

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 19 August 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 July 2014 were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 Environment Award plaque: Payment has been made and receipt of plaque is awaited **GB**

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

3.1 (previous Minute 3.1) Section 106 expenditure: GB reported he is making limited progress with Marc Howard, Dacorum's s.106 Officer, with respect to s.106 expenditure. This is due to fact that Marc's hours are limited to 2 x half-days. Second six-monthly update is due up on DBC website. BCA has heard unconfirmed rumour that no s.106 monies were forthcoming from the 'Metric' development of Royal Mail Sorting office site (M&S). Will raise this at forthcoming meeting with DBC Councillors – see next Minute. **Note**

3.2 (previous Minute 3.2) BCA representatives will meet Cllrs. Williams and Griffiths - DBC portfolio holders for Planning and Housing respectively - on 3 September. Pre-meeting on Weds. 27th August at Jude Egan's house. **Note**

3.3 Internally illuminated signage (previous Minute 3.3): item remains 'open' to follow DBC (Philip Stanley's) enforcement files on Acorn (where beauty product is advertised) and Papa John (pizza takeaway). **Note**

3.4 Ugly new street light beside The Grey House on Kitsbury Rd (i.e. within the Conservation Area [CA]) – PC has requested Fiona Webb at DBC Conservation & Design to see if pressure can applied so that modern lamps are not deployed in the CA. Response awaited **Note**

3.5 Substation enclosure, Station forecourt (previous Minute 3.5) PC submitted a Fol request for answers to questions raised previously on 4 July 2014. DBC has undertaken to respond by 1 August 2014. PC has reminded DBC that response is late and will refer this to DBC's 'publications scheme' for next action. **PC**

3.6 A meeting (invitees only) was held at Berkhamsted Town Council on 18 July to discuss CIL and s.106 with Robert Freeman of DBC. GB reported that few

positive results emerged from the meeting, the minutes of which were general and did not accurately report the discussions which took place. **Note**

3.7 Planning Applications for 16, 23 and 30 July and 6, 13 and week up to 19 August were reviewed. No actions arising. **Note**

3.8 SJ has sent a note of appreciation to the Town Council for the installation of the planters at various locations. BTC has assured BCA that both summer and winter planting regimes will be put in place, plus watering. **Note**

3.9 SJ has written to Herts CC (Andrew Freeman, Strategy and Programme Manager) in support of the resolution of the Town Council Transport & Environment Committee, that a high priority should be given to the installation of traffic lights at the Kings Road/ Kingshill Way/ Shootersway junction. BCA also recommended the pooling of funding sources – including s.106 - in order to meet the costs. **Note**

4. Public Noticeboard

4.1 (refer to previous Minute 4.1). Town Clerk has responded that Herts Highways has given ‘approval in principle’ for the installation to proceed. PC has queried what this means. DBC has passed responsibility for noticeboards etc. to BTC and will not install free of charge as previously intimated. PC has requested Town Clerk to obtain quotations for installation and once BCA is made aware of costs, BCA will make grant application to BTC to cover installation costs (see Minute 10.2 below). BTC will assume ultimate ownership/ responsibilities for insurance and maintenance. **Note**

4.2 PC to obtain ‘final’ quotation showing BCA’s precise requirements. **PC**

5. Environment Award

5.1 CTP had circulated a list of potential candidates prior to the meeting, and has photographed all, including some before/ after shots. List to be updated ahead of future meetings. **CTP**

6. Transport (including Parking)

6.1 PC will respond on BCA’s behalf on the consultation concerning withdrawal of evening and Sunday bus services. **Note**

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

7.1 Nothing to report. Next CARP Meeting 10 September, and towpath upgrade works to Park Street are expected imminently. **Note**

8. Footpaths/ Footways

- 8.1 Replacement of a phone box and pillar box at Swing Gate Lane/ London Road junction destroyed as result of accident are awaited. BTC has this matter in hand. **Note**

9. Trees

- 9.1 Replacements for the 4no. mature trees removed from the High Street: PC to request Town Clerk to advise locations. **PC**

10. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

- 10.1 SJ has submitted application for Listing via English Heritage on behalf of BCA. EH has responded with a reference no. (485852) and has requested additional information, so are evidently taking the application seriously. SJ pursue. **SJ**
- 10.2 There was a partial underspend of the grant from the Town Council (BTC). On behalf of BCA, SJ had requested BTC to advise how to proceed. In BTC Finance and Policy (F&P) Meeting held in August, BTC resolved that if BCA has another worthy project on which the money could be spent, they should submit a further grant application for this, for consideration at the next F&P meeting in October. BCA intends to take this route to cover the costs of the installation of the noticeboard (Minute 4.1 above). **Note**

11. AOB

12. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 16 September (8 p.m.) at Christopher's house (apologies SJ and TS)
Tuesday 21 October (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house