



Friends of High Town 13th March 2018

1. Apologies received from Kevin Poulton and Jeremy Williams

2. Minutes of previous meeting

RC queried the mention of a registered address being required *unless a virtual address can be used*. Is a physical address required legally?

KP to investigate the legal validity of a virtual address and what is required in this instance.

3. Building work

3a. 80 High Town Road – Keeping an eye on rebuilding work to ensure that the building is in character with the conservation area. Hoardings were blown down in the recent storms but have now been removed. MR commented that good progress has been made in a very short time.

3b. 170 High Town Road – application for conversion to HMO has been denied. Owner has since fitted a new door on the property. Keep an eye on the house for any signs of breaching the agreement not to create an HMO.

3c. Foxhall Homes –proposed Luton Borough Council development on Taylor St car park. Public consultation happened on 27/01/18. DL has requested further public consultation. No planning application has been posted online yet. MD confirmed that there is currently a 6 week delay in validation of planning applications.

David raised concerns re drainage issues in Back Street. This to be raised if further pre-application consultation is offered.

3d. Station House – FoHT have filed an objection to the planning application on this property. No decision has been made yet. DL read from the Strategic Planning Response which suggests that proposals will significantly change the appearance of the property and are likely to be denied. Smaller plans might be supported.

4. Conservation Area

4a. Concerns re satellite dishes not yet submitted to LBC. **RC to follow up.**

4b. 78 High Town Road. DL has already raised objections to the new roller shutter at Hair Connections. Sadly the owner passed away last week having lost her husband and son in recent years. DL suggested a letter of condolence from FoHT to the family. Attendees recommended that no mention of roller shutters be made in the letter.



5. People's Park

5a. Replacement benches - DL confirmed that the holes left from benches being ripped out have now been filled for health & safety reasons. Jane Conway at LBC is following up repair/replacement of benches.

5b. Planting – Park Church have requested permission to plant in the park. LBC have asked for confirmation that new plants will not interfere with biodiversity of existing park. SW confirmed that a meeting is being arranged.

5c. Metal bins – Nick noted that a metal bin at the Richmond Hill corner of the park has been pushed over and damaged and will need replacing. SW suggested FixMyStreet app. Nick to report.

5d. Pavillion – SW confirmed that LBC are planning to demolish the toilet block and changing rooms. Some conversations are underway to prevent this and suggest alternative plans.

6. Parking

6a. Kingston Road – double yellow lines newly installed along the People's Park section of the road. MM reported that parked cars have not been asked to move for line painting so some gaps remain and will be completed on return visits. MM queried why more efficient procedures had not been used.

MR reported that letters had been sent to residents but were only received the night before painting, leaving residents no time to make alternative parking arrangements. He also confirmed that he had recommended the installation of the lines as part of measures to prevent cars from parking on the pavement in the road. Pavement obstructions in this area have led to leaf litter not being cleared, blocked drains, flooded roads and pedestrians having to walk in the road. Solutions to this problem may well result in reduced parking facilities in the area.

Pavement parking is a wider issue in Luton. MR said that solutions have been piloted and are being reviewed before further implementation.

Nick reported that pavement parking is also becoming an issue in Reginald Street impacting pedestrian access, which is unnecessary due to the road being one way.

David said that despite traffic wardens patrolling, some motorists discard or ignore tickets.

DL suggested that this issue needs addressing as the number of cars in the area increase.



MD asked MR what LBC might be doing about cars with European registrations breaking parking regulations being untraceable and therefore avoiding fines.

6b. Reginald Street – Gill shared photos of parking on Reginald Street which has a Residents Parking zone from 9am-5pm but is full of business vans parked from 5pm-9am. Blocking parking discriminates against shift workers and non workers who are unable to park outside their homes when needed. Gill suggests residents zone be extended 8am-8pm. **Gill to raise the issue with other residents to raise support.**

MM asked Gill to provide details of the companies who own the vans so that they can be approached directly. DL reported previous success with similar issues with a bread company parking in High Town. Kingston Rd suggests that double yellow lines can be effective but also restrict resident parking.

There was some discussion around parking monitoring including wardens and ticketing.

John asked whether traffic wardens would be out after 5pm to patrol later zones. Ashley (LBC enforcement) confirmed that traffic warden shifts work until 11pm.

MM to raise parking issues with LBC

7. New issues

7a. New planning – DL reported no significant new planning applications.

7a i Greenbank studios now closed following farewell concert on 04/03/18. All teaching now transferred to owner's other property. DL reported that he appears to be following all recommendations in the planning application to build the 4 properties, suggesting that he intends to proceed with building.

7a ii Ridgeway Rd land previously London Building Company has recently been cleared of junk.

7a iii Garage building at 43 Havelock Rd appears to be being cleared, possibly for demolition. No knowledge of plans.

DL to find out.

7b. Fix It Day – SW announced a High Town Fix It Day at the sports and community centre on 14/04/18. People are invited to bring things which need repairing. Still need volunteers including people who can sew and those who can provide music.

MM suggested visiting businesses in Bury Park. Kim asked whether Signposts had been approached. **SW to follow up both**



7c. Fresh – SW reported a town-wide church event 19-20/05/18 including local action on 19th May. Suggestions invited for what a team could do in High Town. Possibly planting or junk drumming workshop in People's Park. **Anyone to contact SW with ideas.**

8 Other organisations

8a. High Town Festival - SW – plans coming along nicely for festival. Sponsorship packages being created and a youth football tournament on the morning being arranged by St Matthews Primary School and Bridge The Gap. Stall bookings are now invited. Lee Nelson will be hosting the Welbeck Road stage. Press releases will be released in due course.

MR received complaints in October that Vita Express were running a barbecue outside their store. Issue now resolved but suggests inviting them to participate in the festival.

8b. Edible High Town – planting sessions every Wednesday from 10am-1pm. Meet at Noah. Also working with LBC to make plans for the planters.

9 Any other business

9a. GB Spring Clean – 25/03/18 in People's Park

9b. Fashion Show Live casting call – 24/03/18

9c. Neighbourhood enforcement – fly tipping still happening by bottle banks on corner of North St and Havelock Road. Ashley confirmed that several people have been fined for this and it will continue to be monitored. John reported someone regularly feeding birds on People's Park which attracts rats.

Date of next meeting: 10th April 2018