



Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 29 February 2012

At 7.30pm at The Little House, Ashburnham Road, Ham

Present

Andrew Beedham (Chair), Sarah Perrett, George Walker, Alastair Walker, Chas Warlow, Justine Glynn, Jill Lamb, Briony Rowland, Danielle Coleman, Peter Rixon, Cllr Brian Miller, Cllr Sir David Williams, Katherine Henry

Apologies

Mark Brand, Jean Loveland, Carole Hegedüs, Cllr Sue Jones

1 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. In the absence of Mark, he would be chairing, and in the absence of Carole, Danielle volunteered to take the minutes.

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2012 were accepted.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

- Carole was thanked for organising the clean-up of the Little House, and everyone else for turning up and helping.
- The Applefest had been held at the library recently and had gone well. Thanks to all.

4 Update and Discussion

- ***HUG Events Plan***

- o This plan is in its infancy. The first date is a working group for organising the HUG stall at Ham fair. This working group will meet at the Little House on Sunday 11 March at 2pm and all are welcome. Other plans for events are a HUG bike ride, possibly along the river and ending at Hampton Pool, the Barn Dance, an inset day on Ham Lands, an event at the library, a plant sale at the Grey Court Car Boot Sale, provisionally at the boot sale to be held on the last Sunday in May, and the AppleFest in October. Sow and Grow at Ham House on 13 May and Richmond Fair on 12 May are possibilities. Anyone with good ideas for events and/or contacts who would be useful is urged to get in touch with Sarah Perrett. Chas proposed a Ham Fest on Ham Green. The Seething Wells festival, held recently, is a 'wonderfully bonkers event'. Jill Lamb is to put Chas in touch with Robin, who organises the Seething Wells festival. It was suggested that it would be good to have speakers with pulling power to encourage a big turn-out, as with Bill Dunster. If anyone makes contacts for possible speakers at EcoBuild (20-22 March), please feed them back to Sarah Perrett

- o **Action:** All interested: working group meeting.

- o **Action:** Jill Lamb: give Chas Robin's contact details.

- o **Action:** EcoBuild attendees: Let SP have contact details of possible speakers.

- o **Action:** SP: Send a list of the events to the wider HUG list, including those without dates as yet, asking for offers to help.

- **The Village Plan**
 - o David Williams reported that there is an uplift scheme for Ham Close, mainly comprising building improvements. Ham is number three on the list. Andrew emailed Pam Fleming about the Village Plan. She said there has been no pilot project as yet. Drafts are now being done as a vision for each area. Because of the upcoming mayoral elections, 'purdah' is in force for councillors until after the elections. Towards the end of May there will be consultation with the public. It is expected that 3 or 4 'Community Links' will be appointed, one in Ham. David is one of the councillors on the All in One steering group, which met last week. There is still no structure in place. There is talk of a website for each 'village' to enable people to offer to contribute, and to see what is going on. There was scepticism at the meeting about how far websites would reach people who are not already engaged in community activity. The All in One survey was six months ago and nothing has happened. Rather than waiting any longer for action by the council, HUG could come up with a specific strategy for each of the 10 specific issues, working in small group. At the meeting people volunteered or, in their absence, requested to take responsibility for each of the 10 areas. The idea is for those people to get those interested together, probably a group of 3 or 4, and develop firm proposals based on the initial brainstorming, to bring to the next meeting. Each mini-group would probably produce 2 or 3 paragraphs of concrete, positive proposals, to bring to next meeting at end of March.

 - o **Action:**

 - o DW: Community cohesion

 - o BM: Education

 - o CW: Energy and water

 - o DC: Travel and transport

 - o JH (John Hatto): Open space and biodiversity

- o JH (James Heather): Recycling and waste
- o AB: Food
- o MB: (Mark Brand): Major projects and development
- o AB: Street scene
- o PR: Employment
- o All to coordinate production of mini-plans with those interested, for HUG meeting end of March.
- o **Action: AB** to email to all the summary of the brainstorming, and also an example of a specific concrete proposal.
- o **Action: CH** to email the full HUG list asking all interested in forming part of a mini-group, or with specific suggestions, to please contact the initialled person in charge of that heading.
- o **Action: AB** to mention the project to the Ham and Petersham Association
- **Core funding**
 - o One possibility is Civic Pride, but a bid should be presented as for a specific initiative. There was discussion about an optional HUG membership fee of £5 or £10 per year. Also the possible financial advantages of becoming a charity, in that case, but also the potential administrative hassle. Sarah Perrett suggested that an annual direct debit from those members wishing to contribute is the best way to keep funds coming in year on year. To thank members and keep them engaged, there is a need to feed back to them with the events and projects that we have accomplished.
 - o **Action: MB** is mandated to draft an email to HUG members on this subject.

5 Quick Updates

- o **Low Carbon Zone II and Street Champions**
 - o Andrew reported that we had been unsuccessful in our third bid, to the Big Lottery. Andrew plans to see Zac Goldsmith to discuss lack of success in getting grants, and the fact that outer London is under-Suburban communities, who make up 50% of the whole population, are losing out. David Williams will talk to Ed Davey about this at the Liberal Democrats spring conference in 10 days' time. This trend will have an adverse impact on the UK meeting the CO2 emissions target.
 - o **Action: AB** to email his notes to DW.
 - o Peter proposed rebranding the Low Carbon Zone with 5 partners and to continue without funding, if necessary, making use of a double-page spread in the Ham and Petersham magazine. He proposed 5 partners for the rebranded 'Ecovillage Ham and Petersham': Ham Hydro, HUG, the Richmond and Twickenham UN Association, the St Richard's geothermal pool CIC and Gaia Education. Tibor was happy to do a logo. Peter thought it vital not to lose the momentum of the Low Carbon Zone. Current funding for the zone is from Richmond Council, the Mayor for London and British Gas. David Williams is optimistic that we may get more money from the council and British Gas for a further period, particularly to employ Chris Hunt for another year. Ours is the most successful of the 10 low carbon zones in

London, and we have a high percentage of households involved. David sees the proposed Ecovillage as a potential parallel project. Andrew would like LCZII to expand to cover food, waste and other issues.

- o Peter explained his idea was a contingency plan in case we do not get continuing funding. There was discussion on dreaming up a scheme and applying for funding. David recommended approaching schools' governing bodies and local amenities groups. It was decided that Andrew, Peter and David should continue the discussion in a couple of weeks' time. News on LCZ: the 1000 mark revised target for sign-ups has been passed, and RHP is now, finally, involved in promoting it to residents, which has had a big impact.
- o **Ham Hydro**
- o The scheme is having to be redesigned because of the weir pool and the anglers, being moved further back. The drawings for the planning application will therefore have to redone and resubmitted. As it is one of the first such schemes these teething problems are not surprising.
- o **Bike Workshop**
- o A second person is now working with Jonathan Rowland on the fortnightly bike workshops, after extra funding was received from the Low Carbon Zone.

6 Other business

- o Site meeting at Latchmere House was postponed. A meeting was attended by Brian Miller and David Williams with the Ministry of Justice. They were initially thinking of putting up the site for sale without planning permission but BM and DW pointed out that this would be unwise. It is not yet known what benefits might come to the community. The sale is likely to be in about a year from now. It was pointed out that the prison had been an excellent source of volunteers in the past.
- o Angela's proposal for the Guides to work on the outside of the Little House was discussed. At present HUG's lease on the Little House is for another six months, but we want to get an extension. It was agreed that the grey gate could be painted. The meeting also felt that it would be great if the Guides could install some 'bees, butterflies and blooms' on the lines of a recent TV programme - i.e. wild meadow flower planting outside the house.
- o **Action:** AB to write to Angela.
- o HamZed: Bill Dunster is going to work on designs which Peter will then pass on to Jean. RHP would need to consent to any new plans and presumably the designs would need to be displayed to residents.

7 AOB

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

29 March 2012 at 7.30pm at the Little House.

