

Supported by

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Havant Town Centre Partnership Board

Meeting notes

Monday 13 May 2024, 5 - 6:30pm
Garden Room, ground floor, The Pallant

In attendance

Fi Baxter -The Spring Arts Centre
Rob Fryer - The Meridian Centre
Cristian Preda - The Coffee Lounge
Shelley Saunders - St Faiths
Ann Buckley - Resident
Peter Hammond - Civic Society & Spring Arts Centre
Bob Comlay - Civic Society
Loaay Ahmed - Resident
Louise Piper - Resident
Cllr Phil Munday

Apologies

Clare Gilbert - Nationwide Building Society
Cllr Harris, Gillian
Kate FitzGerald - Resident
Amanda Howard - White Newsagent

In attendance

Layton, Wayne - HBC
Siobhan Flynn – HBC
PC Cassie Milne - Havant and Emsworth Neighbourhood Policing Team, Hampshire Constabulary

1. Welcome, Minutes of the last meeting, Declarations of Interest & Matters Arising

Peter Hammond as deputy chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and there were no declarations of interest. It was agreed that the final version of the High Street Task Force Place-making Report be published on the Havant BC website.

Councillor Munday arrived and proceeded to chair the meeting.

All other matters arising from the previous meeting we were covered in the meeting agenda.

ACTION

- **Publish the final report from the High Street Task Force placing making workshop**

2. Police initiatives in the town centre and reporting shoplifting incidents

PC Milne gave a presentation which covered on-going work to address anti-social behaviour, (ASB) in the town centre. The overall incidence of ASB has improved. The main problem areas are outside McDonalds and Bulbeck Road carpark, with incidents occurring after school and in the early evening. The Police can and are issuing dispersal orders. Many of the offenders are known the police. If dispersal orders are not adhered to the police are able to make arrests.

There is a recognition that shop-lifting is significantly under reported. PC Milne outlined the shop-lifting pilot which utilises CCTV footage to capture the incidences, if an offender is seen entering, selecting items and leaving and a positive identification can be made, then there is no need for the police to make an arrest and interview before escalating the theft to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

There are a relatively small number of known prolific offenders. It is also needs to be emphasised that no theft is too small to be reported and that there is not a minimum threshold of £200 in terms of the value of goods stolen required before an incident can be processed.

The shop-lifting pilot requires the shopkeeper to complete a shoplifting pack. However, the pilot is not without problems, as shopkeepers are not finding it easy to complete the packs and find the process lengthy. For the most part the completed paperwork is not of a sufficient standard to be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

More work needs to be done to support retailers 'buy-into' the process and understand that more reporting, without necessarily completing a pack, (i.e. calling 101 for non-emergency enquiries, reporting on-line [Contact us | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)), will result in reduced incidences in the town centre over time. It was suggested that communicating back to retailers' successful arrests / outcomes would illustrate the value of the process.

ACTIONS

- **Messaging on the importance of reporting incidences, including the myth-busting around a minimum £200 threshold.**
- **Training for retailers on how to out the shop-lifting packs correctly.**
- **WL to speak to Prevention and Enforcement team to increase presence in the town centre at peak incidence hours.**
- **Inspector Neal Harvey to be invited to a future meeting.**

3. Public Realm Working Group

The Public Realm Group has met once since the last meeting and drawn up a list of actions required in the town centre to facilitate some quick wins. The list was forwarded to HBC. Depending on the nature of the issue the responsibility lies across a range of services within HBC and external authorities including Hampshire County Council and utility companies. SF met with environmental services team to go through the list of issues and fed back to the working group the appropriate team to direct issues towards. The reporting mechanism is either through the [HBC contact us page](#) or via the [Hampshire County Council website](#), (a link exists on the HBC website page).

Ann Buckley provided a verbal update on East Street and noted the following issues: that there are issues with wheely bins left on the street, littering outside certain premises and the need to green the street. It was also suggested that the look of some of the empty shops could be improved with window vinyl covering.

It was also noted that Councillor Harris was keen to organise a voluntary litter picking session.

ACTIONS:

- **Cllr Harris to find out if HBC has a policy on wheelie bins left on streets and liaise with Norse around street cleaning & bin collection coordination on West Street and North Street.**
- **Cllr Harris to investigate using CIL funding to support greening projects.**
- **Ann Buckley to investigate a possible scheme and other funding.**
- **Peter Hammond to report all the incidences through the contact us page & Cllr Harris to liaise with the teams to identify when they will be addressed.**
- **Councillor Harris to progress a litter picking session.**
- **Invite Jim Perkins & Sonya Reames to a future partnership meeting**

4. Business Engagement Working Group

The group met for the first time and agreed its purpose is to engage with local retailers within the town centre boundary, with a desired outcome of creating a business / retailer's hub and focal point for communication, utilising websites, What's App, Instagram and Facebook for retail town centre businesses owners and managers.

The group agreed the following actions:

- **To produce a visiting business card to give group credence when approaching retail managers.**
- **Apportion the town centre between the group to then visit each town centre retailer to gain accurate contact details for the manager.**
- **Set up a specific WhatsApp group for these members. Noting that one already exists for reporting crime.**
- **Create a QR code for quick linkage to the business working group.**
- **Send out a specific questionnaire for retail managers to understand their current thoughts and vision for the immediate needs and long term needs for the town centre. Meridian Centre will supply a prize.**
- **Liaise with administrators of Havant Huddle to develop relationship.**
- **As with the public realm group, understand key points of contact in the council / contractors for weekly markets, cleanliness, community boards, on bollard and gate access to West Street**

5. Communications Working Group

Bob Comlay updated the board on the communications working group activity to improve the presence / offer of Havant Town Centre via a range of communication channels. The group have defined the objectives, target audiences, mechanisms, potential content, design and management considerations. It was agreed a standalone / bespoke website would be difficult to maintain.

- **Bob Comlay to continue to investigate linkages with existing sites that have an interest in promoting Havant as an area, such as the Visit Hampshire.**

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 16 July 5-6:30pm location to be confirmed