



Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association

Minutes of Meeting for 17th January 2017

Date : 17th January 2017

Held at: St Theresa's Church Centre, Shenley Road, Borehamwood WD6 1TG

Committee Members Present : Andy Lewis (Chair), Lawrence Stack (Vice Chair), Suzanne Alford (Treasurer) and John Fort (Committee Member)

November Update:

Reviva Compost Waste Site: Cllr Pat Strack, who was unable to attend our meeting, forwarded EBRA this information:

"The Reviva working group would like to thank Clare Newton for her research. Hertfordshire County Council Officers recommended that the application be turned down. It did not therefore come to County Planning Committee 21/12/16. Reviva have been given until mid to late Jan to come up with some evidence on how their suggestions would avert the odour nuisance. In reality this will probably be 1/2/17. In the meantime the Working party are working to collect evidence to show that the green waste site is not managed in accordance within the original application specifications That there is not sufficient control to ensure that the air and groundwater are not polluted".

Station Road Gasworks Development: The Planning Application was approved at the Planning Committee meeting. EBRA are concerned at the impact that such a development will have on local traffic, about the access points to access the development and that perhaps another option could be considered and about the flood risk if the current underground stream is opened up in that area.

Borehamwood Football Club Expansion into Meadow Park: Still on going.

Old Haberdashers Site in Croxdale Road: This Planning Application is still pending. (Update: This Planning Application will now be heard by the Hertsmere Borough Council Planning Committee on 16th March 2017.)

Police Update:

- No Police attended. Police Update covered:
 - Beware of burglaries – many burglaries are made possible because people are not double locking their front doors properly and /or are placing valuable items and car keys where a burglar can see them.
 - Please attend the Community Safety Partnership council meetings to discuss these types of issues. Next one is 6th February 2017 at 6.30pm at the Council offices.
- Beware of children on bikes – Andy Lewis informed those present about his encounter with a group of child cyclists in Morrisons Car Park who were displaying dangerous and anti-social behaviour. He

reported them to Morrisons security team. Lawrence Stack suggested that these children could be approached by an appropriate agency e.g. police to see if they would be interested in channelling their antisocial behaviour into developing their bike skills with a view to putting on a performance say at Family Day.

Buses:

We thanked Steve Simmons of Sullivan buses who gave us a talk about changes in the bus service for the 306, 398, 303, 358 and 823. In addition to the Appendix, Steve also pointed out that such changes should increase reliability and that Sullivan buses carry 1000 passengers including school children, in and out of Borehamwood in the morning. So effectively this is 1000 less car journeys on our roads. Please see Appendix 1 for details of changes to various bus services.

There is also concern for the future of the TfL 292 bus which may see parts of its service being cutback, we envisage that this maybe for the part of the journey from the railway station to Rossington Avenue. In essence Hertfordshire County Council are not funding this service as they did in the past and TfL are not prepared to put in any extra resources. Please watch out for the consultation about the 292 in due course. Steve added (via email) that "***In terms of the 107 and 292 TfL have stated that no changes are currently planned to routes 107 and 292. However, with TfL's transport budget significantly reduced by central government and the Mayor's "fares freeze" economies are likely to have to be made.***

Following Hertfordshire's withdrawal of funding for TfL services entering Hertfordshire including the 107 and 292, TfL have so far proposed cutting back route 298 within Potters Bar. In Essex (where the Council also stopped funding TfL buses) one regular daytime service has been withdrawn and replaced by a school journey to take London children to a school in Essex. Any changes to the 107 and 292 are more likely to happen when the contracts for these services are renewed. TfL are required to undertake a consultation if changes are proposed".

Lawrence Stack suggested people put in appropriate questions at council meetings to address any issues with our bus services.

Borehamwood Twinning with China:

Further to a great amount of recent public interest and concern in hearing that Borehamwood was twinning with China, EBRA emailed the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council for further information. The Town Council issued a press release answering some of the queries raised. Please See Appendix 2a and 2b.

It became apparent that Borehamwood's venture to twin with China actually started in 2013 with a launch party hosted by Betta and various Councillors and dignitaries and representatives from our twinned 'city'. For some reason nothing further appeared to happen, until a Special meeting was arranged by the Town Council in December 2016. It was explained that the Town Council needed to have this special meeting in order to ensure this item was on the agenda ready for the next full Hertsmer Borough Council meeting.

The Town Council will be hosting a public event on 8th March 2017 to discuss this Twinning.

The main concern of those present were:

- Why China and why the city in question?
- Why was Dr Peter Wong-Morrow writing on behalf of the Town Mayor?
- How would this be financed without costing the taxpayer any money?
- How would this benefit the local area and economy?

Local Plan:

Hertsmere Borough Council are asking for residents views on a range of areas. Residents have the option of completing either the main survey or any of the mini surveys. Please note that the results of this Plan will have future consequences for the town, so please DO COMPLETE the survey to ensure your views are heard. Update: The deadline has been further extended to **30th April 2017**.

This is the link: <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Planning--Building-Control/Planning-Policy/Local-Plan/Planning-for-Growth-what-do-you-think.aspx>

Proposed Electoral Boundary Changes:

Hertsmere Borough Council are seeking residents views about electoral boundaries, with a view to making them more equal in size. The deadline for your views is **20th March 2017**.

For further information please see i) www.bce2018.org.uk and ii) <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/News/Articles/January-2017/Have-your-say-on-new-council-ward-boundaries-for-Hertsmere.aspx>

Any other business:

Leeming Road and Manor Way Shops:

These shops premises are owned by Hertsmere borough Council who at the end of the various shops leases be they 5, 10 or 15 year leases are asking for a 150 to 400% increase in rates. Shop rates are variable in terms of the footage and frontage size etc.

It was suspected by many of those present at the EBRA meeting, that this could be a ploy to close down those parades and redevelop them into homes, however we did also feel these two parades of shops could do with a redevelopment and provide better and more social housing accommodation should they ever be rebuilt and we recognised that many of these shops were well used by those residing in those areas.

Organ and Blood donor money raising event:

Our Vice Chair, Lawrence Stack is back after a long absence and is in receipt of a new kidney after having kidney disease issues for some years. He will be hosting an event to raise awareness of organ and blood donors, on **11th March 2017** at St Teresa's Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG, between 1.30 to 3.30pm. Tickets are £5 to raise money for the kidney unit at the hospital he attended, with a view to buying a new blood pressure monitor for the Kidney Unit. Contact Sasha 0777 186 2820 for details. The Rotary Club will carry out blood pressure checks. There will be two dance performances by the Hertsmere Academy of Dance and Performing Arts and refreshments will be available.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is on 28th March 2017 at 7.50pm at St Teresa's Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG.

Our future meeting dates for 2017 are:

- 28th March 2017
- 9th May 2017
- 4th July 2017
- 12th September 2017
- 7th November 2017

The End

APPENDIX 1:



SERVICE CHANGES
SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY

To improve reliability in the light of ever increasing traffic congestion we are making a number of changes to our bus services from Saturday 21st January. Pick up a new timetable booklet or visit www.intalink.org.uk.

306 Borehamwood - Watford.

Service to and from Watford now every 30 minutes (less frequent after 19.00 and on Sundays).

Revised Monday to Friday timetable with additional peak hour journeys within Borehamwood. The Sunday & Public Holiday service is revised with fewer journeys around North Borehamwood and no longer runs via Allerton Road and Belford Road.

398 Potters Bar - Borehamwood - Watford

Some little used peak hour journeys between Potters Bar and Borehamwood are withdrawn. The 12.25 Monday to Friday journey from Potters Bar (12.43 ex Borehamwood Tesco) is extended to Watford.

The 18.30 journey from Watford is replaced by a later journey at 19.00.

The Saturday service is improved to run every two hours between Borehamwood and Potters Bar.

303, 358 and 823 These school routes will leave a few minutes earlier in the mornings due to increased traffic.

Appendix 2:

PRESS RELEASE: SISTER TOWN PROPOSAL

A Special meeting of the General Management Committee was called for 14 December 2016 (Minutes 50 and 51 follow):

“50. SPECIAL MEETING

The Chairman delivered a verbal report relating to the reasons for the calling of a special meeting.

In essence, a decision to take the issue to Full Council in January 2017 was preferred (rather than at a later date) in order to maintain a constructive and up to date dialogue with representatives of the Huainan Municipal People's Government.

51. SISTER TOWN PROPOSAL

The Committee received a detailed report from Dr Wong Morrow setting out the advantages of the Council agreeing to a Sister Town arrangement with the Huainan Municipal People's Government. Matters discussed included:

- The pronunciation of 'Huainan' (“Whey-naan”)
- The cost to the taxpayer for the enterprise would be nil
- The initiative would be called a “Sister” rather than “Twin” town arrangement
- The emphasis was on building cultural and business links
- Links would be forged between film studios and universities
- A number of individuals and organisations had already offered support and in some cases financial commitment to the project.

It was noted that O Dowden MP had written to the Mayor to express support, in principle.

It was RESOLVED that:

Full Council on 11 January 2017 be asked to consider approving the proposal to form a sister town arrangement to promote cultural and business links with Huainan (guided by Dr P Wong Morrow) on condition that full support and commitment for the project was obtained from Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council.”

Full Council met on 11 January 2017 (Minute 51 follows):

“51. SISTER TOWN PROPOSAL

Members considered the recommendation from the Special General Management Committee meeting of 14 December 2016 (GMC 2016/17 Minute 51).

It was noted that written letters of support for the proposal had been received from O Dowden CBE MP (Member of Parliament for Hertsmere), Cllr D Williams (Executive Member - Enterprise, Education & Skills - Hertfordshire County Council) and Cllr M Bright (Leader of the Council - Hertsmere Borough Council).

Issues of importance put forwards by Members included the need for:

- checks and balances (i.e. clear oversight) of the project;
- the project to be cost neutral to the Town Council (and ratepayer);
- the Council to be fully informed of developments through the working group;
- the project emphasis to be “business leading to culture and friendship in the future”
- assistance and support to be sought from both central and local government; and
- the public to be kept up to date with developments and to have a clear understanding of the aims of the relationship (business links leading to economic benefits in the first instance).

After a substantive and wide ranging debate a recorded vote was taken (the motion being proposed by Cllr Mrs P Strack and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Parnell):

For the Motion

Cllr Mrs A Mitchell
Cllr C Barker
Cllr Mrs S Parnell
Cllr Mrs P Strack
Cllr C Butchins
Cllr S Rubner

Against the Motion

Cllr G Franklin
Cllr R Butler
Cllr Mrs F Turner
Cllr V Eni

Abstaining

Cllr G Silver
Cllr E Silver

The motion was, therefore, carried.

It was RESOLVED that:

the proposal to form a sister town arrangement to promote cultural and business links with Huainan (guided by Dr P Wong Morrow) on condition that full support and commitment for the project was obtained from Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council be approved.”

The working group (previously established) is scheduled to meet on 23 January 2017 in order to arrange for a public presentation on the sister town arrangement at the Annual Parish Meeting on 8 March 2017.

Town Clerk
Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council
17 January 2017

H R O Jones
Town Clerk
Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council
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