

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Wednesday 12 June 2013** at 8 pm at 22 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted.

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

Apologies: Jenny Habib (JH); Tony Statham (TS)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 14 May were agreed following correction of some typo and content errors.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Application letter (dated 20 May 2013) to Dacorum BC to have Gable Hall included on the Community Assets Register was signed off at the Main Committee on 22 May and hand-delivered at the Civic Centre the following day.

Note

2.2 Re: Minute 3.2 of 14 May meeting (SJ's attendance at 8 May consultation to discuss master-planning for the Hanbury's site in Shootersway (Local Allocation LA4). SJ has received draft minutes but will only circulate the minutes after they have been agreed and finalised (after 21 June)

Note

3. Planning and Environment

3.1 Re: Minute 3.3 of 14 May minutes: SJ noted that the floor plans and other documents for the Sheltered Apartments for Older People at 380-392 High Street (laundry site opposite Cross Oak Garage), show that 48no. apartments are proposed, not 29no. as previously stated.

Note

3.2 Planning Applications for weeks of 15, 22, 29 May and 5, 12 June were reviewed.

Note

3.2.1 4/01018/13/FHA and 4/00500/13/LBA (37 Castle Street ('The Boote')): all to review and advise PC of any comments.

All

3.3 SJ noted that the Halifax Bank had made an application to alter their shopfront which was subsequently withdrawn had been re-submitted, with the fascia now non-illuminated and the projecting sign externally illuminated, thus satisfying TASC's concerns and these topics.

4. Transport (including Parking)

- 4.1 BE reported that she had had a look at the new style of bus stop timetable panels and agreed with PC's view that the displays are too small, and confusing. PC to write to Public Transport Unit at Herts CC to complain on BCA's behalf. **PC**

5. Canal (including Canal & Riverside Partnership – CARP)

- 5.1 PC to raised concerns over surfacing of the towpath on the refurbished section (Castle St. – Canal Fields) at the Town Meeting on 16 May. Prime concerns over the cost uncertainties (£86k reported in press, £76k budget in Town Meeting papers, £68k cost reported at Town Meeting by Cllr.Collins; £62k cost established later) and over the surfacing used (compacted gravel instead of tar-bound finish reported at CARP meeting in Sept. 2012). Cllr. Collins had reported to the meeting that the contractor had guaranteed the surface for 10 years and would return to repair any damage caused by normal wear **Note**
- 5.2 PC noted that in a letter from the Gazette from James Clifton of Canal & River Trust (CART) it was reported that monies would be spent this coming winter on repairs to canal retaining walls at Castle Street bridge. **Note**
- 5.3 GB reported the next CARP meeting is on 18 July, when he is on holiday. GB will arrange for Graham Cox/ TS to attend in his place. **GB**

6. Footpaths/ Footways

- 6.1 Re: obstruction to the footway in Charles Street between King's Road and Lincoln Court: SJ has contacted Herts Highways on this subject but had not yet received a reply. Cllr. Reay had advised that there is an impasse between the landowner's insurance company and Dacorum BC's Conservation Team over the type of the brick to be used for the repair (site is in the Conservation Area). Agreed that if no action is taken soon, then SJ should report this dangerous situation to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) **SJ**
- 6.2 BE recorded advice given to her that the footpath from Gilbert Way to Shootersway (FP 17) is overgrown and not passable by buggies en route to Greenway school. PC/ SJ advised BE to contact Clayton Rae, Countryside & Rights of Way Officer at Dacorum BC (DBC are agents of Herts CC as highways authority responsible for footpath matters) **BE**
- 6.3 GB had completed his quarterly High Street pavement survey (of 'his' section). He noted that previous faults had been corrected. This improvement was echoed by PC who noted that the most dangerous faults on 'his' section had also been attended to. **Note**

7. Trees

7.1 TS to discuss the Jubilee Oak proposals with DBC trees officer, Luke Johnson. **Note**

7.2 RE; Lower Kings Road trees: PC noted that the tree at the west end, nearest to the station had died. PC to write to Luke Johnson, Trees Officer at Dacorum BC to advise. (post meeting note: Luke Johnson already aware and has schedule a replacement to be planted in the next planting season) **PC**

8. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

8.1 Re: minute 6.2 of 14 May meeting : TS has met Tim Millard on site and obtained a price for the work (2 alternatives: cast iron waymark only and waymark plus adjacent milestone). General feeling was that prices were a little expensive, but that both items of work should be done. PC has printed-off grant forms and will complete these in parallel with TS obtaining a formal price submission from Mr.Millard. **PC/TS**

9. Environment Award

9.1 Nothing to report. Item dropped from discussion until July 2013. **Note**

10. AOB

10.1 PC noted the request from the BCA Chairman to consider nominees for the Dacorum BC Environment Award as an environment 'champion' carrying out actual work to improve the environment. On this criterion, it was felt that the Chairman's suggestion was not appropriate. **Note**

11. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 23 July (8 p.m.) at Susan's house

Tuesday 20 August (8 p.m.) at Beryl's house (address with next Agenda)