

**BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**  
**TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes** of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 18 March 2013** at 8 pm at 22 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted.

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

**Apologies:** Beryl Edwards (BE), Jenny Habib (JH)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 18 February were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

Arrangements for Environment Award at AGM are all in hand (invitations, certificates, presentation, projector)

**Note**

3. **Environment Award**

3.1 (note for next meeting) The detail of how the plaque for 'Mariners' might be displayed would be discussed with the building owners.

**GB**

4. **Planning and Environment**

4.1 PC noted that the Police Station site is sold; notice at site shows the site is 'Acquired by Adrian Cole'.

**Note**

4.2 PC has received, via Secretary, a letter from the Open Spaces Society querying the registration by Berkhamsted Town Council of various sites as a means of restricting public access. PC has written to OSS enclosing an exchange of e-mails with Town Clerk on this subject, to confirm that the sites are actually allotment sites. OSS thanked BCA for the response.

**Note**

4.3 At Main Committee meeting held 27 February it was resolved that TASC would issue a letter to DBC to 'encourage' DBC to expend the s.106 funds it holds for projects in Berkhamsted, and in particular, for 'affordable' housing. (Post meeting note: Letter dated 24 March 2014 from Gordon Bluck to Alex Chrusciak, Development and Planning manager at DBC, and appended to these Minutes.)

**Note**

4.4 CTP noted some issues with the new shop unit 'Mint Velvet' (Birchnells site) which contravene Conservation Area requirements e.g. use of tarmac surfacing at side; projecting sign obstructing road sign and damage to the streetlight on the corner of Elm Grove. The Town Clerk is aware of these and is taking action to resolve these.

**Note**

- 4.5 SJ noted that her observations were that several shop signs along the High Street are actually internally illuminated. It was felt worthwhile to draw this to the attention of the Enforcement Officer at DBC. TASC members to bring a list to the next meeting so that all could be notified to the EO in one e-mail. **All**
- 4.6 PC noted that whilst taking photographs for the Environment Award, he had observed an ugly new street light beside the Grey House on Kitsbury Rd (i.e. within the Conservation Area. PC felt that this and other examples should be noted and reported to the Conservation Officer at DBC. **PC**
- 4.7 Ashlyns School Sports Hall: A revised Planning Application has been submitted (4/02293/13/MFA and 4/02294/13/LBC). After discussion, the meeting resolved that TASC should respond a) welcoming the relocation of the building further from the existing, listed, buildings; b) comment on the large expanse of featureless, concrete clad wall; and c) comment that more 'interesting' façade, possibly with fenestration should be considered. Overall, TASC considered the revised Application to be an improvement over its predecessor. **SJ**
- 4.8 (carried forward from last meeting) : 4/00262/14/MFA (Land at Junction of Durrants Lane and Shootersway). The Application was reviewed and it was agreed that TASC should comment that a) the 92 houses proposed for the first phase did not represent 'over development' of the site; b) the entrance/ exit to/from the site required re-design to improve sight lines and safety; c) on-going concerns over the capacity of infrastructure in the local area to cope with additional demand, especially water, electricity and sewerage. **SJ**
- 4.9 GB queried whether TASC should revert to the system whereby planning applicants received a copy of TASC's comments/ objections as a courtesy. It was agreed that this should not be done; TASC remarks were in the public domain and it would be an additional administrative burden on TASC. **Note**
- 4.10 Planning Applications for 19, 26 February and 5 and 12 March were reviewed.
- 4.10.1 4/00430//14/FHA (30 Cross Oak Road, HP4 3EH). Front roof lights visible from street level in the Conservation Area. SJ to check if the proposed rooflights would be visible and if so, object on behalf of TASC. **SJ**

## **5. Public Noticeboard**

- 5.1 PC had viewed and photographed a sign/ display case proposed by The Church Noticeboard Company. Considered unsuitable as this was a large, single frame, not for regular opening and closing. TS would look at a sign supplied to St. Mary's Church, Hertford to assess its suitability. Signs from The Noticeboard Company could not be opened without a key which is a practical problem. This company is also not particularly proactive in their approach. **PC/TS**

## **6. Transport (including Parking)**

- 6.1 Nothing to report **Note**

## **7. Canal (including Canal & Riverside Partnership – CARP)**

- 7.1 GB reported that a CARP meeting took place on 7 March. Proposals for funding an upgrade of the towpath from the Waitrose bridge to Park Street bridge were in hand and the work should be undertaken during Summer 2014. It was also recorded at the CARP meeting that a) volunteers would clean up the information plinths near to the Rising Sun PH, and b) that the Berkhamsted Litter Pickers had carried out some tidying up of the land adjacent to the Lower Kings Road bridge. **Note**

- 7.2 Another matter which arose was repairs and possible listing of the totem pole (Alsford Wharf). GB to discuss a way forward with David Hilling of Inland Waterways Association. SJ thought this item would be an opportunity for publicity for the BCA. **GB**

## **8. Footpaths/ Footways**

- 8.1 PC noted that a large number of streetlights were out on the evening of the meeting. Post meeting note: this is a county-wide problem associated with the timing of street light operation around the change to BST/ GMT. **Note**

## **9. Trees**

- 9.1 It was noted that the 'BCA' tree on Lower Kings Road has been replaced. **Note**

## **10. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark**

- 10.1 SJ offered to take over the remaining action from TS to obtain alternative quotations for stripping the cast iron waymark and preparing the boundary stone. TS gratefully accepted the offer. Post meeting note: SJ has written to National Tyres and to potential contractors for the work. Awaiting response. **SJ**

## **11. AOB**

- 11.1 Nothing to report. **Note**

## **12. Dates of next meetings**

Tuesday 15 April (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house

Tuesday 13 May (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house



## **Berkhamsted Citizens Association**

22 Bridgewater Road  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 1HN

Mr A Chrusciak  
Group Manager  
Development Management and Planning  
Dacorum Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Hemel Hempstead  
HP1 1HH

24th March 2014

Dear Mr. Chrusciak

### **USE OF S.106 MONEY IN BERKHAMSTED**

I refer to your email to me dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 (copy attached), to recent email exchanges with Marc Howard, to the subsequent publication of the S106 newsletter and to a spreadsheet produced by Marc showing the allocation of all the S.106 monies relating to Berkhamsted. I have been asked by the committee of the Berkhamsted Citizens Association (BCA) to discover if any progress has been made in spending or allocating the S.106 funds in Berkhamsted.

Whilst recognising the very high value of land in the town, the BCA is keen to see an increase in the stock of affordable housing here. I note that there is £186,309 from planning application 4/01983/07/MPA relating to Thorne Barton Estates for Rose Cottage, Bank Mill, which must be spent before 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 or be lost. The BCA would like to know if any or all this money is to be used on the council house/Housing Association development at Farm Place off Durrants Lane. If this is not the case, on what is this money planned to be spent?

We are mindful that £951,763 has been received from the New Lodge development (included a commuted sum of £750,000 for affordable housing) and we would like to know what medium-to-long term plans are being considered to build dwellings on DBC council-owned land in Berkhamsted, for example on parts of the site behind the Civic Centre, or elsewhere.

In the second paragraph of your email of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 you explain how the council "works up" projects and then looks for funds from the service budget or S.106. We would favour an alternative approach - by saying "here is the money; how can we spend it for the good of the town?"

I look forward to your timely response.

Yours sincerely

**Gordon Bluck**  
Vice-Chairman, Berkhamsted Citizens Association