

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JANUARY 2015

TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present: Cllr Claire Bath
Cllr John Lofts (Highcliffe Ward)
Richard Fereday HOSTA
Tracey Beesley (HELP)
Keith Corsby (HSSC)
Malcolm Mawbey

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Ian Stevenson, Nick James, Mary Reader, Adrian Thorne, Myra Mawbey

2. **NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER:** were agreed

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The following actions from the December Meeting were discussed:

3.2 **Community Garden Seat.** The seat would be examined and any damage would be repaired.
ACTION: Tracey

3.3 **Investment.** It was agreed that a separate meeting would be appropriate; Claire and Richard Porter to arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

ACTION: Claire and Richard Porter

3.4 **Opening Hours.** The fact that opening hours are not standardised continues to be a problem.
ACTION: HOSTA.

3.5 **Mentoring.** Richard Porter had stated that he had a number of successful contacts who would be willing to share their experience with local traders. Following a discussion it was agreed that it would be more appropriate if Richard Porter should approach the appropriate takeaways to see whether they might be interested in such an arrangement.

ACTION: Richard

3.5 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

4. A Long Term Strategy for Highcliffe

4.1 Malcolm suggested that a Long Term Strategy would be based on the Core Strategy (he would send the relevant section to Keith)

Action: Malcolm

4.2 Richard reported that Nick James suggested that there were no immediate plans to develop a strategy for Highcliffe but would be happy to discuss the matter. Malcolm will contact Nick.

ACTION: Malcolm

4.2 Elements of a Strategy corresponding to the content in the Christchurch Town Strategy were already in planning (such as the Town Trail). There would also be links with the future of Highcliffe

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Castle. Claire pointed out that the Lottery Bid could provide funds to improve Highcliffe. Malcolm agreed to attempt to gather the various threads together and would contact David Hopkins.

ACTION: Malcolm

4.3 Keith referred to the history of the Sports and Social Club which he was researching; he hoped to set aside a room in the club where material could be displaced. It was suggested that he should discuss this with Ian Stevenson.

ACTION: Keith

5. Proposal for 20mph Limit

5.1 Issue 2 of the case for the 20mph limit had been circulated for comment. Malcolm remarked that the proposal was in accord with the Core Strategy and Government guidance to Local Authorities. The A337 through Highcliffe was through a shopping area and there were vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists. Responses to the petition had been slow with 5 on the web site and about 32 collected on the hardcopy sheets. Malcolm suggested that around 200 signatures were needed to proceed. Keith offered to display the petition in the Club.

5.2 There had been some adverse comment to the proposal from a trader suggesting that motorists would avoid the High Street if the limit were to be lowered.

5.3 Malcolm stated that forthcoming issue of The Courier would be carrying an article about the petition –“Is Twenty Plenty”.

6. Village Gateway Sign

6.1 The signs were being prepared and it was anticipated that they should be in place before the end of the month.

7. Finger Post

7.1 DCC had selected a Project Manager and it was expected that the project would proceed now as promised by the County Councillors

8. Wortley Road Car Park

8.1 Income. Malcolm had distributed an analysis of the data of the income from the car parking charges for the Financial Year 2012/13, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. This suggested that the loss of income due to the free periods in December to March 2014 had been less than £550. The analysis confirmed the view that the majority of drivers park for less than 2 hours.

8.2 Condition The condition of the car park is still a matter of concern. Tracey had had a useful meeting with a DCC Officer (Neil Allen) and highlighted the problem areas.

8.3 Safety A response from CBC Officers is awaited regarding what improvements they propose to make.

9. Street-care

9.1 HELP had a volunteer team of around 10. They preferred to work as a group and to concentrate on litter picking. However weeding had been carried out Tracey had arranged a meeting with Danny

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Cox (DCC) to highlight concerns in the public areas. Malcolm suggested that Lesley Dedman (as the County Councillor) should be kept fully aware of the problems and be copied in on the e-mails and any photographic evidence.

ACTION: Tracey

9.2 John drew attention to the fact that the cliff slopes were now included in the public open space area. He requested that the slopes be included in litter picks.

10. Notice Boards

10.1 Keith said that HSSC intend to replace the notice board at the front of their car park. It was suggested that Keith get in touch with HRACIC to establish any plans for their board.

ACTION: Keith

11. Food Festival

11.1 Richard stated that momentum was gathering in planning the Food Festival. He had received advice from Anne Simon and she had provided a Management Plan and Risk Analysis which had been prepared for a previous Christchurch Festival. He had spoken with David Flagg who considered that the Risk Analysis could be used as a basis for the Highcliffe Event. The Management Plan presented a challenge. He would send a copy of the Christchurch Management Plan to Malcolm for information.

ACTION Richard

11.2 The scale of the event was discussed and it was thought that three or four sites along the Lymington Road would be enough for a first event. Mention was made of the Hoburne Courtyard, Highcliffe Garage, Sports and Social Club and the area on the north side between Gordon and Seaton Roads. Additionally the Methodist Church would host displays/demonstrations.

11.3 The identification of applicants and provision of the stalls needed to be progressed – particularly the requirements for tables, tents etc. This would be discussed at the next Festival Committee meeting.

11.4 It was confirmed that the logo could be used on the marketing material which Tracey was working on including flyers and other advertising material.

11.5 Malcolm asked about finance and Richard thought that sponsors would be found fairly readily.

12. Membership of HCP

Malcolm had written to Rob Austin (HRACIC) and to the Secretary of Greystones. Rob just wanted to be kept aware of HCP's developments. HCA had not responded.

13. AOB

13.1 **HSSC** Keith outlined the Club's plans for improvement. They had 700 members. He considered that the Club's image was more of a Bingo Club for the elderly whereas they catered for far more than that and had excellent facilities. As well as taking part in the Festival they were considering showing films and hosting a pantomime.

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

13.2 The car park in front of the building was often used for u-turning and it was proposed to closed off one of the two accesses. They also planned to have steel tables and chairs in the forecourt. Tracey offered to advise on the interior decorating and on the design of the umbrellas for the forecourt following the beach theme involving bright colours which was being considered for the High Street.

ACTION: Tracey

13.3 **An Image for Highcliffe.** Tracey tabled a report including photographs of examples of good practice from various High Streets and towns mentioning Southwold in particular. Malcolm suggested that the report should be e-mailed to all HCP members for discussion at a future meeting. He suggested that a display should be held in September at which the public should see a selection of the photographs so that they could be consulted on how they would like the image of Highcliffe to be in the future. Keith agreed to host the exhibition.

13.4 **Mary Portas.** Tracey expected to have a telephone discussion with Mary the following week on Highcliffe and seeking her advice.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th February proposed.