



## Friends of High Town

Minutes of public meeting -held on 11/2/2020 at 7pm for 7.15pm

Rear Hall,Methodist Church,High Town Road,Luton

1. Present – four residents,DL (chair),SW,RC and GB (minutes)

Apologies- SB,NB,Cllr Malcolm,KG,JW

2. Minutes of meeting held on 14/01/20 had been distributed before meeting and were available at meeting – approved and no matters arising.

**3. Police matters-** police reps not present but GB informed meeting of 8 streets initiative and how Priorities meeting for Bushmead and High Town had been poorly attended.

**Action-Police and LBC to inform Friends of HT of any up and coming events so they can notify local residents.**

**4. Burr Street car park –** SW updated meeting on progress to date- no stage will be built as planned as it will be too small for purposes of HT Festival -use of temporary stage as have done in the past . Instead could put either/or concrete table tennis table,chess tables -to encourage people to stay in the new square. **SW to explore further.**

**5. Planning applications –** planning application for property on corner of Hitchin Road and Crescent Road- 1A,1B,1C and 1D. Application to build 4 houses. Houses appear to lack rear access

**Action- DL to review and respond if required.**

**6. HMO petition update –** petition was heard by Petitions Committee on 27.01.20-DL and MA attended and addressed the points raised by LBC officers- F of HT had good support from the local police who provided evidence of number of call outs they had had – 86 call outs alone to one HMO in Edward Street. Cllr Malcolm spoke at the end to support petition. DL was on the view that F of HT had got as much from meeting as they had hoped to but there is a need to keep the pressure up. LBC officers now have a timeline in which to complete the work so the matter can be considered by the OSB and Executive Committee at LBC. Suggest that this is itemised on agenda for April 2020 meeting.

7. Events

Litter picking at St Matthews School on 20<sup>th</sup> March and Woodcraft Folk on 4/4/20. St Matthews are heralding start of Great British Spring clean. Will send out details regarding timings etc once they have been confirmed. In the meantime, please note the dates in your diaries. Students from Marjorie's Education are going to join in on the litter picking and will be starting their own monthly litter picking sessions.

Precious Pearls – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 6.30 -8.30- International Women's Day celebration. Please talk to Kim Greig if you would like to attend

Tree pruning session – 22/02/2020 from 10-4 at Stockingstone Road allotments- 10.00 – 5.00. Ticketed event only -learn how to prune correctly and not kill the plants you love!! Please see SW or GB for further details. There will be ads on FB etc so check your social media.

8. Officers' reports – People's Cafe – fund raising event at St Christopher's Church Hall went very well-phase I target for funding has been reached – funding bids are in and there is a discussion about having a staggered opening of the cafe. HTIAG- update given by GB including need for information/representation from Paths Estate. EHT- work on Peace Garden underway- have had request to run gardening sessions for children which will be explored further. Saturday morning sessions have been stopped at the moment. Planning for mini park on Villa Road underway. Conservation- work underway at Railway Tavern- builder has made couple of minor adaptations for which he has not had planning permission. Ah Geek Out – limited response from LBC officers which was not seen as helpful. There is no design quality guidance to give to shops in conservation area as there is in other towns.
9. A.O.B- workshop held by LBC that day on climate emergency- one of suggestions was re establishment of small local markets, perhaps in new square at Burr Street. One of frustrations is ancient charter which prohibits markets within stated radius of Dunstable.

**10. Next meeting to be held on 10/03/20 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm**