

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 19 February 2013** at 8 pm at 15 Shrublands Avenue, Berkhamsted.

Present: Paul Crosland (PC) in the Chair, Beryl Edwards (BE), Susan Johnson (SJ), Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (CTP), Gordon Bluck (GB), Tony Statham (TS)

Apologies: Jenny Habib (JH)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 15 January 2013 were agreed.
2. **Matters arising**
 - 2.1 PC asked TASC members to look at the new style of bus stop timetable panels being installed and give their views at the next meeting. In PC's view, the displays are too small. **ALL**
3. **Planning and Environment**
 - 3.1 Reference last meeting, Minute 2.1, sign at Alsford Wharf, Castle Street, SJ had contacted the Enforcement Officer (James Henderson) at DBC. Mr. Henderson advised that the sign has deemed consent under class 2A (An advertisement displayed for the purpose of identification, direction, or warning with respect to the land or building it is displayed) Conditions are imposed on size (must not exceed 0.3 sq. metres in area) and not be illuminated. The size of the sign is 0.2806m in area and there is no illumination, hence no action can be taken. **Note**
 - 3.2 10 Shrublands Avenue (4/00014/13/FHA) SJ had written to DBC Conservation Officer to comment on the unsuitability of using a 'composite' door in the Conservation Area. Noted that the Town Council had echoed BCAs view. **Note**
 - 3.3 Reference the Tring, Northchurch and Berkhamsted Urban Transport Plan, the content and summary was discussed. It was decided that it was not necessary for BCA to submit comments on the consultation and would wait to comment on more 'concrete' proposals. **Note**
 - 3.4 Reference the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) GB to submit a formal representation to DBC to protest at the punitive CIL rates proposed for Berkhamsted. **GB**
 - 3.5 Plans were reviewed for weeks of 30 January and 6/ 13 February. **Note**
 - 3.5.1 Barclays Bank facade (4/00092/13/ADV).
Decided to leave the action on this to the Conservation Officer at DBC. **Note**

- 3.5.2 Road Adverts on Roundabouts on Chesham Rd/ by-pass junctions (4/00073/13/ADV and 4/000091/13/ADV).
SJ to write to DBC to object on grounds of advertisement, large signs in rural setting, distraction to drivers. **SJ**
- 3.5.3 Waitrose 'plant and flower stall' (4/00207/13/FUL)
TASC did not understand the need to apply for Planning permission, and could not find grounds to object on planning grounds. BE had spoken to the store manager who advised this was a head office edict, with no local control. **Note**
- 3.5.4 Halifax Bank façade (4/00234/13/ADV)
SJ to write to DBC to object on grounds of internal illumination of facades in the Conservation Area, and adjacent to a listed building (Town Hall). Some errors in the Application would also be pointed out. **SJ**
- 3.6 Kitchener's Field astroturf pitch: GB noted the piece in the Gazette reporting that Berkhamsted School intended to take the decision on their Planning Application to Appeal. No further action from BCA at this stage. **Note**
- 4. Transport (including Parking)**
- 4.1 The subject of potholed roads was raised by it was accepted that there was nothing further the BCA could do at this time. **Note**
- 5. Canal**
- 5.1 Towpath repair works between Castle Street and Waitrose bridge not started yet, but still expected to be completed by end-March 2013. **Note**
- 6. Footpaths/ Footways**
- 6.1 Nothing to report **Note**
- 7. Trees**
- 7.1 Nothing to report **Note**
- 8. Environment Award**
- 8.1 TASC members were invited to state their 1st, 2nd and 3rd favourite developments, based on completion of the scoring matrix (see example attached). The result of this exercise showed that the 'Brasserie Blanc' (High St.) and the Castle Wharf Boatyard development received the highest scores.
- 8.2 Following discussion as to the relative merits and 'de-merits' of each, it was agreed to propose for the Main Committee's ratification, the following:-
- a) Environment Award to be presented to Castle Wharf Boatyard development

- b) Certificate of Commendation to be presented to Brasserie Blanc** **Note**
- 8.3 TS to arrange hire of projector, and preparation of the plaque. **TS**
- 8.4 SJ to arrange certificates. **SJ**
- 8.5 GB to contact architects/ developers/ owners to 'recommend their attendance at the AGM. **GB**

9. AOB

- 9.1 None **Note**

10. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 12 March (8 p.m.) at Jenny's house
 Tuesday 16 April (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house

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Environment Award Scheme - 2012

No. Project / building / etc.

Step 1 - points score

Step 2

Step 3

a - design b - surroundings c - quality d - benefit to community

- aesthetics - blend/contrast with "neighbours" and environment - materials workmanship - durability

Total

Rank

		max points	30	30	20	20	100	Rank
1	Berkhamsted Station		14	15	11	16	56	11
2	'Brasserie Blanc', High Street		22	22	15	15	74	2
3	Castle Wharf		26	25	16	12	79	1
4	'Spring Meadow', Shootersway		22	20	15	8	65	7
5	'The Glebe', Chesham Road		20	20	16	8	64	8
6	11 Bank Mill		16	18	15	8	57	10
7	Orchard House and The Old Orchard, Rectory Lane		20	22	17	10	69	4
8	The Paul Beard Centre, Berko Astro		20	20	14	14	68	5
9	5A Castle Hill Close		22	18	18	5	63	9
10	'Compton', Ivy House Lane		22	18	18	8	66	6
11	12 West Road		8	12	15	8	43	12

11	16, 16A West Road	20	24	15	14	73	3
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