

Friends of High Town (FoHT)

Minutes of the Meeting 12th Feb 2013

AGENDA

1. Attendees
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Last Meeting
4. High Town Gateway
5. High Town Cleanliness
6. FoHT Promotion
7. Rainbow Charity Gardening
8. People's Park Fun Day
9. Any Other Business
10. Action Points
11. Next Meeting Date

1. Attendees: David Landau, Marie-Louise Lowcock, Simon Barrow, Kim Greig, Veronica McMahon, Saz....., Andy Malcolm, Russell Cartwright, Joan Samuel, Martyn Godden

2. Apologies: Fiona Morton, Chris Grabham, Annie Bygrave, Judy & Roger Dixon, Roxanna Whittaker, Mark Rivers

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes are to be approved for December 2012 and Jan 2013.

*Observation from DL about Dec 2012 minutes: Midland Rd improvements – a compulsory purchase order was approved for part of the Station House land only not the building. Tenants of Station House are **not** being evicted.*

4. Housing

AM: Developing housing schemes in High Town Paths Estate. Tackling anti-social behavioural problems. Asking for people to put names forward for

- 1) Input at general public consultation - anyone can attend
- 2) Steering group which would be a big commitment- 2 or 3 members of the public are required
KG will think about it and wishes this to be noted in the minutes.

5. Guerilla gardening/People's Park

- 1) Geoff Bunce has been awarded £10K grant for new entrance. Volunteers, charity church groups to be involved.
- 2) Groundwork – scrub clearance day 24th February. As many people as possible please.
- 3) Guerilla gardening Rainbows project proposed dates Sunday 17th or 24th Feb, 17th or 24th March.

Date set for Rainbow's garden Sunday 17th March 10:30am- 3pm

Freeholders will offer Irish Coffee 17th March.

6. High Town Gateway

Diseased tree at station entrance to be removed and replaced by smaller tree. LBC is paying for new crossing and historic bollard.

7. People's Park Fun day

Mark Rivers sent email – is keen to revive People's Park Fun Day similar to 2010 and 2011.

Police

Music – small stage

Childrens activities

Food

Usual community events

The Knockouts as central interest

£140.00 for live music

St Matthews would be more involved this time.

Dates not to clash June/July 2013.

Heather James from the LBC Community Development Team - £300 could be given

Ideas suggested:

Free magician possibility

Sports events in the park

Inflatable goal posts?

Tug-of-war?

FMartin: will help with compliance forms

KG: suggested local eateries - but Health & Safety issues

VM: The Painters – centenary this year can tie in

KG: volunteers to find out public reactions

JS: To design publicity

DL: rename it a Festival and incorporate various venues throughout the High Town area, shops etc?

Include as many different cultures as possible.

8. High Town Rubbish Clear up

a) Rubbish on Midland Rd has been cleared thanks to AM.

JS reports rubbish still present on steep bank belonging to Network Rail.

AM is to contact Network Rail – *action point*.

b) Leaflets for removal of rubbish?

c) contact details on private property complicated

d) 8-14 Old Bedford Rd – buddleia

e) FoHT to write to council regarding rubbish clear up – DL to action this – *action point*

d) Follow up by contacting estate agents by letter – Andy and Roxanna to action this via the LBC – *action point*.

9. Any Other Business

a) The FoHT Group

Specific ideas of what we are aiming to achieve.

We need a statement of intent [*and what is our intent?*]
Have to formulate our ideas [*properly, to be able to action them?*]
Equal opportunities [*statement has already been completed*]
Improving the.....
Enhancing the image.
Luton at Large – free advert.
Non-religious.
Open to all.
Leaflet drop to get new members.

b) FoHT Website

Website is not up and running.
Where are we going to put new website?

c) Advertising Group

M-L to email AB with extra members for list – *action point*.
Noticeboards - glazed door noticeboards required? Do we need permission from council to put up?
DL to find out from council about noticeboards permission – *action point*.

d) High Town Team

Set up to get the Mary Portas Award. £10,000 was awarded which will be spent on artwork.
Meetings held in mornings monthly (same Tuesdays as FoHT meetings). Anyone can attend.

e) Paul Jolly jazz musician (33 Jazz Records) & SNAP moving into High Town from The Hat Factory.
Artwork to be on display. Website development for local artists. There will be a launch day.

f) Flags to be hung along High Town Rd – nylon. To be designed by Jacqueline Lancaster.
These are likely to have to be approved by LBC conservation officers and local businesses.

g) there are plans for murals at the entrance to High Town. These will need approval.

h) Fabiana Panetta (HTT) is organising The High Town Gateway artwork/metalwork/sculpture.
Thomas Heatherwick is being approached.

ML : There are many other public artists. *Suggests reproducing the 'Isabella's hats' metal sculpture for display at High Town Gateway.*

h) Post Office petition – a mini center within a shop. Local businesses need to give their support to assist with this. A hundred businesses have been approached in High Town. The process has stalled.
Volunteers needed to continue the survey.
M-L and DL volunteered to help with the survey.

Further AOB

-The High Town Rd toilets have been closed and are up for sale.

- Martin: Community Cafe in an empty shop? An unemployed Italian chef offering pizzas, coffee and alcohol. Sandwiches early in the morning and into evening.
- Empty shops fund. Georgina Barker at LBC. Aiming to bring empty shops back into use. Maybe funding sources?
- High Town Team meeting 10:30am Tuesday 12th March (*Scandinavian Cafe?*)

10. ACTION POINTS AGREED IN THIS MEETING:

- Date set for Rainbow's garden Sunday 17th March 10:30am- 3pm
- Veronica/Saz: Freeholders to offer Irish Coffee 17th March to Rainbow gardening volunteers.
- AM: is to contact Network Rail re rubbish on steep slope
- DL: to find out from council about permission for erection of noticeboards
- M-L to email AB with email addresses of new members to be added to FoHT members list

11. Next Meeting Date

7pm 12th March 2013