

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
TOWN AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BCA Town Amenities Sub-Committee held on **Tuesday 16 December 2014** at 8 pm at 22 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted.

Present: Paul Crosland (PC) in the Chair, Gordon Bluck (GB), Beryl Edwards (BE), Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (CTP), Susan Johnson (SJ)

Apologies: Tony Statham (TS), Jenny Habib (JH),

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 18 November 2014 were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 Postbox at junction of High Street and Swing Gate Lane (Minute 11.1 of November meeting) – Response still awaited from Royal Mail. PC noted that a BCA member has written to Town Councillors Reay and Stevens on this subject following recent article in *The Citizen*. **Note**

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

3.1 SJ reported that she attended a meeting arranged by the Town Council on 9 December to discuss A-frame signs and flyposting in the town. Meeting also attended by Tom Ritchie for the Town Council (Chairman), Philip Stanley, Enforcement Officer for DBC, local resident M. Allen, and the Town Clerk. Discussion as to whether certain users or locations should be permitted for flyposting. BTC would investigate if it could be given delegated powers from DBC to remove posters. A-frames are a 'Herts. Highways issue' and BTC/ DBC will liaise with Highways to see if any action is required to limit A-frames in the town. SJ to circulate Minutes of meeting when received. **SJ**

3.2 Concerning the rumour that the DBC Conservation & Design Team is to be disbanded, and following guidance from the Main Committee, PC had corresponded with James Doe, the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Development at DBC. Mr. Doe advised by e-mail that there were no plans to disband the Conservation team and that he would advise the same to Berkhamsted Town Council, whose minutes of meetings recorded the possibility of this disbandment. **Note**

3.3 (carried forward from previous minutes – Minute 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) – PC to follow this up with Herts Highways, cc Conservation team at DBC. **PC**

3.4 Substation enclosure, Station forecourt: PC had not written to DBC Planning in order that he could check the current status of the (possible) painting of the

enclosure before doing so. SJ expressed her belief that the painting had taken place very recently. SJ would check the colour. Post meeting note – colour is black. **PC**

3.5 Planning Applications for 19 and 26 November and 3 and 10 and week up to 16 December were reviewed.

3.5.1 22-24 Clarence Road and The Gable, Prince Edward Street (4/03274/14/FUL and 4/03307/14/FUL) – both ‘Change of Use to Rehabilitation Centre’. Resolved to request that the case be referred to DBC Development Control to mollify the ‘local’ aspect. **SJ**

3.5.2 Land at High Street and Swing Gate Lane (4/03271/14/MFA) and Former Berkhamsted Police Station and Library, corner of High St. and Kings Road (4/03286/14/MFA): Resolved to comment on massing issues at the Police Station site. TASC welcomed the enhancement of the library and community facilities, although the loss of car parking spaces for staff/ customers was a negative point. **SJ**

TASC noted that the height of buildings on the Swing Gate Lane site had been reduced and the design altered to accord with comments made at the Consultation. **Note**

4. Environment Award

4.1 The initial list of 25 potential candidates, was reduced to 15 following an initial round of voting prior to and at the meeting. Some possible amendments if projects are/ are not complete by 31 December. CTP to circulate the final list of candidates in due course. **CTP**

5. Transport (including Parking)

5.1 Nothing to report **Note**

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

6.1 GB reported outcomes of meeting held on 9 December. The good news is that funding has been found for the upgrading of the towpath from Waitrose all the way to Billet Lane. Works to be carried out by Canal & River Trust’s contractor in early Spring 2015. **Note**

7. Footpaths/ Footways

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

8. Trees

- 8.1 PC had corresponded with DBC Trees Officer, Luke Johnson concerning the replacements for the trees removed from the High Street. Mr. Johnson has advised that liaison is required with Herts Highways in connection with a scheme to carry out paving works along the High Street. PC will maintain the contact with Mr. Johnson. **Note**

9. Sparrows Herne Trust Waymark

- 9.1 The Application for Listing will be put forward by English Heritage to the Secretary of State. Post meeting note: Notification of acceptance for Listing was received by SJ on 22 December – congratulations to Susan and to TASC for the hard work in achieving this. **Note**

10. AOB

- 10.1 PC thanked all members of the sub-committee for their hard work in 2014, which had resulted in several positive outcomes. **Note**

11. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 20 January 2015 (8 p.m.) at Jenny's house
Tuesday 10 February (8 p.m.) at Gordon's house