



## Minutes – HTIAG

2nd November 2017, 9 am

### Hightown Community Sports & Arts Centre

1. Attendees, Kevin Poulton, James Hardiman (LBC Enforcement Officer), Pete Savage, Cllr Andy Malcolm, Gill Berg, David Landau, Lyn Bliss.

PC5010 Jennifer Edwards, PCSO Asmin Warraich, Philippa Collier (for part of the meeting)

Apologies received from Maureen Allen and Kim Greig.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

#### **b. Paths Estate.**

Philippa outlined the history of the public meeting with LBC on the 9<sup>th</sup> August around the regeneration, and expressed the frustration regarding lack of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, and that to date no answers to the questions had been issued. Andy recalled an internal LBC meeting that he had been party to some time ago on this subject. It was agreed he would email to prompt the relevant people within LBC to respond. **(Action AM)**

Discussion around boarded up housing stock being returned to use took place that encompassed both 51 Berkley Path & (7?) Albion Court. It was explained that a 3 month closure order was a temporary measure put into place to subdue anti-social behaviour, during the 3 months an eviction process would be initiated, however this process could often take a lot longer than 3 months, that meant the tenants could return to the properties, or that the property would not be able to be re-used. In the case of Albion Court, the judge had adjourned the case, seeking further evidence, this has meant that a permanent eviction has not been granted during the closure notice period, and the tenant could return. This may explain why a new front door had been fitted and early signs of habitation were now being witnessed.

Kevin reported to the group that 56 Elgar Paths had a closure notice placed on it, and thanked the Luton Community Police for including Friends of High Town in the notification after it was issued.

The discussion then moved on to the wider topic of how tenants for areas were chosen, as recently seen a trend of 3 closure notices being issued for new tenants in the paths, and the issue of other areas especially the London Boroughs' re-housing problem cases in Luton B&B's (Day Hotel & Stewarts being examples) until they could claim residency rights within Luton.

Philippa reported that the recent increase in day time prostitution in the paths had receded.



### **Anti-Social Behaviour.**

The meeting was invited to raise any issues relevant to the Police officers in attendance.

David raised the following issues that Jenifer agreed to follow up on. **(Action JE )**

- 1.) A break in on Taylor Street at Tina School of Dance during half term, where a small amount of money was taken.
- 2.) Anti-social behaviour by two men on Kingston Rd, where they were seen to knock on a residents door demanding to see Daughter, when to the knowledge of David, the children in the residence were both small. Additionally appeared to be an element of one man displaying a controlling influence on the other. This activity took place around a month ago.

Andy had reported a motorbike in people's park on 22<sup>nd</sup> October via the Webchat, and requested for his own assurance that this had been included in the intelligence of Operation Meteor, as the link had failed before his details could be relayed.

Jenifer reported "The Engine" workshop on Midland road had been addressed, as it was starting to become an area of concern for anti-social behaviour including drugs.

Discussion around the recent raid on the food outlet just prior to the concourse into Luton Railway Station took place, with a particular note on the large amounts recovered.

With no other issues, Jennifer , Asim, and Philippa left the meeting.

#### **a. Kingham Way**

Particulates, James had followed this up internally, however due to incorrect contact details, it hadn't been progressed. KP to facilitate the correct contact information being issued to James. **(Action KP)**

The T-bar or H-Bar, has been added to the Highways team works for November and will be refreshed, together with a section of the double yellow lines. **~Success!**

#### **c. Edward Street**

Anti-Social behaviour was reported to have quietened down, however it was felt this was just a temporary situation.

No 22, Sewage. KP passed on information from Maureen Allen, that this had been resolved on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October. **~Success!**

Fridge in front garden, JH had looked but couldn't identify the property. David provided the house number of 41. JH agreed to revisit the area. **(Action JH)**



**d. Height of plants at junctions.**

All the planters had now been attended to. Kevin thanked Andy for his persistence in this matter, and commented that not only were they now safer, the cut back made the area look better. David added now they had been cut back in some of them the underlying litter had now been exposed. ~Success!

**e. Traffic / Parking on Kingston Rd & Ridgeway.**

Andy had been in discussions with highways around previous consultations. The feedback had generally been positive towards the idea of introducing a one-way system on both Kingston & Ridgeway 75 & 80 responses accordingly, but less favourable response had been received from residents of Colin Rd. The next stage would be to consult with the Bus companies for their input, before moving to an Implementation Consultation phase. Andy was hopeful that this may proceed over the next year.

Discussion around the Visitors parking permits within some roads, and a question on solutions implemented by other councils.

**f. Drain Clearance schedule.**

The new contractors had issued a response to a request for the schedule on gutter / drain clearance in High Town, that indicate they were looking to close off parking and perform the services during March & April of 2018. It was highlighted by the group that the leaf fall from this autumn as in previous years, lead to significant issues, including flooding in Kingston Rd , slippery paths, and general issues during any winter weather. It was suggested the contractor took such factors into account when planning its works. It was generally accepted as a sign of some progress that work was being planned, after a number of years of non-apparent clearance. Andy agreed to forward on particular trouble hotspot that had been raised. **(Action AM)**

**5. Outstanding Issues / New items**

**Mussons Path.**

**64A**, build-up of waste again

**20**, the area has again become overgrown, which is hiding piles of rubbish, which will become exposed during the winter months.

Conversation around the ability of Enforcement Teams to enforce or suggest fencing is erected , that may help to reduce some sites with a cycle of problems.

The LBC street cleaning team, to take a more sensible approach when cleaning small items (eg a discarded can), to include the foot or so space in front of a recessed garage door, that may technically be private land. This lead onto discussion around such land being an area of conflict with regards fly-tipping.



Public Urination in Mussons Path, was occurring, action could only take place if an individual could be identified as a regularly culprit.

#### **People's Park / Bells**

The issue of the toilets in People's Park / Bells Close was raised, with it leading to an increase in public urination. It was reported that a case of public defecation had been witnessed.

Other properties / areas that James agreed to review were.

39 Havelock Rd, 43 Havelock Rd, 1 Ridgeway (Sofas) **(Action JH)**

#### **6. Clean-up day.**

It was suggested that communication with Signposts could be improved in the future, as there was duplication of effort. Some of the areas designated to be cleaned required minimal effort, with only surface litter identified. However a few pockets were located where items such as discarded drug paraphernalia had been found.

Kevin suggested the next event take place on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 to fall in with the Great British Spring Clean. Andy suggested co-ordination with LBC as likely to be events across the town. Kevin agreed to contact Heather James. **(Action KP)**.

It was agreed particular areas where deeper impact could be achieved should be identified by everyone.

#### **7. There was no "Any Other Business" raised.**

**Date and time of next meeting:- 7th December, 9 am**