

RHS Committee Meeting

8 April 2025 / 08:00 PM / MEETING

Meeting details

RoundHill pub

Attendees

Dominic Furlong (DF), Stefania Rosso (SR), Christopher Paul (CP), Michael Doyle (MD)
Apologies: Julia Valentine, Gary Jenkins, Sam Sheils, Laura-Kate Roe, Cllr Raphael Hill (RH)

Agenda

1. Greening project - Bus Pocket Park (DF)

- a. Got funding from Brighton & Hove Buses (£1,500)
- b. Didn't get funding from Nature Hubs Starbucks (up to £6,000)
- c. Didn't get funding from National Gardens Community Fund (up to £5,000)
- d. Wood Store construction and installation of planters to happen Friday 13/4/25.
Dom will make and share photos for communication and promotion of our project.
- e. Discussions are ongoing with Clear Channel (which manages the bus stops for BHCC) over replacing the bus stop with a new green-roof bus shelter – decision not until autumn due to their procurement process but it is promising..
- f. Compost secured from Fargro (160 bags for plant beddings), while waiting to hear if we could get Veolia compost – still waiting.
- g. Currently negotiating discounts from One Gardens for buying plants.
- h. Unlikely ready for commissioning gardening tasks to GoodGym next Tues, 15/4.
- i. Call out for volunteers to fill with soil and for regular volunteering soon after!

2. BH Council Weeding Management Plan & Opt out Scheme -

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-streets/streets/opt-out-scheme-weeds>

- a. RH ward opted out last year.
- b. Since, BH council approach changed introducing a “street by street” weeding management scheme;
- c. Action: ask Cllr Raphael clarification about our RH ward status to date!
- d. Action: community action to keep clean from weeds on our doorstep.

3. Expansion of BH council Recycling Scheme & Kerbside collection service:

- a. BH council recycling target in medium term is 35% up from 27% [from last mtg Cllr Tim Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services].
- b. Rolling as planned from May, expanded to include plastics kerbside collection from household “Mixed recycling” bins/boxes. Latest comm from BH council in Jan 2025: plastic pots, tubs, trays, cartons and aluminium foil will be collected to backup Magpie Recycling Green Box service.
- c. Success depends upon residents' diligence in appropriate screening on the ‘dos’ and ‘don'ts’. Mind: mix recycling goes to the incinerator when people contaminate mix recycling. Waiting for more communication from BH council.
- d. Waiting response from Cllr Tim Rowkins following RHS concerns re council's speculative plans of a kerbside collection of food waste requiring its temporary storage in concealed containers for the duration of one day at the Veolia facility in Hollingdean before transfer to Uckfield for processing. RHS position: Hollingdean facility is deemed not fit-for-purpose being placed in a high residential area, despite holding a license as Waste Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility (!).
- e. Hangleton Bottom is an alternative site allocated for Waste Management. Considerations / consultation seem to be still open (?), despite it is unlikely that the BH Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee made the report promised in November 2019 on the suitability of Hollingdean Veolia site. Waiting for an update from Tim Rowkins.
- f. Meanwhile, The Round Hill website has been updated with key points of our concerns on the viability of the Hollingdean Veolia site and status of Hangleton Bottom for [Food Waste Collections](#) as an alternative waste transfer site to Hollingdean. This followed from discussions with Kayla Ente, CEO of BHESCO and a collaboration with Ted Power in extracting relevant information from the joint Waste Plan for Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

4. RHS upcoming community event 2025 (Stefania, Laura, all):

- COMING UP: NEXT TUESDAY 15th April - Weeds and Graffiti clearance 6:30pm - 8pm, with GoodGym runners arriving 18:40 at the top of cut creep <https://www.goodgym.org/v3/sessions/street-clean-up-in-hanover-and-round-hill>
- Sunday 25th May 2-4pm - Plant Sale, Kids' Street Play, and Makers Market
- CHANGED DATE for our 25th Anniversary on Saturday 12th July - 2 to 6pm. Summer street party with picnic, local market makers, music and local folklore
- Sunday, 26 October: Halloween Special 2 – 4pm
- Other community spontaneous weeding clearance initiated by our community?
- Soft launch event on pocket park when all planted, at 25th Anniversary maybe!

- Other Dates to fix in GoodGym diary: provisional 23rd Sept for an Autumn green clearance before the clock changes and when there is enough light in the eve.
- L-K got the 66 names signed off for the closure of the roads for RHS events. Thanks!

5. Green councilor(s) update. Peter and/or Raphael sent apologies, not present.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONs (MD)

- We welcome and are honored that Michael Doyle (MD) will represent the RHS committee on the Conservation Action Group (CAG) to defend the conservation character and raise the profile of our area. Even if it is not guaranteed that our concerns will be taken on board on the CAG's agenda.
- Domenic volunteered to be a named second rep on CAG as a delegate of MD. CAG holds 12 meetings a year.
- Planning application at 7 Mayo Road - Compelling case of overdevelopment of an already problematic HMO. This will be brought to CAG. See for comments: <https://planningapps.brighton-hove.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=neighbourComments&keyVal=SQLG6GDMMOV00>
- MD reported that CAG recommended to refuse planning applications for replacement windows at 58A and 60 Crescent Road (Ref. BH2024/02468).

7. Crime reports, if anything relevant to update (Chris)

- Last official crime report as published on RH Reporter, no breakdown of RH site specific figures from PCSO.
- Speed gun training. Who did it and who else is interested (need 6pp to do it)?
- MD suggests amateur videos to create some evidence on cars speeding up.
- Facebook community reported the theft of vases from gardens/patios. Noted.

8. Treasurer report, if anything relevant to update (Garry via email)

- Funding from Brighton & Hove Buses (£1,500) received.
- Planters $\frac{3}{4}$ already paid to WoodStore, remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ to be paid at the end of business, soon. Forecasted costs for plants.

9. RH Reporter (Sam & Julia update via email):

- Printed copy delivered. Thanks to Sam/Julia editors, and volunteers who distributed.
- Note post print edits submitted by Ted for future improvement.
- Trial of our next summer RH Reporter, first e-edition. Details to be discussed next.
- New volunteer Liran Notik, Graphic Designer
 - Liran created a web form to recruit volunteers for RHS community action. Great initiative but it came up out of the blue on the RH FB Community

Noticeboard. Informal recruitment on specific occasions/events is likely more successful maybe?. Let's test it.

- ii. Liran offered to create imagery for more regular posts on FB > Fab idea. Best to create a photo gallery on our RHS account/drive to be effective.
- e. RHS community events scheduled on RH reporter needs follow up comm via FB >> A: event organisers to take on responsibility, with help from all.

10. AOB

- a. Nothing to report.

Action items

- Stefania: liaise with BH Council Tidy Up Team and GoodGym re green, graffiti and street clearance on 15th April. Send messages on FB.
- Dominic: follow up green pocket park project and share updates and photos.
- Cllr Raphael: email RHS re latest councilor update
- RHS community events organisers to take responsibility on communication duties.
- Sam/Julia/Liran. What's needed for our next e-edition of the RH reporter?
- Liran to create imagery for regular posts on Facebook Noticeboard
- MD to add May road n 7 on the next CAG mtg.
- [From previous mtg]:
- Tim R: give info on compost for pocket park and follow up on the report promised on the feasibility and suitability of Hollingdean vr Hangleton for food waste transfer site
- Julia/RHS: add note about ordering wheelie bins & do not do plastic bottles.

Next date and agenda items for next meeting

Meeting every first Tuesday of the month

Next meeting date: 6th May 2025 - 8pm

Location: 85 Princes Crescent (Julia's house) + Online

Next time:

- What to do with the noticeboards