

Headington Community Development Association

Minutes for meeting on 26th March 2003, 19h00 Headington Hill Hall

Present

James Bloice-Smith
Andrew Brown
Bob Clarke
Angela Cristofoli
Jill Cummings
Anna Dolan
Mary Hope
Janet Isaac
Stephanie Jenkins
Richard Jeffrey
Tony Joyce
Kat Luddecke
John Russell
Arthur Treherne
Glynis Wheatcroft (for Sue Baker)

Apologies from

James Gagg
David Rundle

1. Minutes of the previous meeting. Accuracy.

Minutes for the meeting of 26th Feb 2003 agreed.

2. Matters arising

- (i) Headington Clock – Jill had found out that the clock mechanism is located in the Buckell and Ballard Estate Agents. It is unclear as to how it is maintained. Jill to continue following up.
- (ii) Calendar – it was agreed that to hold a competition for photographs for the calendar this year is not feasible. The group agreed that all members would bring a photograph or sketch/drawing to the next meeting so that we could put together a calendar. This would be a trial run for this year to ascertain interest and provide an idea of quantity to be produced. Photographs need to be in landscape format i.e. wide/horizontal as vertical format is not ideally suited to reproduce in a calendar.
- (iii) Brookes projects – Kat had met with students and agreed the brief with them. They will be looking at Headington as a commercial centre and also at the impact of HAMATS. They will be interviewing retailers in due course. It was thought that this would probably start later in April (after Easter) and we could either invite them to the May meeting or set up a sub-group to help steer this project.

3. Summer Event

Jill gave an overview of the arrangements essential to running the Christmas Funday event. It was agreed that the aim of holding a Funday in the summer would be for the people of Headington to have a fun event in a central location and it should appeal to the widest possible audience.

Anna Dolan, Events Officer at Oxford City Council gave some background on her role which included both directly organising large scale events e.g. balloon festival and also encouraging communities to develop their own events. The events running in Bury Knowle Park this summer are:

Band Concert 8th June
Funfair 31st July-3rd Aug
Film (evening) 9th Aug

If HCDA wanted to link in with one of these events then Anna would be able to assist by providing advice and also a limited amount of financial support (under £1000). Any financial support could be provided for three years although it would diminish each year.

Anna would be able to confirm the amounts once the group had decided on their event. By linking with a planned event, Anna could include it in any future publicity e.g. in Oxford Mail, Radio Oxford etc. The event if under the 'Fun in the Parks' umbrella would also be covered by Public Liability Insurance if in line with Health and Safety requirements, although this would not apply to individual stallholders.

Richard Jeffery presented his ideas for a Headington Festival linked primarily to premises on the London Road. Events such as music, dance could happen within shops/restaurants and also in open spaces e.g. Park and on pavements where there is enough space e.g. Morris dancing outside Barclays Bank. The park could also have stalls and children's events. If this were to be held on a Saturday when shops were open, there would already be people around and hopefully others would come to Headington on that day so the retailers could get more business.

The group then discussed the idea of having a Headington Festival held over two days to link into the Band Concert in the Park on 8th June. On Sat 7th there could be the street events as suggested by Richard and on Sun 8th there could be activities/events in the Park linked to the Band Concert. This could include stalls run by voluntary/schools groups who might want to raise funds. It was felt that £5 would be charged for each stall although they would have to get their own Public Liability Insurance. It is also on this Sunday that the Friends of Old Headington have their Gardens Open Day. Overall it was agreed that this would be a good way forward. Although the timescale is quite short, it was felt that this was the best time this year for local schools to be involved and also that the Festival could be developed further for next year.

The various tasks were then discussed and in summary the contacts are:

- Richard to co-ordinate Sat event along London Road rgjeffery@lycos.co.uk
- Glynis to talk to Headteachers about schools involvement and will co-ordinate this gw@cheney.oxon.sch.uk
- All of HCDA to use their networks to see which organisations might be interested in having a stall on Sun 8th June. Andrew offered to collect the details of those who are interested, so please send to andrew.brown@164projects.co.uk
- Anna Dolan will send details of Terms and Conditions for stallholders to Andrew so that he can circulate to interested groups. Anna will also confirm the funding available from the Parks budget to support the event. Anna's contact adolan@oxford.gov.uk
- Stephanie will co-ordinate Publicity and will liaise with Anna to link into the Fun in the Parks publicity. Stephanie will also check with Friends of Old Headington about their Open Garden event. Please keep Stephanie informed of any positive news for the festival so that she can put it on the website <http://www.hcda.org.uk/>
- Jill to check with her contact in insurance about public liability insurance and whether general cover can be obtained to cover stalls collectively
- It was agreed also that we will need to book St John's Ambulance to be present, although deferred until next meeting when we will be clearer about programme

These are the immediate tasks to be carried out and an overall co-ordinator and team would need to be agreed at the next meeting.

4. Brief updates

- **Charities Commission** - Mary had received a response from the Charities Commission and they need a Business Plan and Feasibility Study, which Andrew has offered to co-ordinate. They also need the group to change its name, as it is too similar to Headington Community Association. This caused endless permutations on HCDA to be discussed as we have already secured HCDA for the website. No front runners were clearly identified (the nearest one to agreement was Headington Central Development Association) so please send your ideas to me and I will circulate them before the next meeting acristofoli@oxford.gov.uk
- **Poetry competition** – prior to the meeting, Stephanie had circulated details about a possible judge for the competition being Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate. He would charge a fee and the group were asked whether they would support this. Stephanie had heard from some members who did not support providing a fee and also felt that having

the Poet Laureate might make people feel that the standard of entry needed to be very high. The group agreed not to have Andrew Motion as the judge and Stephanie would ask David Rundle to find an alternative judge for the competition. The Poetry competition would be launched at the Summer Festival with a closing date around the half-term in October. It was felt that a theme for the poems would be a good idea and various suggestions were made before it was agreed that 'Headington Changes' would be used. This could apply to a lot of ideas e.g. schools that were closing; the historic bones that had recently been found etc.

5. AOB

- Mary had heard from the Acland Hospital Group and they will be considering reviewing the name of the new Hospital because of the potential for confusion with the other Nuffield Hospital
- Kat updated on the Co-op forecourt. The legal aspects on this site still need to be completed. It is hoped that remedial work to tidy up the site would be done soon
- Jill raised an idea to help promote HCDA. If the group bought 5 family tickets for one of the children's storytelling events led by Chris Smith, then we could publicise that HCDA had bought the tickets and let more people know about us. Various methods for promotion of HCDA were suggested linked to schools, Radio Oxford etc. All agreed that it was a good idea and Jill will buy the tickets and work on the promotion.
- Stephanie and Angela had been contacted by Jeanne Bliss with regard to Bury Knowle Park and HCDA being more involved with the management group. Angela to follow up with Parks Manager and feedback at next meeting. It was agreed that perhaps this could be a sub-group of HCDA.
- Stephanie reported on the piece in the Oxford Mail about new character areas. The article is on their online site here <http://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/oxfordshire/archive/2003/03/24/NEWS0ZM.html>
A summary of the article is also attached at the end of these minutes. If you have any ideas send them to Steve Pickles at the City Council, alternatively e-mail them to Stephanie who will send them in on behalf of HCDA

6. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 30th April 2003

Room 102, Gibbs Building, Oxford Brookes

Character areas

First published on Monday 24 March 2003:

Residents name the good, the bad and the ugly of Oxford

People in Oxford are being asked to suggest areas which should be protected from over-development.

Oxford City Council and the Countryside Agency commissioned a study, A Character Assessment of Oxford in its Landscape Setting.

The study identified 52 Character Areas across the city, and now the public is being invited to suggest other locations that have their own individual character and special "sense of place".

Those areas listed in the study include the Victorian suburbs of north Oxford, Jericho and Osney, and the historic village cores of Old Marston, Old Headington, Iffley and Littlemore.

The council's executive member for planning, Colin Cook, said: "It is clear that Oxford's unique landscape is worth protecting and we want the public to play a part in this process.

"The Oxford landscape report is a hugely valuable resource and I hope people take the opportunity to study and use the report to enhance the council's landscape guidance for their local community."

The study provides detailed information on how factors like visual setting, views, and the historic evolution of the city have all influenced the contemporary landscape of Oxford.

Each of the Character Area descriptions outlines the important features that need to be conserved, and looks at ways in which development can protect and enrich the unique landscape of each of the city's local areas.

Countryside Agency project officer Christine Tudor said: "We are delighted that Oxford is making full use of the study to benefit local people and their environment."

The report's suggestions have been incorporated into landscape policies in the council's draft Local Plan 2001-2016.

Local groups and individuals wishing to suggest new Character Areas should write to Steve Pickles, Planning Policy, Oxford City Council, Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's St, Oxford, OX1 1PT.

Copies of the landscape study are available for public inspection from the council's Ramsay House offices in St Ebbe's.

While Oxford residents are being asked to nominate the "character" areas

they would like to protect, there are parts of the city some would rather not keep.