

Hanover Action – October 2019 – meeting notes

Present: Simon Bannister, Ian MacIntyre, Les Gunbie, Sarah Gorton, David Gibson, Kristoffer Hewitt, Jackie Strube.

Meeting notes

1. Minutes: AGM went OK and annual report is on the website. Caitríona stepped down as secretary and Simon was elected to this role. Minutes agreed

2. Streets for sharing: Following Facebook chatter and local conversation about increased rat running following the Lewes Rd roadworks, Simon suggested a project looking at 'modal filtering' - similar to the scheme in North Laine, where road closures, no-entry, one way streets and other measures are used to block through motor traffic – but not pedestrians and cyclists - from an area, and still enable residents vehicles and deliveries to reach properties.

It was noted that residents on the 'Top Triangle' also have concerns about traffic management and rat running and may be supportive of road closures

Action – Simon to present more information at the next meeting. Kristoffer to think about the potential for 'play-street' closures in the Top Triangle.

3. Communities Forum: There will be a Forum event at the Community Centre on Saturday around the Neighbourhood Action Plan community safety theme. The findings of the recent community safety survey will be shared with police and service providers to help focus local services appropriately. The meeting was uncertain as to how helpful this would be and Simon will bring the survey report to the next meeting to see if any issues resonate with Hanover Action.

4. Peoples assembly: Following the petition which Hanover Action presented to the council, a group has met to look at how a People's Assembly might go forward. This has included representatives from Youth Strike for Climate, Sussex University, BPEC and DEMSOC as well as Hanover Action. The group has produced a paper which they will be taking to the leaders of the Green and Labour parties on October 16th.

Although the council seem supportive the working group will be helpful in offering advice and will be able to keep pressure on details and process to ensure that any local Peoples Assembly is meaningful and authentic and ensuring diversity and inclusion and helping with promotion and messaging around this initiative. There are a range of outstanding questions about the council commitment, the resources and budget and issues around the outcomes and thresholds for action and hopefully the meeting on the 16th will offer more detail on these questions.

5. Bike shelter: An amendment passed at the last Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee was supportive of more cycle parking and requested an officer report into this issue – this will hopefully look at the current blockage within the council preventing action to increase provision.

There will be a walkabout with council officers on 24th October 8.30 looking at road safety issues, trees in Bernard road and top triangle issues– Jackie will attend to see if space for cycle shelters can be looked at as well

6. Website: Going OK and looks good so far but needs to be finished. Simon will work on it. It would be good to make use of our Hanover Action web domain and Les will forward Simon the details to see if this can be activated and pointed to the new site.

7. Tree strategy: Kristoffer has circulated the draft BHCC tree strategy – it will hopefully give some more momentum to this area, although it is mostly about economy and costs, and may not fully reflect the climate emergency. It also does not reference the need to properly map underground services, which is an issue around tree planting and could maybe be addressed during the 5G rollout. The strategy references the Plant Your Postcode initiative which the Hove Civic Society seem a key player, and it would be helpful to find out more about how Hanover Action could become more involved in this.

Should we continue to raise money for tree planting as we have money already and the trees we paid for last season were not planted due to lack of council resources? It was requested that the councillors connected with Hanover Action could champion this work within the council to see if this will help prioritise this work. David Gibson suggested he may be able to match fund further trees from the councillor ward budget.

The tree which we had planted on Totland Road two years back, but which has since died, should be replanted by the council at no cost. As the council has shown no sign of replacing it it was suggested that we should just get a tree and plant it ourselves, which should be doable at this location.

A Local resident tree campaigner has been in touch on Facebook and is raising money to plant trees. It was suggested that we should have a Tree event as a future meeting.

8. Nepp Trip – The planned visit for this Saturday has been cancelled due to too many other things going on, and a substitute date of November 3rd has been chosen.

9. Hanover Directory - Next issue will be themed around XR and include photos of locals and XR achievements. Sarah will lead on this.

10. Nature 2020 – Simon attended a the Nature 2020 launch, which is about celebrating the biosphere and living coast. Nature2020 aims to actively engage more people in the care and conservation of local nature, supporting people from all walks of life to enjoy and learn about its richness and significance. They are looking for events to include in the year long programme – they don't have money but inclusion could help in promoting existing events – bloomin hanover for e.g. - and give them a higher profile.

11. Date of next meeting On November 19th there will be a talk on rewilding which some members wish to attend, and it was decided to move the November meeting to the following week on the November 26th.