



GENERAL MEETING

Monday 21st February at 7pm at The Unity Centre

In attendance: committee members - Susan, April, Carl, Julie; other members - Dave, Colin, Colin, Peter, Andy B and Harry; Councillors - Paul (LTC), James (SC), Janet (ESC), Andy P (LTC)

Apologies: Keith (Cllr), Aly (HAZ), Darren and John

1. Chair's report back on issues arising

- a) Susan gave a report back from the meeting with **Tim Passmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner** as well as more local Police. She said we raised many issues and this meant that we were more likely to be taken seriously in future. Harry wondered if we are supposed to inform him of further issues - having reviewed the minutes of that meeting Tim Passmore's advice was to report crime generally using 999 if necessary (otherwise 101 or online) and to do so even after the event [emphasising that extra funding will only come if there is evidence that we need it 'so report it']. There is a new community PO, MEC group should get in touch.
- b) Susan and April also met with **Peter Aldous MP** about crime and ASB in our area; it was a good meeting. He had read the Minutes and was prepared to take up issues on our behalf - including contacting other HAZ about dealing with ASB and the effects on businesses.
- c) One reply so far from Lowestoft Town Council about our wish to take over the **Orbit land making it into a pocket park** [Andy P will raise issue again on our behalf].
- d) Harry raised the issue of the **Scores**. A lot of money has been, and is being, spent on the Scores but is it better to focus on the unused land surrounding the Scores and to raise money to restore them into public garden spaces?

Harry offered to co-ordinate a gardening group that would start with gardening the Pocket Park - Cllr James said he was happy to financially support (up to £500). Cllr Andy said some of the scores are being transferred from ES to LTC. He raised issues related to water from the Scores causing damage to the surrounding property and the difficulty in identifying the responsible body. Martins Score is dangerous to walk down, but not sure who exactly is responsible for its upkeep. Is it East Suffolk or Suffolk county council?

Update: Aly says that the scores are Suffolk County and Susan has just submitted the problem with Martin's Score to them via their website.

2. Treasurer's Report

John sent his apologies as well as the finances; these are available on request.

3. Use-it-All Report

- a) Peter gave this report as John was absent. **Use it All** have been collecting at 141 High Street and next one will be 4/5 March, after that from 10th April there will be a

stall on Triangle and on Orbit land/Compass Street. The shop at 141, currently being used for storage and collection, is not likely to be available soon as it is up for rent. Other premises will be sourced - potentially the National Fostering Association building has offered some space.

Update: Use-It-All has become a 'Hygiene Bank' so bring in surplus (and in-date) toiletries, washing powder, cleaning products etc.

- b) Dave (who is still connected with Community Action Suffolk but working on food poverty) offered to help with contacts for community food projects.

4. Traffic Issues in the Triangle

- a) Parking/Illegal Driving: James will arrange Highways Officers from ES and Suffolk Council to come to a meeting to talk to MEC about this. Will inform everyone when we have a date.
- b) James will confirm that the money Keith ring fenced for the traffic bollard is still available for the purpose for which it was originally intended and subsequently ring fenced.
- c) There was some discussion about parking and traffic by shops - whether it is a benefit or not to the shops. Also since parking restrictions are being enforced Bob, on the Triangle veg stall has been told he cannot park his van next to his stall. Something that will also affect the 'fish lady' on Friday. ESC parking officers appear to have stopped any enforcement again after Darren's email. There is the possibility of an 'exemption' that we need to explore for businesses in the Triangle.

5. HAZ

- a) Susan had asked if we could have representation on HAZ board but after discussion with Aly it was thought better to have a 'feedback session' instead (as some discussions are financially sensitive). Susan reported that Aly and herself had already met in December and this should work well. There are HAZ's in both North and South Lowestoft now.

6. Future activities

- a) Triangle market: there is a market in triangle this Friday 25th Feb although there has not been a great deal of interest in this at the time of the meeting. The Thai stall is empty and for sale. The Town Council are looking to purchase 4 pop-up market stalls. The area under the sails is not covered for market trading. MEC group has had no input into the market arrangements.
Andy P will ensure MEC are re-invited to meetings as Harry and Andy B (our representatives) are no longer kept informed.
- b) **Janet will investigate any market plans made by East Suffolk**
Update: the 'rewind' Market organised by First Light (on Saturday 19th March) will not take place in the Triangle Market as requested by the organisers but in London Road North instead.
- c) Social activities / **Big Lunch** / Jubilee activities: the Big Lunch coincides with the Jubilee, we don't think MEC can take on a Jubilee party ourselves but could

assist/join with other groups doing it. We would like to support LTC in planning an event for the Jubilee in Sparrows Nest (**Sunday 5th June**). **We need to start planning this very soon and make it a priority issue next meeting.**

- d) **AGM on 28th March at 7pm** for members, then joined by Councillors and others at 7.30pm for an ordinary meeting. This will be followed by cheese & wine at 8.30pm

7. Publicity and Promotion

- a) We want to put our own notices on blackboards that are on the planters in the Triangle as they are not used and are out of date.
- b) We would like to have more posters, flyers with MEC activities available to try and reach new members - we need to 're-launch' ourselves after 2 years of Covid restrictions. Dave suggested an article in the Lowestoft Journal and would contact them on our behalf (done). Susan has already agreed with Aly for an A5 flier to be produced advertising MEC and AGM on one side and HAZ news on the other.

8. AOB

- a) Matt said there is a **Lowestoft Vision meeting** open to businesses on 15 March at 3pm, email LV if interested in going.
- b) Armed Forces day is on 25 June and an event in Belle View Park will honour a local soldier killed in the Falklands war.

NEXT MEETING: AGM 28th March 2022 at 7pm UNITY CENTRE, Milton Road East.