

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present:

Rob Austin	Malcolm Mawbey
Vicki Hallam	Mary Reader
Jeanette Lovelock	Adrian Thorne

1. Welcome and Introductions Malcolm welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence Tracey Beesley, Keith Corsby Tracey Densley, Jane Fereday, Richard Fereday, Rod Hills, Helen Kennedy, John Lofts, Ian Stevenson.

3. Notes of Meeting held on 15th December 2015. 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. John had raised this at Highcliffe School and is awaiting a response. This action continues

Action: John

4.3 Use of Social Media. A meeting of interested members to progress the project would be arranged early in the New Year

Action: Rob, Lesley, Richard,
Jeanette Steve White.

4.5 Market Feedback from the REACTN forum had favoured a Farmers' Market closely followed by a Specialised Food Market. Members present referred to previous markets which had failed. They were also concerned about their impact on the local traders; they did not feel that HCP should be supportive of a further initiative. Vicki referred to "A Boutique in a Bus" and suggested that that could be an attractive venture.

4.6 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

5. H & D Charitable Trust

5.1 Update Adrian stated that HMRC had recognised the Trust for Gift Aid status. Publicity would be discussed at the forthcoming Trustees meetings.

5.2 Projects Malcolm said that the feedback from the REACTN survey had ranked projects in the order: Improving the slope down to the beach, Land Train Youth Facility, Arena (Band Stand/Stage) Beach Huts He added that Helen Kennedy had suggested that there was public interest in part-funding the replacement of the Culmore Steps. Adrian responded that the Trustees had adopted a policy of not funding projects which would be expected to be provided by the councils. The Trustees were actively considering the Land Train, the establishment of a Heritage Trail and the Band stage.

6. "A Vision for Highcliffe"

6.1 Priorities Comments from Members Malcolm referred to a table of Projects which members might wish to prioritise.

6.2 Action/Response Plan Malcolm would circulate the updated plan.

7. HCP Complaint to CBC re 359 Lymington Road

7.1 Update Malcolm stated that he had had a response from Neil Smith (CBC Planning Enforcement Officer) who said that he would visit the site on 8th January and would provide an update in due course.

8. Parking

8.1 Wortley Road Car Park Vicki reaffirmed CBC's position that they would not reduce parking charges. Members suggested that reducing charges could increase income by encouraging more use of the car park. Vicki said that the policy would not be reconsidered for a further year.

9. Traffic Management

9.1 HGV Ban Malcolm thanked members for commenting on the wording of the petition. Members agreed that the petition should be launched after the pavement petition had been cleared.

9.2 On-street Parking Malcolm stated that his estimates of the lane widths needed to be confirmed before going further with the review; he had approached DCC Highways for assistance. Members agreed that qualitatively there were pinch points opposite Morris Scott and Tesco Express which resulted in congestion and damage. From the response to the recent RECTN questionnaire 78% wished to retain on-street parking and 22% supported removing parking from one side of the road. Malcolm suggested that some parking bays should be removed from the South side where there were significant problems.

9.3 Pedestrian Crossings 10% of the RECTN response suggested that the existing arrangement should be changed and favoured the two proposed locations

9.4 Case for Speed Limit Reduction DCC's response was awaited. Jeannette suggested that the speed indicator in Braemar Drive should be moved to the High Street. Rob said he would follow-up the proposal.

Action: Rob

10. HOSTA Update

10.1 In Helen's absence this item was postponed until the next meeting.

11. Street-care

11.1 Volunteers for H.E.L.P Members welcomed the response from the RECTN survey which suggested that 67 people would volunteer to join the group.

11.2 Fingerposts Rob was awaiting a quote for the additional arms for the two posts and a finial. Malcolm remarked that Nick Geary had one of the finials for safekeeping. He had asked Colin Jamieson what the state of progress for the Milestone Roundabout post and was awaiting a response.

11.3 Damaged Railings (Waterford Road) Malcolm said that these had been replaced.

11.4 Vandalised garden (Waterford Road) Tracey Beesley would be dealing with this.

11.5 Condition of Pavement at High Street/Car Park access Junction Jeannette said that she understood that the blocks removed had been stored by SEC ready for replacement; there was still a fault under the road. Malcolm had drawn Lesley Dedman's attention to a severe trip hazard at the SE corner kerb.

11.6 Maintenance of pavements Jeanette pointed out that damage was being caused by delivery vehicles. Rob suggested that vibration due to traffic could contribute to damage. Regarding the petition, Malcolm was concerned that the number of signatures so far was well below the 1000 he had hoped for in order that it should be presented to DCC's Full Council in February. 175 RECTN members had agreed to sign up but there had been problems with accessing the dorsetforyou site. Members felt that the deadline should be extended if the numbers were not sufficient. Jeanette agreed to help Rob e-mail the 750 HRA members to get their support.

Action Jeanette/Rob

11.7 Wortley Road Car Park Recycling Area The feedback from the RECTN questionnaire was that of the 182 responses 29 (10%) considered that the bins should be removed and 59 (32%) thought that they were fine where they were; 73 thought that they should be relocated. Malcolm observed that relocation was not an option as the current location was decided by the Council after an extensive review. Members present took the view that all the bins should be removed and items which could not be placed in the domestic recycling bins should be added to residual waste. Vicki confirmed that the situation would be reviewed by CBC in February.

11.8 Community Garden Seat Rob said that he had repaired one seated and intended to do the other seeking a donation from HCA.

12. AOB

12.1 Future Events Following the Vision Event residents had suggested that a Music Festival should be staged. Mary suggested that some progress should be made in organising this. Malcolm stressed the need for experts to be involved and asked for the names of contacts.

12.2 Jesmond Avenue Development Rob summarised the extent of the proposed area for development which had become available since DCC had sold back the land acquired for the Highcliffe Bypass to the original owners. HRACIC owned a parcel of land behind the Old School House and had agreed to become involved as a first point of contact for local residents in responding to their concerns. The developers had had the land cleared apart from the more substantial trees to allow a topographical survey to be carried out. As well as residential development there would be improvements in infrastructure and community facilities; a wildlife corridor would be included. The Medical Centre was keen to have more car parking and space to enlarge their surgery. He suggested that HCP should be involved. He had prepared a brief for local residents which he would circulate to interested members.

12.2 Future of Local Governance _Malcolm drew attention to the press reports regarding the future governance of Christchurch._ The options include a pan-Dorset unitary council including all nine councils, a unitary council for South East Dorset made up of Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and East Dorset and a third choice of no change. East Dorset DC has voted against the options.

12.3 Local Councils _Malcolm reported that the Chairman of the Alliance of Christchurch Residents' Associations ACRA had contacted him. Michael Collard suggested that "The outcomes for Dorset governance are not predictable with any degree of certainty. It is probable that the tier occupied by district & borough councils will disappear. There will then be a 'vacuum' at the local level which the Government will want filled 'from the ground up'. "

ACRA are thinking about the forms of 'Community Councils' which might be appropriate for Christchurch, similar to Parish Councils but tailored to individual locations. They would be having a round of meetings including with HRA

12.4 Highcliffe "Parish" Council _Malcolm stated that following the discussion at the HCP December meeting the RECTN community had been asked for their view on setting up a Parish Council; 37% were in favour. The consensus of the meeting was to support the formation of a local council in principle. However, it was recognised that setting up a local council would require a great deal of effort and would be a long term project outside the scope of HCP's aims.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th February at 7pm at HSSC (First Floor)