

High Lane Residents Association

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 7th November 2019 8:00 pm

High Lane Library

Present: Exec Committee; Cllr Colin MacAlister and 9 other members. Apologies received from Eryl Hughes and Darrell Williams

Projects and events

Canal towpath: Next maintenance session planned for Friday 15 November.

Former High Lane Station site restoration: Stuart Richardson has been carrying out the regular upkeep. Cllr MacAlister is speaking to Ian Walmsley of Greenspace about providing, or potential discounted purchase of, a strimmer for future maintenance with training so that the work can be covered by SMBC insurance. Enquiries to be made to coordinate our plans for the proposed winter walk to mark the 50th anniversary of closure of the railway line on 5 January 2020.

HLRA AGM 23rd October 2019: approx. 80-85 people attended the AGM and the talk by local historian David Kitching was very well received. David has agreed to follow this up with a guided walk in Spring/Summer 2020, arrangements to be made next year.

Following the AGM we welcome the addition of new key members: David Burks has agreed to join the executive committee with responsibility for communications, further volunteers agreed to take responsibility for the annual Autumn Litter Pick and to join the War Memorial and Planting teams where one new volunteer has already planted bulbs in the grass verge towards Carr Brow. Thanks to all who came forward to support our work either with their time and effort or their subscriptions.

Village street scene

SMBC Consultations: following last month's post-meeting note, attention was drawn to consultations which close next week relating to proposed council spending savings including in relation to street cleaning and library opening hours. Comments/responses to the proposals should be made by completing short questionnaires online at <https://consultation.stockport.gov.uk>

Highway Improvement Programme for pavements: Ian Carpenter and Cllr MacAlister have followed up the concerns discussed at last month's meeting relating to the work not being carried out to a recognised specification, inadequate weedkilling and sub-base preparation, lack of falls with potential for ponding and freezing on new surfaces, absence of path edgings with potential for growth of grass from verges into the new macadam, split responsibility for base and wearing courses. Ian has now met with Kevin Dowd, a representative of the Council's HIP team, to explain the problems but the response has been unsatisfactory; it has not alleviated the concerns and has given nothing to support the council's expectation that the work will be suitable for a 10-15 years life. Cllr MacAlister was asked to ensure that council officers are put formally on notice of our concerns for the record so that this can be relied upon in the future if the concerns come to fruition in the form of defects and safety problems.

Overgrown strip of land on A6 near Middlewood Road: Cllr MacAlister advised that ownership of the land is unclear but Karen Barnes has agreed to arrange for the council payback team to clear and tidy the area, hopefully ready for future bulb planting

Planters: Carmel Sissons noted special thanks to Charlie, Luke, Amber and Beth of High Lane Scout Group for their hard work on the planter on Buxton Road near Jubilee Gardens.

Bowfell/Keswick Road bridge passage: Cllr MacAlister reported back on HLRA's request for the entrances to this passage to be fitted with 'no horses' signs following problems first raised last year. The response from the council is that a traffic order costing approx. £900 would need to be raised and approved, then would ultimately become a police matter to enforce. As there is no available budget the work is unlikely to ever proceed anyway. An alternative suggestion that HLRA investigates the independent purchase of signs ourselves was discussed and agreed as a proactive way of closing this issue.

Housing, planning, highways, transport

Local planning applications: minor domestic only. Anne Walker referred to an application for an access to be constructed onto Threaphurst Lane from property to the rear of Shores Farm, agreed this should be investigated and challenged in relation to drainage and safety problems.

GMSF: delayed; details on the GMCA website. Meantime SMBC is proceeding to develop its Local Plan and we need to be ready to respond to any consultation on this.

Meeting of community groups with TfGM: we are continuing to press the GM Mayor's office for this meeting which Andy Burnham originally offered to facilitate. GMCA has acknowledged this but no date has yet been set.

Greater Manchester Bus Consultation: this consultation into proposals for a franchising scheme for bus services across Greater Manchester is now open and provides an opportunity for residents to have their say on public transport in our area. Runs until 8 January 2020 – participate at www.gmconsult.org. When submitting a response, Cllr MacAlister advised the meeting to also consider the proposed funding structure in relation to the phased roll-out (which would mean that Stockport, and therefore High Lane, would not in fact benefit until as late as Year 4, see para 3.10 of the consultation document).

Impact of A555: Councillors have now met with senior officers Caroline Simpson and Sue Stevenson of SMBC to follow through on mitigation measures in connection with the A555 and the problems of congestion and rat-running. There now appears to finally be an acknowledgement of the problem and the council is indicating that a consultation is to be put in place with all residents to obtain views.

The 12-hour (7am-7pm) traffic count on the A6 arranged with Cllr Thornley has now taken place and reports indicated approximate increases of 25% on all vehicles and 50% on HGV's compared with previous assessments, with the 12-hour count exceeding the expected 24-hour projection made by SEMMMS. Following discussion there was a general recognition that the proposed SMBC consultation on mitigation measures/rat-running could not itself resolve the increase in traffic volumes, however it again highlights the need for better public transport options and views on this can and should be expressed in the ongoing GM Bus Consultation.

Air quality: position noted as last meeting.

Community speed watch: as previous meeting: Alan James confirmed still no response from the police in relation to the promised training programme.

Cycling and Walking Consultation: the Chris Boardman-led proposals for the Greater Manchester cycling and walking network fail to include any consideration for High Lane, stopping instead at the Hazel Grove boundary, which is particularly concerning given the cycleway promised as part of the mitigation measures never materialised. The meeting reviewed Peter Stephens' draft proposal for a two-way cycle lane to be provided on one side of the A6 with raised kerb protection, based on similar layouts used in Europe. Agreed this be submitted under the consultation, plus reference to the dangers caused by the current lack of signs advising cyclists and walkers not to use the new section of the A6 around the A555 junction.

Police items

Barry Sequeira advised the meeting of an ongoing spate of car crime in neighbouring areas involving multiple instances of catalytic converters being stolen from vehicles.

Treasurer

Barry provided a statement of the various HLRA account balances and income from subscriptions. The new Lloyds account is now operating and a similar replacement account is now to be set up for the War Memorial and book sales.

Neighbourhood Forum

Janet Burks gave a report following completion of HLVNF's formal Reg 14 consultation, with 114 responses received (59 individual and 12 organisations). These are now being collated and reviewed and a summary will be available in December. HLVNF have their AGM on Saturday 23 November 2019 at 2pm to 3pm at High Lane Village Hall, all welcome. Janet thanked HLRA on behalf of the Forum for their support in the latest round of consultations and for including a slot for the Forum at the AGM.

Other Business

1. HLRA will support the Cub Scouts in achieving their conservation badge: agreed that the cubs can plant shrubs in agreed locations on the restored High Lane Station Site – Ian to liaise with Anne Roberts
2. Friends of High Lane Park's Santa Dash takes place this year at 9:30 on 18 December 2019
3. Peter Howard noted a neighbour's suggestion for a future project for planting the name 'High Lane' in the grass bank along the steps from Buxton Road down to the canal towpath: to be discussed for next year.

Next meetings:

HLRA Open Meeting: **5th December 2019**, 8pm High Lane Library

High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum AGM: 23rd November 2019, 2pm High Lane Village Hall

Marple Area Committee meets next on 11th December 2019, 6pm Marple Senior Citizens Hall