

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 16 September 2014** at 8 pm at 15 Shrublands Avenue, Berkhamsted.

Present: Paul Crosland (PC) in the Chair, Gordon Bluck (GB), Beryl Edwards (BE), Jenny Habib (JH), Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (CTP),

Apologies: Susan Johnson (SJ) Tony Statham (TS)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 19 August 2014 were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 Environment Award plaque: Receipt of plaque is still awaited **GB**

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

3.1 (previous Minute 3.1) To clarify previous Minutes, it is now understood that no s.106 monies were forthcoming from the 'Metric' development of Royal Mail Sorting office site (M&S) because there was no 'new' development – existing building was retained and there was only a change of use. **Note**

3.2 BCA meeting with Cllrs. Williams and Griffiths - DBC portfolio holders for Planning and Housing respectively - on 3 September was cancelled by Councillor Williams at short notice. Meeting to be re-arranged. Pre-meeting on Weds. 27th August at Jude Egan's house did take place and a list of topics for discussion at the Councillors' meeting was drawn up. **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 be applied so that modern lamps are not deployed in the CA. No reply received – only an explanation of forthcoming changes to the DBC Planning and Development department. **Note**

3.5 Substation enclosure, Station forecourt (previous Minute 3.5) PC advised that he received a reply to his FoI request on 28 August 2014 (DBC was required to respond by 1 August 2014). Response confirms:

- that enclosure is considered to be permitted development, and the installation does not fulfil the statutory criteria for PD being denied.
- Network Rail did not consult with DBC as Local Planning Authority before the substation was installed

- DBC has no record of alternative sites for the installation being considered.

No further action by TASC at this stage. Will revert to Town Clerk for further action as the Town Council deems appropriate. **PC/GB**

3.6 PC advised the content of an e-mail he had received from Fiona Webb at DBC detailing changes to the organisation of DBC's Planning and Development department with effect from 1 October 2014. Of most concern is that there will no longer a Conservation and Design Team at DBC. Conservation team will be integrated into Development Management so all staff will henceforth deal with conservation issues.

3.7 Planning Applications for 20, 27 August, 3 and 10 September week up to 16 September were reviewed. No actions arising. **Note**

4. Public Noticeboard

4.1 (refer to previous Minute 4.1). Town Clerk has clarified that Herts Highways has given permission for the installation to proceed. **Note**

4.2 DBC has passed responsibility for noticeboards etc. to BTC and will not install free of charge as previously intimated. PC has received a quotation for installation via the Town Clerk in the sum of £248.30 (no VAT applicable). Town Clerk has clarified that BTC will not take ownership of the noticeboard nor will insure it, however they will include it in their maintenance regime. **Note**

4.3 SJ to submit a further grant application to BTC to cover the installation work, using, in part, the monies unspent from the Sparrows Herne waymark restoration. **SJ**

4.4 PC has obtained a 'final' quotation showing BCA's precise requirements. The cost is £1,402.78 plus VAT = £1,683.34. **Note**

5. Environment Award

5.1 CTP had circulated a list of potential candidates prior to the meeting, 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. **PC**

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

- 7.1 Nothing to report. Next CARP Meeting 10 September – postponed to 30 September. Towpath upgrade works to Park Street are yet to start. **Note**

8. Footpaths/ Footways

- 8.1 PC noted that, during his survey work for the new BCA footpath map, he discovered several paths in the Tunnel Fields area were almost completely overgrown. PC to report these obstructions to the Town Warden. **PC**

9. Trees

- 9.1 Replacements for the 4no. mature trees removed from the High Street: Town Clerk had advised that DBC has not yet determined the locations. **Note**

10. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

- 10.1 SJ is following-up with the additional information requested by English Heritage in connection with Application for Listing. **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,

11. AOB

- 11.1 PC noted the appearance of several galvanised steel poles which had been installed at various locations on the High Street. CTP advised that he noticed they were being now being painted and he ascertained they were installed in connection with the '20 mph' zone. Post meeting note: the installation of these has caused local concern, having restricted footways and caused disquiet at their appearance. The Town Council is taking action to mitigate the effects of this new signage.

12. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 21 October (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house
Tuesday 18 November (8 p.m.) at Jenny's house