

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE TENTH MEETING HELD ON 4th DECEMBER 2014

TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present: Cllr Myra Mawbey (Highcliffe Ward)
Cllr John Lofts (Highcliffe Ward)
Ian Stevenson
Richard Fereday
Helen Kennedy
Richard Porter
Mary Reader
Malcolm Mawbey

Malcolm welcomed Helen Kennedy.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been received from Cllrs Claire Bath and Lesley Dedman, Tracey Beesley, Jane Fereday and Adrian Thorne.

2. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th NOVEMBER: The following amendments were made:
Para 3.3 line 5 amend at” to “to”
Para 8.1 line 2 amend “Highcliffe” to “Christchurch”
With these changes the notes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The following actions from the November Meeting were discussed:

3.2 Community Garden Seat. It has been suggested the seats in the community garden were damaged. Jane would advise HRACIC if this was confirmed..

ACTION: Jane

3.3 Wortley Road Car Park – Record of Use. Records had been obtained and would be analysed and circulated to members

ACTION: Malcolm

3.4. Residents’ Survey

3.4.1 Long Term Strategy Malcolm had sent an e-mail to Cllr Claire Bath to seek the formulation of a formal Strategy by CBC to guide the future development of the shopping centre and to take forward the vision expressed in the Local Plan-Core Strategy. He was awaiting a response.

3.4.2 Investment. Richard P asked what had been the main outcomes of the survey. Malcolm replied that the responses had confirmed that shoppers were concerned about the level of traffic and the quality and range of the retail offer. Members commented on the need for a brand coffee shop and discussed how that might be encouraged. Richard stated that he was interested in investing in a suitable business which could involve training for school leavers. It was agreed that this should be raised in more detail with Claire Bath as the CBC Portfolio Holder for Economy and Growth. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be appropriate; Malcolm should arrange.

ACTION: Malcolm

3.4.3 Opening Hours. Mary said that the opening and closing times of the shops varied and by not having a core time when all were open was confusing for shoppers. HOSTA was asked to try to persuade traders to agree a core time.

ACTION: HOSTA.

3.4.4 Mentoring. Richard P stated that he had a number of successful contacts who would be willing to share their experience with local traders. Malcolm would approach the appropriate takeaways to see whether they might be interested in such an arrangement.

ACTION: Malcolm

3.5 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

4. Village Gateway Signs

Malcolm reported that the signs had been ordered and that he expected they would be erected early in the New Year. It was proposed to have an “unveiling ceremony”. He had arranged for the existing signs to be stored in Highcliffe Castle. Malcolm would arrange the ceremony.

ACTION: Malcolm

5. Finger Post

5.1 Malcolm had advised Colin Jamieson and Lesley Dedman that the Partnership would like to see the Chewton Common finger included in the restoration of the Sea Corner Post. He had also advised them of the whereabouts of an existing finial. He had advised Lesley that the Partnership would prefer the black and white 1950s livery and that word “Hampshire” on the finial.

5.2 He reported that DCC had appointed a Project Manager to manage the project and that the column would be removed and taken to the chosen contractor so that the restoration could be carried out effectively.

6. Proposal for 20mph Limit

6.1 **Petition** The wording of the petition was agreed and Malcolm agreed to prepare a master sheet; Richard Fereday would distribute copies to the Post Office, Library and traders to collect signatures. Malcolm would set up an e-petition and arrange for the petition to be available on the website. It was planned to present the petition to CBC Full Council meeting on February 24th.

6.2 **Supporting Case.** Ian suggested some textual improvements to the report which Malcolm would include. Partners adopted the report which would be used to support the petition.

Richard Porter left the meeting

7. Street-care

7.1 Wortley Road Car Park Audit

7.1.1 Malcolm had written to the occupants of a private property mentioned in the audit requesting that they help to improve its outside appearance.

7.1.2 Myra stated that DWP would cut the hedges and the weeds would be removed. She had contacted Lindsay Cass regarding the safety problems which had been observed. She had drawn attention to the position and number of the plastic bottle banks.

7.1.3 The need for the remaining recycling banks was discussed as bottles and paper/cardboard should be collected by the kerbside scheme. It had been observed that the paper/cardboard bank was being used for commercial waste. Ian was concerned that there would be increased fly-tipping if the banks were to be moved or removed. Richard suggested that the car park should be monitored with a CCTV camera.

7.2 HELP. Helen stated that HELP now had a group of 21 helpers and had been organised into four teams each covering a section of the High Street. They had cleared weeds provided baskets and made the offer to property owners to do some redecoration of the frontages if the paint was provided. Beds were being covered in stones to reflect the seaside theme. Malcolm asked whether they needed any financial support from the Council; Helen thought they were managing. On behalf of the Partnership Malcolm thanked Helen for all the work that HELP was doing which was making such an improvement to the High Street.

7.3 Pavement. Malcolm had asked Lesley whether DCC intend to repair some of the pavement which has been highlighted. Having spoken to DCC staff working in the High Street, Richard F thought that DCC would be repairing the depressions in the block paving.

7.4 Hanging Basket Brackets. Malcolm said that SEC had arranged to lower the brackets during the week commencing 10th November but had not carried out the task because of the severe weather.

8. Notice Boards

This item was postponed for a future meeting.

9. Highcliffe Revival Food Festival

9.1 Malcolm reported that a number of actions had been cleared:

- A local professional had agreed to carry out a risk assessment;
- The Castle was booked on the Saturday but the Sunday was free;
- The Recreation Ground would be available free of charge on both days.
- Richard had requested financial support from Nick James (CBC)

It was agreed that an event on the Recreation Ground would take the public away from the Shopping Centre and should not be progressed.

9.2 Malcolm had asked Claire to support the funding bid; CBC see any funding as going to the Christchurch Food Festival with the Highcliffe event being an extension of the main event. Mary said that Vicki Hallam and Tim Lloyd were happy to have a meeting to discuss this relationship.

9.3 It was agreed that there was a need to pull the project together and give it direction. Since there was a suitable candidate to volunteer to be nominated to take it over, Richard agreed to resign from the chair of HOSTA and chair the HRFH committee with Mary taking a consultancy role. Mary would be meeting with other interested parties next Wednesday.

10. Membership of HCP. It was agreed that once HRACIC and HCA had set up their new committees they should be asked if they would wish to nominate a representative to the HCP. It was also agreed that Highcliffe Sports and Social Club should be asked to confirm that they wished to become a partner.

11. AOB.

11.1 Wilts and Dorset X1/X2 Service. Malcolm had e-mailed our two County Councillors (copied to all seven CBC Councillors) alerting them to the changes in the service in early January and highlighting that there would be no service on a Sunday; he had asked whether there was any prospect of DCC providing funding.

11.2 Malcolm pointed out that this was a Highcliffe Community issue rather than a Highcliffe Centre one. He stated that the service goes to Bournemouth Hospital and was convenient for visiting times. It was agreed that it was now up to the Councillors to take any steps they considered necessary. John suggested that perhaps Yellow Buses might be interested in running a Sunday service and he would raise this with CBC; the current 111 route would not cover the needs of Walkford residents.

Date of Next Meeting: 6.30pm on 8th January at Highcliffe Sports and Social Club