



BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS

*The heart of
Berkhamsted*

www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk/

September 2018 Newsletter of the Berkhamsted Citizens Association



your Chairman says

Hello Everyone,

What a wonderful summer it has been, and a very busy one for the Citizens. As you all know back in June we, 'The Citizens' jointly organized Pitch Perfect at the Cricket Club. For those of you that did not manage to come along do look at the little films on our web site. The entrance fee raised just under £4,000, split equally between the Hospice of St. Francis and the Cricket Club. The coffee and cake stand plus the bucket collection raised almost another £2000, so nearly £4000 in all for our precious hospice. Thank you to all of you that came along and thus boosted our charitable donation for the Hospice. There were £50 notes in the bucket – huge thanks. It is so important that the Citizens join hands with our valued local charities. Great thanks also go to the Cricket Club, a wonderful venue for the town.

We also teamed up with the History Society and I led a walk along our canal for The Heritage Open day on 'Berkhamsted's Lost Wharves' I will put up some of the information on the web site over the next few weeks. So if you did not make it you can find some of the information.

I have asked our MP, David Gauke, to come and talk to us about his role as Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor. I will let you know as soon as he has confirmed dates.

You will remember our extremely successful Citizens Visioning evening in November last year – <https://bit.ly/2JaSWw8>. Since then there has been a European Court ruling on development that affects protected habitats which should make life more difficult for applicants and plan-makers according to planning lawyers. Any development that affects a protected habitat, or adversely affects such a site in any way will not be allowed, unless the developer can identify overriding interests.

Therefore, in some cases consultations on Local Plans will need to be re-run. I have called DBC six times asking for their understanding of this situation, but have, to date received no reply. I will keep members informed. Meanwhile enjoy the autumn colours as we gently leave summer behind.

Townscape Group

Susan Johnson, Chairman

It's been four months since our last newsletter, so there has been a lot of Townscape activity since I last wrote. The Group has been very busy of late, meeting monthly to review planning applications and sending our views to Dacorum's planners, and copying them to the Town Council's Planning Committee. And we are not the only ones. But as far as we can tell, we are the only group who scan the lists of new plans, week in week out, and regularly send in our views.

There have been a number of proposed changes/introductions to the conservation area lately which are concerning us, most noticeably the introduction of large illuminated signage at Berkhamsted School sites all over the town and into the Green Belt. Then there have been challenges to houses with Article 4 Directions (additional restrictions on changes to – generally – houses within groups within the CA) which often are the result of residents not being aware of them. Several cases have been identified and outcomes influenced by our intervention. You may or may not agree with our active involvement with the planning process; it would be good to know. Over and above the planning comments, we've been following issues relating to the town's infrastructure. The MSCP lumbers on, and Paul Crosland will cover that in detail elsewhere in this edition. And no doubt his Battle of the Dog Bins! The High Street trees have been planted (more or less);



we have also expressed views on various proposed speed limit and parking restrictions. We tend to deal with the minutiae of Berkhamsted infrastructure, for example challenging the removal of the large oak tree at the top of Durrants Lane; and rejoicing at the removal of an intrusive awning in the High Street.

However we do try to support significant developments in the town, like the wonderful work taking place at the Three Close Lane cemetery; and the possible development of a History Hub. Likewise we would have liked to have supported the proposal for The Bury in HH as a museum for Dacorum, had the plans been less incoherent and more accommodating of the needs of the museum aspirations of the whole of the Borough.

A significant development, that of Phase II of the Egerton-Rothesay plans, have into view at Berkhamsted TC's Town Planning Committee on 28th August. The agents for the development gave a presentation on what will become a planning application later this year. Actually in Northchurch, but emerging on to Shootersway, it showed a different site from that previously outlined, for 70 new dwellings including 28 affordable homes. Local residents would be consulted and further work done on traffic volume and pressure.

So as we progress into the autumn, please keep supporting us in this (we hope) valuable work; and come to our Citizens events. The 'Green Sheet' is out and we are in it! It's not all work and no play!

Play Area reinstated at Normandy Drive

The Citizens are pleased to see that the play area on Normandy Drive has been restored to use, with the assistance of funds allocated from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Environment Award 2018

It's that time of year again! Please look about you for anything you would like to see considered for the Award this year. It will be presented at the AGM on Wednesday 27th March 2019. Any development in Berkhamsted and Northchurch is eligible to be entered – public facilities, open space, new build or refurbishment/addition to historic built structures. Send your ideas – be they positive comments or criticisms – to any member of the Townscape Group. Only developments completed by 31st December will be included. We'll add them to our list for consideration. Possible contenders may include:

1. Woodthorpe, 1b Boxwell Road
2. Former Library, Kings Road
3. Brownlow House site, Ravens Lane
4. 52 Ridgeway
5. 1 South Bank Road
6. 41 Tresco Road
7. 5a Castle Hill

Events

Barbara Gainsley, Events Organiser
berkhamstedcitizensevents@gmail.com

Due to unforeseen circumstances no events / talks are planned for October.

Wednesday 14th November: 8 – 9:30 p.m.

Wine tasting at Majestic Wine, Billet Lane. The charge is £5 per person to cover the cost of the wine. As space is limited, they would like to know numbers in advance so please contact me if you would like to come.

Tuesday 1st January

Traditional New Year Day's Walk

Once again, Paul Crosland will be foregoing a long lie-in on New Year's Day in order to lead the traditional New Year's Day walk. We will probably be going to Aldbury, though Paul is keen to try a different destination so if you want to be sure, please check with him in advance in which direction he intends to head. What will not change is the venue and departure time: the front of Berkhamsted Station at 10.30 a.m.

We are planning a very special event on

Wednesday 20th February:

Showbiz Secrets! We've pulled out all the stops, and arranged for one of the best ever BBC directors - who lives in Tring - to talk to us about his career and his work with Bruce Forsyth and the Pythons amongst many others. Plus top session guitarist, Mitch Dalton, to tell us the backstage stories of working with some of the most celebrated musicians and singers. In his long career he has worked with everyone from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to Strictly Come Dancing, and so many stars you would need to hear him to appreciate his career - and his insightful sense of humour!

On **Wednesday 27th March** we have our AGM, with a special speaker to be announced.

We have also initiated a Schools art project; all a bit under wraps at the moment. Watch this space for more details; it's going to be very exciting!

CPRE Herts Calendar for 2019

Berkhamsted Citizens is a supporter of CPRE Hertfordshire, and their 2019 calendar is now available. <https://bit.ly/2QQgWc1>

Each month's photograph in the calendar features a Green Belt site within Hertfordshire that is currently under threat. September's photo is of South Berkhamsted. The calendar is an excellent initiative to highlight the potential loss of Green Belt land across the county. Extraordinarily good value: **£8/one, £15/two, plus £3 p & p**

Membership Counts

Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby
membership@berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk

Our household membership is 307. There are a further 45 paid up members whose membership has been suspended, under GDPR, as they have, despite reminders, yet to return the consent form.

As this will be the last newsletter of the year, a renewal slip is enclosed for the 128 members who are up for renewal and the six who have yet to pay for this year. The subscription remains the same: £10 for one year (£30 for three).

If you know anyone who is a member and has not heard from us, please could you encourage them to contact me as we are legally not able to.

Electronic notification

84% of our members now choose to receive electronic notification of things that affect our town and giving notice of our meetings; and nearly 40% also choose to receive our newsletter electronically. If you would like to be added to either of these lists, please let me know.

Paul Crosland, Vice Chairman writes

Berkhamsted Multi-Storey Car Park and Temporary Car Park on The Moor

Construction work on the new multi-storey car park off Lower Kings Road is due to start on 8 October, for completion in the middle of 2019. Planning permission for the new car park included a condition that a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) should be submitted and approved before construction starts. The CTMP is required to provide alternative arrangements for the existing parking spaces displaced during the construction period. A separate planning application for a temporary car park, providing 90 paid-for spaces, located on The Moor (off Mill Street), with vehicular access off Mill Street, was made in August and was due for consideration at the meeting of Dacorum Borough Council's Development Management Committee on 6th September.

Strong assurances have been given that, **firstly**, the Temporary Car Park is temporary, and **secondly**, that the grass on the Moor will be protected from excessive damage by the application of a proprietary surfacing material called 'Cellpave AP' by Groundtrax (www.groundtrax.com). Concerns have also been raised that the 'pinch point' on Mill Street, close to the junction with Castle Street will cause significant delays at busy times unless a 'one way' arrangement can be put in place, with traffic turning right out of the temporary car park and leaving via Mill Street and Greene Field Road.

STOP PRESS++STOP PRESS++STOP PRESS

We have heard 'on the grapevine' that the starting date for construction of the new multi-storey car park will be delayed until the New Year, because underground services running across the site have not yet been diverted. A positive side effect of this is that the run up to Christmas will not be affected by the construction works.

World War One Centenary Commemorations

This autumn will see many events, nation-wide, commemorating the centenary of the Armistice at the end of the First World War. On Monday 15th October, the Friends of St. Peter's will host a talk by Dr. Heather Jones, Professor of Modern & Contemporary European History at University College, London, entitled "The Myths and Realities of the First World War – 100 years on". Music and poetry from the time will also feature. The event will be held at St. Peter's Church, at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Tickets are £15 (students and young people free) and available from either Brown & Merry or the Friends' website - www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk

Bus 500 reverts to 30 minute frequency

From 1st October, Bus 500 – which has been running at a 20 minute frequency on Monday to Friday for several years – will revert to running half-hourly on all days, Monday to Saturday. Bus 501 remains at an hourly frequency on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Missing 'Dog Poo' Bins

You may have noticed that some of the red 'dog poo' bins around the town are missing - for example the one in Three Close Lane/ Beech Drive near to the top gates into Rectory Lane Cemetery. Dacorum Borough Council has advised us that in locations where alternative 'standard' litter bins are available nearby the dog poo bins will not be replaced if they have to be removed. DBC has advised that it is acceptable for dog waste to be deposited into 'standard' litter bins.

Rectory Lane Cemetery Project

It has been a busy summer for the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project. Works have taken place to underpin and straighten the brick gate piers at the Rectory Lane entrance. The main gates and some of the cast iron fencing have been taken away for refurbishment, perimeter walls have been strengthened and, in some areas, rebuilt entirely, and some memorials have been restored. The dry conditions over the summer have enabled the works to proceed more quickly than anticipated.



Significant progress has been made in involving the community in the restoration works in the cemetery. There has been an Easter Egg hunt, school visits, history trails, creative writing classes, and a Heritage Open Days event called 'Let it R.I.P.' focussing on informing and educating visitors on how the conservation works have been undertaken. A music and poetry event planned for the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday weekend unfortunately had to be cancelled due to poor weather – a sad irony considering this summer's glorious weather offering.

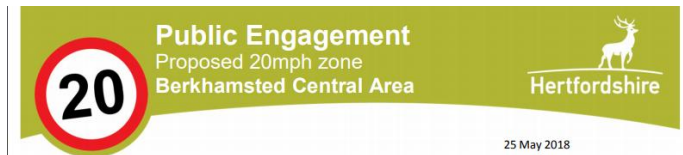
If you are able to contribute to the project in any way, or simply want to know more, please contact Kate via campbellkate01@gmail.com or 07866 024254. Look out for the Project stall on the Saturday market during the autumn (first Saturday in the month).

Various Parking and 20 mph Consultations

Herts County Councillor for the Berkhamsted Division, Cllr. Ian Reay, has advised that formal consultations will begin shortly on proposals for parking restrictions along the full length of Bridgewater Road on both sides and for 20 mph zones on the east (Hemel) side of the town centre. Both follow an informal consultation which completed in June.

A formal consultation will also take place shortly on parking restrictions on Hilltop Road at the junction with Beech Drive where unrestricted parking has led to dangerous conditions. An informal consultation on one-hour parking restrictions in the Robertson Road/ McDougall Road/ Cooper Way is currently open.

<https://bit.ly/2IbGyvO>



Berkhamsted's Lost Wharves



As part of the Heritage Open Days events in September, our Chairman and long-time supporter of the waterways, Lindy, led a party of eighteen on an informative walking tour of the canal side history and industrial archaeology of our town.

Herts Highways entry for 'Berkhamsted in Bloom' Competition?



Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Association

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