

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th DECEMBER 2015
TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present:

Rob Austin	John Lofts (arr. 9pm)
Tracey Beesley	Malcolm Mawbey
Jane Fereday	Ian Stevenson
Richard Fereday	Adrian Thorne
Helen Kennedy	

1. Welcome and Introductions Malcolm welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence Tracey Densley, Jeanette Lovelock, Mary Reader, Rod Tucker, Vicki Hallam, Rod Hills, Katie Ingham, Keith Corsby.

3. Notes of Meeting held on 10th November. These 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. Richard suggested there was a need to rationalise the various Highcliffe web sites that had been generated. A meeting of interested members to progress the project would be arranged early in the New Year.

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

4.4 Hinton Admiral Station. Richard had been in contact with WS Trains and there was interest in a Friends Group being formed and the idea of having an arm on the Lymington Road fingerpost labelled Hinton Admiral Station had been supported. Volunteers were needed to run the group.

4.5 Market Malcolm had approached HSSC formally to see whether they would be interested in hosting one in their car park. The committee had agreed in principle but needed more information. Malcolm said that HCP would consult the residents for guidance on what type of market would be preferred. He would also do some preparatory work and arrange a meeting with HSSC representatives in the New Year.

Action: Malcolm

4.6 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

5. Formation of Charity

5.1 Update from Trustees. Jane stated that the bank account had been established but that the application to HMRC for Gift Aid status was being processed.

5.2 Adrian said that Hoburne were interested in the projects that the Trust was working on.

6. "A Vision for Highcliffe"

6.1 Analysis of Responses The report had been made available on the Facebook page and the Highcliffe Dorset website. Reaction had been favourable. HCP would consider the proposals made and seek to progress the implied actions

6.2 Priorities. Malcolm referred to the list of problem areas extracted from the report and asked members to comment on the priorities highlighted and to suggest their preferences. Tracey stressed the importance of the image of the high street.

Action: Members

6.3 Action/Response Plan Malcolm tabled the plan which had been circulated which members noted.

7. Highcliffe Food Festival Update

7.1 Initial steps had been progressed but the level of provision of funding from CBC was not clear.

8. Christmas Crackers

8.1 Update Richard stated that the event had been very successful and attracted a good attendance. Shops and restaurants had reported improved takings. There was interest in staging the procession again next year but the organisers considered that a separate committee would be needed to run it.

8.1 Effectiveness of diversion Malcolm thought that the traffic flow in Wharncliffe Road had been steady with little sign of congestion or HGVs; he commented that there was no permitted on-street parking. A blue light vehicle had been given priority passage. Adrian commented that a very large tanker had used the route. In the high street marshals were supervising the local traffic between Buce Hayes Close and the car park and the movement between Stanley Road and Sea Corner seemed to be satisfactory.

9. Parking

9.1 Wortley Road Malcolm stated that Vicki had provided a brief which he would include in the notes of the meeting.

"Having submitted my report which requested a review of parking charges in Wortley Road car park: Free Parking after 5pm and reduced parking fee for 2hrs from 70p to 50p, to officers and portfolio holders the matter was then taken before the Resources Committee for discussion. Unfortunately it was felt that based on previous evidence of a 3 month trial period of free parking in 2014 reducing the parking fee would have no substantial impact of the use of the village high street. I however am in disagreement and would suggest that both HCP and HRA submit independent reports that both John and I will support."

After some discussion it was agreed that Malcolm would prepare a paper for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Malcolm

10. Traffic Management

10.1 Pedestrianising the High Street. Malcolm referred to the discussion paper which had been distributed. It was agreed that HCP should not support pedestrianising the high street on a permanent basis. Closing the high street for occasional events had proved to be acceptable. Adrian referred to the introduction in Boscombe of a Pedestrian Priority Zone and suggested that members should assess its merits. Malcolm expressed concern over safety issues.

10.2 Case for HGV Ban Referring to the discussion paper Malcolm stated that a ban had been applied in Lyndhurst and that Burton had applied for one for the B3047. Ferndown had petitioned for a reduction in HGV traffic on the A348. He considered that a reasonable case could be made for a ban for Highcliffe.

10.3 Diversion Routes Members considered the diversion routes described in the discussion papers and agreed to note the content of the papers and not to state a preference.

10.4 Raising a petition for a ban It was agreed that a petition for a ban should be raised along the lines suggested in the discussion paper. It would seek to ban all through HGV traffic from the primary and secondary core shopping areas. Malcolm agreed to draft the wording of the petition and circulate it for comment.

Action: Malcolm

10.5 Pedestrian Crossings Malcolm stated that the Core Strategy had suggested that there should be another pedestrian crossing in the primary shopping area. Members discussed the following options:

- No change – retaining the single crossing in its current position;
- Retaining a single crossing but relocating it further eastwards;
- Removing the existing crossing and having one crossing between the Hoburne Office and the Sewing Room with a second one crossing between Daniels and the butchers.

Ian supported the current crossing location saying that it was conveniently situated close to the car park access. Helen saw the need for a crossing further to the west whilst others supported the need for one between the existing crossing and Sea Corner. Rob suggested that having a crossing near junctions gave opportunities for the minor road traffic could join the major road. It was thought that there was probably a minimum distance specified between consecutive crossings. It was agreed to seek advice from the residents' group, revise the discussion paper and to consider the matter at the January meeting.

Action Malcolm

10.6 On-street Parking Malcolm referred to the draft paper which had highlighted that the suggested crossing locations would lead to a loss of on-street parking. He also highlighted the pinch point outside the HSC and the impact of the entrance to Tesco Express. In an e-mail Jeanette had identified a pinch point outside the Hoburne Offices and Rod T had suggested that the parking towards the Sue Ryder shop created problems. Richard referred to poor parking in the bays causing congestion. Malcolm suggested that much of the conflict was due to the on-street parking and that traffic flows were better on the Ringwood Road. Helen stated that traders were firmly against the removal of on-street parking considering that it would seriously affect their trade. It was noted that where the pavements appeared to be wide this was because of the private forecourts. The council would have to compulsorily purchase these areas if the road was to be widened to allow easier parking. Malcolm would revise the paper for discussion in January.

Action: Malcolm

10.7 Case for Speed Limit Reduction (update) It was noted that the traffic survey had been completed and that the next stage was for DCC to consider the case for the reduction in limit to 20mph.

11. HOSTA

11.1 Update. Helen said the use of e-mailing HOSTA members had been successful. She had had many responses to the questions about parking which Malcolm had posed and some interesting detailed suggestions which she would pass on to Malcolm, He offered to respond.

11.2 There was concern that the attendance at HOSTA meetings was poor and it was hoped that Vicki's suggestion of a social gathering might be considered. Vicki had commented that the HOSTA website was not being used.

11.3 Members suggested that the high street should be entered in 2018 for the "Great British High Street Competition" and that HOSTA members should be asked if they would support the initiative.

12. Street-care

12.1 Update from HELP Tracey stated that the organisation had been going through a quiet period but was expected to pick up again in the New Year; obtaining volunteers was a problem. Malcolm suggested that Janet Brown and Shirley May should be approached and also said the residents' group had been asked to support HELP. He drew attention to Hoburne's Burry Trust as a potential source of funding: Rod Tucker would be the appropriate contact for applications.

12.2 Fingerposts Malcolm believed that Colin Jamieson was progressing the renovation of the Milestone fingerpost but was unsure whether or not the CBC councillors were supporting the two remaining posts in the Lymington Road. He would check the current position.

Action: Malcolm

Rob offered to look into the cost of providing additional fingers.

Action: Malcolm

12.3 Damaged Railings (Waterford Road) Malcolm had reported the problem to DCC who had responded that they would monitor the situation.

12.4 Vandalised garden (Waterford Road) Tracey agreed to assess the condition of the garden.

Action; Malcolm

12.5 Final condition of pavement following repairs by SEC: Lesley has been informed of the potential problem reported by Jeanette of SEC leaving the area they have disturbed merely tarmacked over and the blocks not replaced.

12.6 Raising a petition to request maintenance of pavements. Cllrs Lesley Dedman, Trish Jamieson and Sally Derham Wilkes had supported the initiative. Members agreed that a petition should be raised and Malcolm agreed to progress the initiative taking into account comments he had received on the wording. The petition would be submitted as soon as possible; DCC would need to approve the submission; this would take up to 5 working days. He hoped the petition would go live on 21st December and close on January 31st in time to be submitted to the DCC Committee early in February.

12.6 Wortley Road Car Park Vicki (e mail brief) and fellow Highcliffe councillors have been in conversations with regards to the state of the car park and the feasibility of either removing or moving the bins. Pros and cons were considered. There will be report going to the DWP JC in February 2016 that will review recycling bank provision. This will include an option to remove all recycling banks other than those located in HRCs. They are now awaiting the outcome of that meeting before any decisions are made with regards to Wortley Road CP banks.

12.7 Raising a Formal Complaint – It was decided that a formal complaint should be made of the adverse effect on amenities of the area due to the previous Barclays and HSBC banks. Malcolm would draft appropriate wording and circulate it for comments.

Action: Malcolm

Tracey agreed to provide some photographs of the premises drawing attention to their condition.

Action: Tracey

13. Closer Links with Local Schools

Nothing to report

14. Information Point

14.1 Richard perceived that there was need to inform residents and visitors of what is happening in Highcliffe. Whilst there is use of the media including the internet there were still people who were not informed. He suggested that what was needed was a tourist information office which could also sell gifts, postcards and souvenirs. Tracey agreed and suggested that a shop premises would be ideal. It was suggested that this might be a joint initiative with the Castle. Malcolm agreed to contact Davis Hopkins with the suggestion

Action: Malcolm

15. Parish Council (briefing paper distributed previously)

15.1 Malcolm took members through the key aspect of the briefing paper he had drafted and discussed the benefits of setting up a parish council. John Lofts advised that there could be benefits of forming a parish council if the proposed amalgamation of Bournemouth, Christchurch, East Dorset and Poole into one unitary authority were to take place. Malcom drew attention to the fact that the Hurn and Burton Parish Councils already existed and that the Government encouraged localism. Members expressed some interest but recognised the commitment involved and thought that a wider pool of potential volunteers should be approached. Malcolm agreed that the paper should be made widely available.

Action: Malcolm

16. AOB

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 12th January at 7pm at HSSC (First Floor)