

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th AUGUST 2015 TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present:

Richard Fereday
Jane Fereday
Vicki Hallam
John Lofts
Malcolm Mawbey
Mary Reader
Ian Stevenson

1. Apologies for Absence: Rob Austin, Tracey Beesley, Keith Corsby, Katie Ingham, Stephen Noble, Rod Tucker, Adrian Thorne.

2. Notes of Meeting held on 14th July (distributed previously) were agreed for publication.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The following actions not covered by the Agenda were discussed:

3.2 Fence bordering Lymington Road and the cemetery. John had confirmed that the fence was owned by DCC and would contact Lesley about its condition.

Action: John

3.3 Mentoring. Action continues on Helen to discuss this with HOSTA members.

Action: Helen

Malcolm had been in touch with Charmaine Midgely and will attend Biztistic's September meeting.

Action: Malcolm

3.4. BID. John would continue to progress Highcliffe's interests with Claire.

3.5 Local Weather Data. John has raise this at Highcliffe School and is awaiting a response.

Action: John

3.6 Wortley Road Car Park Charges. Following a discussion it was decided to review the charges and the hours when they applied. It was agreed that a case for a preferred system should be prepared before the CBC Resources Committee met in September to discuss parking charges for the coming year.

Action: Vicki

3.7 Food Festival. Richard confirmed that the committee would meet in September and that the accounts would be discussed at the meeting. John advised that Lindsay Cass should be advised at an early stage of any proposal to close the Lymington Road for next year's event.

3.8 Use of Social Media. The importance of social media was stressed as an important form of communication. Action on Tracey D continues.

Action: Tracey D

3.9. Redevelopment of Hoburne Offices Action on Rod continues to share the proposals with HCP at an early stage.

Action: Rod

3.10 HCA Malcolm had left messages with HCA but had not had any response. He would try again.

Action: Malcolm

3.11 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

4. FORMATION OF CHARITY

4.1 Report from Funding Sub-Committee. Malcolm reported that the Sub-committee had agreed the draft wording of a trust deed for the Highcliffe and Walkford Charitable Trust. This is based on the model provided by the Charity Commission.

The object of the Trust is to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being and the quality of life of those people who live in, work in and visit Highcliffe and Walkford. The area of benefit is the combined area of the Highcliffe, North Highcliffe & Walkford and West Highcliffe Christchurch Borough Council electoral wards (excluding the area of the West Highcliffe Ward to the south of the A337 and the Christchurch Bypass).

The sub-committee had still to appoint the first trustees, who would administer the trust; at least three would be required. The qualities that they were looking for in the trustees were that there should be a legal professional, an accountant and someone with secretarial skills; Jane Fereday would take on the accountancy role. Additionally they believed that on the board of trustee there should be one resident from each of the three wards with a proven record of community involvement. They had a number of people in mind but would welcome any nominations HCP may have.

Action HCP Members

Between now and the end of the month those proposed would be approached to establish if they would be interested with a view to finalising the list of Trustees by early September.

The next steps would be to finalise the trust deed and for it to be signed and witnessed. The process beyond that step has been established and involves setting up a bank account and applying to HMRC for recognition for tax purposes. The charity could not be registered until it could be shown that its income exceeded £5000.

It was proposed to publicise the forthcoming formation of the Charitable Trust in articles in HRACIC's "Update" together with the Highcliffe Eye and Herald. It was recommended that it should be

featured in the “Vision of Highcliffe” event. Views of the public would be sought on how they think the trust funds would best be spent to benefit the community.

5. STRAPLINE

5.1 Richard had circulated a list of eight straplines and it was agreed that this should be reduced to a short list of four. Ian suggested that “besides” should be replaced with “beside”. Richard agreed to circulate the resulting short list.

Action: Richard

5.2 Highcliffe residents would be asked to make the final choice at the Vision of Highcliffe Event and it was suggested that the strapline should be trailed in the publicity for the event.

6. “VISION OF HIGHCLIFFE” EVENT

6.1 Venue & Date Members preferred the HSSC but the final choice would depend on the availability of the facility in October/November. Malcolm confirmed that Simon Trueick at CBC had agreed that CBC would take part.

6.2 Content Members agreed that the event should cover:

- The appearance of Highcliffe
- The Hoburne development
- The Local Plan
- The strapline
- The formation of the charitable trust
- The Plans for Highcliffe Castle

6.3 Equipment needs At this stage it was recognised that there could be need for display boards, a computer projector & screen and a PA system.

6.4 Sub-committee It was agreed that a sub-committee should be set up to hold its first meeting at 7pm on Thursday 3rd September at 16 Wharnccliffe Road. The membership would consist of Richard Fereday, Mary Reader and Ian Stevenson. Malcolm would invite Rod, Tracey, Simon Trueick and a rep from Highcliffe Castle.

7. STREET-CARE

7.1 Community Garden Discussions were taking place between Rob and Tracey about replacement seats and the design of the garden.

7.2 Pettengell’s Planters Tracey would be making some costed proposals to the owners but ultimately of course it was their decision.

7.3 Waterford Road Sitting Area. Malcolm said that Tracey had tidied up the site and would buy plants and finish off. John agreed to establish who was responsible for the site

Action: John continues

7.4 Weeds The public areas had been sprayed.

7.5 Waterford Road Toilets CBC officers had agreed to carry out remedial work.

7.6 Letter to David McIntosh. Tracey had written to the CBC/CE complaining about the state of the High Street and some of the empty premises. So far she had received two holding replies. Malcolm had reminded officers of the powers (under the Town and Country Planning Act) the Council had to deal with adverse effects of these on the local amenities.

7.7 CE Visit Vicki said that she would be accompanying David McIntosh on a tour of Highcliffe and would point out the condition of the banks and other empty properties together with the state of the Wortley Road car park.

7.8 Gateway Sign. Tracey had carried out some tidying up around the signs which was a great improvement. Malcolm reported that Helen had produced a landscaping scheme based on the Hoburne model: she had agreed to cost it.

Action: Helen continues

7.9 Enhancement of Gateway Sign lettering. Malcolm had contacted Dorset Signs; they had agreed to put forward a costed scheme for consideration and Malcolm would update members in due course.

Action: Malcolm

7.10 Banners. Malcolm had put the idea forward to Lesley for comment but had not had a response; he would follow up the inquiry with her.

Action: Malcolm

7.11 Fingerposts.

7.11.1 Sea Corner Allan Wood had taken photographs and an article was in The Courier. Malcolm commented that DCC AONB had featured it in their newsletter

7.11.2 Malcolm stated that details were required of the lettering on the two other fingerposts in the Lymington Road and particularly that on the missing third arms. He had approached HCC archives, Rothesay Hotel and Vincent May without success. Richard had tried Streetwise. Hinton and Hinton Admiral Station were possibilities.

8. HOSTA UPDATE

8.1 Helen was not present. Vicki commented that a written report would have been useful. Richard commented that August was a difficult month and HOSTA did not have a deputy; it had been difficult to raise interest among the traders. Vicki suggested that HOSTA should be invited to send more than one representative to HCP. (PM note: Adrian represents the office community).

8.2 Vicki said that the Christchurch Chamber of Trade had improved with the introduction of a social gathering after 5pm every Friday evening in the Kings Arms; this was giving the opportunity for networking. It was suggested that a similar function might be considered for Highcliffe traders and the office community.

Action: Helen

9. EXPANDING THE ROLE OF HCP

9.1 HRACIC's remit and membership covered all of the three Highcliffe wards and was rebuilding its role. It helped that Rob Austin was now a partner in HCP. It was agreed that HCP should maintain its current role concentrating on the High Street and not seek to extend to the whole area of Highcliffe. Richard thought as well as links to the Castle there should be links with the Cliffhanger, clifftop and beach. John pointed out that CBC owned the freehold.

10. AOB

10.1 Hinton Admiral Station The discussion on fingerposts led to a discussion about the station which is in Hampshire but many Highcliffe residents and visitors use it. The possibility of forming the equivalent of a "Friends of Christchurch Station" was floated. There was some interest in developing such a group and possibly having another Gateway Sign in Hinton Wood Avenue. John offered to seek Fred Neale's advice.

Action: John

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 15th September at HSSC starting at 7pm.