



Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association - May 2016 Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting : 10th May 2016

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

Committee Members Present : Lawrence Stack (Vice-Chair), Suzanne Alford (Treasurer), and Clare Newton (Membership Secretary)

Apologies: Andy Lewis (Chair), John Fort (Committee Member)

Police Update:

No Police attended.

'Drug Fam' Presentation:

Further to meeting 'Drug Fam' at a Community Safety Partnership meeting, 'Drug Fam' were invited to our EBRA meeting to promote their support group. After hearing a personal family story told by Sarah she explained that 'Drug Fam' were there to provide understanding, education and support to those e.g. family, friends and carers, etc, affected by someone else's use or misuse of drugs or/and alcohol.

The support group meet on Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm at Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 1JJ. 'Drug fam' can be contacted on Tel: 01494 442777. Their helpline is 03008883853. Website: www.drugfam.co.uk Email: office@drugfam.co.uk.

Aldenham Reservoir Update:

Clare Newton (Committee Member) said there is currently no further news on the Aldenham reservoir situation until the Goswani family (Liberty Lake Aldenham Ltd), owners of the reservoir, put forward proposals and put in their planning application which is expected in due course.

Further to a query from EBRA to Oliver Dowden, MP, regarding his position on the Aldenham reservoir and developing on local green belt land, he had stated that it was '*a matter for Hertsmere Borough Council to determine and that if such a development was the only option, then it must be 100% watertight and legally binding, so that the developers could not resile from it subsequently, for example through corporate restructuring*'. Oliver said his position was '*passionately committed to maintaining our green open spaces for future generations to enjoy. The green belt is vital to protecting our open spaces and preventing Hertsmere succumbing to soulless urban sprawl. Clearly the council will need to weigh this up very carefully in their decision and be sure that there is absolutely no other way in which the reservoir can be preserved for future generations.*'

Transport Forum Update:

Elstree & Borehamwood station:

The Elstree and Borehamwood railway station is the second busiest station on the Thameslink North route. The station is leased from Network Rail who have done a study to review pedestrian flow.

It was proposed that the windows on either side of the doors leading to and from the ticket office would be replaced by additional doors to reduce the bottleneck of passengers entering and leaving the station. This will occur within the next 12 months.

Station Staffing:

The public consultation regarding the proposal to change the role of all staff to that of station hosts, and to close the ticket office, had generated an overwhelmingly negative response. Thameslink was now reviewing its plans and there is hope that the ticket office will remain open. There will be more information about this shortly.

Train Performance:

Oliver Dowden MP had hosted a lively and well attended meeting regarding poor train service performance. The "public performance measure" (i.e. arrivals within 5 minutes of advertised time) was currently at 82.3%, which is below the acceptable level but is moving in the right direction. There are numerous problems caused by the reduction in capacity during the reconstruction of London Bridge station.

Future development of the station:

The station's future needs will be reviewed in 2018/19. Any major improvements to either the station or the forecourt and access would probably have to be funded by commercial development.

First Impressions:

The BBC would be providing a welcome sign and the Town Council had put up a new notice board.

Urban Transport Plan 2013:

County Cllr Alan Plancey had been asked at the Transport Forum to chase the progress in implementing the proposals in this plan. At the EBRA meeting John Cartledge (member) reminded us that the report included a scheme for replacing the mini-roundabout at the junction of Allum Lane, Theobald Street, Shenley Road and Station Road with traffic signals.

It was also pointed out that the housing development taking place at the former gas holders site in Station Road would further increase the traffic using this junction.

Goodmans Autos Parking :

Ian Neary of Goodmans Autos had attended the Transport Forum in response to concern at the parking of his fifty vehicles in Manor Way and other roads, which was causing 'upset' in the local community. A possible off-road site had been identified in Balmoral Drive. Cllr David Burcombe had agreed to assist Ian Neary in contacting Hertsmere council regarding the use of this parking facility, and he has written to Mark Silverman (Planning Officer) to ask him to look into this matter.

Potholes and unlit bollards:

Please do report any unlit bollards or potholes to Hertfordshire County Council highways department (<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/highways/hhonlineservices/hfr/>) for action.

Bus update:

We welcomed Steve Simmons from Sullivans Buses to update us on the situation with buses. He said that increased traffic congestion in Watford, Bushey and around local schools had impacted on the reliability of buses. In particular there will be some changes made in late July to the following services in Borehamwood: 306, 306B, 306C, 398, 951, 358, B76 and B77

If anyone has any queries please contact Steve Simmonds at admin@sullivanbuses.com. If anyone has any responses the final decisions would be taken in late May, schools will be notified in June and new timetables will be in operation in the last week of July.

Summary of changes:

- Return of the Saturday 398 to replace the 306B which has been affected by traffic in Watford.
- Some changes in running times on the 306 during the peak to allow for extra journey time.
- The 306 on Sunday may drop to one bus from two, as loadings barely cover one vehicle.

Steve also added that Transport for London's 107 and 292 services would be stable between now and April 2017 but changes might be proposed after that because of Hertfordshire's stance on continuing to contribute to their funding. In particular these could affect the 292 service north of the railway station. Rachel James (EBRA member) pointed out that many new housing developments now discouraged car ownership (by means of restricting parking) on the grounds that public transport links were available.

Steve Simmonds also highlighted a problem the Tempsford Road/Newark Green area of Borehamwood, where he had frequently observed a dangerous traffic flow situation in an area used by children and he feared there was a risk to their safety. EBRA will forward this concern to the Community Safety Partnership.

Any Other Business:

We updated members on upcoming social events and roadworks in the area over the coming month.

David Lloyd has been re-elected as Police & Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire.

There was a short discussion on the terms and conditions for using the Boulevard car park. It was clear that some clarification was still needed about the three hour parking limit, as the Management Surveyor had informed Sue Alford (Committee member) during a conversation on 10/5/16 that only one journey into the carpark - be it for one minute or three hours - was all that was permitted during each visit, followed by a two hour no return period. He did add, however, that the Parking Rangers and those monitoring the car movements in and out of the car park both manually and via camera technology may be able to make allowances for those using the carpark on multiple occasions during such a three hour period as long as they weren't seen to be abusing the system. We hope to have clarification on these and other points by our next meeting.

The End

