
 - **Transition Luton** - 2 gardeners - Doris and Philippa - contract: now til end of March, but plans to develop more projects to keep the project going.
 - Phillipa Collier - exciting, going a long way to improve High Town and bring the community together and getting involvement
 - Community garden Day - Jan, Feb, March events - a real push to identify volunteers for the community not just for gardening and litter picking, contact details etc. -LBC - Steve Battlebury - very keen and supportive and enthusiastic so long as we work with and very keen for us to start on the area by NOAH.
 - They happy to have people come along - Jeremy - good piece of work by all involved
 - Bee friendly plants - Lynn
 - Nick Berg - which sites identified? are we looking for?

covered now: High Town Herb bed - Sam of Transition Luton - with Philippa Kieran and Kim - worked on the bed by Noah - LBC happy to take if we let them know.

Fatal Collision - collection boxes now bought - we are setting up an online fundraiser and plug the locations of the collecting boxes (to say thanks to those who Ruby Foundation, Bricklayers, Royal Pharmacy, Lucia and Luca's cafe/restaurant)

Standard form for collecting boxes - so you have a record of who took it. - DL to do

LTFC development asked to come and address our meeting - Jan 10th - David to get LTFC to confirm.

Conservation Area:

- **Satellite dishes** - work in progress, street view working - RC to report back next month
- **Railway Tavern murals** - no idea, the workers don't know, David has asked Linda (Muddy) whether she knows. RC raised the issue of inaccessible phone box (generally agreed that it wasn't usable .- AM to look into it).

- **94-96 -Viva Pizza Place** - objection put in, by the group, application withdrawn, they have ripped off the UPVC/ Victorianesque front ripped off - new application has gone in. DL - sent a stop notice request, no further response from Planning. - AM/MM - David to forward his email so AM can chase it up.
 - **High Town Methodist Church** lighting - LBC action has been taken, 2 new lighting columns put in, with new bright white lights and the Doctor's surgery have trimmed back the trees, middle light still not changed owing to a tree that still needs work. But much better already. DL - staying in touch.
5. High Town Improvement Action Group – feedback - LB & KG, Lynn, Pete, Kim, Phillipa - fly tipping in Musson's Path cleared by Emma pushing.
 encouraging people to come along - Lynn did a door knocking, in a lot of cases, landlords owns the property so doesn't care. 2-3 people keen and 1 person turned up (Mark)
 temporary fences offered but garages - Emma to try to get landlords addresses to contact them
 Fences on the path - bushes moved, needles etc, and the fence has been put in William Curry - builders on the estate
 Emma = Emma Colclough LBC
 The 6 enforcement officers are now in place but they rotate around the town. not just us, DL requested to go round with them, come to talk to us - Lyn (Jan 19th — Thursday - 6pm at the Methodist Church)

DL said he would get a schedule for the street cleaners but nothing yet - 'there's no schedule for the bins because we're so short' - AM/Marwish - to make available to people.

A need to be reactive - however it is a performance measure of the council 87.5% clean streets (check - might be 90%) - AM

PC - Paths communal bin areas - not accessible, household rubbish in bags on the streets, this is still happenings, bin chutes bolted? Chutes not being used. ongoing. Burst bag debris, Foxes. How to solve? - raised with Emma, AM: Olly Kitchener - PC: not very responsive, housing officer - he has asked Philippa to raise it with AM - is there a project to renovate/improve the bin stores
 PC: to communicate.

Litter picks tbc - 11th March, areas picked in advance, leafletting in advance. Bring to Feb meeting for planning and discussion.

Crescent Rise, Hart Hill Lane and HH Drive litter pick done regularly.

6. Hitchin Road Spinney consultation – feedback - DL - feedback from consultation - plans to improve and make pleasant, steep wooded area, issues of flytipping - fridges etc.

NB - ownership of this area is contested

raised with AM - groundworks did a plan, consultation, unless we want to go against what people want, people want it to be a green space.

LBC Proposal included: Some felling of a few trees to manage the woodland, some scrub clearance, and putting in paths and steps, litter, people definitely don't want more people there, apart from clearing the fly tipping. We don't have the resources, but there is resistance.

Current thought is: You have to do felling/clearance to manage the woodland but locals are not keen.

Possible inclusion of habitats/species/bird boxes. Trevor Tween was consulted

Currently - woodpeckers and hawks have been spotted

They want a fence at the top / gate to prevent access to the garages - antisocial behaviour coming up thru woods and from other side.

'This is a Danger to Your Privacy' notices were posted through the local doors. Privacy/security is seen as an issue, Is sometimes used as access to Pomfret Avenue, Nick - wood peckers, barn owls, green corridor, if developed this under threat, used to be a downland (rolling hill country).

Philippa raised the issue of the loss of green space in Luton - would more care of it protect it - could we get photographs taken so people can see the wildlife rather than going in to disturb it?

Nick compared the space to Vauxhall Gardens in London
Simon wondered whether the pressure to find housing might mean the site was unprotected if no interest is taken in it.

Annie - no human being tramping over it, leave it alone -

There is some management of the woodland - the southside is kept reasonably clear

It does have a Designated status & Trevor Tween is involved

the Southern side is currently kept clear

The group seemed very divided on what might be done

Action: - we have requested Andy Malcolm to keep an eye on what is happening re the fly tipping and we will bring it back on the Agenda in January

8. Poster Competition - this was part of a day run by St Matthews School at the community centre, using the sports hall, a litter prevention project, posters judged and displayed at the centre, to encourage parents to come along

They plan to do it again. Lynn Bliss is the FoHT representative on this project

other activities at the centre: Christina Unsworth mentioned the Knitter Knatter group, wants to increase the amount of non-sporting community activity

9. Christmas Tree festival and appeal: FM doing the reading at the Christmas Tree festival (next year, if anyone wants to volunteer to either help decorate or do a reading, let Fiona know)

10. (?) Andy Malcolm and Marsh Mirza - our local councillors are going to be doing a newsletter, with events, meetings, surgeries and blog info - send them your full name and your email address to subscribe. This is not an official Labour Party or official LBC thing, but just something they are doing as local councillors to keep us updated.

11. AOB - Two new local businesses: the Well has reopened, will be doing live music, food
Also the shop at 54A High Town Road is now a Romanian convenience and grocery store, next to Route 66. [we will update with the business name asap]

12. Notices & information exchange:

a) Coffee morning + craft stalls – High Town Methodist Church Hall

b) Christmas Dinners – High Town Methodist Church Hall & Hope Church

c) New Year's Eve Party – Hope Church

d) The Well – pub, High Town Road - Run by a lady named Victoria, live music, chef, food proposed.

e) Romanesc – Romanian convenience store, High Town Road

f) Local property development:

275 High Town Road – alterations to frontage - extra info - DL

13. Date of next FoHT meeting. 10th January - 7 for 7:15pm