

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Thursday 10 December 2013** at 8 pm at 22 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted.

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

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

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 14 November were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 14 Nov. Minutes, item 3.2 – s.106: GB has made contact with Marc Howard and has opened e-mail dialogue. **Note**

2.2 14 Nov. Minutes, item 3.3 – noted that Planning Permission for Oakhill Ct., Cross Oak Rd. was granted, including the use of upvc, which was disappointing. **Note**

2.3 14 Nov. Minutes, item 10.3 - CTP has reported the presence of Japanese Knotweed in the area of scrub between Cook and the Bulbourne in Lower Kings Rd. to the Town Clerk. **Note**

3. **Planning and Environment**

3.1 SJ has objected on behalf of TASC to proposals for development at The Chilterns, Stoney Close, Northchurch (as per Minute 3.4.1 of 14 Nov. Minutes) **Note**

3.2 Concerning Minute 3.4.2 of 14 Nov. Minutes, the Planning Officer confirmed that a (very) new change to Planning Regulations means that where a building in a conservation area is replaced 'like-for-like', a separate permission for demolition of the existing is not required.

3.3 Planning Applications for weeks of 16 October (balance after last meeting), 23/30 October, 6 and 13 November were reviewed. **Note**

3.4 4/02176/13/ADV and 4/02177/13/FUL – Unit 1, 300 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 1ZZ. (Marks & Spencer Simply Food). These applications were considered in the light of the fact that the site is a) in the Conservation Area and b) is adjacent to a Listed Building. The former application concerns a trolley store at the rear of the building, to which the only objection is the use of a prominent logo. The latter is for internally illuminated signage and totem at the front/ side

of the building (i.e. High Street/ St. Johns Well Lane frontages). This was considered totally inappropriate. SJ to object on behalf of TASC. **SJ**

- 3.5 It was noted that the Planning Application for Sheltered Housing at 380-392 High St. (4/00994/13/HFA) had been granted. The Application for 13 Oakwood had been rejected. **Note**

4. Public Noticeboard

- 4.1 The Main Committee had requested TASC to review options for a public noticeboard to be paid for from BCA funds, subject to a maximum spend of £1,250 excluding VAT and installation. After discussion of wood vs. powder coated aluminium, it was agreed that PC would follow-up a board manufactured by The Noticeboard Company (UK) Ltd. to find out location(s) where their boards were installed and to see how durable they are. **PC**

5. Transport (including Parking)

- 5.1 Nothing to report **Note**

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

- 6.1 Nothing to report. Post meeting note: as a follow-up to item 5.1 of the 14 Nov. Minutes, further works has been done to install bank protection adjacent to the Moor up to Castle Street Bridge, which had 'solved' the problem with the retaining wall at that location. **Note**

7. Footpaths/ Footways

- 7.1 Nothing to report **Note**

8. Trees

- 8.1 Nothing to report. **Note**

9. Environment Award

- 9.1 Long list was circulated by CTP prior to the meeting. At the meeting, it was agreed that as a 'first sift' of items to narrow down the contenders, certain items should be dropped. The revised list is attached to these Minutes. The marking sheet would be circulated at the next meeting (Action PC) **PC**

10. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

- 10.1 (remains open) TS to obtain quotation for stripping the cast iron waymark from the contractor recommended by DBC; SJ to obtain the same from the contractor recommended by a contact in Tring. **TS/SJ**

11. AOB

- 11.1 Nothing to report. **Note**
- 11.2 The Chairman thanked the Committee members for their efforts during 2013 and wished them a Happy Christmas and New Year. **Note**

12. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 21 January (8 p.m.) at Christopher's house

Tuesday 18 February (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house