



Registered Charity No. 1099173
www.headingtonaction.org

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 at 7.00pm via video

Present: 17

Heather Armitage	Town Furze Allotments and Friends of Lye Valley (incomplete Zoom connection)
Elsa Bell	HONORARY SECRETARY, VICE CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Patrick Coulter	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – TRUSTEE
Rosemary Belton	Friends of Bury Knowle Park
Richard Bradley	Friends of Quarry – CHAIR & TRUSTEE
Bridget Durning	Community Schools Alliance Trust – TRUSTEE
Keith Frayn	Ramblers/ Co-Chair Market Committee
Theresa Frayn	Co-Chair Market Committee
Liz Grosvenor	ADMIN SUPPORT
Sheila Hurst	New Headington Residents' Association
Tony Joyce	Oxford Civic Society
Viv Miles	Project Lead on Connected Communities
Carolyn Morningstar	Joint Chair Market Committee
Glynis Phillips	Oxfordshire County (Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst)
John Nealon	TREASURER & TRUSTEE
Wendy Vrij	Oxford Brookes University
Lesley Williams	Headington Schools Partnership

Apologies: 7

Cllr Stef Garden	Oxford City (Headington)
Cllr Altaf Khan	Oxford City (Headington)
Anne Partridge	U3A
Sonja Roffey	Mileway Gardens Residents' Association
Cllr Roz Smith	Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry) Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst)
Howard Stanbury	Friends of Old Headington
Peter West	St Anne's Road etc. Residents' Associations & Headington/Marston Community Forum

	Action
<p>1. Apologies, welcome and introductions.</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p> <p>The chair welcomed members to our second Committee meeting since 29 January, and drew attention to the fact that the Executive had their first meeting face-to-face in the rain in Elsa's garden.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 29 July.</p> <p>Agreed.</p>	

• **Headington Market**

Cari gave us an update on the Market which re-opened in the first week of July in Quarry Hollow (QH). Volunteer stewards were recruited to ensure that the environment was safe.

- On the first day they had 800 customers
- Since then it has averaged out as 550 to 650, there being a dip in August holiday time, which is normal.
- To compare with East Oxford Market held in Cowley Road, they average between 200 and 400 even though they have 3 times the space and double the number of stalls.
- Cari was very grateful to the Events team at the council for their amazing support
- She also thanked Richard and John for their assistance and hard work over this period
- The new manager, Ewan was also thanked.
- The Committee are now finalising plans for December with the hope that Bury Knowle Park (BKP) will be available so that we can have more space for a huge market running up to Christmas.
- Being closer to the London Road shops would also be a plus, as they are very supportive of the market and the extra trade it brings in to them. In fact the Fairtrade Shop are having their own stall at QH next week and we should like other shops to follow suit
- They did a transport/travel survey of the people coming to QH and discovered that most walk there. 60 came by bike, and only 22 by car (but the car contained a family). Therefore the QH market had not added to the traffic burden.
- As to the future, Cari reiterated that the move to QH had always been considered to be temporary and that some of the committee were anxious to move back to London Road as soon as possible. However, any move had to be governed by what is safe.
- All agreed that the market at QH has been a remarkable success – the traders like it and perhaps future markets could be held there monthly.

Cari then announced that she and Jason would be stepping down as joint chairs, and she was pleased to announce that Keith and Theresa Frayn would be taking over, committing themselves to one year.

KF & TF said that Cari & Jason were hard acts to follow as they had set up the market so well.

The Chair pointed out that the transition of closing down the London Road market and setting it up at QH looked so smooth, but there was a lot of work involved in this and setting up the online presence for the traders was extremely successful which, in some cases, actually enabled them to survive.

He warmly thanked Cari and Jason for their excellent work.

Keth and Theresa Frayn were duly co-opted onto the Committee.

3. Headington Future conversations

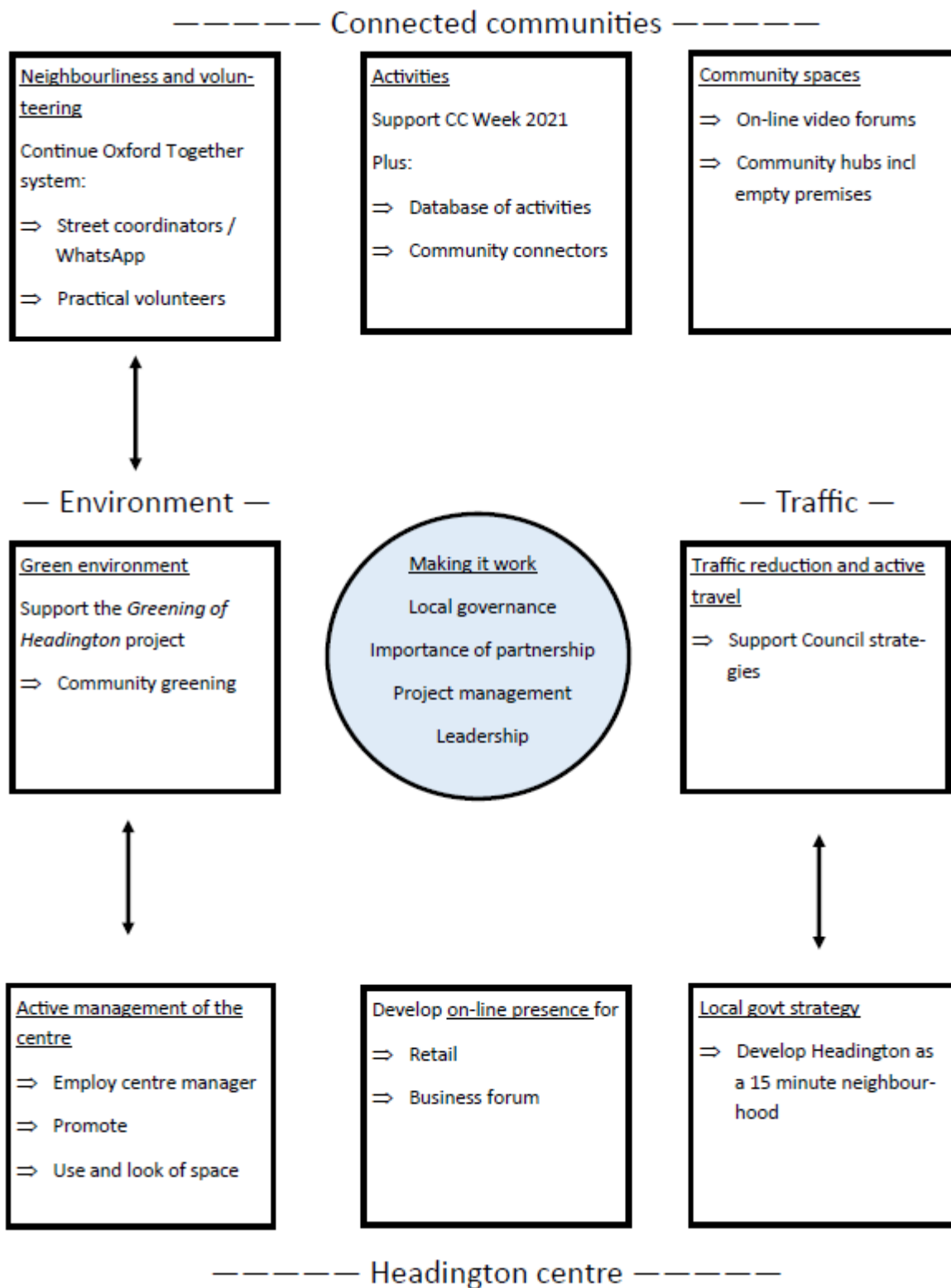
The Chair showed a series of slides:

Slide 1.

Background: learning from the pandemic

- **Identified four topics**
- **Community**
- **Environment/traffic**
- **Headington centre**
- **Local governance**
- **c150 people invited to join the conversations, 32 responded**
- **Objective: produce practical ideas for change in Headington**

Slide 2.



Some comments:

- **Connected communities:** He explained that Oxford Together’s street coordinators support (first box, first line) would soon be wound down and its duties transferred to local groups
- **Environment:** there was strong support for trees and planters to be introduced to the public spaces in Headington

- **Traffic:** The introduction of quiet streets (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) was to be encouraged
- **Headington Centre:** There was a need for a Centre Manager to, amongst other things, organise the use of the space in the centre and promote the shops.
- The setting up of a business forum online (to accommodate busy people) would be a very useful alternative to a business association that has been impossible to set up.

Implement a strategy to move forward with the organisations we have.

There are already a number of community groups active in Headington – these include HA and Headington Forward, and they need to be developed further.

Projects require effective project management, which could be paid for.

We have spoken with Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development) at the City Council, and he is fully on board with our aspirations. In answer to our request he has ascertained that we can use CIL money for more than just infrastructure projects and for design and project management tasks.

Slide 3.

Next steps

- Send out ideas paper and canvass for additional ideas/comments
- Vote on priorities
- Produce plan

Noting ambitions must be tempered by capacity

A copy of the full paper is going out with these Minutes asking for further ideas and priorities, bearing in mind our limited human resources.

Comments from the meeting:

- VM said that taking over from Oxford Together’ management of volunteers would be a huge task as they undertake DBS checks to name but one activity. It could be a full-time job, but the fact that we have street champions and WhatsApp groups already set up could be helpful in the areas of gardening and befriending for example. This could develop structured good-neighbourliness.
- Having Tom Bridgman on board is a big asset and he has offered the services of Nick Twigg (Regeneration and Major Projects) to help us.
- CM was concerned about the social and racial inequality and said that there needs to be more diverse voices in the future.
- GP supports the diversity point and re-iterates that we can use CIL money to recruit a project manager.
- The Chair admitted that a time scale for this has not been sorted because it depended on specific projects needing attention.
- HA would be the line manager to the project managers.
- GP suggested that we should recruit a manager first rather than being driven by the first project as we need an overall strategy.
- PC pointed out that we do have mix of diverse councillors.

4. Finance Summary

JN advised that the closure of the market had made a difference to the finances and had cost us c. £3,000 to close and re-open. We are now making a small profit of £60 per week.

His Zoom connection then failed but we gleaned that the Christmas tree will cost £498, dressing the tree will be £395, and maintaining and re-lighting the existing 6 trees will be £1050. We had £660 in donations last year.

<p>5. Christmas/ Winter lights in Headington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We propose to switch on the lights in the shopping centre to coincide with the City Lights Festival date of 20/22 November and collaborate with them to encourage local implementation of their plan for the City which aims to involve local communities and streets e.g lights in windows and front gardens. In addition they hope to have a mobile light based installation that will visit a number of the doorstep celebrations • Street coordinators and champions will be encouraged to set this up and we can perhaps get Residents' Associations to get involved. • The Festival website will have a "Post a Pin" which will pinpoint local light installations/ doorstep celebrations on a google map. • The public will be asked to forward pictures of their lights to the festival website. • PC pointed out that the Churches would probably be keen to get involved (eg St Andrew's Church lit up for the NHS) • It was noted that our annual event had always included the term 'winter lights' so as to be inclusive of those who do not celebrate Christmas and that this should continue to be the policy • Costs for maintaining the lights in the natural trees and lighting the tree to be installed in front of the old Barclays building had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Executive minutes indicated that that an application for CIL money would be presented for approval by the committee. Because of technical difficulties at the meeting, the committee's approval for the CIL submission was subsequently sought via an on-line vote and was approved. 	
<p>6. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KF raised the problem of the state of the tennis courts in BKP pointing out that other parks (like Florence Park) have had work done. The tennis coaches are very unhappy about the state – the courts are very popular and have regularly been fully-booked. They do not want to get to the situation where they are closed on Health and Safety grounds. <p>The Chair has agreed to write on behalf of HA to the Physical Activity Team at the council to urge them to organise some refurbishment</p> <p>GP agreed to go direct to the relevant Cabinet Member to push for this too.</p> <p>The cost could well be c. £100,000, so well outside the possibility of using our CIL money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Belton wondered if developing a multi-purpose court might be the way forward, but it was thought that this would discriminate against the already large numbers of tennis players. She understands that the council are considering removing the mini-golf. <p>PC pointed out that 6 courts at the JR had recently been lost to new developments, thus putting more pressure on BKP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather A had raised by email the Woman's Hour 'Power list' Award and wants us to suggest Judith Webb for all the work she does in the Lye Valley and elsewhere. This was agreed. <p>Finally, EB paid tribute to the Chair for all the extra work he has put in over the lockdown period – something he did not expect when he took on the role. Not only has he put in many hours on the extra work this has engendered but he has also helped steward the market and had vital meetings with senior executives in the City Council. The Meeting endorsed this tribute.</p>	
<p>7. The meeting closed at 8.21</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting for your diary: 25 November 2020</p>	