Hitchin ‘Special’ Town Talk

Thursday 5th September 2019

***Public Comments from Post-it Notes***

* Be bold and make Hitchin a ‘Plastic-free’ town
* Can we get rid of the heavy (mainly scrap) lorries going through the town by building a road to the industrial area asap? Will help to reduce pollution and ill health.
* It is high time the old Hitchin museum (Charnwood) was handed over to the community after renovation. It has been unused for years and could provide a hub for many community groups and activities.
* Please use the expertise of members of the public- by co-opting them onto relevant committee groups; their services will probably come free
* Only consult for a limited period and then DO
* Any changes or improvements should start with the circumstances of pedestrians at the core. Then cycles, then public transport.
* Churchgate: whether refurbished/renovated or demolished, the upper floors of the units should be low cost rented housing especially for the young town centre workers.
* Village-like building style for stalls in the market just to blend or harmonise with Hitchin’s historical character.
* Encourage people to walk to school. A lot of the car traffic at 8.30am and 4-5pm isn’t there in school holidays.
* Transport hierarchy: People, cycles, public transport, cars (Blue badge holders still a priority)
* For the sake of older people, including disabled, wheelchair bound, unstable when walking: Stop people cycling on pavements; reduce the number of A boards and other street furniture which are a hazard to them and mums with prams and toddlers.
* Paint the metal bollards and benches. Give the paint to the locals, we’ll do it.
* The River Hiz is drying up. Extraction at the source should be reduced.
* Reduce speed limit down Bridge Street to 20mph before someone is killed there.
* Slow down and/or reduce one way traffic in Payne’s Park. Perhaps a pedestrian crossing from the Arcade car park.
* Change the colour of the market roofing to blend well with Hitchin character.
* Boots Christmas adverts nationally featured Hitchin skaters. The ad agency photo-shopped Churchgate to make it look decent. Why can’t we do it for real?
* As a representative of ‘younger’ people who commute into London and have young families, my aspiration is to keep independent retailers, sport facilities (pool) and the numerous activities which make the town family friendly and make people move to Hitchin