

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 20 August 2013** at 8 pm at 18 Merling Croft, Northchurch.

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

Apologies: Jenny Habib (JH)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 23 July were agreed, subject to some typo amendments.

2. **Matters arising**
 - 2.1 23 July Minutes, item 3.1 - New Lodge development: The Town Council supported the suggestion by TASC (and others) for the naming of the road within the development as 'Townsend' but then 'Gate', with an alternative of 'Saxon Gate'. TASC's suggestion that the flats within the retained building should have 'New Lodge' in their address was also supported. **Note**
 - 2.2 23 July Minutes, item 3.3 - sign at Chiltern Corner, Durrants Road: the new, hopefully temporary sign, has been installed by the Housing department. A new (?) street sign, to replace the one now removed, is awaited. **Note**
 - 2.3. Police Station site : PC to request KB-D to include an item on the 4 Sept. main committee agenda for consideration of what BCA's view on what the use for this strategic site should be. **PC**

3. **Planning and Environment**
 - 3.1 4/105413/FUL (11 Bank Mill – already completed). DBC has rejected the planning application and enforcement action may be expected.
 - 3.2 4/1195/13/FUL (Retaining Wall at Lincoln Court) – DBC has accepted that the re-building of the retaining wall along Charles Street can be carried out in phases as funds allow. TASC believes this is a poor decision which will result in an unsightly wall in the Conservation Area, a loss of amenity to pedestrians and a safety hazard to all road users. SJ to speak to DBC's Planning Department, and TASC may consider an article for the Gazette. SJ also to try to ascertain from Lincoln Court Management Co. when works may commence. **SJ**
 - 3.3 4/01278/13/FUL (Bank Mill Wharf, Bank Mill Lane). SJ clarified that the number of car parking spaces on the application was erroneous. **Note**

- 3.4 4/01256/13/FUL (Bench seats outside new M&S Simply Food store). Noted that the Town Council had apparently not supported TASC's view that the bench design for M&S frontage should not be adopted as a template for future seating across the town's public realm. **Note**
- 3.5 re: Gable Hall – inclusion of Register of Community Assets (Minute 2.1 of July MoM) – agreed that SJ would prepare a press release for the Gazette. PC noted interest from other local bodies in BCA's success. **SJ**
- 3.6 PC noted the arrival in Lower Kings Road (nos. 28-30) of 'Here'. An article in the Gazette had highlighted 'Here's' intention to use local produce and employ local staff.
Note
- 3.7 PC noted that the Planning Inspectorate had rejected Berkhamsted School's Appeal with respect to 'Astroturf' hockey pitches at Kitchener's Field (TASC Minutes, 19 Feb. 2013, item 3.6). **Note**
- 3.8 PC noted that London Midland intends to install lifts at Berkhamsted Station and these should be operational by February 2014 (appears optimistic). **Note**
- 3.9 Planning Applications for weeks of 24 July (this date only), 31 July, 7 & 14 August were reviewed.
- 3.9.1 4/00073/13/ADV: Roundabout signs (Kingshill Way/ Chesham Road). DBC has rejected the Application from Herts Highways to install advertising boards on the roundabout.
- 3.9.2 4/01484/13/FHA: 10 Admiral Way. Application involves small loss of public land associated with creation of disabled access to the property. TASC are concerned at the precedent which may be set. SJ will discuss with Planners how a sensible (and sensitive) compromise could be reached such that the permission could be granted to the Applicant alone, and when the Applicant vacates the property, the land would be returned to public use. **SJ**
- 3.9.3 4/01377/13/ADV: Tesco Metro, Berkhamsted High Street. TASC to object on the grounds of i) the inappropriate number of advertising bill-boards proposed at a prominent site in the Conservation Area, and ii) the proposed internally-illuminated signage. **SJ**

4. Transport (including Parking)

- 4.1 (brought forward from previous Minutes) 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 GB reported that Canal & River Trust (CART) and the Town Council are looking at extending the towpath refurbishment from Canal Fields to Park Street. **Note**
- 5.2 GB reported that CART's proposals for additional mooring bollards in the town are also moving ahead. The retaining wall at Castle Street bridge (south side) will also be repaired although there is no timetable for this as yet. **Note**

6. Footpaths/ Footways

- 6.1 (brought forward from previous Minutes) 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 will contact Clayton Rae, Countryside & Rights of Way Officer at Dacorum BC (DBC are agents of Herts CC as highways authority responsible for footpath matters) **PC**

7. Trees

- 7.1 (brought forward from previous Minutes) Jubilee Oak proposals: DBC trees officer, Luke Johnson, has advised that there are currently no suitable sites available. TS to maintain contact. **Note**

8. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

- 8.1 TS has obtained a formal price submission from Mr. Millard. TS/ SJ have obtained local opinion on the paint application and also decided to seek quotation from local tradesmen. On receipt, TASC to seek funding from BTC (grant forms completed) for 50%, and £250 from Berkhamsted Community Partnership (BCP). Works postponed to Spring 2014. **TS**

9. Environment Award

- 9.1 CTP had circulated the 'long list' of contenders for EA. All to advise CTP by e-mail of possible contenders. CTP to provide TASC with an update at each TASC meeting. **All/ CTP**

10. AOB

- 10.1 None

11. Dates of next meetings

Monday 16 September (8 p.m.) at Christopher's house

Monday 14 October (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house