



Public meeting 13th August 2019

High Town Road Methodist Church Hall 7.00pm for 7.15pm

1. Apologies- DL, PS, DA, SW
Present – 6 residents plus SB (chair), GB (minutes), Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Tahmina Saleem (Round Green)
Later arrivals MA and Cllr Malcolm. (total 12 people).
SB explained that he was chairing meeting in absence of DL.

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting had been circulated prior to meeting and were agreed as accurate copy.

2. Matters arising.

People's café- meeting informed that café is on common ground, so any changes must have approval of Secretary of State. Should not be a complex matter.

Speed Watch – those at meeting urged to sign up on Speed Watch website if they are interested and complete online training so they then can be considered for practical training.

2. Conservation area – should it be expanded. Discussion. Many at meeting felt it would be advantageous to expand conservation area which now is just High Town Road. Five conservation areas in Luton and awareness of historical importance of feature low -town coming bottom on Heritage Index.

Action points – Cllr Hopkins to talk to LBC officers about what is required and involved in expanding conservation area.

Contact with Heritage Forum to make contact as an interested group.

3. High Town Festival. Discussion. General feeling that it was the best Festival to date and well attended. Good entertainment. Is considered a good local event and can encourage people from outside the area to come to visit.

Following points raised: -

*lack of publicity for event -suggestion of signs at station directing people up the road.

*street artists e.g. stilt walkers to give event more festive feel.

* consider if event needs a theme e.g. Edible High Town

*difficulties using it as a fund-raising event discussed. Event itself does not make any money.

*green agenda/climate change to feature?



*High Town Road could look more festive e.g. idea of hanging baskets, banners (not across the road).

*Redesign of publicity poster. All that seems to change is the colour it is. Difficult to discover what it is advertising. Could we consider a new poster?

*community events e.g. tug of war.

Cllr Malcolm - For some of these ideas to have fruition some residents will have to help with the organising and must consider that there is a limit to number of roads that can be closed for the event.

4. Election of treasurer and secretary.

GB resigned as treasurer. Put herself forward as secretary. No other nominations received. Seconded by Kim Greig. Voted unanimously.

SB put himself forward as treasurer. Seconded by John Wright. Voted unanimously. Both elected.

5. HMO petition.

MA spoke to this item. Has 141 signatures and needs 200. Matter needs publicity to gain more signatures. MA gave out number of printed forms of petition which when completed need to be returned to her. Date to aim for is 7th October as this is date for LBC to consider matter. Aim to get signatures in for August.

Cllr Hopkins- LBC looking into registration for all landlords esp. in key concerned with rogue landlords and was accepted that LBC needed staff to carry out this role. LBC wants to work with the good landlords.

6. Events

Lunch in the park -is this set for 7th Sept?

People, Power and Passion- event this Friday at 4pm in George's Square.

14th September – Wardown Park – Children's Peace Party.

7. A.O.B

HT Business Forum – now has its own WhatsApp group that is proving to be useful.

Fly tipping – in alleyway by side of church. Cllr Hopkins aware. Matter has been reported.

Planning applications- DL raised two via WhatsApp. Discussion about both. Discussion about what constituted “affordable homes” and whether they were. Attendees advised to raise with local MPs if they think it is too high as amount is set by central government. Approval for development of 4 bedroomed houses in Back Street whereas proposal for Taylor Street to be opposed on



grounds of insufficient parking and noise. DL informed of this discussion and outcome.

Meeting with Police. Cllr Hopkins has advised police to give her more notice of their meetings so she can put them on Ward page and relevant groups notified.

Date of next meeting 10.09.19 7pm for 7.15pm

Meeting concluded at 8.50pm