



AGM

Tuesday 8th May 2018

In attendance;

13 Full Members,
3 Non-Voting Associate Members

Reports. (Full copy of the reports can be found separately)

Chairs Report. (Presented by David Landau)

David highlighted the numerous planning applications the group had discussed during the past year, and gave a summary of some of the results and ongoing statuses. He then reported to the group some of the larger scale housing works that have been started (Charles St) or are in planning Back street / Taylor Street and how these related to the High Town Master Plan.

He was pleased to report on how the FoHT has continued to build community cohesion through its contacts with various groups. The inclusion of Swaminarayan Hindu temple on Crescent Road in a clean-up day was felt to be particularly encouraging.

David highlighted the number of events that had been co-ordinated, and reported back on the Fix-it day in April 2018 and the proposed High Town's Got Talent planned for later this year. He also reported on FoHT continued involvement in other groups such as High Town Festival and HT Voice (that looks to promote community activities within Hightown Community & Sports Centre)

He reported that the High Town Improvement Action Group now saw regular attendance by both Police and LBC Enforcement Team.

Looking forward he hoped FoHT would continue to play an active role directly, through its sub-groups or with representation I activities within the ward and continue to provide accurate information to people in High Town. He looked towards it increasing it active and passive members through events and communication channels.

Treasurers Report (presented by Kevin Poulton)

The meeting formally extended their thanks again to Fiona Morton for all her historical and ongoing efforts on the Finances.

Kevin reported to the group that the FoHT historical had been audited and reconciled to the bank, with a new format created for ongoing maintenance. He personally thanked Fiona for answering his many questions during this process.



A sheet highlighting the financial position was circulated. A question arose with regards a figure on the sheet, on inspection Kevin was able to answer that the figure was a calculation field he had omitted to erase, and agreed to do so before circulation.

A second question on what the spend from the FoHT General account was made up of was raised, the group were informed that the figure entailed Domain Names, Web Hosting, donation top-up and delivery of FoHT Newsletters by an external company.

Secretaries Report (presented by Kevin Poulton)

The meeting again formally thanked Lyn Bliss for her work in producing the minutes and agendas during the past year.

Meeting were informed that as far as possible the website had been updated with previously missing minutes, and that a section for HTIAG Minutes had now been added and was updated throughout the year.

75% of the monthly minutes & agendas had been distributed within a two week period.

Media & Marketing Officer Report (presented by Kevin Poulton)

Mail List had grown to 180 members.

The website had a number of improvements made to aid navigation and add to its functionality. The inclusion of a section that hosted information about Luton's Great British Spring Clean had seen a significant one month boost in unique visitors.

All social media channels had seen an increase in followers, though Kevin admitted that Facebook as a platform had not seen the attention and growth that it could have.

Direct networking and collaboration with Luton's voluntary sector had proved an effective way of raising the groups profile particularly with Signposts.



David Landau & Kevin Poulton resigned from their respective roles, (Gill Berg retained role of Treasurer from EGM)

Committee Elections

David Landau was unanimously re-elected to the role of Chair

Kevin Poulton was unanimously re-elected to the role of Secretary

Sam Willis and Kevin Poulton were unanimously elected to the role of Media & Marketing on a role sharing basis. John French agreeing to provide assistance with Graphic Design.

Gardening Group

Edible High Town was unanimously recognised as a sub-group of Friends of High Town.



Minutes of Friends of High Town Meeting

Attendees:- David Landau (Chair), Kevin Poulton (Secretary), Gillian Berg (Treasurer) , Sam Willis (Media & Marketing), Nick Berg, Kim Grieg, John Wright, Maureen Allen, Simon Barrow, David Andrews, Jeremy Williams, Pete Savage, John French, Terry Keens, Fiona Morton.

1.) Apologies Cllr Maahwish Mirza, Cllr Andy Malcolm

2.) Minutes of the last meeting Correction: - Simon Barrow was also in attendance.

1) Other building works/planning applications

David apologised to the group on general lack of progress on these issues from last meeting

- a) **Flats by Foxhall Housing Association.** Still at consultation stage, however it was felt the planned development wasn't in line with the Master Plan for the area, that retail space wasn't necessary and was concerns raised over the number of parking places. The group felt the public consultation should be wider in scope and nature before any planning application is made. **(Action DL)**
- b) Station House, after planning permission was refused, the situation is being monitored, David still trying to reach agent.
- c) 16-18 Taylor St ~ No progress
- d) Midland Rd ~ Group generally felt the number of HMO's in High Town meant a more transitory population that was a factor both in anti-social behaviour and a barrier to community cohesion.
- e) 90A Midland Rd ~ Retail. Group felt not sufficient space for 2 retail units

2) Conservation Area

- a) The ongoing monitoring continues to take place, with no further update on any enforcement action by LBC being available. RC awaiting an update. **(Action RC)**

3) Peoples Park

Damaged bins continue to be an issue

Toilet block is possibly being adopted by a Community Interest Company, with a view to making it a Café. Discussions with LBC are ongoing.

6.) Traffic / Parking

Consultation with bus companies now concluded on Kingston Rd et al, the next stage is for LBC to agree a further round of consultation with residents after appropriate departments work-up detailed plans of proposed one way system. **(Action HTIAG)**



GB Raised the issue of parking times in *Reginald St*, arguing that a 7 til 7 requirements for parking permits would deter commercial vehicles. She is in contact with Susan Palmer, who has suggested a signed joint letter (a Petition), may push the council to action. **(Action GB / HTIAG)**

7) New Items

No new items presented

8) Feedback from Groups

HTIAG

LBC Enforcement officers had sorted through fly tipping by Havelock Recycling Bins and subsequently issued fines.

Issues with Number 7 & 22 Edward Street had been reported.

9) AOB & Notices

Edible High Town now regularly meet at 10am on Wednesdays outside NOAH's

Sam informed the group that a Church Led day had been organised for 19th May, Picnic in the park to start at 11am.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday, June 12th @ 7 pm.