

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 13 May 2014** 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 15 April were agreed. [Post meeting note: BE to be co-opted as committee member at next meeting.]

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 GB is in discussion with Mrs. & Mrs. Lyons, the owners of 'Mariners', concerning the display of the EA plaque. Mrs. Lyons has approved a location and the use of a metal plaque e.g. brushed aluminium with black lettering, and GB will obtain prices. Permission to be sought from Main Committee for expenditure. **GB**

3. **Planning and Environment (general), including Section 106 issues**

3.1 Section 106 expenditure: PC asked if GB could ascertain how 'new' projects e.g. M&S were added to the s.106 funds 'register'. GB would investigate. **GB**

3.2 GB reported that he had received a reply to his letter dated 24 March 2014 to Alex Chrusciak, Development and Planning Manager at DBC concerning s.106 expenditure. After discussion of DBC's response (dated 7 May 2014), it was decided that a further letter should be drafted by GB/ PC/ SJ and issued to DBC under signature of the BCA Chairman. **Note**

3.3 Following-up on items in Minute 4.4 of last two meetings, the outstanding matters relating to 'Mint Velvet' (Birchnells site) will be kept under review. **Note**

3.4 Internally illuminated signage: TASC members contributed the following as a list of illuminated street signs within the Conservation Officer for SJ to notify to the Enforcement Officer in one e-mail (Boots (extending green cross), Acorn Pharmacy (green cross), David Paul (extending sign), Villagio (menu board), Papa Johns) **SJ**

3.5 PC to take photograph of the ugly new street light beside The Grey House on Kitsbury Rd (i.e. within the Conservation Area). **PC**

3.6 In the past month, PC has written twice on behalf of BCA to DBC's Head of Planning, James Doe, on the subject of planning issues surrounding the substation enclosure within the forecourt of Berkhamsted Station. He is still

waiting for a reply. PC reported that he has tried to enlist action by Berkhamsted's DBC Councillors to enlist their support in obtaining a reply but as yet to no avail. PC to continue to push for a reply. **PC**

3.7 Ashlyns School Sports Hall: SJ reported that the Sports Hall application was considered by DBC Development Control on 8 May 2014, and permission was granted subject to views of the Secretary of State for the Environment concerning Green Belt issues, especially the scale of the new development. SJ noted that the Town Council had – up to the last moment – taken a similar view to BCA concerning the extensive use of concrete cladding in a setting adjacent to a Grade II listed building. **Note**

3.8 Planning Applications for 15 and 16, 23 and 30 April and 7 and 12 May were reviewed; no actions required. **Note**

4. Public Noticeboard

4.1 PC reported his conclusion that although some of the noticeboards he had looked at were within the required price range, he was struggling to find examples that could be opened without a key. Matter to be discussed at Main Committee. However, PC advised that an increased budget may be necessary in order to consider noticeboards produced by Greenbarnes Ltd., who appear to be the market leader, and who do produce noticeboards which can be opened without a key. **PC**

5. Transport (including Parking)

5.1 PC advised that Minutes of the Parking Forum, a working party of the Town Council, noted that Dacorum BC were in discussion with John Lewis Partnership, owners of Waitrose, about the proposed Lower Kings Road car park being extended onto their land. **Note**

5.2 PC also noted some concern at some suggestions being made for further pavement parking, 'verge hardening' and loss of amenity greens as a way of alleviating parking problems in certain parts of the town. **Note**

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

6.1 TASC took the decision not to pursue any actions at present concerning listing and/or preservation of the totem pole at Alsford Wharf. **Note**

7. Footpaths/ Footways

- 7.1 PC noted that the retaining wall in Kings Road, just south of the Kings Road Church, which had looked precarious for some time, is currently being taken down and rebuilt. **Note**

8. Trees

- 8.1 Nothing to report. **Note**

9. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

- 9.1 SJ reported that Mr. Tim Millard, a contractor for the restoration work, has submitted a quotation for £500 +VAT. Fairhurst Estates, representing National Tyres, has advised SJ that they only wish to be notified of when the work will be done. Approval to be sought from the Main Committee for the choice of contractor. **Note**

10. AOB

- 10.1 Nothing to report. **Note**

11. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 17 June (8 p.m.) at Beryl's house
Tuesday 15 July (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house