

# Friends of High Town (FoHT)

## Minutes of the Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012

**1. Attendees:** David Landau, Fiona Martin, Fiona Morton, Simon Barrow, Annie Bygrave, Andy Malcolm, Michael Williams, Linda Farrell

**2. Apologies:** Chris Grabham, Russell Cartwright, Joan Samuel, Marie Louise Lowcock, Roxanna Whittaker,

**3. Minutes of the last meeting.**

Minutes approved.

**4. Midland Rd Improvements Update**

Michael Williams from LBC Highways Department – engineer servicing the borough - spoke to group about improvements in Midland Rd: junction with Midland Rd and Old Bedford Rd, new road to be opening up parallel to Midland Rd and running under new car park, resurfacing of Midland Rd, redesign of station entrance, redesign at corner of Hightown Rd with Midland Rd.

6-8 weeks work. Road restrictions for 2 weeks between 7:30am-5pm daily. Pedestrian access to be improved around Luton mainline station entrance. New zebra crossing to be placed in line with 'natural' road crossing point. Small central road island to be removed. Larger road island is to have two new trees planted. One mature tree with signs of decay to be removed from outside the Chicken & Spice cafe. New taxi rank in Midland Rd. *Plans were examined by the group*

Questions:

*Why that design at entrance to station?*

Conservation team incorporated existing features and materials into new design.

*What is happening with Station House?*

Tenants are being moved out with compulsory purchase order.

*Do we know what is under the road island where the toilets used to be?*

They are military build areas – don't know if filled with aggregate or are capped off voids.

*Can we have a named person to contact re planting scheme for road island?*

Stan Carter Parks Dept (number supplied)

*Further questions were asked to clarify where link road will be going and how traffic managed.*

There will be a signalised roundabout from a dual carriageway approach to slow down fast traffic on to roundabout and allow traffic to filter on to roundabout more efficiently.

*Ring Rd noise mitigation?*

Noise increase under car park but Midland Rd and adjacent roads will be quieter. Dual carriageway only 30mph. Less congestion in town centre.

**5. High Town Cleanliness Feedback**

AM New recycling centre to go in on North Street should improve 'The Paths' area. Flytipping still a problem. Buddhleaia has been cut back on Old Bedford Rd. Network Rail litter still there. There is a site visit tomorrow to check on this. **Action point - AM to check on results of site visit.**

FMartin – people need bins not rubbish shute as large rubbish doesn't fit.

SB very large bins (like flats next door to us) would be useful.

DL Took council 9 days to remove a mattress after phoning.

AM Fund has been set up to keep black bin collection weekly. Can ask for another black bin if needed.

DL Black bins on pavement – 'Move it or Lose it' scheme is working. Diane Harvey in charge of this. Can downsize bin size also if you need to.

## **6. Guerilla gardening/Town Gateway**

Discussed planting plan/ gateway sculpture for road island at junction of Midland Rd and High Town Rd. Group wants to have some input on design.

**AM -action point – to contact Stan Carter re existance of any planting plans for island and ask if we can collaborate.**

## **7. Equality Statement**

This has been edited as per the discussion last meeting and is ready to be put up on the website.

**Action point – SB to upload it to FoHT website and Facebook.**

## **8. Meeting Posters**

Motion to make up an FoHT meeting poster with 'Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month' rather than individual dates. Motion carried. **Action point - AB to do this.**

## **Next Meeting Date**

8<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## **ACTION POINTS AGREED IN THIS MEETING:**

- Network Rail clean-up -feedback on site visit (AM)
- Stan Carter to be contacted to ask about plan for road island (AM)
- Equality Statement is to be added to website & Facebook (SB)
- FoHT meeting poster design change (AB)