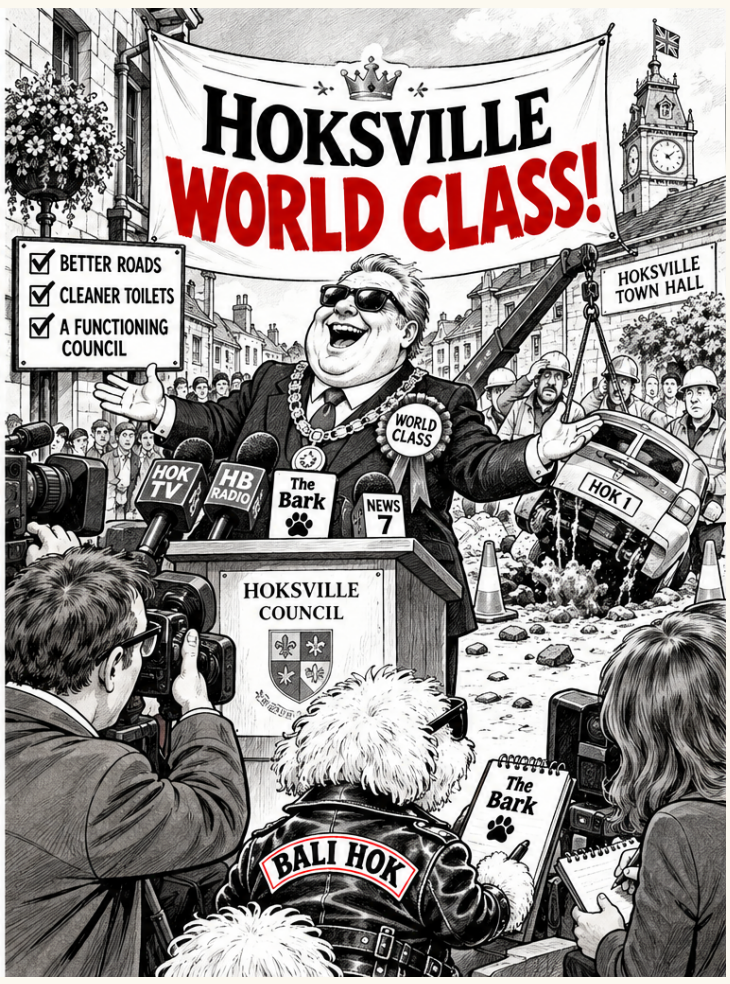
THE BARK

TRUTH IS OPTIONAL. OUTRAGE IS GUARANTEED.

NO. 001 | INAUGURAL MONTHLY EDITION | PAGE 01 OF 16 FRONT PAGE | £2.50 | ALLEGEDLY

MAYOR DECLARES HOKSVILLE 'WORLD-CLASS' AFTER VISITING ANOTHER TOWN

Residents demand to know which town. Council refuses to confirm whether Mayor returned voluntarily.



Bali Hok reports from the Mayor's press conference.

HOKSVILLE IN TURMOIL

HOKSVILLE — The Mayor has hailed the town as a “world-class destination” following a three-day fact-finding mission to an undisclosed location, believed to have considerably better roads, cleaner public toilets and a functioning council.

Speaking at a press conference attended by two journalists, four council employees and a man who thought there was a buffet, the Mayor described the trip as “transformational”.

“I have seen the future,” he declared. “And I believe Hoksville can become a shining example of what a modern, forward-thinking town should aspire to be.”

Asked what improvements residents could expect, the Mayor confirmed that a committee would be established to explore the possibility of commissioning a report.

“We mustn’t rush into decisions of this magnitude,” he explained. “Proper consultation takes time.”

The council has already allocated £48,000 to preliminary discussions about the proposed consultation process.

RESIDENTS UNIMPRESSED

Local residents were less enthusiastic.

“We’ve been asking them to fix the pothole outside the post office for six years,” said one resident. “Last Tuesday, a bloke fell into it and had to be helped out by the fire brigade.”

A council spokesperson denied the pothole presented a serious danger, noting that no vehicles had disappeared into it since March.

QUESTIONS OVER THE TRIP

The Mayor’s ambitious vision has been overshadowed by questions about the cost and purpose of his three-day visit.

The council refused to identify the destination, release an itinerary or explain why the delegation required a hotel suite equipped with a private jacuzzi.

THE BARK INVESTIGATES: Where did the Mayor go? Who accompanied him? And what happened to his trousers?

THE EXPENSES

Preliminary expenses obtained by The Bark include:

£840 — Hospitality and refreshments
£1,200 — Executive wellness and strategic recovery
£76 — Emergency trousers

Asked to quantify the trip’s value, the Mayor replied: “We now know what other towns look like.”

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A seventeen-person committee tackles efficiency.

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Advice nobody requested.

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Hoksville speaks. Unfortunately.

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Bali & Bruce and the Two Auld Coos.

THE BARK

TRUTH IS OPTIONAL.
OUTRAGE IS GUARANTEED.

EDITION 001 | INAUGURAL ISSUE

LOCAL NEWS & COMMUNITY OUTRAGE

HOKSVILLE RESIDENTS IN UPROAR OVER SECRET AI DATA CENTRE PLANS

Mayor insists no decisions have been made. Council cannot explain construction vehicles.

By Gerald Fitzpatrick | Local Affairs Correspondent

HOKSVILLE — A quiet corner of Hokland has become the centre of a growing controversy following rumours that a massive artificial intelligence data centre is to be constructed on the outskirts of Hoksville.

The proposed development, which council officials insist is merely a “conceptual possibility under preliminary strategic consideration”, has already provoked furious public meetings, angry letters and an altercation outside the town hall involving a wheelbarrow.

Residents first became suspicious when several large construction vehicles arrived at a field bordering the town, accompanied by surveyors, security fencing and a sign reading:

FUTURE SITE OF HOKSVILLE DIGITAL INNOVATION CAMPUS — COMING SOON.

The sign was removed the following morning.

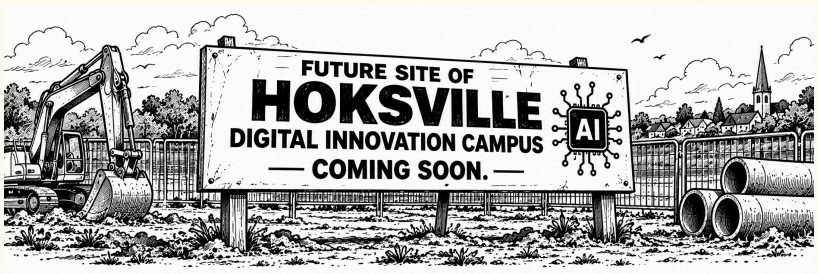


Image captured by a local resident.

The council subsequently issued a statement denying that any development had been approved, planned, discussed or, to the best of its knowledge, imagined.

Unfortunately, somebody had already photographed the sign.

RESIDENTS DEMAND ANSWERS

At a packed community meeting on Tuesday evening, residents raised concerns about electricity supplies, water consumption, noise, traffic and the future of the town’s green spaces.

“We can barely keep the bloody streetlights working,” complained one resident. “Now they want to build something that uses more electricity than the rest of Hokland?”

Another demanded to know whether the facility would require large quantities of water.

A council representative assured those present that the proposed technology was “cloud-based” and therefore unlikely to require substantial local infrastructure.

This explanation was met with a prolonged silence.

A retired electrician eventually asked whether the council understood the difference between cloud computing and actual clouds. The representative promised to investigate.

SEVENTEEN-PERSON EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The council announced a seventeen-member Artificial Intelligence Efficiency Committee. Its first meeting lasted four hours. Members spent ninety minutes debating whether it needed a chairperson, two deputies or an independent facilitator.

The committee has now requested funding for three additional administrative positions.

THE GREAT HOKSVILLE AI SCANDAL — CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

MORE FROM A TOWN ON THE EDGE

COMMUNITY SAFETY

POTHOLE NOW HAS A VIEWING BENCH

Residents have welcomed a new bench overlooking the notorious pothole outside Hoksville Post Office.

Council describes the £2,400 installation as an innovative community safety measure. A local pensioner called it “a fucking viewing platform”.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MYSTERY GNOME SPARKS INVESTIGATION

A garden gnome carrying a miniature sign reading “NO TO AI, YES TO PIE” has appeared outside Town Hall.

The council referred the matter to its Public Art and Unauthorised Ornamentation Subcommittee. The gnome remains unavailable for comment.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

PROTEST GROUP DIVIDED OVER BISCUITS

Hoksville Residents Against Unnecessary Technology held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday.

An argument erupted over whether chocolate digestives should be reserved for committee members. The group remains united in opposition to the development. “Apart from the biscuit issue,” said a spokesperson.

THE HOKSVILLE OUTRAGE-O-METER

8.5 / 10 — RESIDENTS FURIOUS. COUNCIL CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC.

Next meeting expected to address the biscuit question. Data centre questions remain unanswered.

ASK MRS HENDERSON

Gardening. Relationships. Neighbourhood disputes. Unsolicited wisdom.

“Most problems can be solved with a cup of tea, a stiff sherry, or telling someone to bugger off.”

THE FEATURE LETTER • NEIGHBOURHOOD RELATIONS

DEAR MRS HENDERSON, MY NEIGHBOUR IS DRIVING ME TO DISTRACTION

Dear Mrs Henderson,

I'm writing because I'm at the end of my tether with the gentleman next door.

It started with his garden gnomes. He had three. Then five. Then twelve. Last Tuesday I counted twenty-seven, including one dressed as a policeman and another exposing himself behind a birdbath.

I tried speaking to him politely, but he informed me that the gnomes were part of a heritage installation and therefore protected under local planning regulations.

Things have since escalated.

He's installed a motion-activated security system that shouts, “INTRUDER!” every time a pigeon lands on the fence. His garden lights illuminate my bedroom like an airport runway, and he's started playing motivational speeches to his tomatoes.

Yesterday, I discovered he'd submitted a complaint to the council claiming my washing line was obstructing his garden's visual harmony.

Mrs Henderson, I'm a reasonable woman. I've lived here for thirty-two years and never had a serious disagreement with anyone.

Apart from the postman, the milkman, two former husbands and the woman at the garden centre who sold me diseased begonias.

What should I do?

Yours sincerely,
At the End of My Tether, Hoksville

MRS HENDERSON REPLIES

Dear At the End of My Tether,

First of all, twenty-seven garden gnomes is not a heritage installation. It's a cry for help.

Secondly, anyone delivering motivational speeches to tomatoes has clearly lost the plot. Tomatoes need sunshine, water and the occasional bit of manure. They do not require a TED Talk.

Now, I have dealt with neighbours like this before.

In 1987, Mr McWhirter from number fourteen installed a fountain depicting a naked Roman emperor urinating into a concrete pond.

I asked him to remove it. He refused.

So I planted a row of Leyland cypress trees along the boundary. By 1992, he couldn't see his fountain from his own kitchen.

Unfortunately, neither could I see the sun.

A small price to pay for victory.

My advice is to remain calm, document everything, and write a polite letter requesting a reasonable compromise.

Should that fail, I recommend a vigorous application of liquid fertiliser along the boundary fence. Preferably on a warm afternoon.

As for the washing line, tell him it's a protected example of traditional Hokland domestic architecture.

If he can have heritage gnomes, you can have heritage knickers.

Yours in horticultural solidarity,
Mrs Henderson

P.S. If any of his gnomes happen to disappear, I know absolutely nothing about it.

FROM THE POSTBAG

MY HUSBAND SAYS I’M ALWAYS NAGGING HIM

Dear Mrs Henderson, My husband says I nag him constantly. I only remind him to do things because he never bloody does them. How can I make him understand?
— Frustrated Wife, Hoksville

MRS HENDERSON REPLIES

My dear, stop reminding him. Simply leave the broken items where they are, make yourself a sherry and wait. If he eventually asks why the kitchen tap is leaking, explain that you've decided to respect his independence. I've found men respond very well to consequences. Particularly when the consequences are dripping on their slippers.

SOMETHING KEEPS DIGGING UP MY FLOWERBEDS

Dear Mrs Henderson, Something keeps digging up my flowerbeds at night. I've tried everything. Any suggestions?
— Desperate Gardener

MRS HENDERSON REPLIES

Have you considered that your flowers may simply be unpopular? I recommend checking for foxes, badgers and small white dogs wearing suspiciously expensive sunglasses. Should you encounter the latter, do not attempt to negotiate. I speak from experience.

MY SMART SPEAKER HAS STARTED ANSWERING BACK

Dear Mrs Henderson, My smart speaker keeps interrupting conversations and offering unsolicited advice. What should I do?
— Technologically Troubled, Hoksville

MRS HENDERSON REPLIES

Unplug it. I have managed seventy-four years without asking a plastic cylinder whether it's going to rain. If I want inaccurate weather predictions and unsolicited opinions, I can telephone my sister Margaret. At least Margaret occasionally brings biscuits.

MRS HENDERSON’S GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH

“A weed is simply a plant growing somewhere it isn’t wanted. Much like my former brother-in-law, Derek.”

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

FROM THE OFFICE OF BALI HOK

Concerning the Launch of The Bark, Public Standards, Biscuit Distribution and Other Matters of National Importance

To the good people of Hoksville,

It has come to my attention that this town has been operating for several years without adequate leadership, sensible priorities or a properly funded sausage distribution programme.

Frankly, it's a fucking disgrace.

Our Mayor has spent £48,000 discovering that other towns exist. The council has installed a bench beside a pothole. The police are apparently investigating a squirrel.

And throughout this entire catastrophe, not one elected official has thought to ask the most important question facing our community:

Where are the biscuits?

I have therefore taken the entirely reasonable decision to establish The Bark, an independent newspaper dedicated to truth, justice, accountability and whatever else I feel like writing about.

Some people have questioned my qualifications.

To those people, I say this: I have successfully managed a household of one human, several visiting pigeons and a Labrador with the intellectual capacity of a damp tea towel.

I have negotiated complex international agreements involving sausages.

I have personally inspected every sofa in my residence, sometimes from the inside.

And unlike the Mayor, I have never charged the taxpayers £76 for emergency trousers.

My qualifications are impeccable.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

Q: Will the Editor take questions?
A: No.

Q: Why not?
A: Because he has already given the correct answers.

Q: Is this an abuse of editorial power?
A: Next question.

Q: Can we ask about the biscuits?
A: Security!



A WORD TO OUR CRITICS

Certain individuals have suggested that a small white dog wearing sunglasses is not a suitable person to oversee a major newspaper.

I find this deeply offensive.

My sunglasses are extremely tasteful.

Others have accused me of using this publication to advance my own interests.

Of course I bloody am.

What do they think newspapers are for?

MY COMMITMENTS TO THE PEOPLE

First: All residents shall have the right to express their opinions freely, provided those opinions are not demonstrably stupid.

Second: All allegations against public officials shall be investigated thoroughly, especially if they involve expense accounts, missing garden ornaments or unusually large quantities of biscuits.

Third: The dignity of this newspaper shall be maintained at all times. Except Thursdays.

Fourth: Bruce shall be given meaningful employment, subject to his ability to remain awake for an entire staff meeting.

Fifth: Any attempt to censor The Bark shall be met with the full force of our legal department. We do not currently have a legal department. Applications are welcome.

A WORD TO OUR CRITICS (CONT.)

But I promise the people of Hoksville this: when corruption occurs, we will expose it. When incompetence flourishes, we will ridicule it. And when someone drops a sausage outside the butcher's shop, we will be first on the scene.

This is not merely journalism.

This is a public service.

You're welcome.

EDITORIAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT

The Office of Bali Hok wishes to clarify that all expenses are essential to the operation of a free press.

Sausage research ..... GBP 42.00
Biscuit intelligence ..... GBP 18.50
Executive cushion ..... GBP 79.99
Emergency nap provision ..... PRICELESS

All receipts have been carefully filed.
Bruce may have eaten the files.

OFFICIALLY IMPORTANT

This statement has been approved by the Editor.
Independent verification was deemed unnecessary.

THE EDITOR'S CURRENT PRIORITIES

1. **Sausages**
2. **Biscuits**
3. **Investigative journalism**
4. **A nap**
5. **Further sausages**

Priorities subject to change without notice, particularly around lunchtime.

BRUCE APPOINTED HEAD OF SECURITY

The Editor is pleased to announce Bruce's appointment to this important position.

Bruce's responsibilities include monitoring suspicious activity, inspecting deliveries and ensuring no biscuit enters the premises without appropriate scrutiny.

His first investigation concerns the disappearance of six custard creams.

Bruce has declined to comment.

OFFICIAL EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The views expressed on this page are entirely those of Bali Hok. Any resemblance to reasonable editorial policy is purely coincidental. The Bark accepts no responsibility for the consequences of following its Editor's advice.

Issued by the Office of Bali Hok, Editor-in-Chief, The Bark.

BALI HOK

No questions will be taken at this time. The Editor is having his dinner.

THE SPORTS DESK

RESULTS • RUMOURS • REFEREEING CATASTROPHES

HOKS HAMMERED 7–0 — MANAGER HAILS “EXCELLENT PROGRESS”

By Archie Balls | Chief Sports Correspondent

HOKLAND REGIONAL LEAGUE

HOKBURN SLAPPERS 7 — 0 HOKSVILLE HOKS

Hoksville Hoks suffered another crushing league defeat on Saturday, losing 7–0 to the Hokburn Slappers in a match supporters described as “ninety minutes of our lives we’ll never get back.” The visitors arrived with a game plan. The Hoks arrived with eleven players, although this was not immediately obvious.

The Hoks, hoping to end a twelve-match winless run, were three goals down after eleven minutes. Manager Gordon McTavish remained defiant. “We’ve been working extremely hard on our defensive structure,” he told reporters. “And I think that was evident today.”

Asked whether conceding seven goals suggested otherwise, McTavish replied, “You’re focusing on the negatives.”

Goalkeeper Derek Flap was unavailable for comment after spending twenty minutes attempting to retrieve his gloves from a tree behind the stadium.

The match took another unfortunate turn in the 63rd minute when defender Barry McTackle scored an own goal while trying to clear the ball. McTackle said he had been “confused by the direction of play.” It was his second own goal of the afternoon.

A late penalty followed when a Hoks player attempted a tackle with what witnesses described as “a garden rake.” Police later returned the implement to its owner.

“We’re building something special here,” insisted McTavish.

“Aye,” replied one departing supporter. “A fucking disaster.”

CUP DREAMS REFUSE TO DIE

The Hoks may be bottom of the league, but manager Gordon McTavish insists their upcoming Hokland Cup tie offers “a fresh start and an entirely different set of arithmetic.”

Against all available evidence, the club has developed a reputation for cup surprises. Last season they eliminated a higher-division side with a last-minute winner that ricocheted off the referee, a defender and a startled pigeon.

“League form means nothing in the cup,” McTavish declared. “Thankfully.”

Fans have already begun dreaming of a famous run. One supporter has booked a hotel for the final. Another has booked an appointment with his doctor.

HOKS ANNOUNCE TRANSFER MASTERPLAN

Chairman Alistair Pennyworth has launched an ambitious recruitment drive for players with “basic motor skills and a willingness to turn up.”

“We’re looking for players who understand running, passing and kicking. Ideally all three.”

The transfer budget reportedly stands at £47.50, two supermarket vouchers and a partially used Staggering Ferret loyalty card. Scouts have approached a retired postman, a window cleaner and a particularly athletic Labrador.

Bruce is understood to be interested after hearing about halftime refreshments.

DARTS FINAL ENDS IN CHAOS

Hoksville’s annual darts championship ended in controversy after defending champion Trevor “The Trebuchet” Higgins was disqualified for throwing a window handle at the board.

Higgins argued that the rules merely required players to “throw something pointy.” Officials disagreed.

Sandra “Double Trouble” McGee won the final, despite entering because she thought there would be a raffle. Her prize: a trophy, £15 and a voucher for an eye examination.

MARATHON WINNER TOOK THE BUS

Nigel Quick has been stripped of his Hoksville Half Marathon title after organisers discovered he completed eleven miles of the course on the number 47 bus.

Quick insisted he had “maintained an excellent pace throughout” and described his approach as environmentally responsible.

Officials became suspicious when he crossed the finishing line holding a return ticket and cheese-and-onion crisps.

LEAGUE TABLE

POS	CLUB	P	PTS
1	Hokburn Slappers	13	37
2	Sandy Bay Sluts	13	32
3	Driftwood Drifters	13	29
4	Storm Point Pointers	13	27
11	Bayside Bangers	13	8
12	Hoksville Hoks	13	1

The Hoks’ only point came from a match neither team attended.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hoksville Golf Club now requires a witness before members can claim a hole-in-one. Captain Gerald Fitzpatrick called it “a personal attack.”

LOCAL BOXER REMAINS UNDEFEATED

Patrick Fitzgerald has withdrawn from his seventh consecutive bout. His manager says he is “almost impossible to beat, largely because nobody can get him into a ring.”

PIGEON RACING MUTINY

The Hoksville Pigeon Racing Association postponed its championship after all twelve entrants refused to leave the starting line. One bird demanded improved working conditions.

NEXT WEEK: THE CUP DRAW

Can the Hoks produce another improbable upset? The manager says yes. The league table has declined to comment.

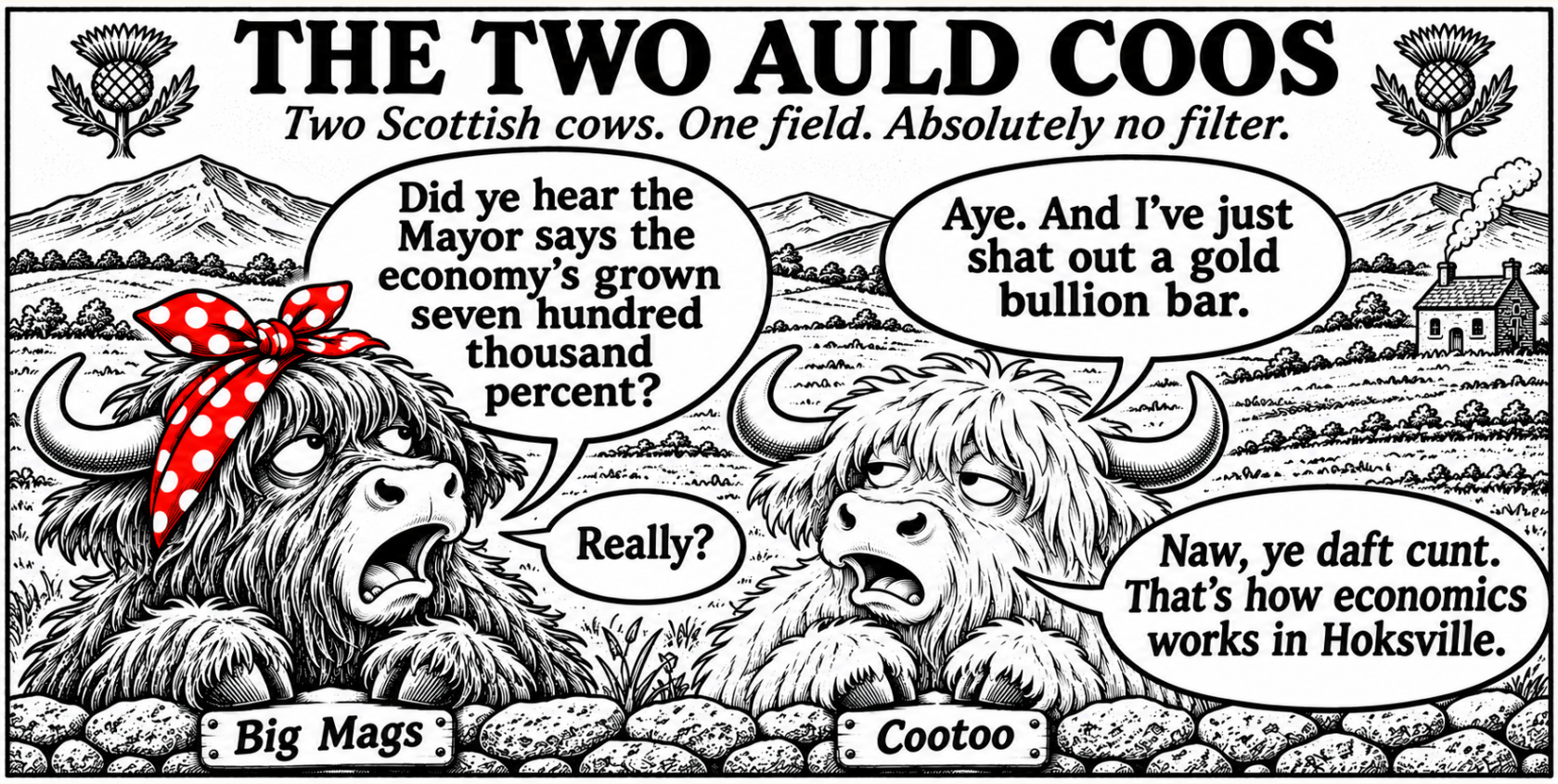
COMICS, CROSS WORDS & COMPLETE NONSENSE

BALI & BRUCE | THE GREAT SOFA INCIDENT

Episode One: The Scene of the Crime



THE TWO AULD COOS



THE CROSS WORD

ONE WORD. SIX LETTERS. ABSOLUTELY FURIOUS.

Not a crossword. A word for when you're cross.

UNSCRAMBLE THIS MONTH'S ANGRY WORD

G	A	B	W	A	B

THE CLUE

A traditional Scottish description of someone who's made you so fucking cross that calling them an idiot would be a compliment.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

The Mayor's spent another £48,000 on a fact-finding holiday. What an absolute _____!

Answer in Edition 002 — assuming we have calmed down by then.

THE BARK DICTIONARY

WORD OF THE MONTH: BIGLY

Adverb, allegedly. Presidential vocabulary. Linguistic emergency.

A completely unnecessary word added when the existing bullshit is not sufficiently impressive.

FICTIONAL EXAMPLE:

·They·re eating the cats! They·re eating the dogs! BIGLY!·

FACTS & FACTS

FACT · THE MAYOR: ·Hoksville·s economy is growing at an unprecedented rate.·

ALTERNATIVE FACT · BALI: ·Aye. So is the queue at the fucking food bank.·

SPECIAL REPORT | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

THE GREAT HOKSVILLE AI SCANDAL

Seventeen experts, three more jobs, half a million quid — and still no answers.

By Vera Nosy | Chief Investigations Correspondent

HOKSVILLE — The Bark's investigation into the proposed Digital Innovation Campus has uncovered fresh details of a project the council insists is merely a "conceptual possibility under preliminary strategic consideration".

As reported on Page 2, construction vehicles, surveyors and security fencing arrived before the council acknowledged the proposal. A sign announcing the campus was removed the following morning. Unfortunately, somebody had already photographed it.

THE COMMITTEE — NOW WITH EXTRA STAFF

Council officials have confirmed that the seventeen-member Artificial Intelligence Efficiency Committee will explore how AI might reduce bureaucracy, streamline operations and improve public services. Its first meeting lasted four hours, including ninety minutes debating who should chair it.

The committee has requested three additional administrative positions. Members subsequently spent another forty-five minutes choosing a suitable name for the committee.

A £18,500 committee logo has also been commissioned. Asked how employing twenty people to investigate reducing council staffing would improve efficiency, a spokesperson said the question demonstrated "a fundamental misunderstanding of the council's strategic objectives".

MAYOR URGES CALM

"Hoksville must not be frightened of progress," the Mayor declared outside Town Hall. "Artificial intelligence is the future, and the future is something we should all be looking forward to."

Asked whether the data centre would strain the electricity network, he responded: "I'm reliably informed that modern computers are wireless."

When reminded that wireless networking still requires electricity, he accused our reporter of "clinging to outdated technological thinking" and suggested solar panels could power the centre at night.

His office later clarified that the Mayor meant "the broader concept of technological connectivity", not the physical delivery of electricity. The nighttime solar proposal was described as "aspirational".

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: THREE MINUTES

Residents demanded formal public consultation. Council says its consultation framework must first be agreed by a working group reporting to the AI Efficiency Committee. A separate committee may be required to coordinate the two.

Meanwhile, investigators found a notice posted at 4:57 p.m. on Friday, inviting objections before 5:00 p.m. the same afternoon. The seventeen-page online objection form was hosted on a portal that had been offline since Tuesday.

The council announced 100% public support, citing the absence of objections. Asked whether anyone had been able to submit one, a spokesperson replied: "That's not what the statistics measure."

WHERE HAS THE MONEY GONE?

External technology consultants **— £340,000**

AI Efficiency Committee logo **— £18,500**

Strategic vision workshop **— £27,000**

Executive innovation retreat **— £46,000**

Promotional signage **— £12,800**

Feasibility study into further studies **— £63,000**

TOTAL IDENTIFIED: £507,300

The council declined to release its full budget, citing "commercial sensitivity, operational complexity and the fact that nobody can find the spreadsheet".

THE MYSTERY DEVELOPER

The preferred contractor, Future Tomorrow Solutions Ltd, was registered eleven days before the contract was awarded. Its registered address is a mailbox behind a petrol station.

Managing director Clive Upward described the firm as a leader in "AI-adjacent digital enablement". Asked whether it had ever built a data centre, he replied: "We prefer not to constrain ourselves with historical delivery metrics."

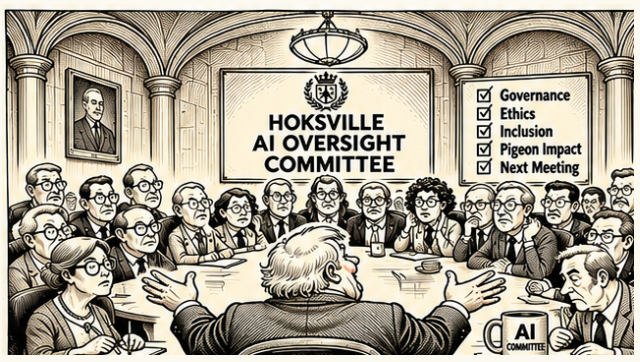
THE FENCE REMAINS

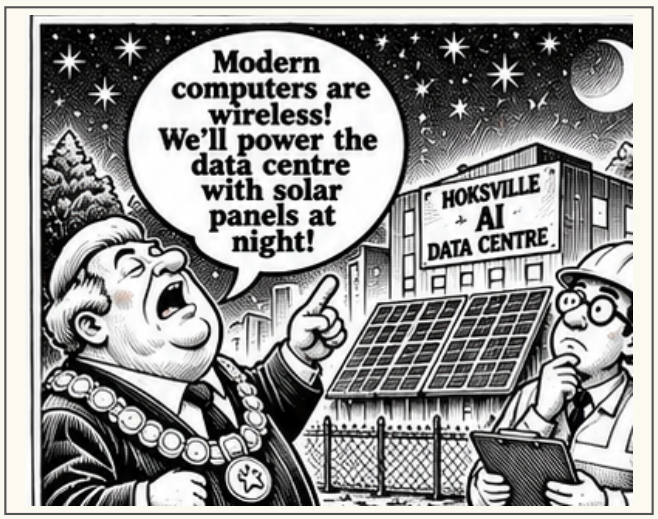
Asked why security fencing had appeared around the proposed development site, the Mayor suggested it might be part of an unrelated agricultural initiative. "Farmers use fences," he explained.

At press time, nobody could confirm whether the data centre exists. The security fencing, however, remains.

BALI HOK'S VERDICT

"Half a million quid spent, twenty people investigating efficiency, and a Mayor who thinks computers run on fucking sunshine. I've seen better project management from Bruce trying to bury a biscuit on a tiled kitchen floor. At least Bruce eventually realises something's gone wrong." — Bali Hok, Editor-in-Chief





INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

THE BARK WILL CONTINUE INVESTIGATING IN EDITION 002.

The council has declined to comment on whether it has ordered any more fencing.

HOKSVILLE: OFFICIALLY DELIGHTED

The town is happy. The Mayor has the paperwork to prove it.

HOKSVILLE DECLARED HAPPIEST TOWN IN HOKLAND AFTER COUNCIL BANS UNHAPPY PEOPLE FROM SURVEY

Mayor celebrates historic achievement as residents question whether anybody actually asked them | **By Barry Bollocks, Senior Political Correspondent**

Hoksville has officially been named the happiest town in Hokland following an independent survey commissioned by the council at a cost of **£62,000**. An extraordinary **99.8%** of respondents were completely satisfied, placing the town ahead of every other municipality. The Mayor called it "a triumph of visionary leadership, community spirit and excellent management."

An investigation by *The Bark* found that the survey excluded residents who described themselves as unhappy, dissatisfied, mildly irritated or "not particularly impressed." Respondents also had to confirm they had no outstanding complaints against the council. Those answering "No" to whether Hoksville was wonderful were redirected to a page explaining why they were mistaken.

A spokesperson said allowing unhappy residents to participate would introduce "an unacceptable degree of negativity." The Mayor plans a **£180,000, twenty-foot statue of himself** in Market Square. The council insists this will not affect pothole funding, since no such funding currently exists.

OFFICIAL HOKSVILLE HAPPINESS SURVEY

Independent, impartial and approved in advance

HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH LIFE IN HOKSVILLE?

- ○ Extremely happy
- ○ Overwhelmingly happy
- ○ So happy I may require medical attention
- ○ I would like to personally thank the Mayor

All other responses have been removed for quality assurance.

THE HOKSVILLE WEATHER FORECAST

Hokland Meteorological Office — Looking on the Bright Side Since Never



MONDAY
SHITE
8°C • Rain



TUESDAY
MORE SHITE
7°C • Rain



WEDNESDAY
FUCKING AWFUL
6°C • Rain

NEXT MONTH: SHITE. EXTENDED OUTLOOK: MORE SHITE.

LONG-RANGE FORECAST: DON'T FUCKING ASK.

EXCLUSIVE: THE MAYOR'S NEXT BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

The council is preparing a "groundbreaking community engagement transformation framework." Details are guarded, but sources suggest artificial intelligence, parking regulations or another committee.

The Mayor calls it "the biggest thing ever to happen to Hoksville." Council staff have been told to order additional emergency trousers.

Full investigation in Edition 002. Allegedly.

NEXT MONTH IN THE BARK

THE GREAT SOFA INCIDENT — EPISODE TWO. Bruce's legal situation deteriorates.

THE AI DATA CENTRE. Who is Clive Upward, and where has the money gone?

THE HOKSVILLE HOKS. Another cup miracle — another league disaster?

GERALD & PATRICK. The smart fridge discovers online shopping.

THE TWO AULD COOS. More opinions nobody requested.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers, Well, there you have it. Sixteen pages of investigative journalism, public outrage, questionable reporting and more fucking incompetence than you can shake a sausage at.

We've exposed the Mayor, investigated the council, defended garden gnomes and discovered that Hoksville's most intelligent resident may be a refrigerator.

Bruce has eaten three copies of the newspaper. I consider that an encouraging circulation figure.

To everyone who joined us for our first edition, thank you. We'll be back next month — assuming the council hasn't banned us, the press hasn't exploded and Bruce hasn't eaten the fucking ink.

Stay curious. Stay suspicious. And never trust a politician who claims his trousers were an emergency.

Bali Hok
Editor-in-Chief, The Bark

THE BARK

TRUTH IS OPTIONAL. OUTRAGE IS GUARANTEED.

Pure Dead Brilliant Books — Bringing the Craic at a Reasonable Price.