

Headington Committee for Development Action (HCDA)

Minutes for meeting on 25th July 2007, 19h00, Oxford Brookes, Gipsy Lane

Present

James Bloice-Smith
Jill Cummings
Marion Fiddes
Tim Field
Mary Hope
Janet Isaac
Stephanie Jenkins
Tony Joyce
David Rundle
Charles Young
Stella Welford

Apologies from

Angela Cristofoli
Marie Vickers

James welcomed Tim Field as Becky Harty's successor representing Oxford Brookes.

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 30.05.07

Minutes approved and signed by James.

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

Charges for the use of Bury Knowle Park - James reported that the City Council had charged £30 for the use of the park for services.

Streets for People and Subway Celebration Party - Tony reported that it is going ahead on 22nd September, and arrangements need to be made for the party at the subway if sufficient help is forthcoming. Janet reported that bags left outside charity shops had been moved to the subway. David will get in touch with Dave Walker: the subway needs to be cleaned thoroughly immediately before 22nd September, and Janet will talk to the managers of the charity shops she has not already contacted about the problem of the public leaving bags outside opening hours.

Play Areas - David said that the Council's report was never accepted and there was no agreement to close play areas. A second report will be prepared for the Area Committee which can bid for grants to keep them going. He said he was keen to keep such areas open for those areas which belong to the Council. Tony asked if local people are interested in creating 'Friends' of the play areas: this could happen.

HCDA Secretary - Marion Fiddes had offered to take over as Secretary for a period of possibly two years. This news was greeted with gratitude. The question of cheque signatories was raised and Stella will remain on that list with James and Charles.

3. Community Led Planning

James reported on the discussions held with Mary and Heather. Kat was interested in a delay in implementing our project because of the need to get it right, and she would like some input from her office. She was concerned about the vision and sense of direction. David said there should be as wide a consultation as possible but for major issues like Headington shops it would be too late to start on this later rather than sooner and there was no reason not to start on this now. Mary felt this was a big job and we would require funding for someone to take it forward. James suggested a modular approach to do with the shops and build up in stages. Tony agreed the various projects could be linked with one major approach and one follow up with which David agreed and it is necessary to look at things in the round. It would not necessarily be the case that Kat would work with Headington next. It is possible there might be money available next year from the Area Committee budget but an application needs to be made soon. The project could be supported by the Area Coordinator's office. Jill suggested asking Brookes for help similar to the project they worked on some years ago. A questionnaire needs to be designed which a student could do, including how do people want Headington to look in 2017, what are the dangers, what are the key achievements – similar to a local plan: who should the

form go to and what do we want to get out of this. Jill then suggested Ruskin might help. Tim said someone should go to Brookes to talk about the project, and he will talk to people in the Business, Planning and Environment departments to ask if the same students could work on the whole project and Jill suggested he might find out whether money from Brookes could be available. Marion suggested a list of questions should be considered during the summer break. David said he would be happy to be involved with a group to create the first document. Mary suggested producing this document before the next meeting, the group therefore needs to be David, James, Mary and Heather, and James said he needs a 'driver', and the area to be covered should be discussed in the paper to be prepared.

4. OX3 Guide

Mary and James had met and discussed the possible new edition. Funding is needed through advertisements. Mary handed round a questionnaire to ask people what they thought about the current edition which couldn't have been done with Stephanie's knowledge. Mary has been in touch with the advertisers; all agreed to be included again. Martin Anderson, the designer, should be invited to the next meeting. Marion will email all staff, and questionnaires need to be returned to the Co-op or Mailbox, residents' associations, and it was suggested to the library. Charles will analyze the results.

5. Headington shops and the HBA

James and Mary will visit the shops to ask how they would like to be helped. Jill referred to a piece in the Oxford Mail on Cowley Road about funding for an independent investigator from the City Council. David said this should be done through the Area Committee and Jill will raise this at the August meeting.

6. Farmers' Markets

Charles handed round his report of arrangements made for the first market with ten stalls to be held on the fourth Friday morning, 28th September between 8.30 and 12.30. The county council appears to be willing to close Kennett Road at its junction with London Road with residents able to exit from the other end. If the county do not agree his view is that the market will be held. He will be meeting Robert Eadle again. James mentioned the financial risk with the additional cost of 'road closed' signs which need to be ordered. Jill mentioned the cost of advertising by means of 'A' boards. Charles has discussed with Angela and farmers' market boards are notices and not advertisements. David suggested preference should be given to local suppliers and Tony said local people want local organic food and these suppliers should have preference and this should be stressed. Charles was thanked for his hard work in making these arrangements.

7. Treasurer's Report

Charles reported that the sum of £2,500 towards the festival from the Parks department has been reduced to £2,000.

8. AOB

Advertisement boards - Jill reported that businesses had been notified by the City Council that those displaying 'A' boards will be penalized and fined if the boards are placed in public spaces outside their shops. David will investigate the background in connection with these notifications along with the penalties.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 26th September 2007 at 7.00 – venue to be notified