

## **BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

### **TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes** of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 23 July 2013** at 8 pm at 'Stonycroft', 9 Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted.

**Present:** Paul Crosland (PC) in the Chair, Beryl Edwards (BE), Susan Johnson (SJ), Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (CTP), Tony Statham (TS)

**Apologies:** Jenny Habib (JH), Gordon Bluck (GB),

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 12 June were agreed.

#### **2. Matters arising**

2.1 Application to have Gable Hall placed on the Community Assets Register: response from Dacorum BC awaited. Post meeting note: DBC has given notice that, following a meeting held on 1 July 2013, Gable Hall is included on DBC's 'List of Assets of Community Value'. **Note**

2.2 Re: Minute 3.2 of 14 May meeting (SJ's attendance at 8 May consultation to discuss master-planning for the Hanbury's site in Shootersway (Local Allocation LA4). SJ has circulated the minutes of the consultation to all BCA committee members. **Note**

#### **3. Planning and Environment**

3.1 New Lodge development: Developers have proposed three names for the road within the development. All of these were rejected by BTC Planning committee. BTC are seeking residents' and local societies' proposals for suitable and relevant names. After some discussion, it was agreed that TASC should propose that the road should be called 'TOWNSEND' then either Close or Gardens ('Townsend Farm or Lodge was the previous name for New Lodge). TASC also felt that the flats within 'New Lodge' should have 'New Lodge' in their address (No. 1, New Lodge, Townsend Close for example). PC to write to BTC (Town Clerk). **PC**

3.2 Berkhamsted Conservation Area Review (CAR): SJ has had contact with Dacorum BC Conservation Team to ascertain progress. Susan has been informed that progress on local listing is delaying the adoption of the CAR as a result of the Regulatory Reform Act, which requires properties to be individually surveyed to record specific architectural and historic features. **Note**

3.3 CTP circulated a photograph of a (poor quality) new sign at Chiltern Corner, Durrants Road, which was placed on a new fence installed by the council. PC to write to Dacorum BC. **PC**

- 3.4 PC noted his information that the Police Station site was shortly to be offered for sale. **Note**
- 3.5 Planning Applications for weeks of 19, 26 June, 3, 10, 17, 24 July (up to 23 July) were reviewed. **Note**
- 3.5.1 4/105413/FUL (11 Bank Mill – already completed). Noted that a new full application is being made to align what has been built with a planning approval.
- 3.5.2 4/1195/13/FUL (Retaining Wall at Lincoln Court) – rebuilding of retaining wall along Charles Street; the proposal is that the facing of the retaining wall should be built in phases as funds for the whole of the work are not available. TASC to object on grounds that construction in phases will result in an unsightly wall in the Conservation Area. Furthermore, ‘lack of funds’ is not a valid reason not to comply with Conservation Area planning requirements. **SJ**
- 3.5.3 4/0994/13/MFA (Sheltered Apartments for Older People at 380-392 High Street). Agreed to object on the basis of the number of car parking spaces – only 16no. for 48 dwellings, which even if residents do not own cars, this number is insufficient for visitors, carers, tradespeople etc.) **SJ**
- 3.5.4 4/1278/13/FUL (Bank Mill Wharf, Bank Mill Lane). SJ noted and will obtain clarification on the number of car parking spaces proposed. **SJ**
- 3.5.5 4/01256/13/FUL (Bench seats outside new M&S Simply Food store). SJ had expressed her concerns to the Town Clerk that, from experience, the proposed wooden slatted seats were expensive to maintain and prone to vandalism. TASC did not wish to object to wooden seating per se, but wished to object to another aspect of this proposal which was that the bench design should be adopted as a template for future seating across the town’s public realm. This ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach was not considered appropriate. **SJ**

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

- 4.1 BE reported that she had had a look at the new style of bus stop timetable panels and agreed with PC’s view that the displays are too small, and confusing. PC to write to Public Transport Unit at Herts CC to complain on BCA’s behalf. **PC**

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

- 5.1 PC circulated a report prepared by the Canal and River Trust on the recent towpath improvement works, Castle Street to Canal Fields. This had been tabled at the recent CARP meeting (18 July). GB to report on the content at the next TASC meeting **GB**

## **6. Footpaths/ Footways**

- 6.1 Re: obstruction to the footway in Charles Street between King's Road and Lincoln Court: see Minute 3.5.2 above **Note**
- 6.2 BE recorded advice given to her that the footpath from Gilbert Way to Shootersway (FP 17) is overgrown and not passable by buggies en route to Greenway school. PC will contact Clayton Rae, Countryside & Rights of Way Officer at Dacorum BC (DBC are agents of Herts CC as highways authority responsible for footpath matters) **PC**

## **7. Trees**

- 7.1 Jubilee Oak proposals: DBC trees officer, Luke Johnson, has advised that there are currently no suitable sites available. TS to maintain contact. **Note**

## **8. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark**

- 8.1 Re: minute 6.2 of 14 May meeting/ minute 8.1 of 12 June meeting : TS to seek discount and a formal price submission from Mr.Millard. On receipt, TASC to seek funding from BTC (grant forms completed) for 50%, and £250 from Berkhamsted Community Partnership (BCP). **TS**

## **9. Environment Award**

- 9.1 CTP will maintain the 'long list' up to selection of contenders for EA early in 2014. All to advise CTP by e-mail of possible contenders. CTP to provide TASC with an update at each meeting. **All/ CTP**

## **10. AOB**

- 10.1 PC noted that, from the BTC Transport & Environment Committee there had been four applications to install memorial benches around the town. T&E raised no objection, but TASC should like to ascertain a) the design of the proposed benches, any inscription, and responsibility for maintenance of the benches. PC to write to the Town Clerk. **PC**

## **11. Dates of next meetings**

Tuesday 20 August (8 p.m.) at Beryl's house (18 Merling Croft, Northchurch)  
Monday 16 September (8 p.m.) at Christopher's house