



Minutes of public meeting held at the Methodist Church, High Town Road, Luton on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7pm for 7.15pm.

1. Attendees 9 residents, DL (chair), SB (treasurer), GB (minutes), SW (media), Cllr A . Malcolm. DL welcomed all. No apologies received.
2. Nayeem Sayeed from LBC (accompanied by colleague) addressed meeting regarding plans to turn car park at Burr Street into a public space, the plans of which had been circulated to residents before the meeting. Intended to be revamp of area with bollards on side of pavement to prevent illegal parking. Work intended to start with Volker Highways on 7/1/19 and completed by end of March. Proposed that pavement is widened, electrical and related equipment to stay in place as would be too expensive to relocate. Residents dismayed re suggestion that the replacement raised beds would be lower than those currently in place and tended by EHT. Concern about possibility of antisocial behaviour arising from siting of additional benches in area. Low level beds to be reconsidered along with possible removal of BT phone box which was seen by residents as mainly used by drug dealers.  
Mr Sayeed took questions from the floor and addressed comments made by residents.  
Address concluded at 8.05pm. Both were thanked for coming to meeting.
3. Minutes of last meeting approved and no matters arising.
4. Police matters- police not present and no report received.
5. Unauthorised financial withdrawals- DL outlined to meeting current position regarding steps taken by committee members regarding the unauthorised financial withdrawals which amount to £2991.00. KP has resigned from all posts connected to F of HT. All steps taken by committee members have been taken after receiving professional advice and now have reached stage of providing evidence to the police for them to consider if it is appropriate for them to act. Also considering action in small claims court. Some residents queried if Active Luton, a local charity that KP was involved in, should also be informed. DL advised caution and said that committee would need to take legal advice before divulging information to Active Luton. Discussion about how shortfall to be covered and alternatives available.  
**Action- matter needs to be brought back in January 2020 to discuss way forward again. View that criminal enquiries should come first before considering small claims court.**
6. Airport expansion- resident read out form of words he had devised -will email them directly to DL. Other comments were that the expansion would be bad for the roads, technology will not be advanced enough to mitigate against



increased noise. Also health implications from greater use of aviation fuel. Luton has poor reputation regards air pollution and expansion of airport has to be seen in context of economic needs of the town. Comments have to be submitted by 16.12.19.

7. Retirement of Heather James- is retiring today. SW has sent her a card on behalf of F of HT.

8.Planning applications- 2 significant plans submitted in November. Expansion of site of Old English Gentleman into flats. Will involve extending building- query if there was provision for parking which could be a reason to object to the development - will be no social housing in development.

**Action- could raise issue of parking outside the flats as adjacent Hitchin Road is to be a designated red route.**

Gregory's Close – application to put another storey on block of flats on stilts – parking underneath flats- issue of parking has already been raised by a local resident.

9. HMO update – 191 signatures to petition – to be sent to LBC by hand and by email by end of week. To be addressed to Chief Executive.

10. Events -Tree planting has happened in Pope's Meadow. Trees now to have wire protection to help deter vandalism.

For other events in High Town over Christmas please consult Living Advent Calendar.

Do not be alone on Christmas day – Gb read out details – will send by email to residents on subscription list

11. Reports – brief – EHT -cool. Conservation- DL outlined work planned with Ah Geek Out following their third break-in. HTIAG-litter picks being planned for 2020. People's Café – fund raising event to be held 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020.

12. A.O.B -none.

**13. Next meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm for 7.15pm**