

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE NINETH MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present: Cllr Myra Mawbey (Highcliffe Ward)
Ian Stevenson
Adrian Thorne
Richard Fereday
Jane Fereday
Tracey Beesley
Mary Reader
Malcolm Mawbey

Malcolm welcomed Mary Reader and Tracey Beesley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been received from Cllr John Lofts

2. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th OCTOBER: Under "Date of the Next Meeting" "October" was amended to "November". With this change the notes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The following actions from the October Meeting were discussed:

3.2 *Resident's Parking in Stanley Road.* Myra reported that although on-street resident's parking permits were issued for other parts of Christchurch this did not apply to Highcliffe.

3.3 *Cleaning Street Signs and Fingerposts* . Jane stated that the scouts were willing to take on the task. Malcolm said that CBC welcomed the offer for the street name signs providing a risk analysis was done and they were supervised. However DCC did not agree to them cleaning the fingerpost and the large information sign-plates on safety grounds. If he was advised, when the Scouts were due to carry out the task, Allan Wood PR CBC would attend to take photographs for publication in the Courier.

3.4 The large sign plates had a protective coating on them which could be damaged if the wrong cleaning fluid was used. It was understood that DCC would be cleaning some signs in Christchurch (on the Bypass) but not those in Highcliffe. It was agreed that if these signs appeared dirty that individual members would report this on the dorsetforyou.com site

ACTION: All Members

3.5 *Maintaining Planters and HELP:* Myra had confirmed that Connie Pearce had resigned and that only a few of the HELP organisation remained. Following discussions with Malcolm, Tracey and Helen Kennedy had agreed that would take over the organisation of HELP and expand its membership. Tracey said that she had seen Connie and had taken over the litter-pickers, jackets and sacks but needed more.

Tracey and Helen had started to clear weeds and litter in the shopping area. During the course of this they had noted that the seats in the community garden were damaged. Jane would advise HRACIC .

ACTION: Jane

3.6 On-Street Parking Restrictions: Malcolm had spoken to Sarah Price (DCC Highways) and confirmed that the Lymington Road on-street parking restriction would remain at 30 minutes. The proposal to change the restriction in Stanley Road would be subject to public consultation.

3.7 Wortley Road Car Park- Safety. There have been a number of near misses in Wortley Road car park near the Wortley Road access. Drivers ignore the direction arrows painted on the surface of the car park when making their way to the Wortley Road exit. Myra has raised this issue with the relevant CBC Officer. Measures were going to be taken to improve safety. Members agreed to monitor

ACTION: All Members

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

ACTION: MYRA

3.9 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

4. VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGN

4.1 DCC had agreed on 21st October that the sign met the appropriate Traffic Regulations. Malcolm and Lesley met with the DCC Highways Officer on 4th November and confirmed the proposed locations; she agreed that the existing supports could be used for the new sign. Malcolm had requested a revised quotation as the existing supports could be used

4.2 Malcolm stated that funding would be available and members confirmed that they wished to proceed. Malcolm would place the order providing there were no problems with the quote. It would take around 6 weeks to make the signs and to put them in place.

ACTION: Malcolm

5. Finger Posts

5.1 Sea Corner Finger-post. It was noted that all the Highcliffe posts had “Hampshire” on the finial and that the one at the Grange/Barrack Road roundabout also was a “Hampshire” finial with “Christchurch”. These made the argument for the Sea Corner Finger-post remaining as a “Hampshire” post.

5.2 Cllrs Jamieson and Dedman had pledged to provide the funding for the post and DCC Fingerpost were co-ordinating the procurement under their direction. It was hoped that the post would be reinstated in the spring. HCP would now step back and take on a watching brief

5.3 Myra suggested that, if the column had to be relocated, the Chewton Common arm should be Included in the project. She had spoken with Colin Jamieson, who had agreed but if members concurred he would be advised of their wishes in writing.

ACTION: Malcolm

5.4 Highcliffe Finial. Malcolm reported that Nick Geary had located a finial in the Grange Road Depot. Colin Jamieson would be advised so that it could be replaced by DCC.

ACTION: Malcolm

6. Residents' Survey

6.1 Malcolm thanked Adrian for providing the 130 copies. These had been delivered to most of the premises in the High Street, Highcliffe Library and Christchurch Library. The survey had been published on the web page and there had been an article in the Courier. Malcolm would prepare a draft press release for the Echo and New Milton Advertiser and circulate it for comment.

6.2 Discussion of Proposed Improvements

6.2.1 Long Term Strategy It was agreed that whilst short term improvements could be made Highcliffe needed a Strategy to guide the future development of the shopping centre to take forward the vision expressed in the Local Plan-Core Strategy. Malcolm would draft a letter to Cllr Claire Bath to seek the formulation of a formal Strategy by CBC.

ACTION: Malcolm

6.2.2 20mph Limit. Many residents had highlighted the problem of traffic in the Lymington Road and suggested the imposition of speed restrictions. Mary Reader supported the view that the speed limit through the centre should be limited to 20mph and members agreed. A case needed to be made.

ACTION: Malcolm

6.2.3 Bunting. It was agreed that bunting would improve the appearance of the street for special events and in the Summer Season. Myra reported that CBC no longer had any bunting as the remnants they did have were in poor condition and were thrown away. Mary suggested that Peeks be contacted to see what they could provide.

ACTION: Jane

7. Street-care Audits

7.1 Wortley Road Car Park. Members discussed the audit of the car park which (in line with best practice) had been provided to Jonathan Ross at CBC for comments; none had been received to date.

7.2 It was suggested that the owners of the private properties mentioned should be written to requesting that they help to improve the outside appearance.

ACTION: Malcolm

7.3 Action had already been taken to advise the owner of the condition of the arcade walkway. It was noted that Helen Kennedy would also raise the issue.

7.4 Members agreed that the recycling containers were an eyesore and attracted fly-tipping. There was a case for retaining some smaller bins for recycling material, which was not covered by the kerbside collections. The bins should not be used for commercial waste.

7.5 Myra (as a local Councillor) agreed to consider the observations of the audit and take such action as she considered necessary.

ACTION: Myra

7.6 Shopping Centre. Malcolm said that he was holding back on auditing the Lymington Road to await the outcome of several actions.

- He had put in a complaint to DCC Highways 1026467 about the weeds on the public areas; he hoped other members would add their complaints to DCC;
- HOSTA with Tracey's and Helen's organisation plan to clear the weeds from the private forecourts;
- Tracey and Helen have agreed to identify any obstructions on the public pavements (A boards etc);
- Again Tracey and Helen will review the internal and external appearance of the various premises and advise HCP in confidence of their impressions. Tracey suggested that the premises should be brightened up to give the centre more of a seaside feel.

7.7 It was suggested that Lesley should be asked whether DCC intend to repair some of the pavement which has been highlighted.

ACTION: Malcolm

8. Future Events

8.1 Mary Reader responded to the suggestion that Highcliffe should be more closely involved in the Christchurch Food and Wine Festival. She had spoken with Vicki Hallam (Chairman) and Tim Lloyd and they were supportive. It was proposed that the event should take place on the second weekend of the festival ie. 16/17 May. Mary suggested that the "Revival" theme was very popular and gave the opportunity for many shops in Highcliffe to take part without it costing a lot of money. She suggested that it should be called "Highcliffe Revival Food Festival". Musical entertainment would be important. Tracey suggested that a best shop competition could be included with a "name" to be involved in the judging.

8.2 Members supported the suggestion and it was decided to set up a small team which would report back to HCP on the level of support from local businesses and to set up an organisation plan to identify what was required and assess funding requirements. Mary, Tracey and Richard offered to make up the team.

8.3 Mary suggested that funding for insurance, printing and programmes would be needed and that Nick James should be approached to see whether CBC would provide some financial support. Richard agreed to do this.

ACTION: Richard

8.4 There would be a requirement for a risk analysis and Malcolm agreed to contact a local professional to see whether he might be prepared to be involved.

ACTION: Malcolm

8.5 It was agreed that Malcolm should contact the Castle to gauge the extent of their interest and Rotary to see whether they might stage their fete in the Rec on the same Saturday.

ACTION: Malcolm

9. AOB

9.1 **Coffee Shop.** Tracey had been encouraging a National Brand to open a premises in Highcliffe. So far there response had been lukewarm with them suggesting that the demographic was not suitable.

However she would try again; it was pointed out that a premises might be available in the near future, which might be attractive for this sort of development.

9.2 **Hanging Basket Brackets.** SEC has arranged to lower the brackets during the week commencing 10th November.

Date of Next Meeting: 4th December