

Headington Committee for Development Action

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2007 at 19.00
Committee Room Level 3 John Radcliffe Hospital

Members Present

Heather Armitage (Headington & District Allotment Association)	HA
James Bloice Smith (Churches representative for Headington) - HCDA Chair	JBS
Angela Cristofoli (Oxford City Council officer)	AC
Marion Fiddes (Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust)	MF
Mary Hope (New Headington Residents' Association)	MH
Janet Isaac (U3A)	JI
Stephanie Jenkins (Co-opted Member - website)	SJ
David Rundle (Oxford City Council Member)	DR
Marie Vickers (Friends of Quarry)	MV
Charles Young (Highfield) - Treasurer	CY

Personnel matters

Sincere thanks were expressed to Stella Welford for the marvellous job she had done as secretary and the meeting heartily endorsed the card and present being sent to her. Jill and Frank Cummings had sent a card thanking the group for the night out together and for the presents sent on Jill's retirement from the Committee.

	Action
1. Minutes of the previous meeting (25th July 2007) were signed as a correct record, with the slight amendment under item 2 that it was the local authority services that had cost £30.	
2. Apologies were received from Stella Welford and Audrey Mullender	
3. Matters arising from minutes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets for People 22 September - JI noted that it had not been advertised nationally. MV reported that the Friends of Quarry had marked the occasion with a traffic survey and advertising "20's plenty". Large numbers of cars were using the area as a through route and this made crossing the road particularly hazardous. JBS felt that it was something the HCDA should foster and suggested an agenda item next March. AC would check the date of next year's Streets for People and reminded members for the 6-week notice required for road closures. 	<p>MF</p> <p>AC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subway celebration party - this didn't happen in 2007 but is firmly linked to the Streets for People event. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play areas - AC confirmed that no parks were to be closed, however funding needed to be found to refurbish or add new equipment. Fundraising was certainly a possibility and DR confirmed that they could be used as gardens if the local community preferred (the NOC garden was noted) and also as play areas for adults. The meeting agreed support for these areas and also to monitor the position. MV invited the meeting to be held by the Friends of Quarry Hollow Play Park the next day to discuss ideas. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-led planning - DR had circulated a paper on this topic and encouraged the meeting to participate in this enterprise, perhaps starting with trying to get an understanding of what the local community wanted from Headington shopping centre (see item 5). He thought there might be the possibility of a small grant from the Local Area Committee on the submission of a business plan and the local media might be prepared to assist, as would the planners. The meeting thought involving Oxford Brookes and/or Ruskin College in information gathering would also be very useful. Various members contributed other suggestions and ideas as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ look at what shoppers are actually doing ➤ investigate what they might want to see in the future that wasn't currently there ➤ study should not be piecemeal ➤ always test assumptions ➤ market forces were crucial (business viability/rent levels etc.) ➤ study should start small ➤ use an empty shop as a focal point (as previous Brookes study) ➤ utilise the web for information/electronic questionnaires etc. ➤ engage with the shop owners and managers ➤ the HCDA should own the process ➤ Shops that might be interested - Monaco/Coop/Brambles/Scott Fraser amongst others <p>(Action: a small subgroup to be set up of interested members)</p>	<p>TF and AM</p> <p>MH</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OX3 Guide - JBS was concerned to make sure of the evidence base as planning for the next edition started and funding was likely to be a real issue. AC suggested an email questionnaire was circulated with the NE Area Committee papers and others suggested using the HCDA website to elicit responses. AC suggested that the Community Pay-back scheme might be contacted for help with street deliveries. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headington shops and the HBA - It had been agreed that the HCDA would support the Headington Business Association as it was able and much of the above discussion on community planning was very relevant. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop advertising boards - DR outlined the current legal position and explained that the recent action was a specific response to a difficult accident case. The City would be changing the process of implementing the ruling and would be willing to discuss the way ahead with the HCDA. There was still uncertainty around the position of private land. 	
<p>4. Farmers' Market update - CJ reported that the first market would be held the coming Friday and that all was in place for a successful morning. The costs of publicity and signage were c. £2,000 and he thought there would be payback in ten months. He asked for volunteers for publicity distribution and the following publicity sources would be used - City Council communications/Press release/HCDA website/ORH bulletin board. (Postscript - see CJ's email reporting on the event - 8 October)</p>	
<p>5. Classification of Headington Shops - The meeting discussed SJ's circulated paper and DR confirmed that the matter was under review with the Planners.</p>	
<p>6. Headington Festival - MH reported that the 2007 Festival had remained in budget but next year funding from other sources would be less. She also reported that both she and Caroline Duffy would only be able to continue for one further year. The meeting agreed that the name "Festival" should be kept even though it was now just one day. Further involvement by schools and other young people would be welcomed. The 2008 Festival would be held the first weekend in June.</p>	
<p>7. Treasurer's Report - CJ reported that the bank balance remained the same as last month but expenditure had been committed for the Farmer's Market (see item 4 above)</p>	
<p>8. Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree in Bury Knowle Park - MH reported that a donation of £500 had been received. The sculptor's estimate for an owl carving on two benches was £1,200 (uncarved would be £350). The meeting agreed to purchase just one carved bench at this time. • Christmas Lights - it was agreed to contact Neil at Events Solution • Membership the meeting agreed wholeheartedly to ask SJ to become a full member by representing Headington Websites. • Quarry Parish - it was noted that there was a new vicar installed. • Apple Festival - HA advised the group of this event on 7 October 12-4 organised by the Friends of the Orchard. 	
<p>9. Date of Next Meeting: 31st October 2007 at 7.00 Venue to be advised (Note - confirmed it is at Oxford Brookes Board Room)</p>	