



HENGISTBURY HEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (HENRA)

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7 pm.

Committee members present: Abigail McMullen (Chair), Colin Baker (Secretary), Nick Clarke (Treasurer), Max Buttinger, Deborah Bergson, Hilary Baker, Sean McMullen, David Freed, Ray Hatchard

Apologies: Stuart Dickie (Vice Chair), Pat Butler

Attendance: Over 120 people in St. Nicholas' hall

Post meeting note from the Secretary: *Apologies to those who had to stand or found the room uncomfortable. With permission from the PCC, all future HENRA open meetings and our AGM will be held in the church itself, which has a greater capacity, better presentation equipment and more comfortable seating.*

If (as we hope) our numbers continue to increase, we will also have the option of opening the large double doors onto the hall with overflow seating where people can still see the presentations. The sound will be relayed to the hall to ensure everyone can hear the presentations, questions and answers clearly.

1. Opening remarks from Abi McMullen, HENRA Chair

The Committee has been in place since 27 December 23 and Abi gave an update on the activity in the last 43 days.

Two committee meetings have been held with 2 further meetings already in the diary.

Dates set for Members meetings and the AGM, up until May 2024.

Advised stakeholders and interested parties of the continuation of HENRA including BCP, Greenspace and Conservation Team (Martin Whitchurch and Robin Harley), BH Coastal Lottery, NatWest Bank and we are working on communicating to a wider group.

Control of bank account now completed.

Control of web domain and updated website has been published – thanks to David Freed.

Working on creating a new membership list – asked members to remember to update their details on the website, or catch David at the end.

The Committee will continue to use the existing email distribution list for the time being but will switch over to only those registered for email updates, voting rights etc in the future.

Public Liability Insurance purchased for the year.

New logo design.

Continued work on a new constitution which will be circulated in advance of the AGM in anticipation of it being approved by the members at the AGM.

Continuing to work on the transfer of assets and historical data from the previous administration, will provide another update at the March meeting.

2. Local police update, Annette Long PCSO 6754

Annette, who has served the local area for 19 years, kindly attended the meeting to provide an update on policing issues in Southbourne, Hengistbury Head and Wick.

2.1 Anti-social behaviour in and around Seafeld Gardens. The police are aware of resident's concerns in this area and are following up as appropriate. In response to a question from the floor concerning a small minority of pupils from St. Peter's school, Annette said that all local schools were aware of the need to clamp down on anti-social behaviour and the issue was not confined to just one school.

2.2 Cars parked on pavements. Residents are advised to report instances to the council via parking@bcpcouncil.gov so that action can be taken.

2.3 Motor homes parking overnight in residential areas. Whilst properly parked overnight use is not illegal in this area, the police do check on obviously unroadworthy or abandoned vehicles. Again, residents who have concerns regarding motor homes being parked outside their houses should contact the council via parking@bcpcouncil.gov so that action can be taken.

2.4 Shoplifting – Operation Shopkeeper. Whilst plain clothes police officers are deployed in the area to deter and apprehend offenders, this is a national problem. In the local area, some offenders are 'stealing to order' supplying stolen goods to be sold on by disreputable dealers. In response to questions from the floor regarding what local shopkeepers can do, Annette said that whilst security guards, CCTV and banning notices can help, shop staff should not put themselves in danger by tackling offenders but instead report incidents to the police.

3. Blue Zones, Sara Glen, Guest Speaker

Sara, a resident of Wick, gave an excellent presentation on [Blue Zones](#) which help people live better and longer. Her presentation will be posted to the HENRA website in the next couple of weeks. In a nutshell, Blue Zones are locations around the world

where people live the longest by maintaining a healthy diet and exercise regime, whilst enjoying a strong sense of community and remaining active into their old age.

Sara was keen to establish if HENRA would support becoming a UK pilot area and if so, what actions should we be taking and what support could Sara offer. Several present indicated that they believed this to be a great initiative, particularly to foster a strong sense of community in the HENRA area.

In response to a question from the floor regarding getting more young people involved in HENRA activities, Sara said that involving young people in projects such as the Community Garden at St. Nicholas' fits perfectly into the Blue Zones concept. Abi McMullen said that HENRA already had plans to reach out to more young people through the local schools to reach the pupils and their parents.

4. Local councillor updates, Bernadette Nanovo and Judy Richardson

Bernadette opened by detailing the precarious financial position of BCP council which is having to address a £44M budget deficit. This is attributed to a £100M reduction in central government funding, inflation and the previous regime's decision not to increase council tax. With only £26M left in reserves, there is a real possibility that BCP will have to lodge a section 114 notice unless urgent measures are taken to reduce the deficit. As a result, council tax will have to rise, and difficult decisions taken regarding what the council can fund in the future.

As several months had passed since the last HENRA meeting, members had been invited to submit questions in advance of the meeting to allow the councillors to gather information to help them respond and these issues (along with additional points raised during the meeting) were addressed by the councillors as follows:

4.1 Southbourne cross-roads car park. Despite most people believing the sale of this amenity should never have happened and that its closure is a great loss to the area, the reality is that councillors have no power to overturn a legally binding contract. The Southbourne Action Group is still fighting to change the outcome based on concerns over the cliff stability.

Several members remarked that we need more parking provision in the area not less, and others questioned the data on which the 2017 decision to sell the land had been made but regrettably there appears little prospect of preventing this development going ahead. One member asked whether it would be possible for the council to change the 'rules' (apparently introduced in 2021) particularly around parking provision, such that the decision could be reviewed, but this was thought unlikely since Central Government is responsible for the 'rules'.

4.2 Christchurch Recycling Centre. Several residents have expressed concern that some of the popular recycling activities (including partially used paint) are being withdrawn at the Christchurch Recycling Centre. BCP is taking over the

management of this facility from the commercial contractors in April so should have more direct control over what services are offered.

4.3 **Street cleaning in Bournemouth.** This is seen as inadequate by some despite £3.74M being spent annually.

4.4 **Potholes, blocked drains, abandoned vehicles.** These should all be reported via the BCP website at [Report a problem on a road or pavement | BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Report-a-problem-on-a-road-or-pavement) or via the local councillors if there is difficulty uploading the requested details.

4.5 **Broadwaters, Wick Lane development.** BCP approved the disposal of the site in 2019 and formal planning applications are expected from the developers by the end of February (for change of use from care home to residential, and the development of 3 houses and 16 flats). A price has apparently been agreed for the sale and a deposit paid although BCP is technically still the owner of the site.

Questions were asked regarding the suitability of such a development on a site prone to flooding, the additional traffic on Wick Lane, the adequacy of parking provision, the over 50s covenant which is understood to apply, the need for closure of the care home in the first place, how much consultation will there be with nearby residents and the financial probity of agreeing a price several years before planning is approved. The concern of residents was noted by the councillors and will be taken back to the Head of Estates at BCP. HENRA will publish details of the planning applications once submitted so members can formally have their say on the suitability of the proposed development.

Although the Echo reported that Broadwaters was on a list of possible sites being assessed by BCP for a possible travellers site is no longer under consideration. On a positive note, one member observed that despite the very real concerns felt by many, a tasteful and appropriately sized development would be beneficial to the area and certainly far better than the current site which has remained derelict for many years.

4.6 **Mundeford Sandspit Jetty.** This is now a BCP priority project with the tender process underway to appoint a contractor with a view to starting this work in May. Obviously, this delay is disappointing, but it has taken a while to gain the necessary approvals due to the location being close to a SSSI. Beach hut owners and the Beach House café business are being kept informed and those with parking permits for Mundeford Quay can apply to BCP for them to be valid at the Hungry Hiker car park whilst the work is being carried out.

4.7 **Holloway's Dock Bridge.** A replacement plan for the timber footbridge which was badly damaged during the storms is being developed but this will take some time as the area has Iron Age Dock Status, is in an SSSI and is subject to the

oversight of Natural England. Apparently simply replacing the damaged wooden footbridge on a like for like basis is not possible. HENRA has published details of what is being proposed by BCP on the website with a view to potentially rallying support and securing funding since this bridge is used by many in the local community.

4.8 Motor Homes. Further to the remarks made earlier by the PCSO Annette Long, Judy Richardson said that whilst no parking offences may be being committed by people parking in residential areas overnight, the disposal of human waste (if evidenced) can be an offence which the council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team would act upon.

A member asked is it would be possible for BCP to identify a site (like exists in many areas on the Continent) where facilities for overnight parking of motor homes in urban areas would be encouraged, and it was stressed that most motor homeowners are respectful of the local area. Others asked if BCP could designate an area which would exclude the overnight parking of motor homes (like the alcohol restrictions on the prom) which could be clearly designated by traffic signs. Judy undertook to take the matter up with the Technical Traffic Team at BCP.

4.9 Tuckton Parking. BCP is aware of the problems caused by people parking illegally outside the Tesco store in Tuckton and will respond accordingly with more patrols in the area.

4.10 Draft Local Plan. BCP's Draft Local Plan for the area will be put out for public consultation on 20th March. All are encouraged to engage.

5. Closing remarks, Abi McMullen, HENRA Chair

Before thanking the guest speakers and everyone for attending. Abi invited people to contact her by email at chairperson@henra.uk with regard to the following questions:

5.1 How should HENRA decide which issues are important enough to merit a campaign?

5.2 Ideas for priority issues / campaigns for HENRA to take on?

5.3 Could members associated with past campaign successes consider putting together a short summary of the issue dealt with for the website?

5.4 Suggestions for guest speakers / subjects at future open meetings and the AGM?

5.5 Are there any good photographs of the local area they would like to see featured on the website?

6. Date of future meetings

Saturday 24th February: Community Garden Project at 2pm in St. Nicholas' hall

Wednesday 6th March: HENRA open meeting at 7pm in St. Nicholas' church

Wednesday 3rd April: HENRA open meeting at 7pm in St. Nicholas' church

Wednesday 1st May: HENRA AGM meeting at 7pm in St. Nicholas' church