

High Lane Residents Association

MEETING MINUTES

6th December 2018 8:00 pm

High Lane Library

Present

H Stephenson, I Carpenter, D Williams, A Walker, S Price, Cllr C MacAlister, C Porterfield (HLVNF) and 10 other members

Apologies

B Sequeira, E Hughes, A Sequeira, T Lambert, Cllr K Blair

1. Libraries Consultation

Denise Rankin, SMBC Libraries and Information Manager, attended the meeting to explain and answer questions about the new Open+ technology that has been installed at High Lane Library. The new system is being trialled at 6 libraries and is intended to extend the hours that users can access the library when it is unstaffed. Users need to register for this service but so far only 11 users have registered at High Lane. DR advised that although there are no current plans to close our Library, the current council consultation relates to people's views on the times they want libraries to be staffed and/or accessible and will be used to inform decisions on future staffing and access. The new technology will not interfere use of the community room or use by reading groups. Our Library is an important and valued asset of the village community and it was emphasised that residents should give their views and make use of the new system to help safeguard its future. The consultation has been publicised around the village and on the HLRA website, paper copies available at the Library, and runs until 15 December 2018. The matter is also on the agenda for the Marple Area Committee Meeting 12 December 2018.

<https://consultation.stockport.gov.uk/communications/libaries-consultation/> (NB do not correct the typo in this link)

2. Projects

- 2.1 *Canal towpath maintenance*: the first maintenance session took place mid-November and future sessions will generally be on third Friday each month where possible. Participants still welcome - contact Ian Carpenter.
- 2.2 *Remembrance street poppies*: volunteers were thanked for providing, fixing and maintaining the named poppies during this year's remembrance period, which made an impressive display through the village.
- 2.3 *Former High Lane Station site restoration*: next year's project, linked to the 150th anniversary of the disused Macclesfield to Marple railway (now the route of Middlewood Way), is gaining momentum with work planned for next Spring. HS and IC are meeting with the team who are planning similar work in Marple on 8 December 2018.

3. Village street scene

- 3.1 *Main notice board on Buxton Road*: refurbishment is now underway (thanks to Stuart Richardson and Tomlinson Parbans)

- 3.2 *Flooding issues Hibbert Lane approaching Hawk Green*: this has been reported and is thought to be due to the drain capacity being unable to cope with the run-off from an adjoining farmer's field
- 3.3 *Overgrown hedges*: liaison ongoing with Public Realm with recent visits to properties on Windlehurst. Other problem areas reported are Carr Brow and Hartington/Park Road junction. It was stressed that reports can only be raised where the overgrowth is causing a safety issue to pedestrians or drivers
- 3.4 *Pavement weeds*: ongoing - the council still have no effective solution to the excessive growth of weeds and mares tail on the estate roads, having trialled various pesticides. Noted that the previously agreed removal of mares tail by excavation on Windlehurst Road (near Doodfield) has still not been scheduled. Also noted that the current problems are worse due to cutbacks in routine maintenance, currently evident again in this year's leaf clearance, which will be reported to Public Realm.
- 3.5 *Adverse pavement camber, Windlehurst Road*: letter received from a mobility scooter user concerning safety problems experienced with the new surfacing, this matter is being raised with the council.
- 3.6 *Hartley Woods*: HLRA's application for Hartley Woods to be registered as an asset of community value has been approved.

4. Housing and planning

- 4.1 *GMSF*: a revised draft is expected to be put to public consultation mid-January. This is expected to again include unnecessarily high housing requirements involving release of green belt. Residents need to be ready to respond. HLRA will organise a meeting to agree approach once the document is available.
- 4.2 *Development plans for Disley*: substantial housing developments in Disley are being proposed involving around 850 new dwellings. The impact of this on High Lane in terms of traffic and congestion will be considerable. Representations to be considered and made accordingly.
- 4.3 *Planning applications*: two applications of potential concern have been raised (a) felling of 8 trees at the Cruising Club (apparent leaf fall into canal and encroachment onto Cricket Club) (DC/071639) and (b) Lomber Hey farm 74 Andrew Lane, use of property for dog day care (unclear as to use of fields with public rights of way) (DC/ 071606). It was agreed that questions/comments on these should be submitted.

5. Highways and transportation

- 5.1 *Impact of opening of A555*: several representations have been received on matters including more rat-running on residential roads, uncoordinated traffic signals causing tailbacks, more HGV's using 7.5T limit roads (also signage inadequate and not in suitable locations), more inappropriate use of the designated quiet lanes. A number of actions were discussed and representations will be made to relevant council officers.
- 5.2 *Local traffic and congestion generally*: a Traffic Engineer is scheduled to attend the Marple Area Committee Meeting on 30 January 2018 on this matter. (NB it is not yet known if members of the public will be able to address questions directly but representations can be made via Councillors).
- 5.3 *Community speedwatch*: Alan James is leading this matter for HLRA and has had dialogue with Jane Ash of GMP. We now need 6 people willing to be trained to operate speed devices and

record vehicle details in the speedwatch, which could then be carried out at various locations in the village going forward; GMP have undertaken to provide the training. Please contact Alan or HLRA to be involved. For the record, GMP have confirmed to AJ that the police cannot enforce the 20mph speed limit unless there is evidence of 'excessive' speed. As previously discussed at HLRA meetings, the community speedwatch is a potential alternative deterrent. AJ reported that feedback results from the mobile speed device placed in Meadway have still not been provided but he is in dialogue with Cllr MacAlister concerning this and the future re-siting of the device.

- 5.4 *Air pollution*: a request was repeated at the meeting for air quality measurement on Buxton Road. The increase in stationary and slow-moving traffic through the heart of the village following opening of the A555 is a huge cause for concern and contrary to GMCA's 19-point plan for air quality action. Noted that air quality is one of the HLRA steering team's topics for next year with DW and AS looking at this.
- 5.5 *Middlewood Station*: request made for better signage for pedestrians throughout the entire route from Buxton Road to the station

6. High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum

- 6.1 CP reported on actions since the HLVNF AGM with the first draft of the Plan now having been written and reviewed. A second draft is due 13 December 2018, which SMBC will review and advise upon. An informal consultation based on a summary of the draft Plan will then be put to the community, hopefully mid-January 2019.
- 6.2 CP noted that HLVNF has had helpful input from Sustrans. In this regard, CP alerted members to GMCA's 'Made to Move' initiative which is of interest to the village in terms of alternative travel strategies:

https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/download/downloads/.../made_to_move.pdf

7. Other business

- 7.1 Reported that the street lighting in the Village Hall car park is not working due to what is understood to be an electrical supply fault and is causing safety concerns.
- 7.2 Cllr MacAlister noted that the Ward has some spare 'no dog fouling' signs (not stickers) – members were invited to advise of any preferred locations for these.
- 7.3 Reported that the commuted sums from new housebuilding no longer go to the benefit of local parks and amenities but instead to the larger central parks in the borough. Noted that this would be a significant disadvantage to High Lane in the event of any future development, especially under GMSF.
- 7.4 JB confirmed:
- Santa Tour through the village 11/12 December 2018 (see posters)
 - Christmas Day coffee morning for those spending Christmas Day alone, Conservative Club 11:30 – 13:00

Next meetings:

HLRA Open Meeting Thursday 7 February 2019, 8pm High Lane Library

HLRA Steering Team Meeting (provisional) Thursday 3 January 2019 High Lane Library (TBC)

HLRA Open Meeting to review GMSF (TBC – look out for posters)

Marple Area Committee 12 December 2018 and 30 January 2019, 6pm Marple Senior Citizens Hall