



**Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association**

**Minutes of Meeting for 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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

**Committee Members Present:** Andy Lewis (Chair) and John Fort (Hon Secretary)

**Apologies from:** Suzanne Alford (Treasurer)

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**Updates Since Our Last meeting:**

These updates\* have been emailed to us by Cllr Pat Strack, Elstree And Borehamwood Town Council:

**China\*:**

Cllr Pat Strack is waiting on a meeting.

**Aldenham Country Park Footpath\*:**

There is still no news on this matter.

**Reviva Compost Waste Site Update – HCC Planning Application Ref: PL\0903\18 (0/0431-18)\***

**STENCH (c/o Cllr Pat Strack)**

- ◆ Reviva - Cllr Pat Strack circulated a response from the Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society (EBGBS) to all their EBGBS members to encourage them to write in personally and express their concerns to the Planning Department. Although the deadline for responses was 14<sup>th</sup> August, the Department has a legal duty to receive all responses up to the date of the Planning Committee. However, it was imperative to get in as many responses (e.g. objections) as possible, so that the Officer can build a case. The case needs to be overwhelming against the Planning Application. Ann Goddard and Cllr Pat Strack have registered to speak against the Application when it comes to Planning.
- ◆ However, Cllr Pat Strack voiced her opinion that there was a danger here that if the Application was turned down, the composting licence still remained with Reviva and they could start composting again

**Local Plan Update:**

Andy recapped on some of previously proposed potential local Plan sites:

- ◆ Land East of Cowley Hill, Borehamwood – 1025 dwellings - approx. 69 hectares
- ◆ Land east and south of Rowley Lane, Borehamwood – 280 dwellings plus an employment area – approx. 49 hectares
- ◆ Land between Baker Street and Barnet Road, South of Potters Bar – approx. 795 dwellings – approx. 62 hectares
- ◆ Land West of Baker Street, South West Potters Bar – approx. 1200 dwellings – approx. 97 hectares

John Cartledge, EBRA member, rightfully reminded everyone that these sites were currently only identified as potential sites for development and that there were a lot more other potential sites as well as these ones to be considered.

### **Planning Applications:**

#### **Windsor Close – Plans to build 50 flats and houses – Status: Refused**

Reasons for Refusal:

By reason of its poor design and layout and excessive height, scale, massing and bulk, the development would fail to be of a high-quality design or appropriate in scale etc within the local context nor compliment or take advantage of the opportunity to improve the character or enhance the setting of a heritage asset. Due to inadequate waste collection and access arrangements, the proposals failed to provide a safe and convenient access and would likely harm the safe and efficient flow of the highway and fail to make a safe and accessible development and did not provide enough affordable housing provision. Due to the excessive travel distances from the closest vehicle access points for fire appliance to the furthest block A, B and C for the fire appliance, the proposal also failed to ensure a safe and accessible healthy living environment for residents and other users of this proposed development.

#### **Majestic House:**

Majestic House got planning permission to build another three stories up for 14 flats (11 x 1 bed and 3 x 2 bed flats), keeping the retail unit at the bottom and no parking facilities but 24 cycle bays.

#### **Cannon public house:**

The Cannon Public House is now a dance school. Car parking facilities will stay on site.

### **Police Update:**

No Police attended. This Police did not respond at all to our request.

#### **From the Transport Forum Update:**

PCSO John Hainsworth had compiled data about traffic and road conditions in the Elstree and Borehamwood area and compared February 2018 to June 2018 to the same period in 2017 which showed a 41% increase in road traffic collisions where there was damage only. There was no change in road traffic collisions where there was suspected injury. There was a 20% increase in road offences and a 50% decrease in vehicle nuisance or inappropriate use. PCSO Hainsworth has now been the PCSO for the Elstree Ward for some months and said the main concern of residents living there was the speeding traffic and drivers still using their mobile phones whilst driving along Watling Street, Elstree Hill North, the High Street and over the hill on to the South of Elstree Hill. PCSO Hainsworth said this has highlighted the areas where work needs to be done to try and reduce the 'damage only' incidences and to try and ascertain why these incidences were happening.

John Cartledge added that many other factors per incident needed analysing too.

#### **Crimestoppers launches a campaign to raise awareness of 'county lines':**

Extracted from <https://www.police.uk>

Andy highlighted a national campaign aimed at raising public awareness of 'county lines' has been launched by Crimestoppers. Social media advertising will show the signs to spot and encourage the public to report concerns anonymously to Crimestoppers.

County lines refers to gangs and organised criminal networks which export illegal drugs into suburban, rural and coastal areas, using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal line". These gangs move into a rural or

suburban area where they set up base, and exploit children and vulnerable adults to move drugs and money. Many of those exploited by these gangs have been forced to carry out criminal activity by threats, grooming and extortion and can be described as modern-day slaves.

### **Increasing awareness**

To help the public understand what county lines is and encourage reporting to Crimestoppers, the charity has launched a national campaign. Social media advertising will help raise awareness of the issue. During the campaign, an ad van will be present in key cities across Yorkshire and Humberside, the West Midlands, Wales, Essex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex during the campaign, to inform the public of county lines and how they can help.

Crimestoppers are working closely with the Home Office, who are running a campaign which targets staff who may encounter young people who are being exploited by county lines gangs. The Home Office campaign targets staff in the transport, private security and accommodation sector and provides them with information on how to identify if a young person may be being exploited by county lines gangs and how to safeguard that vulnerable young person. The Home Office's campaign is just part of a wider range of work, set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, to tackle county lines.

### **Spot the signs and report concerns**

Crimestoppers' campaign shows the signs to spot which might indicate a child or vulnerable person is being exploited by a county lines gang. The signs which you might see are:

- ◆ A child or young person (sometimes as young as 12) in a shopping centre or high street, or on public transport during school hours or unusual hours (e.g. early in the morning, late at night).
- ◆ A child or young person who seems unfamiliar with the local area
- ◆ A child or young person being approached or intimidated by a controlling peer or group
- ◆ A child or vulnerable person who is deliberately avoiding authority figures such as police officers or security guards
- ◆ More people calling at a local address than normal, sometimes at unsociable hours
- ◆ Suspicious vehicles or people at an address
- ◆ A neighbour who has not been seen for a while

If you see something that doesn't feel right, or looks suspicious, you can report your concerns anonymously to Crimestoppers. You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or send an untraceable online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

There is a good website that shows where local crimes are happening.

<https://www.police.uk/hertfordshire/J02/>

### **Elstree and Borehamwood Train Station Redevelopment Programme:**

Bob Redman, of First Impressions, who has good links with Thameslink over the years, updated us with more answers after he had a meeting with Paul Best, who is Project Manager for the redevelopment of the station:

- ◆ Bob said the final plans are in for redevelopment of the station. The contract for the redevelopment of the station will be awarded to the chosen supplier, who will be selected over the next few weeks.
- ◆ They then need to implement a mobilisation programme to prepare for the new construction, which will last for 3 to 4 months. This will also entail the careful removing, storing of all the design work and feature pieces provided by First Impressions around the station area and then its re-installment in due course. They will convert the empty coffee shop into a temporary booking hall. The construction will be in the form of bolting 'boxes onto boxes'. They are in process of setting up a communication programme that is more than just flyers.

- ◆ Bob had queried the size and type of the new doors to get in and out of the station. Swing doors had been proposed but it was believed this would not work well due to the volume of users and these have been changed now to sliding doors.
- ◆ Bob has raised the point that when coming from Platform 1, a gap had been identified between an overhang and another part of the building which needs an extension of the canopy. We await a response.
- ◆ The locations of the ticket machines are still undecided.
- ◆ A member of the EBRA audience last time queried whether the disability access regarding the lifts etc, would be affected. Bob was pleased to say that he now had a definitive answer from Paul Best, Project Manager, who said that there are no reasons to close the lifts.
- ◆ The redevelopment programme will start by October and in due course they will select who will run the coffee shop.
- ◆ They must finish by March 2019 to be eligible for the funding.

### Any Other Business:

#### Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust – Talk about: ‘Where wild things are’

We welcomed Clare who was from the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT), which is one of many Wildlife Trusts around the UK, who all work together to conserve wildlife. Clare provided an excellent overview of the work carried out across the County and explained their approach to conservation and to the importance of linking every patch of good habitat to provide a network of places for wildlife to live.

Clare said the HMWT talk to landowners, farmers, schools and the Councils and help raise awareness, share information, educate and advise them where applicable on how to preserve wildlife and their habitats etc. They have 500 volunteers and 20,000 members. Clare told us there were 200 wildlife sites and 40 nature reserves in the Herts and Middlesex area. A nature reserve had the definition of offering the highest level of protection. Their work involved restoring some, maintaining them and creating new ones. They also removed non-native species, monitored wildlife and their habitats and surveyed that what they had in place was working. In addition, as an organisation they also needed to fund raise too.

Clare said species are affected by i) loss of habitat, ii) climate change and iii) non-native species.

- i) In our Herts and Middlesex area there was the added problems of land being redeveloped and an increase in built up areas, and a large number of busy arterial roads resulting in the loss of heathland over the years which has almost disappeared. So, consequently we were losing many species’ natural habitats. If there was farm land it was often arable land, which is unfortunately actually fairly barren in terms of providing a suitable habitat and provided rather limited food sources for many species.
- ii) Climate change is unfortunately sending our seasons out of kilter and that affects breeding cycles and food supplies of wildlife. Wet weather and flooding will affect worms by literally drowning them etc and they are a key source of food for many animals and birds. Drought conditions also affects worms by making them go deeper underground and has a detrimental impact on the ecosystem and it can take a decade to correct itself.
- iii) Non-native foreign animals and wildlife are also a threat to our species e.g. the grey squirrel was introduced and killed off much of the red squirrel population. The Processionary Moth has spines and is fatal to dogs.

Other key points she covered included:

- ◆ Due to species wanting to move around between areas, HMWT et al acknowledged the need to create networks and natural ‘corridors’ between reserves and wildlife sites to allow wildlife to move around. So HMWT went around the whole of Hertfordshire over a two-year period and they identified and mapped many tiny habits identified as possible suitable environments and ended up with 69,500 markers on a map

of the area, each marker had to be further assessed to identify suitable corridors to cultivate and network areas together. In some cases, disused railway lines provided a good corridor.

- ◆ Clare gave us some surprising facts about 'chalk streams'. They are described as having low banks, being shallow, water kept at a fairly constant temperature and having crystal clear water. Due to the porous nature of the chalk, water goes into an aquifer which is underground. These streams have a greater range of wildlife than any other stream, including otters. There are only 200 chalk streams in the world and 85% of the world's chalk streams are in the UK around this area.
- ◆ She discussed otters and said they typically have a 30-mile wandering zone and so are hard to monitor as they move on. However, she was pleased to inform us that they were coming back albeit it's a gentle slow return. She added that Mink, which are part of the Otter family, devour water voles and eat duck eggs, but despite that the Water vole, which had seen a 95% decrease, was also making a good come back.
- ◆ HMWT also removed alien plants such as the Himalayan Balsam plant and Japanese knotweed.
- ◆ HMWT worked with councils and landowners and encouraged them not to mow or delay mowing central reservations or verges and instead let wildflowers grow and spread their seeds. HMWT were also involved in other projects dealing with overgrown areas, which entailed scrapping off the top surface of the soil and removing brambles etc and then working with Landowners/ farmers who had grazing animals which would then do 'conservation grazing' which helped keep the land maintained and brambles etc at bay.

Clare said the public could help by:

- ◆ Growing nectar producing flowers
- ◆ Setting up 'Insect hotels' in their gardens to encourage wildlife and provide a suitable habitat for many different species e.g. ladybirds, bees etc
- ◆ Ponds are great but please ensure there is a way out of the pond for wildlife to crawl out.
- ◆ Hedgehogs are at great risk of disappearing, and in fact could disappear in the next 20 years or less, due to changes in their habitat. Please do not give them bread and milk. Remove fruit nets so they do not get tangled up in them. Have a hole in your fence so they can move around gardens and please do not use slug pellets. Provide a pile of logs to encourage woodlice. Please feed them dog food and water. Please check under bonfires before lighting them.

Clare explained they were wholly reliant on funding and have to fund all the work they do. More than half of their funds come from their 20,000 members, grants provide a further 21% of their income and donations are quite small.

The trust run many events e.g. walks, workshops, training, badger watching and other such experiences etc and many are free, although donations are greatly welcomed. Clare also mentioned that you could turn some flowers into gin! HMWT also run gin tasting and garden tours!

Membership would make a lovely gift for someone at Christmas or Birthday!

To support this Trust e.g. donate, join, volunteer go to: <https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us>

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Ltd  
<https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/>  
01727 858901  
Email: [info@hmwt.org](mailto:info@hmwt.org)

**Elstree and Borehamwood Unity network – Talk by Martine Eni**

EBRA would like to thank Martine Eni of the 'Elstree and Borehamwood Unity Network' for coming to talk about a new yearly event happening in our town. This initiative will attempt to bring together the different communities living here.

Martine recognised that we are all doing well in our respective communities but we do not interact to the best of capabilities thus wasting resources and time reinventing the wheel.

Martine said her pool of potential volunteers is also stretched unnecessarily therefore the 'Elstree and Borehamwood Unity Network' has been created to get all the conversations and networking going and to explore the best possible outcomes we can get for our town and all its residents.

With the support of some county, borough and town councillors from all sides and faith leaders from different backgrounds, they hoped to demonstrate the extraordinary synergy of this initiative, that would be on show during their **Diversity Festival** on the 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2018 at Fairway hall. They invited all members to participate.

Business start-ups, local artists and members of the community who were less able, would be welcome, to come and display their work etc and join in this all-inclusive community yearly event. Martine hoped that we would all be inspired to participate.

The prices are minimal and all groups at risk e.g. like the elderly, Gratitude members etc. will be offered free tickets.

Our Mayor Cllr Victor Eni is also presenting the event to some schools who are interested and he is giving his full support to this initiative.

Martine can be contacted on [interculturalbe@gmail.com](mailto:interculturalbe@gmail.com)

## Other Events

- ◆ All Saints Coffee Mornings 11-1pm starts again this Autumn: Free refreshments a chance to see some of the work that goes on in the Town. Clubs and voluntary organisations.
- ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> Sept – All Saints: Exhibition from local craft enthusiasts and clubs/organisations and reading from Writers in the Woods Free tea and coffee a chance to network
- ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> October - NSPCC Elstree Mozart Players will perform at a supper dinner at Revelly Lodge
- ◆ 13<sup>th</sup> October - All Saints Coffee morning: Concert from local Musicians
- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> November – Fireworks at Meadow Park – 6-7pm
- ◆ 10<sup>th</sup> November - All Saints Coffee Morning 11am - 1pm – Pre-Xmas sale for charities, information stands etc
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday Service – 9.30am St Michaels and All Angels, Brook Road
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> November – Beacon Lighting event – 6.45pm Woodcock Hill Village Green
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> November – 'The Battles Over' – 5.30pm Fairway Hall
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day - Borehamwood War Memorial at 11am and other events
- ◆ 17<sup>th</sup> November – Elstree Mozart Players Concert at Allum Hall - 7-9pm
- ◆ 18<sup>th</sup> November – NSPCC Christmas Fayre – Allum Manor 10-4pm
- ◆ 25<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Lights Switched on 2 - 4pm All Saints Church

## 2019:

- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> January – All Saints – 11 – 1pm: A Year in photos
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> February – All Saints - 11 - 1pm: Writing and a Concert
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> March – All Saints 11 – 1pm: Youth makes music
- ◆ 13<sup>th</sup> April – All Saints 11 -1pm: Young Performers
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> May – All Saints 11 – 1pm: Town Pre Festival
- ◆ 22<sup>nd</sup> June - All Saints: Town Flower Festival

Please contact Cllr. Pat Strack, Leader Town Council, if you have any general enquiries.

## Town Council Meetings:

- ◆ Community Safety Meeting - Fairway Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> October @7pm
- ◆ Transport Forum - Fairway Hall, 24<sup>th</sup> October @7pm

### **EBRA – Committee – we need your help**

EBRA have a very tiny committee of currently about three people and we desperately need more people to help us. Do you have any spare hours each bi-monthly period to help us? If you are able to help in anyway this would be very much appreciated. We need researchers, letter writers, people to help out on the night of our meetings to put out chairs etc, ideally someone who can either help do the teas and coffees and/or run the membership desk at our meetings and welcome in attendees and sign up new members and take subscription payments etc – training will be provided. Andy does the agenda and power point presentation and Sue does the membership admin and minutes. Going forward, if anyone else is interested in doing the minutes please let us know, so Sue can be freed up to do more campaigning etc. We have one internal meeting for about two hours during the week before the next public meeting, so there is not a big demand on your time. We really need more of you on board to achieve our aims and goals! Although we are a small committee, we have plenty of fun too.

### **Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.50pm at St Teresa's Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG.

Our future meeting for **2019** are on Tuesdays on these dates:

- ◆ 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- ◆ 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**The End**