

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS
THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE**

Those Present:

Rob Austin	Malcolm Mawbey
Rod Hills	Ian Stevenson
John Lofts	Rod Tucker

1. Welcome and Introductions Malcolm welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence Tracey Beesley, Keith Corsby Tracey Densley, Vicki Hallam, Bill Holdsworth, Katie Ingham, Jeanette Lovelock, Mary Reader, Adrian Thorne.

Malcolm stated that Richard Fereday had resigned from the committee to concentrate on his business. HCP members recorded their thanks for Richard's significant contribution over the past two years.

3. Notes of Meeting held on 12th January. 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. This action continues

Action: John

4.3 Use of Social Media. It was agreed that there was a need to rationalise the Highcliffe web sites and to have a central umbrella Highcliffe site with HPA/Charitable Trust/Highcliffe Revival/ HCP etc all leading off from it; this would provide one point to gather all information and raise awareness and presence

Some sites such as the HRACIC one needed some work. Rod T offered technical help from his staff. Malcolm referred to the Highcliffe Community website (<http://www.highcliffedorset.co.uk/>) and suggested that members who were not familiar with it should look at it before the March meeting.

Action: All members

It was noted that the future of the Facebook page needed to be resolved following Richard's resignation. Malcolm would contact Richard.

Action: Malcolm

4.4. All other items were dealt with under the agenda headings.

5. H & D CHARITABLE TRUST

5.1 Update from Trustees (P-MN: Keith has reported that since the Trust has been recognised by HMRC for Gift Aid the first donation has been received. The Trustees were

meeting monthly and at their next meeting will be discussing ways to publicise the Trust. It has been recognised that their role is to raise funds and allocate them to specific projects which would benefit Highcliffe District. They are considering a number of ways of raising funds. It will be other groups to run these projects but they need to highlight an initial project as a focus for raising funds. Work is in hand to develop a series of heritage trails.)

5.2 Heritage Trails Project

5.2.1. Ian said that he had been in discussion with Peter Martin about the setting up of Heritage Trail(s). The area covered by these would cover the area between Mudeford Quay and Chewton Bunny. He mentioned that Mill House was up for sale and the link that some have suggested with Gerald Gardner (recognised as the "Father of Wicca" among the Pagan and occult communities). He considered that the mill could not be renovated.

5.2.2 In addition to maps with QR codes, various other ways of identifying points of interest were being considered; Malcolm suggested the use of Bluetooth beacons.

5.2.3 It was important that this initiative took account of the Heritage Trail being generated by the Castle as part of the Heritage Lottery Bid. Rod suggested that this needs to be coordinated with the Land Train as they follow similar paths.

6. "A VISION FOR HIGHCLIFFE"

6.1 Priorities and Action/Response Plan. Malcolm had circulated the latest editions of the documents

6.2 Projects

6.2.1 The vision survey had identified a number of projects which residents had shown an interest in. Members discussed the following at this meeting recognising that to progress the schemes would require the formation of dedicated project teams.

6.2.2 Land Train Previous discussions had suggested that the train should run between Mudeford and Chewton Bunney via the Castle and Highcliffe shopping Centre. A further option was to run it along the front with some form of hardway generated over Highcliffe Castle Beach. Rod T expressed an interest in the train also serving the Hoburne and Naish Farm sites. Members showed a preference for some form of novelty train rather than a tractor drawn arrangement or eurobus.

6.2.3 Bandstage Rod T expressed an interest. Malcolm suggested that the performance arena could be on the lower ground to the east of the Cliffhanger. (P-MN: the project is not being progressed at the moment although the use of the "arena" site is)

6.2.4 Beach Huts At an exempt meeting CBC agreed to enter into an agreement to create 12 new overnight beach huts at Highcliffe Beach. Capital funds have been allocated. It is understood that this is permitted development. Malcolm will contact CBC to find out the design of the huts and the proposed site.

Action: Malcolm

6.3 LG Challenge

6.3.1 Malcolm reported that the challenge was organised by the Local Government Association and was a national event. Contestants were drawn from a number of councils. Stage 1 of the challenge was staged in Christchurch with contestants responding to a brief to improve Highcliffe Beach and improve its economic viability. Two competing teams worked up their briefs over two days and presented them to a judging panel in “The Apprentice” style.

6.3.2 On the second day Rob, Mary and Malcolm were consulted on some of their ideas. These included a land train, luxury beach huts, a surf café and greater emphasis on surfing particularly between the two easterly pairs of groynes. Members were interested in the reports produced by the contestants and Malcolm agreed to see if these could be made available.

Action: Malcolm

7. COMPLAINT TO CBC RE 359 LYMINGTON ROAD

7.1 Malcolm reminded members that HCP had made a formal complaint to the Council about the condition of the old Barclays Bank premises and the adverse effect on local amenities.

7.2 Having surveyed the site the Enforcement Officer took the view that the condition of the premises did not warrant further action by the Council. Malcolm expressed the view that this set a benchmark for what was acceptable.

7.3 It was noted that the whole block is now up for sale:

<http://www.rightmove.co.uk/commercial-property-for-sale/property-52868875.html>

Members speculated whether this was a coincidence.

8. PARKING

8.1 Wortley Road Car Park

Malcolm said that CBC had calculated that the proposed reduction in the charge from 70p to 50p coupled with a change to the chargeable hours would result in a £10k loss of income.

Rob remarked that details of the calculation had not been provided and might not reflect an increase in the number of people parking because of the lower charge.

9. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

9.1 HGV Ban

The request for a ban had been discussed at the last meeting and the draft wording of a petition. Malcolm requested views on the best ways of progressing the request. John advised that HCP should make a joint approach to CBC and through Cty Cllr Lesley Dedman to DCC. Rod H suggested that the potential alternative route for HGVs should be highlighted when the request was made. Members agreed that this should be progressed and Malcolm accepted an action to make an appropriate case to each Authority.

Action: Malcolm

9.2 On-street Parking

The report circulated to members had highlighted the two pinch areas which resulted in congestion in the High Street. Rod H pointed out that the traders were against the loss of parking places. It was suggested that the removal of only a few parking places would be necessary. Rod T agreed that the removal of one or two parking places adjacent to the Sue Ryder shop would be sufficient at the western end of the shopping centre would ease the problem. Malcolm drew attention to the difficulties at the eastern end of the shopping centre opposite TESCO. He considered that a small number of parking places should be removed. John suggested that a parallel approach should be made to CBC and through Cty Cilly Lesley Dedman to DCC. Malcolm suggested that CBC would be supportive since they were keen for drivers to make more use of Wortley Road car park. Rod H suggested that the views of TESCO should be sought and that he would be happy to investigate

Action: Rod H

Members agreed that this should be progressed and Malcolm accepted an action to make an appropriate case to each Authority.

Action: Malcolm

9.3 Pedestrian Crossings

No further action was proposed for the time being.

9.4 Case for Speed Limit Reduction

9.4.1 Malcolm reported that he had received a phone call from the Michael Potter (DCC Officer) stating that the survey results did not meet the criteria for a reduction in the speed limit. A formal report would be published in due course which would be presented to the Regulatory Committee.

9.4.2 Members considered that the survey data would be useful since it would indicate the movements of HGVs.

10. HOSTA UPDATE

10.1 No report had been received.

11. STREET-CARE

11.1 Update from HELP

Malcolm had received a written update from Tracey stating that the bollards would be painted soon and that litter picks involving those who had volunteered in response to the RECTN survey were planned. It had been suggested that an anti-litter campaign involving local children should be initiated and the suggestion had been passed to the chairman of the primary school. Malcolm had suggested that school children might adopt gardens and planters to help keep them tidy.

11.2 Fingerposts

The project to renovate the Milestone Roundabout post was still live and Colin Jamieson was negotiating with HCC and DCC to share the funding.

11.3 Vandalised garden (Waterford Road)

(P-MN: Keith reported that the plinth had been replaced by volunteers but that the bin was now missing. He had reported this to CBC but no action had been taken. Malcolm would follow up

Action: Malcolm

11.4 Final condition of pavement following repairs by SEC

There were no signs of the block paving being replaced.

11.5 Petition to request maintenance of pavements

11.5.1 The petition had been received by DCC and a response is awaited. There were approaching 1500 signatures.

11.5.2 There was evidence that some of the damage to the pavements was due to heavy delivery vehicles parking on them. Malcolm had suggested to DCC that more bollards should be erected to stop this practice. The officer's response was that this was undesirable since it would cause vehicles to park on the road causing congestion.

11.6 Wortley Road Car Park

11.6.1 Margaret Phipps (who is CBC Portfolio Holder for the Environment) was informed before Christmas detailing the problems with the recycling bins. She suggested removing the bins and at the January meeting the consensus was for their removal and Margaret was advised accordingly. She agreed to arrange to have the bins removed providing the councillors agreed. Trish and Vicki agreed but John felt that the correct process was to put this proposal to the Council. John felt that the problems of rubbish around the area should be dealt with by DWP. Ian said that this was a daily problem. Malcolm suggested that the bins were not required now that kerbside recycling was in place. The proposal to deal with the bins would be put by John to the next Full Council meeting.

12. LOCAL COUNCIL

12.1 Malcolm had met with the Chairman of ACRA (Mike Collard) to discuss HCP's position on the formation of a local council; he provided him with a copy of the HCP Briefing Paper. Following this meeting Rob stated that he had met with Mike and Jim Biggins and was now receiving briefing papers from ACRA on the potential governance arrangements based on a unitary authority.

12.2 John suggested that if a unitary authority were to be formed then the formation of a local council would be desirable but it would take time to make all the arrangements.

12.3 It was decided to make some preparatory work and Malcolm agreed to produce a summary of the briefing paper for HRACIC members.

Action: Malcolm

13 AOB

13.1 Council Tax

Malcolm had asked Vicki/John how much Highcliffe Ward contributed to the total amount of Council Tax for the Borough; Vicki had referred the request to CBC/Finance.

13.2 Support from MP

Rod T suggested that there could be a case for referring some matters to Chris Chope MP to seek his support.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 8th March at 7pm at HSSC (First Floor)