



Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association

Minutes of Meeting for 28th March 2017

Date: 28th March 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 (Secretary)

AGM

Committee Selection: The following Committee Members and their respective positions were nominated again for this coming year. There was no other interest shown by any other members:

- Chairman – Andrew Lewis
- Vice Chairman – Lawrence Stack
- Treasurer – Suzanne Alford
- Secretary – John Fort

Chairman's Report: EBRA had a satisfactory year working on these projects/campaigns /joint campaigns with the local Council and local Councillors:

- Saving Aldenham Reservoir and bringing the public's attention to key elements and ethics of this Planning Application
- Against AAA taxi planning application – concern about train station forecourt car parking issues
- Against the development on the Old Haberdashers Site in Croxdale Road – due to traffic congestion and infrastructure issues in Borehamwood
- Against the expansion of Reviva Composting Site – due to emitting unpleasant odours
- Against the development proposed for the Gas holders site - due to traffic congestion and infrastructure issues in Borehamwood
- Saving Meadow Park against the expansion of the Borehamwood Football Club - saving it for public and community use
- Instigation of Defibrillators around the town - to save lives
- To seek clarification on certain aspects of the Boulevard's parking rules and regulations

We also highlighted the:

- Transport Vision for 2050 and the public consultation for the new local transport plan for Hertfordshire
- The need for local residents to participate in Hertsmere Borough Councils 'Local Plan'
- Possible removal of a number of BT phone boxes from around the area
- Burglary problem in the area
- Nuisance children on bikes issue

We also supported the TRACKS campaign in Radlett in that we were against the development of the Newberries car park.

As an Association we currently have 39 household members but ideally we need 70 in total to cover all the costs incurred when running a Residents Association.

Please see the separate email attachments for our financial AGM information.

March Update Since Our Last meeting:

Cllr Pat Strack from the Town Council, who was unable to attend our meeting, forwarded EBRA this information about Reviva, China, Aldenham Reservoir and the Town Defibrillator Campaign, which was read out by Sue Alford:

Reviva Compost Waste Site:

Cllr Pat Strack felt the recent article in the paper was wrong. The MPs, Oliver Dowden and Matthew Offord (Hendon) had not fully considered the advice Cllr Strack gave on behalf of STENCH the campaign group. This highlighted the risks of particulates in the air and control of bio aerosols. Reviva had not produced an Air management Plan (AMP) nor an Odour Management Scheme (OMS) as recommended by their own 'experts'. Cllr Strack visited the site on Friday 10th March with Oliver Dowden MP and Matt Offord Hendon MP and his PA. The site had been tidied up since the December visit. But there still remained the massive wood pile. This was evident in the article's photo showing Cllr Pat Strack with the two MPs, in front of a wood pile that was to be added to the compost. The wood pile contained wood contaminated with paint varnish and other treatments and therefore should never be added to organic waste or be called organic. The paper pellets that they added to the compost that had been in evidence in December for addition to the compost were not in evidence at the March visit. Neither were they selling wood for wood burners nor gravel.

Oliver Dowden MP will support the residents in this campaign.

Ahead of the HCC Planning Meeting due on 22nd March, three speakers – Cllr Pat Strack, Ann Goddard (Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society) and Myk Tucker (Brockley Hill Residents Association) - were due to give a speech against the extension and for the removal of the site. HCC officers had recommended refusal and then the Reviva directors withdrew their application on Tuesday 21st March.

STENCH would meet the following week to plan their next steps.

China:

The China Sister Town sub-committee consists of Cllr Clive Butchins, Cllr Graeme Franklin, Cllr Sandra Parnell and Peter Wong Morrow and his daughter Wei Ling. This subcommittee is chaired by Cllr Pat Strack and they met on 27th March 2017, unanimous decisions were taken at that subcommittee meeting and they will now report to the GMC.

Aldenham Reservoir:

Aldenham Country Park Trust Ltd (ACPT) are appealing against the HCC decision not to register the footpath around the reservoir as a DMMO (right of way) and this is currently with HCC. A decision will be made about how the appeal will be dealt with, very soon.

ACPT Ltd provided written evidence from about 20 people who had used the footpath around the reservoir prior to HCC taking it over in 1974. The bulk of the respondents had used the path between 1954 and 1974 but others had used it even earlier.

We understand that the Gosrani Brothers, who are the landowners of the green belt land opposite the reservoir and of the Aldenham Reservoir, have objected to this evidence pre 1974 submitted regarding the footpath round the Lake.

Hertsmere Borough Council is preparing their new local Plan which will come into force in 2019. HBC have asked developers to come forward with sites for building. Liberty Aldenham have put forward the site at Watford Rd adjacent to the Fishery.

Town Defibrillator Campaign:

The Town Defibrillator Campaign has ended although there are still a few loose ends, mostly paperwork to sort out. Lawrence Stack had wanted to install a Defibrillator at Keystone Passage. However an outside defibrillator needs a power source and a special cabinet. The installation, machine and cabinet would cost at least £2k. To date much work and effort has been put into writing to the landlords and to the tenants. Eric Silver has written to each at least twice. There was no response. Lawrence Stack has asked to take this forward.

The Committee are meeting in June to round off the project. To date 43 defibrillators are in key locations around the Town, and over 20 have been installed as the result of the work of the Town Team. Two were donated by customers of Cllrs Gary and Eric Silver whose customers also made generous donations. The British Heart Foundation donated three defibrillators. Several local organisations donated: Taylor Wimpey, Borehamwood Spiritual Centre, Hertsmere Leisure, Rotary.

Grants came from Health and Well Being, a HBC Ward Improvement Initiatives Scheme and some organisations raised their own funds - McNicholas at Elstree, Elstree Tennis Club, Harley House Dental Practice and negotiations are underway with Hertsmere Leisure for a defibrillator at Three Ways. Ten of eleven town primary schools and Hertswood Academy have benefitted with a £300 grant from The Town Defibrillator Team fund, paying £153 from their own funds. The DfE and NHS have a scheme to provide schools with half price Defibrillators.

Training has been provided by Verity MachLachlan of Heart Start.

Borehamwood Football Club Expansion into Meadow Park:

This Planning application is still on going.

Old Haberdashers Site in Croxdale Road:

This Planning Application was withdrawn on 16th March which was the day of the Planning Committee Meeting.

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>

Police Update:

No Police attended. This Police update covered questions submitted to them for their responses:

- **With regards to the new change in law to not use mobile phones in vehicles, EBRA asked the police to please advise us on the safe and legal use of Mobile Phones/GPS/Sat Nav etc. in vehicles:**

Police Response: There is a lot of detail around mobile phone use/gadgets etc. and the police suggest looking at a government website to confirm specifics. However mobile phone USE in a vehicle even when stationary in traffic (i.e. when engine is on and the driver has control of the steering and propulsion) has increased to a £200 fine and 6 points on a driving licence. Use of other gadgets, changing channels on radio, eating or drinking could be construed as the driver not being in proper control. When a driver does not have two hands on the wheel, that is enough for not being in proper control. This can result in points and/or a fine for £60 or a driver awareness course.

- Sue Alford (EBRA) also added that drivers should be aware that:
Mobile phones/gadgets in the car must not be touched at all whilst in a car with the ignition on. Drivers must park up safely, remove keys from ignition before touching gadgets in the car

- There needs to be a clear 45 degree angle of the drivers view with no gadgets in that area.
- The windscreen wiper area also needs to be free of anything on the windscreen e.g. sticky signs etc.

- **Update on nuisance youths on bikes:**

Police response: This issue has been reduced in Shenley Road (or at least the police are not seeing it so much and certainly these things are not being reported).

Sue Alford requested those present and anyone else to please report any nuisance youths/behaviours on bikes to the Police and call 101.

CLlr Michelle Vince added that a pupil at Hertswood school was suspended for three days for bike behaviour offences and will not be allowed to use their bike at the school ever again.

- **We read in the national papers that there's a drug called 'spice' and that it's turning people into zombies in Manchester – what is the status of use of this drug in Borehamwood?**

Police response: Spice is a substance that is predominantly found in prisons. Cannabis is still being used in Borehamwood. Cannabis use is no more of a problem here than in any other town.

- **Updates on burglaries in the area:**

Police response: There have been resources put in place to deal with a spike in burglaries over the last few months. Over the last few weeks there has been a rise in thefts of tools from vans, especially those in hotel car parks.

- **What is the status with regard wheelie bin fires over recent months?**

Police response: There have been 18 wheelie and community bin fires since August last year. There is an operation being developed at the moment (with Borehamwood Safer Neighbourhood Team taking the lead) to tackle this problem and bring the offender to justice.

- **Anything else of which we should be aware:**

Police response: Crime figures are available at the CSP meetings where a more thorough explanation can be given, if required.

Buses Update:

Sue Alford read out information sent to her by Steve Simmonds of Sullivan Buses about changes to these bus services: 615, 655, 601 and B3. *Please see Appendix 1 for more information.*

Lawrence Stack also highlighted that school buses were also being affected. In that a school bus would no longer be going to Townsend school.

CLlr Leon Reeve added that £3/4m was required to keep funding the TfL buses e.g. 292 and 107. He said that in Essex the council had withdrawn funding given to TfL who responded with if the council didn't pay TfL, they would withdraw the service. The 292 service is up for tender next year and it is possible that the service route may be changed to come up the A1 to Stirling Corner and then go to Barnet, with the 107 continuing to run through Borehamwood. But if that was the case then the north of Borehamwood from the train station up to Rossington Avenue would not have a bus service.

New Agenda Item:

Yavneh Primary School – Presentation by Bowmer and Kirkland (Consultants)

On behalf of the Education Funding Authority (EFA), we were pleased to host a consultation event by Bowmer and Kirkland, who are part of a team of architects and consultants, who presented to us the plans for a permanent primary school on the Yavneh site.

The current situation is that there is currently a small primary school facility on the Yavneh school site. It consists of porta cabins which are permitted to remain there only until 2018. It currently caters for 60 primary school children (4 to 11 years old). The new proposed primary school would cater for 420 children plus 42 staff members. It would be a two storey building (which would be on the same site as agreed back in 2011). Some facilities of the school would be open for wider community use such as the gymnasium and toilets etc. for use during out of school time.

This school would predominantly be a Jewish faith school but has an open admission policy and so it is a free open school.

Planning permission had been granted for this new primary school back in 2011 but had now lapsed. Bowmer and Kirkland have been instructed by the Education Funding Agency to develop a scheme for planning submission. They hope to apply for planning in April, as they are on a very tight timetable to get building underway around August 2017, current porta cabins removed by 2018 and the school completed and ready for the September intake in 2018. Bowmer and Kirkland are working with the Educational Funding Authority and aim to have a very efficient design of building in terms of layout, energy and provide a high tech learning environment, with the necessary security provisions. They will not be taking away any playing field area.

Bowmer and Kirkland also were keen to stress that they were aware of traffic concerns in the area and that they would take into account the travel behaviours of parents dropping off and collecting their children, but that they would be encouraging a decrease in vehicle usage in the area. They had 27 possible measures to address the traffic management issues and these included encouraging pupils to walk to school (62% already walk). They would ensure parking around Hillside Avenue was supervised. They would have a 'catch the bus' week and 'walk to school' month. Last but not least, staggering the school day's start times etc, would also be considered. They were keen to participate in the Stars Programme, of which 4200 schools are part of a national programme designed to improve these schools transport issues. Successful schools are awarded bronze, silver and gold stars depending on their levels of success.

During the construction phase, they were looking at a secondary access route onto the school site via Monksmead – which would entail removing some hedgerow and a fence, for construction vehicles to gain access to the school site. Oaksmead was deemed to be too tight due to current car parking issues.

In the main those present at our EBRA meeting seemed satisfied and generally positive with the design of the school. It was highlighted that the design was also being considered to be future proofed in that a third story could be added to the building should future capacity needs require it. However what was clear was the concern about the traffic generation and traffic management issues such a permanent school would bring to the Hillside Avenue area. Cllr Leon Reeve highlighted the true picture of the traffic issues faced in that area. A CPZ may be needed in the Hillside Avenue area but these took at least three years to be implemented. He was also concerned about the time scales of getting the Planning Application heard and felt this may be more likely to happen in June.

EBRA asked about previous consultation events held by Bowmer and Kirkland with regards this Yavneh Primary school Planning Application. These had included inviting local councillors to a consultation event but this clashed with another important meeting elsewhere. So another meeting is being planned over the next week or so with ward councillors. They also had a public consultation event with local residents, Yavneh staff and parents, notified via a flyer, which was held at the school. Bowmer and Kirkland said they were aware of these traffic management concerns from the previous consultation events. We also asked them to hold further consultation events as the previous ones had not been that well-advertised and had been aimed at specific groups of stakeholders.

In due course please visit Yavneh Primary School Website and Hertsmere Borough Councils website for further updates (at the time of these minutes being posted there is nothing as yet published on either of these sites). Attached to your email with these minutes should be Yavneh Primary School Public Consultation information about these new proposals.

In the event of any major delays with the Planning Application being granted, then any contingency plan would be with the Educational Funding Authority."

Any other business:

- We notified those present of upcoming events and roadworks.
- Lawrence Stack discussed his current fund raising campaign to raise money for Edgware Hospital's Renal Unit to get a new blood pressure machine.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is on 9th May 2017 at 7.50pm at St Teresa's Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG.

Our future meeting dates for 2017 are:

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

The End

BUS SERVICE CHANGES IN BOREHAMWOOD

MARCH & APRIL 2017

Starting 27th March 2017:

615 Hatfield- Borehamwood- Stanmore (UNO)

Revised times to improve reliability in the light of increasing traffic congestion, particularly on schooldays for which a different timetable has been introduced.

655 Borehamwood – St Albans- Hatfield (UNO)

Service withdrawn and replaced by route 601 at similar frequency. Within Borehamwood service withdrawn completely without replacement between Farriers Way and Manor Way meaning that Farriers Way and part of Arundel Drive no longer have a bus service. Hertfordshire are considering extending the B3 to Farriers Way and Stirling Corner (for Morrisons) between 9.00 and 15.00 but this would reduce the B3 daytime frequency to Well End from two buses an hour to one.

On Mondays to Fridays only route 601 will provide a more direct service between St Albans and Hatfield and will provide a direct link from Borehamwood to Welwyn Garden City. Saturday service now runs only between Borehamwood & St Albans. Therefore Borehamwood no longer has a bus to Hatfield on Saturdays.

No other changes have been announced.

Steve Simmonds
SULLIVAN BUSES
March 2017