

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

**Minutes** of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 18 November 2014** at 8 pm at 13 Doctors Commons Road, Berkhamsted.

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

**Apologies:** Susan Johnson (SJ)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 21 October 2014 were agreed.
2. **Matters arising**
  - 2.1 Environment Award plaque – received today: Installation to be arranged and BCA Chairman to be involved. **Note**
3. **Planning and Environment (general), including Section 106 issues**
  - 3.1 BCA (SJ and GB) met Cllrs. Williams and Griffiths of DBC on 4 November as planned. GB reported that it had been a useful meeting and BCA had gained a useful insight into DBC policy on expenditure of s.106 monies. Concerning housing (only), s.106 monies were pooled, borough wide, to enable more efficient use of the money on ‘larger’ projects throughout the borough (e.g. Farm Place). GB felt more satisfied that there were now policies in place to ensure that s.106 monies were efficiently spent rather than languishing in bank accounts. GB has written article for BCA newsletter. **Note**
  - 3.2 SJ advised that she had objected in a personal capacity to an apparent change of use in Lower Kings Road (nos 8 - 13) where a sushi and juice bar (called ‘Zero’) has opened, replacing ‘Mr. Simms Sweet Shoppe’. Planning Enforcement has responded that precedents exist to allow this change as the new use is not a ‘restaurant’; DBC are investigating. **Note**
  - 3.3 SJ reported that the Town Council is ‘looking into’ A-frame signs and flyposting in the town, in conjunction with DBC, and hoped to involve interested parties in the discussion. SJ has registered interest with the Town Council on behalf of the BCA and a reply is awaited from the Town Clerk. SJ to follow up. **SJ**
  - 3.4 PC reported the content of an e-mail he had received from Fiona Webb at DBC concerning the reorganisation of DBC’s Planning department (see TASC Minutes for September, Minute 3.6). The disbanding of the Conservation team has apparently not come into effect as yet and is still the subject of discussion within the Council. BCA to consider giving its support to maintaining a separate Conservation team to deal with Conservation Area matters. **PC/ SJ**

- 3.5 Ugly new street lights beside The Grey House on Kitsbury Rd and footpath between Doctors Commons and Anglefield Road (both within the Conservation Area) and – PC to follow this up with Herts Highways, cc Conservation team at DBC. **PC**
- 3.6 Substation enclosure, Station forecourt : PC to write to DBC Planning to check the status re: possible painting. **PC**
- 3.7 There had been an exhibition of proposals for the site designated as Local Allocation 4 (LA4) in the Core Strategy in the Civic Centre on 17 October. At the previous TASC meeting there was some concern over a summary document concerning the 'Berkhamsted Place Strategy'. GB investigated this and established this document either formalised the designation of sites which had already been built out or showed 'aspirational' projects. **Note**
- 3.8 Planning Applications for 22 and 29 October and 5 and 12 and week up to 18 November were reviewed. No actions arising. **Note**
- 4. Public Noticeboard**
- 4.1 Delivery and installation expected 19 November. **Note**
- 5. Environment Award**
- 5.1 CTP had circulated a list of 25 potential candidates, with some possible amendments if projects are/ are not complete by 31 December. ALL members to review the list with the aim of sifting out ten, leaving 15 projects for consideration at year-end. **ALL**
- 6. Transport (including Parking)**
- 6.1 Nothing to report **Note**
- 7. Canal (including Canal & Riverside Partnership – CARP)**
- 7.1 GB reported date of next meeting 9 December. GB has highlighted to James Clifton of Canal & River Trust the allocation of £56,000 of s.106 monies from the Lidl development for sustainable transport and James will endeavour to have this allocated for further towpath upgrade works to Billet Lane **Note**
- 8. Footpaths/ Footways**
- 8.1 (Previous Minute 8.2) Concerning new street signage poles along the High Street, certain signs have been removed and a process is underway to amend

the statutory orders such that Elm Grove, Prince Edward Street, Church Lane, Rectory Lane and Water Lane are included in the 20 mph zone and hence no '30' signs are require in these streets to mark the end of the '20' zone. In several locations, inappropriate signs have already been removed. **Note**

- 8.2 GB to chase the Town Clerk for the date of the next Parish Paths Partnership meeting. **GB**

## **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 The Application for Listing will be put forward by English Heritage to the Secretary of State. **Note**

## **11. AOB**

- 11.1 PC has written on behalf of the BCA to Royal Mail asking them to reconsider their decision not to reinstate the post box at the junction of High Street and Swing Gate Lane, demolished in a road accident in May. PC has also raised the profile of this matter on local social media. **Note**

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

Tuesday 16 December (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house  
Tuesday 20 January 2015 (8 p.m.) at Jenny's house