

Hucknall Business Voice Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 7th October 2008

1. Present:

- Martin Leach (chair)
- Tim Beharall
- Ian Rankin (minutes)

2. Apologies:

- Suzy Rai
- Tim Gudgeon

3. Matters Arising:

IR proposed the constitution and minutes be publicised on the HBV website. Whilst reservations were voiced, all agreed that in the interest of openness we would do so. IR to action.

ML proposed publicising rate relief on the HBV website. Rebates are available on business premises with a rateable value of less than £2,200 but business owners must apply. All agreed. IR to action.

ML proposed to publicise Nottingham City Council's grants for Information Security and Business Security on the HBV website. All agreed. IR to action.

4. Feedback

The committee went through all the feedback received at the launch event in June. IR proposed that we do not have the time to investigate individual issues but we should be happy to publicise them on the website. We will investigate matters where we feel there is a consensus in the business community that change could benefit Hucknall businesses as a whole. IR also proposed that our goals should be realistic. Whilst it would be desirable to move the Tram Stop for example, it is not a realistic goal. All agreed.

One of the items suggested that the cost of business rates and rubbish removal meant that businesses in Hucknall had costs on a par with Nottingham city centre. IR proposed that this is a serious allegation and if found to be true should be widely publicised. Equally, if it is found not to be true, we should publicise the facts so that we can then go on to deal with issues that are relevant to businesses in Hucknall. TB to investigate.

5. Parking Survey

ML proposed that we should commission an in-depth parking survey whose objective would be to determine the reality of making parking free in Hucknall. The investigation should determine:

1. Total costs to Ashfield Council for running and maintaining public car parks in Hucknall town centre.
2. The number of parking spaces available.
3. The revenue generated from parking fees and fines.
4. The revenue raised from NCP who now supervise on-street parking.

Parking is an issue that brings strong views from all business owners in Hucknall. This survey must be dispassionate and present the facts. If we are to put forward a case to Ashfield Council for making parking free in Hucknall, we must be in a position to accurately present the true costs of such a proposal.

TB provisionally agreed to carry out this survey. As it would be time consuming we suggested that we may have to pay whoever investigates this. Therefore we agreed to wait until the next meeting when all committee members are present as we feel such costs must only be incurred if the committee agrees unanimously.

6. Renovating Shop Fronts

ML proposed that HBV pay for a sign to be made to cover the window of an empty shop. The idea is to promote this idea which has been successfully employed in Hyson Green whereby empty shop fronts look more attractive. Hopefully we can use this to persuade Ashfield Council to adopt the scheme. The sign would also promote Hucknall Business Voice.

ML to investigate costs and find a property owner willing to have the sign installed.

7. URBED Meeting

The committee reported that the meeting with URBED had been positive and we were happy that they have the best interests of Hucknall residents and businesses at heart.

ML to seek an update about the decision on the proposed inner bypass.

8. Any Other Business

ML said that the main strength of Hucknall Business Voice is its links with local government. In order to strengthen these links, ML proposed that he should try and arrange a meeting for HBV with Jason Zadrozny (Council Leader) and Paddy Tipping MP.

There was no treasurer's report as TG was not present.

9. Date of next meeting

To be agreed