

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th APRIL TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present:

Rob Austin	John Lofts
Tracey Beesley	Malcolm Mawbey
Keith Corsby	Mary Reader
Rod Hills	Ian Stevenson
Helen Kennedy	Adrian Thorne
Jeannette Lovelock	

1. Welcome and Introductions Malcolm welcomed those present and reminded them that this would be his last meeting. Ian also stated that he would be resigning to spend more of his time on establishing a trust involving his archive material (as part of the Highcliffe Castle project). Both were thanked for their contributions to the work of HCP.

2. Apologies for Absence Lesley Dedman, Vicki Hallam, Rod Tucker.

3. Notes of Meeting held on 9th February (distributed previously). These notes were agreed for publication.

4. MATTERS ARISING

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

4.2 Local Weather Data. This action continues

Action: John

4.3 LG Challenge Malcolm had circulated the link to the LG site which had published a video detailing the challenge and the contestants. He highlighted the presence of an executive of Plum Pictures on the judging panel.

4.4 Council Tax. John would check to see if the information requested by Vicki had been provided by the officers.

4.5. All other items were dealt with under the agenda headings.

5. Annual Report 2015-2016 (circulated earlier) Malcolm thanked those who had commented on the draft report and confirmed that it had been amended to take their views into account. Members present agreed that the report should be published and distributed as appropriate.

6. Future of HCP Malcolm stated that following his statement of resignation three weeks ago, there had been no nominations to take over as chairman of HCP. A discussion followed on the best way forward. Mary suggested that the HCP should become a sub-group under HRACIC which had a wider remit than just the shopping area. There would be the advantage of access to funds and the links to other residents' associations across Christchurch. HCP's activities were already reported in "Update". Rob welcomed the suggestion and the HCP membership would strengthen HRACIC's organisation. He pointed out that he had revived the function of the HRA as a residents association. Following

discussion members agreed that the details should be debated at a meeting planned for Wednesday 20th April with the venue to be confirmed.

7. H & D CHARITABLE TRUST

7.1 Update from Trustees.

Adrian said that the Trust was up and running. It was proposed to run a “Village Lottery” to raise funds. The Trust would be formally launched at the Food Festival. Two projects had been identified which would benefit from funding and these would be the focus for fundraising.

8. HINTON ADMIRAL STATION

It was believed that **no** progress had been made with the proposals to set up a “Friends” organisation and the location of a “for Highcliffe on Sea” sign at the station. Rod would check with Richard Fereday to establish the current position.

Action: Rod

9. FOOD FESTIVAL UPDATE

Mary outlined the progress which had been made in setting up the Food Festival planned for May 21st. Copies of the programme were being awaited and these would be delivered when available. A very wide range of activities was planned at locations at the clifftop and throughout the shopping area; these included children’s play area, classic car display, a baking contest, Kidz Kitchen, icing courses, Japanese tea tasting and demonstrations by Valentine Warner and top local chefs. There would be live bands on three stages. The media would be fully involved. Mary highlighted the financial contributions made by Lesley Dedman and the Highcliffe councillors from their community budgets; she also drew attention to the contribution being made by Tracey Jeannette and Rod. Malcolm congratulated and thanked the organisers.

10. MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Malcolm said that Mark Sullivan had been keen to be involved in the staging an event in 2017. Mary and Rob had a number of contacts who should be approached. Lessons could be learned from the events held in Christchurch.

11. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

11.1 HGV Ban

11.1.1 Response to Question to CBC. Malcolm had sought support from CBC for an HGV ban between the Hoburne and Milestone roundabouts specifying the Ringwood Road and the A35 as an alternative route. Cllr Nottage referred the matter to DCC as the Highways Authority for them to review. This was an important step forward.

11.1.2 Petition. To avoid any claims of self-interest, the wording of the petition was less specific in that it only proposed that HGVs should be banned from the shopping area without specifying alternative route options. As in the “question” exemptions for buses and delivery vehicles had been specified. It was hoped that at least 1000 signatures would be obtained so that the petition could be taken by DCC Full Council although it might save time to ask for it to be taken at a meeting of the Regulatory Committee. Signings had been

encouraging but Tesco Express had withdrawn its support for hosting the forms. The petition would be closed at the end of April and needed to be with DCC by 7th May. Malcolm would continue to act as co-ordinator.

11.1.3 Publicity Articles had appeared in the Echo, New Milton Advertiser and Highcliffe Herald; it was expected that "The Courier" would include an article. Rod offered to put a reminder on Facebook.

Action: Rod

11.1.4 Christchurch HGV Ban. Attention was drawn to a petition to a proposed ban of gravel extraction HGVs through Christchurch. John would provide details.

Action: John

11.2 DCC REVIEW OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Malcolm reported that Lesley had formally requested DCC Highways to carry out a review of the traffic arrangements in the Highcliffe shopping area. This should address the topics raised by the HCP in-house studies. The in-house on-street parking report had been revised and Malcolm would circulate it. Rod confirmed that the local Tesco Express not been able to comment.

12. HOSTA UPDATE

12.1 Helen said that she wished to relinquish the chair of HOSTA and that there was little interest being shown in volunteering as a replacement.

13. STREET-CARE

13.1 Update from HELP.

Tracey stated that good progress was being made. There was some difficulty in loaning pickers an high-vis jackets but she had contact in DCC who had offered help; Malcolm said that in the past Wilber Smith of CBC had been supportive..

13.2 Fingerposts Update

The action on Rob to obtain quotes for the two Lymington Road continues.

Action: Rob

13.3 Gateway Sign

Malcolm stated that Dorset Signs (who had produced and installed the existing signs) had not come up with a method of enhancing them. Helen suggested that she should contact a sign-writer to see if he could come up with a solution.

Action: Helen

Malcolm said that one option would be to ask Richard Porter whether his staff could improve on their previous design and then have new signs produced and fitted by Dorset Signs. Jeannette drew attention to the design she had produced.

13.4 Strap Line

Malcolm said that the actions regards the strapline were still outstanding. There was a feeling that none of the five versions proposed at the Vision for Highcliffe were suitable and that the topic should be revisited

13.5 Petition to request maintenance of pavements

Malcolm reported that he had made the case for the pavement to be repaired to the DCC Environment and Economy Overview Committee. The Head of Highways had supported the call for action and a feasibility study had been initiated to consider the work required as a project rather than simply structural maintenance. The outcome of the review would be costed and consultation could be necessary before any work could be started subject to it being given the necessary priority. It was possible that it would be proposed that a bitumastic finish should replace the block paving. Rob said that the consensus at a recent HRA meeting was in favour of the bitumastic finish. Highways officers had agreed that more bollards would be necessary to protect the pavement.

13.6 Wortley Road Car Park (Recycling Area)

13.6.1 Members had received letters/e-mails supporting the removal of the recycling bins whilst there had also been opposition. Jeannette said that there was a “petition” for a change of policy. Malcolm remarked that apart from the Pitsite other areas in Christchurch did not have household recycling areas and seemed content with the kerbside collections.

13.6.2 CBC had made the request to DWP to remove the bins so Malcolm had informed Margaret Phipps of local opposition.

13.6.3 Members present thought that the removal of the bins had been a great improvement.

13.6.4 Helen was seeking the views of HOSTA members

13.7 Seats and Bollards

Rob had mended the worst of the two seats and Tracey and Helen were making good progress in painting the bollards.

14. COMMUNICATION

14.1 Information Points

Rob said that volunteers (Lesley, Tracey and Adrian) had come forward to keep the boards up-to-date; the vandalised board would be repaired.

Malcolm suggested that most of the information sought was on the Highcliffe village web site; Jeannette confirmed that it would be straightforward to add a village map. It was largely a matter of where this information could be displayed and accessed. Jeannette referred to the use of touch screen information points and that one might be located in the Wortley Road car park by the ticket machine.

The use of Smart phones, QR codes and free Wi-Fi were discussed as other means of access to the information.

14.2 Rationalisation of Websites

Rob suggested that other website domains could be made available and the discussion widened. It became clear that whilst the highcliffevillage site may be fine for HCP a site with a broader content will be needed to cover all of Highcliffe and Walkford. Again no decisions were made and it was deferred as a topic for the new organisation to consider.

15. AOB

15.1 Beach Huts

Malcom said that the provision of Beach huts was one of the projects supported at the Vision for Highcliffe event. Members and local residents were concerned about the design and size of the overnight huts and the impact they might have. It was noted that a petition had been raised against the development. Malcolm had sought information on the proposed location of the 12 sites and the maximum height that would be specified; CBC had not responded. (PMN: Malcolm had asked Plum Pictures who had responded on the question of height; this would be 6000mm and the guidelines would be amended).

Helen was seeking the views from HOSTA members on the economic benefit the huts could have on their trade in the high street.

With claims that the huts would be “permitted development”, members felt that they were not being consulted sufficiently. Also, the competition process with a TV company involved gave some unease over the outcome.