

HIGHCLIFFE CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2014

TO DISCUSS THE HIGHCLIFFE SHOPPING CENTRE

Those Present: Cllr Trish Jamieson (West Highcliffe)
Cllr Myra Mawbey (Highcliffe Ward)
Ian Stevenson
Adrian Thorne
Richard Fereday
Jane Fereday
Malcolm Mawbey

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been received from Cllrs Lesley Dedman and John Lofts.

2. NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER: the notes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The following actions from the September Meeting were discussed:

3.2 *Resident's Parking in Stanley Road.* Myra had contacted the resident and discussed the case with the officer at CBC and was awaiting his response. It is believed that the resident is not disabled.

ACTION: Myra

3.3 *Cleaning Street Signs and Fingerposts* . Now that the scouts have returned the possibility of them carrying out the task will be raised.

ACTION: Jane

3.4 *Maintaining Planters:* The position on whether HELP is still operating needs to be established

ACTION: Myra

3.5 *High Street Audit:* Malcolm hopes to carry this out after the 20th October (deadline for Navitus Bay representations) and report at the November meeting

ACTION: Malcolm

3.6 *On-Street Parking Restriction:* The proposal to increase the permitted waiting time for the on-street parking in Lymington Road had been rejected by the CBC T&FG but supported by Lesley. Trish would discuss the issue with Lesley and the DCC Highways Officer.

ACTION: Trish

3.7 *School-linked Displays* Richard said that HOSTA members were not interested in displaying art work from the local schools so the action to arrange this with the schools was discontinued.

3.8 Events on Hoburne Car Park. As Hoburne had agreed that the car park could be used occasionally, it was appropriate to see whether an off-shoot of the Christchurch Food Festival could be staged in Highcliffe. Mary Reader would be invited to the November meeting.

ACTION: Malcolm

3.9 All other matters were discussed under the agenda items.

4. VILLAGE SIGN

4.1 Design. Malcolm reported that the Solent Group had redesigned the sign in August so that it should accord with the Traffic Sign Regulations. The DCC Sign Committee would be meeting on 21st October.

4.2 Location. Once the design had been approved Lesley had agreed to arrange to meet with DCC Highways to confirm the proposed location; it was hoped that the existing supports could be used.

ACTION: Lesley

4.3 Funding. A source of finance was still needed.

5. FINGER POST

Malcolm had received a quote from a firm used by Hampshire County Council which was competitive. It was understood that as the firm was on HCC's approved list they would be accepted by DCC. Details have been passed to Colin Jamieson and Lesley as they will be jointly funding the project from their DCC budgets; Sue Mitchell from DCC AONB is providing officer support. Nick Geary had looked at the column of the fingerpost and agreed that it would probably be necessary to move it further away from the kerb-line to give adequate clearance. Sue had said that there was precedents set by other projects for DCC Highways to do this. Malcolm stated that it was appropriate now for him to step back and for DCC to progress the project.

There was a possibility that the restoration of posts in Burton could be included in a contract. Malcolm would pass a copy of HCPs "Work in Progress Report to Trish for information.

ACTION: Malcolm

Malcolm reported that Nick Geary had located the finial from the post outside the Galleon. 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. Action was necessary to request DCC to replace the "Galleon" finial.

6. RESIDENTS' SURVEY

6.1 Members had reviewed the final report and agreed to adopt it with a few minor amendments. It was agreed that it should be distributed to the shops and offices in the Lymington Road. It was suggested that the report should be in PDF format and that a covering letter should be provided.

ACTION: Malcolm

6.2 Adrian would arrange to provide 130 hardcopies for distribution to the Shopping Centre with two of these being given to Highcliffe Library and two for Christchurch Library as reference copies.

ACTION: Adrian

6.3 Malcolm would ask Steve White to load the report onto the Highcliffe, Dorset Community website.

ACTION: Malcolm

6.4 Members agreed that it should be published locally as widely as possible. Malcolm had provided an article for the Courier which would be distributed from 15th October.

6.5 It was proposed to provide details to the Bournemouth Echo and the New Milton Advertiser.

ACTION: Malcolm

6.6 Discussion of the Resident's Proposed Improvement to the Shopping Centre. Member's first reactions to the improvements proposed by residents are summarised in the Appendix. A number of short and long term actions were identified. Some of these involved the shop and office occupiers who would be encouraged to implement the suggestions; providing them with a copy of the report may help to do this. (It is suggested that Members study the Appendix between now and the next meeting and identify which actions they feel they should progress)

7. AOB

7.1 Chamber of Trade Meeting. Richard reported that there had been a presentation by Nick James CBC on the Christchurch Town Centre Strategy. He felt that a similar approach should be followed to plan the long term future of the Highcliffe Centre. Nick James was open to suggestions on how that should be done. There had also been a discussion on the Cycle ways in the area but they stopped at Castle Avenue, Richard said that cycling through Highcliffe could be very dangerous. Again the officer welcomed feedback. It is proposed to discuss both topics at the next meeting

7.2 Wortley Road Car Park. There have been a number of near misses in Wortley Road car park with drivers ignoring the direction arrows painted on the surface of the car park. Myra agreed to raise this issue with the relevant CBC Officer.

ACTION; Myra

7.3 Wortley Road Car Park – Record of Use. Richard questioned the extent to which the car park had been used and what the financial returns had been during the year. Myra agreed to seek a response from CBC.

ACTION: Myra

7.4 Navitus Bay Traffic. Malcolm said that he had made a representation objecting to the proposed increase in HGV traffic should the project be approved. He agreed to circulate it to members for their information

ACTION. Malcolm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th November

APPENDIX TO NOTES OF MEETING ON 9th OCTOBER

FIRST REACTIONS

At the HCP Meeting on 9th October the responses to question 15:

“What improvements would you like to make to Highcliffe Shopping Centre?”

were discussed with members present giving the first reactions to sift out those suggestions which were unlikely to be implemented. The discussions resulted in a number of short and long term actions which are highlighted with an asterisk

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Table 15a. Facilities

a1. Establish a focal meeting area away from the noise and fumes with seating and shelters;

The HRACIC “Hub” project is planned to provide a meeting place for young people behind the Old School House. It was questioned whether a “Saxon Square” area was needed or space found without a significant redevelopment.

a2. Introduce more seating and shelters.

*It was thought that were enough already but maybe the one removed by the Coop needed to be reinstated.**

a3. Develop a seating area on the forecourt outside the Methodist Church;

It was believed that the Church already had plans for some sort of conservatory serving coffee etc on its forecourt.

a4. Stage events in the centre (Salvation Army Band)

*It is hoped to stage events on the Hoburne Car Park.**

a5. Repair the pavements

*It is believed that DCC have this in hand. Need to check**

a6. Remove advertising clutter from the public pavements

Feelings were mixed but all agreed that any safety issues should be resolved.

Table 15b. Appearance and Safety

B1. More planters and flowers

*Agreed but down to individual shops and offices to provide and water.***

B2. Lower the hanging baskets to make the flowers more visible

Agreed need to raise this again with SEC once the baskets have been taken down. *

B3. Introduce trees

HOSTA members have not supported this. Perhaps Hoburne might be interested.

B4. Clear weeds from forecourts

*Down to the owners***

Reduce the clutter on the forecourts – particularly outside house clearance shops;

*Down to the owners***

Encourage improvements to the shops on the south side of Lymington Road to the east of Sea Corner;

Down to the owners **

Improve the frontage of the sports and social club;

Already being done

Improve the shop fronts where paintwork is in poor condition

*Down to the owners***

Clean the signposts and restore the Sea Corner fingerpost.

Both actions being progressed.

Table 15c. Traffic Management

C1. Pedestrianise the Shopping Centre

This was the most extreme suggestion and would prevent any through traffic passing through the centre and would provide an area for events. No indication was made of the extent of the pedestrian zone and how access to Buce Hayes Close, Stanley Road, the car park and residential properties might be achieved. A bypass would be necessary for through traffic. Not supported

C2. Provide a Bypass

*Wortley Road and Wharncliffe Road were mentioned as possible routes for two-way through traffic. The A35/Ringwood Road/Milestone Roundabout was suggested but not supported by all. A further suggestion was the A35/B3055 through Bashley which would bypass New Milton as well. More detailed investigation needed.**

C3. HGV Ban

*Ringwood Road through Walkford is being used already as an alternative route by some vehicles. More detailed investigation needed.**

C4. Restrict HGV Delivery Times

*Times are already restricted and need to be enforced.**

C5. One way system

*A proposed scheme would have eastbound traffic travelling through the primary shopping core and westbound bypassing the centre along Waterford and Wharnccliffe Roads. Investigate further**

C6. Remove all on-street parking

*Removing parking on one side of the road was suggested and particularly along the south side of Lymington Road nearest to Sea Corner. Investigate further.**

C7. Remove some on-street parking

Congestion was seen to be caused by the movement of vehicles into and out of on street parking places. This did not address parking in side roads and private car parks such as The Globe and Tesco Methodist Church, Social Club, private forecourts and the narrow accesses to parking areas behind the shops and offices.

C8. Increase free parking times

Not supported by CBC Task and Finish Group

C9. Improve on-street parking

*This proposal is aimed at reducing congestion during the day whilst permitting parking to visit the takeaways in the evening. Consider further**

C10. Introduce Cycle Ways

*Has been raised by HOSTA at Christchurch Chamber (may need to consider a bypass past the high street for cyclists) Consider further**

C11. Stop cycling on the pavement

Raised with PCSO Mark Lane at last HCP meeting

C12. Introduce new pedestrian crossings

*Has been suggested before consider preferred locations.**

C13. Increase crossing times

*May be an issue at the Sea Corner traffic lights as well as crossings need to follow up.**

C14. Audible warnings on Sea Corner Traffic Signals

Raised in the past and not supported by DCC.

C15. Enforce speed limit

Vehicles may not always be speeding – just looks like they are because of road layout. Consider the possibility of public getting involved – scheme for police to loan equipment and train operators.

C16. Lower speed limit

Reduction to 20mph supported by some

Table 15d. Parking in Wortley Road Car Park

D1. Free parking

Not supported by CBC. A compromise suggestion of dividing the car park up into a short duration shoppers car park and a longer term car park with charges was not supported because of difficulties in enforcement.

D2. Reduce Parking Charges

*HOSTA have proposed reducing the charge from 70p to 50p which is being considered. Need to have information from CBC on the returns from the car park.**

D3. Introduce a parking clock system

Not supported

D4. Widen the access to Wortley Road Car Park from the Lymington Road

*Not feasible because of access to Eastern building required. The possibility of another access to the car park from the Lymington Road was suggested – requires funding and CBC support. Develop concept further.**

* Actions to be carried out

** Indirect action by encouraging response – distribution of survey report and carrying out street audit.