



GENERAL MEETING

Monday 10th October at 5.30pm at JoJos

In attendance: Susan [chair], April [secretary], committee members Carl, Julie, Cate, John. Also, Dave, Aly [HAZ representatives], Janet [ES & LTC councillor] Harry, Jess, Kevin, Ian & Andy.

Apologies: Keith Patience, Kinsey, Cllr Paul Page, Jo, Stefana and Darren

Welcome from the Chair

1. Matters Arising

- a) Our meeting due 19th September was cancelled because of the Queen's death. We had decided that we would have a meeting every 2 months instead of monthly and change to an earlier time of 5.30pm. We had to cancel having meeting in town Hall due to illness so JoJos kindly allowed us to hold meeting there tonight, so thank you to them.
2. Treasurer: John is stepping down as treasurer and Stephania was formerly elected as treasurer without any objections. John gave a report-back on the accounts: We received £500 from ESS for the Big Lunch in June. We will need to renew our PLI in November. We formerly thanked John for his work as treasurer.
3. The Town Hall: Jess from MossKing gave us an update of the Town Hall. There have been many surveys on the building and many more to undertake. It all depends on whether further grants are forthcoming. There is a virtual tour of the town Hall which people can go to and also a Facebook page. There will be an Open Day of the Town Hall [rescheduled from HODS weekend, this will be the weekend of the 29th and 30th October. Saturday from 10am-3pm and Sunday 10-2pm. There will also be a talk on the town Hall by David Butcher Sunday afternoon. Kate asked about accessibility for the Town Hall. Jess said that there will be consultations with local groups who are likely to use the town hall. Harry expressed concern regarding the proposal that there be a car park at the rear of the town hall. Susan said that the wider issues about accessibility to the Town Hall particularly given the lack of bus route, it would be good to have a shuttle bus, going round in a circle from North to South Lowestoft. Jess also referred to the Fish Project talked about the activities there and how Liz was working with the YMCA to engage younger people.
4. HODs report back: the 1880s weekend was cancelled and will not go ahead any time soon, maybe next year but there are plans to have a 1960s weekend on the southside of Lowestoft in November and a 1980s event in the north of Lowestoft in April before Easter. MEC will liaise with the Seagull who are running the event.
5. Traffic: Susan reported that there has been correspondence from East Suffolk Council about the change to traffic management signs and that the process will be long but hopefully things will start to move forward.

6. Lowestoft Reading project: this is continuing and that Sally had taken the rest of the book pillows that have been made for Reading project. We will look into whether we could have a 'book dispensing' area for children.
7. Gardening group: Harry reported that he is liaising with Lowestoft Town Council so that a group could be set up as a 'Friends of....' gardening group and a meeting is scheduled this month
8. Litter picking: several members MEC have participated in a litter pick with LTC, at Arnold's Bequest. A number of people expressed an interest in joining a group as a regular activity particularly to clear litter around the scores area. We will write to Lowestoft Town Council.
9. Big Green Weekend/Use It All: This was a national event and John and Use it All had a stall at the event in Sparrows Nest Park. A banner was made from recycled materials for the event to which lots of people came and lots of info given so it was a successful event. Hopefully the council will hold it again next year. Use it All have a stall out at the pocket park on the corner of Compass Street and intend to have a stall down by the Britten centre. The days will be the 1st Saturday of the month and the 3rd Saturday of the month. Volunteers always welcome on the dates. Sadly the footfall in the Triangle has dropped off significantly now there is not a fruit and veg stall. John made the point that I'd like to think that use it all not just about recycling but also about wider issues with the climate emergency. John also talked about the new hydrogen power plant which is being erected near Ness point. The marine conservation Society did a survey recording rubbish from particular areas of beach around the country and wanted volunteers for this and for future events.

(Also at the Big Green Weekend were the Met Office about their initiative that people can sign up to - watching the weather and reporting it! Observations can be uploaded to the Weather Observations Website (WOW) wow.metoffice.gov.uk to find out more.

10. Cycling: Susan spoke to someone from 'Cycling UK' and 'The Way To Go' Suffolk County Council team about how to support and support cycling and cyclists in North Lowestoft, get in touch if you would like to pursue this with us.
11. Ravine Bridge update: Repairs are now underway and likely to take up to 8 months.
12. HAZ update: Aly reported that has introduced a small grant scheme. This is a new project targeting shops in the High Street which could do with a little bit of tidying up. At the moment they're particularly targeting those properties with plastic décor on windows, at the moment they are targeting shops rather than throwing the scheme open for anyone to apply.
13. Future activities: Firework display? There will be a Halloween market in the Triangle and a pumpkin trail. Our next meeting will be Monday 12th December at the Unity Centre start at 7pm and then have Christmas party afterwards starting at 7:30pm.
14. AOB: Julie said it would be good to do something nice for the Unity Centre or a donation for their support with our meetings. There will be another Quiz run by John at the Triangle Pub on 20th October 7.45pm. Kevin told us about a ghost walk he runs and it's a good way of getting people up to the old part of town. Cate said she has been contacting East England Coop asking them if they will open a shop in our end of town, and urged others to do the same.

Next meeting: Monday 12th December at the Unity Centre start at 7pm and then have Christmas party afterwards starting at 7:30pm