



Minutes – HTIAG

1st February 2017, 9.15 am

Hightown Community Sports & Arts Centre

1. Attendees, Kevin Poulton, Lyn Bliss, Maureen Allen, Kim Greig, Pete Savage, Gill Berg.
2. Apologise :- Cllr Andrew Malcolm
3. Police Matters

Perceived escalation in crime across Luton and High Town, with number of serious incidents including Armed Robbery and Stabbings.

Examine the crime statistics when published around April 2018. (KP)

KG reported changes within the Police Structure, especially the community cohesion team, with a new sergeant taking over.

4. Matters Arising

a. Kingham way,

- i. The H(T) Bar was due to be repainted in November , **SUCCESS!**
- ii. Ongoing issue with emissions, it is felt the current investigation and attempts have not been adequate. The group expressed its desire to escalate up the hierarchy of LBC. **(Cllr AM)**

Question arose regards the LBC Enforcement team, with LB producing a letter that had been sent to residents from “Irahor Osuncle” with the title enforcement officer regards waste. KP agreed to enquire regards the officers responsible for High Town.

- b. No further update was available on the “Paths Regeneration”, a question around the extra wood was asked by LB, who was informed it was being used to double fence, to address concerns around privacy that had been raised.

KP informed the group that he had contacted the Fire Service around increased fire risk question, informed the Risk Assessment was officially down to LBC, however they had taken a look and don't believe it to be an issue, citing Marsh Farm as an area that had similar fencing in place for a number of years.



c. Edward Street

- i. The street was again suffering from a number of issues, chief concern is Number 22, which is believed to be a “drug den”, with open dealing taking place. KG & KP will try to establish contact with the police drugs team. MA will contact Emma from LBC Antisocial team and also establish a contact with housing team.

A discussion around contacting landlord, use of agents took place, particularly if LBC were managing the property. It was suggested that if a Landlord knew drug dealing was taking place in their properties then they may be liable to prosecution. **(Action KG, KP, MA)**

Other incidents recently include break in at No 11, attempted break-in at No 19, and Police and Ambulance in attendance at No 27.

- ii. Edible High Town.

The group commented on how much the work done by Edible High Town, had improved the area, and formally wish to thank Doris and Sam for their efforts.

d. Mussons Path

LB raised the amount of rubbish dumped in a large unfenced area at back of 121 North Street that backs onto Mussons Path. And an abandoned car that was down from the property. It was believed 121 North St had already been contacted by the enforcement team and that discussions around fencing had taken place. Verification was required. **(Action JH)**

e. Traffic / Kingston Rd.

- i. Still awaiting feedback from consultation with Arriva Buses. (Action Cllr AM)
- ii. GB commented that LBC were not asking for permits for perking after 5pm this resulted in the local roads becoming very full after this time. The group couldn't agree if it felt asking the council to consult on this matter was something it wished to pursue. A question of how many permits any one household could apply for raised. GB agreed to research. **(Action GB)**
- iii. KP feedback from FoHT meeting that Yellow lines have been introduced into Kingston Rd, however they had been installed when some cars were parked, so gaps had been left, and in some cases a “Mexican Standoff” was occurring. Questions around monitoring and control of subcontractors from LBC were raised.
- iv. Drain clearance had taken place in Kingston Rd, but flooding still occurring. Reported that similar problems were happening in Havelock Rd. PS reported that the subcontractor had done work in Crescent Rd, will monitor effectiveness.



5. The safety of property that corners Crescent Rd and Hitchin Rd (Old Fireplace Shop), was raised with PS commenting on a lot of broken glass.

6. Great British Spring Clean

KP Informed the group that he was working with Signpostsso on coordinating events across the town for the event, but Signposts would not be able to partner with us directly on this event, as they are elsewhere on the day.

Scheduled for Saturday 3rd March 2pm until 5pm, number of local groups have been contacted to participate. KG agreed to check we could use the Methodist Church as the staging / meeting place. **(Action KG)**

Poster to be produced by KP and circulated **(Action KP)**

7. MA tabled the concept of a “neighbourhood agreement” that was originally raised a number of years ago. She agreed to liaise further with contacts within LBC. Of particular interest was looking at seeing if a limit on HMO’s could be applied to an area or the whole town, rather than the current process of on an individual basis. PS raised the Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme starting in April, which he agreed to circulate further details on. **(Action MA, PS)**

PS reported continuing problems with a flat in his block, that were bypassing the electric meter and had now caused two fires to take place. He expressed his frustration on getting any action despite being in contact with LBC officials.

8. Issues referred from FoHT had been dealt with in previous agenda items.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded with the next meeting being scheduled for

1st March 2018 at 9.15am