

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Thursday 21 January 2014** at 8 pm at 15 Shrublands Avenue, Berkhamsted.

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

Apologies: Jenny Habib (JH)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 10 December 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. Subsequent exchanges revealed £7,390 of s.106 monies are overdue for expenditure in Berkhamsted. These are now 'allocated' **Note**

2.2 14 Nov. Minutes, item 10.3 - The presence of Japanese Knotweed in the area of scrub between Cook and the Bulbourne in Lower Kings Rd. has been discussed at a CARP meeting; GB reported that the Canal & River Trust has acknowledged land ownership and are taking action. **Note**

3. **Planning and Environment**

3.1 At the full Town Council meeting held previous evening (20 Jan) it was reported that the developer for New Lodge has accepted the name 'Townsend Gate' for the road inside the New Lodge site and the naming of what is now the replacement building for New Lodge as 'New Lodge'. NB. This doesn't yet mean that this will actually be the street name ! Names for the other blocks on the site are being sought. Leave to BLH&MS to suggest appropriate names. **Note**

3.2 At the full Town Council meeting held previous evening (20 Jan), it was reported that the Town Council is supporting an application made by Transition Town Berkhamsted for the Civic Centre to be added to the DBC Register of Assets of Community Value. **Note**

3.3 At the full Town Council meeting held previous evening (20 Jan), the B-Hive Community Group gave a presentation to the Town Council of the findings from the Community Day held on 14 September 2013 to discuss the Police Station and other town centre sites. The Town Council would recommend a meeting with DBC to discuss this further. **Note**

- 3.4 At the full Town Council meeting held previous evening (20 Jan), the Town Council reported on the receipt of an offer from a local benefactor to provide a 40' high statue to commemorate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in 2016, site in the Castle grounds. The Town Council had recommended this proposal should be discussed with English Heritage before any further discussion. **Note**
- 3.5 At the full Town Council meeting held previous evening (20 Jan), the Town Council reported that it planned to prepare a Streetscape Strategy as a 'benchmarking document' against which planning applications/ development proposals for the High Street/ Lower Kings Road would be judged. Funding for the preparation of the Strategy document would be sought from DBC. SJ spoke at the meeting on the BCA's behalf to express approval of the proposals. **Note**
- 3.6 Planning Applications for weeks of 11,18, 25 December and 1, 8, 15 January were reviewed. **Note**
- 3.7 4/02293/13/MFA and 4/02294/13/LBC – Sports Hall at Ashlyns School, Chesham Rd. BCA to object on the grounds that proposal to use concrete cladding panels on programme and cost grounds, which contrasts with the other brick buildings on the site, was inappropriate in the setting of a Grade II listed building. SJ to object on behalf of TASC. **SJ**
- 3.8 4/00029/14/FHI and 4/00081/14/LBC – 6 Londrina Terrace. Although Listed Building Consent application had been raised, this was not a listed building (only scheduled for local listing in future) . In view of the local listing, committee members were asked to look at this again.
(Post meeting note: SJ, GB and CTP visited the site; the conclusion was that SJ should write and express concern at the proposals on behalf of TASC, in the light of the 'local listing' projection. The Planners would be left to decide on the merits of the Application for a garden building, which it was considered was an improvement on the existing structure). **SJ**
- 3.9 It was noted that the application for the Trolley Park at the rear of Marks & Spencer (300 High Street (4/02176/13/ADV) was approved, but the other application for M&S (4/02177/13/FUL) was still under consideration. **Note**

4. Public Noticeboard

- 4.1 PC had circulated photographs of a noticeboard manufactured by The Noticeboard Company (UK) Ltd. PC also investigating similar noticeboards manufactured by The Church Noticeboard Company and Allen Signs Limited. **PC**

5. Transport (including Parking)

- 5.1 It was noted that the multi-storey car park scheme for Lower Kings Road is still under consideration although the presentation to the DBC Cabinet was

postponed as a result of design changes not having been discussed with Waitrose.

Note

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

6.1 Nothing to report.

Note

7. Footpaths/ Footways

7.1 BE had raised concern at the limited access along the pavement in front of Carluccios at the Old Town Hall as a result of the tables. The meeting acknowledged there was a problem, although Carluccios are keeping their tables within the curtilage of their property. The fault may lie with market stalls not being set back so that their customers block the footway. Recommendation that BE keep an eye on the problem and complain to the Market Trust if the problem persists.

BE

8. Trees

8.1 It was noted that the dead tree (one of the three funded by BCA at Lower Kings Road by the station) had been snapped off. It is scheduled for replacement this winter.

Note

9. Environment Award

9.1 The marking sheet was be circulated for completion by the next meeting

Note

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

12. Dates of next meetings

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

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