

## **Henra general meeting**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Number of people present; 46 members of Henra.

Apologies: Bobbie Dove

Meeting chaired by John Lambon with Chris Robin as secretary

**Police update** – not in attendance

### **Leader of Bournemouth Borough Council, Cllr John Beesley gave a presentation on the Local Government Reorganisation.**

(He has given a soft copy of his presentation, which should be read in conjunction with these minutes).

After the presentation he took questions:

Q. Name of the new council?

A. Currently known as 'Bournemouth Christchurch Poole' – still to be decided.

Q. Why did Christchurch oppose, and what happens now?

A. Once the decision is made in Parliament the change will become Law, and Christchurch will have no choice. They are working on the Joint committee.

Q. Will the number of Councillors be reduced?

A. Currently 125 Councillors in BCP, which is too many. There will be a review of Ward boundaries – the Boundary Commission sets the rules. Most Wards will reduce from 3 to 2 Councillors. 25% of Councillors do not stand for re-election, so there will be natural wastage. Local elections in May 2019 will deliver.

Q. Will the Council Tax Harmonisation re-band properties?

A. No, re-banding is a government department responsibility. No resident of BCP will be disadvantaged in the process.

Q. Will there be staff redundancies?

A. The upper level of council staffing will be cut; each council has a separate set of top level management, and only one will be needed. Bournemouth has already cut staff in recent years, and in groups such as social workers there is no room for further cuts. Where there are redundancies most will be voluntary with few compulsory. The cost of reorganisation will be £25M, but will recoupe £100M in the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 years.

Q. What are the Shadow Authority & Executive, and what is their structure?

A. The Joint Committee has been set up proportional to population with 16 Councillors (Bournemouth 8, Christchurch 2, Poole 6). The 16 have been put forward by Council Leaders. The Committee is led by Janet Walton of Poole. The same process is to be used for the Executive. The Shadow Authority will make legally binding decisions.

Q. What are the plans for Town Hall buildings?

A. There are no plans to build a new building to house the new Council, and no-one is contemplating such a foolish way to spend money. Most lease hold properties were got rid of several years ago with a new 'Office accommodation strategy', allowing hot-desking, flexible working and working from home. We will prefer freehold over leasehold.

Q. If someone works from home will they be paid for use of their property?

A. This depends on their contract.

Q. Do the plans for future staffing take in to account the housing targets set by government, with the associated population increase – possibly another 75,000?

A. Bournemouth has met its housing targets of 1500 units per year. We aim to protect the green belt and use it for recreation etc. This means development must be in the town centre – build upwards! The targets of course put a strain on local infrastructure; surgeries, hospitals, schools – the major concern is hospitals. To cope with the run on of these targets in 10 - 15 years new ways must be found to accommodate the increased population.

Councillor Beesley was given a round of thanks for his most informative presentation.

### **Councillor update**

Councillor Lawton briefed the meeting and took questions:

1. This year marks 50 years of the Hengistbury Head Land Train started by Joyce Ferris; there is an exhibition at the Visitor Centre. The train service is now run by the Council.

2. An update on the Tuckton roundabout works was given. The specific detail is now overtaken by events. During the works Tesco have been asked to alter delivery times from the normal 10:00 – 15:00 to 06:00-06:300 and after 19:00. The short stretch of road between the roundabout and Tesco will be closed for 4 weeks in July.

Q. Why can't the contractors hours be extended?

A. This would cost too much.

3. Contractors have been unable to lay the resin top surface on the cycle path along Wick Lane. The material needs a minimum of 5 deg C with no rain. The track linking the new path and the ferry will be worked on with added gravel.

4. Broadwaters. McCarthy & Stone have purchased the site, and have submitted a pre-application enquiry. No formal planning application has yet been submitted.

5. Caravan park. No update.

**Matters Arising**

1. D1 bus. A bus service will still be in place and will replicate the old 33 bus service.

Next meeting will be the AGM, to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**AOB**

Bournemouth Marathon 6 & 7 Oct. A temporary traffic order will be in place with similar traffic closures as in previous years.