



## Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association

### Minutes of Meeting for 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Held at:** St Teresa's Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1TG

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

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#### Updates Since Our Last meeting:

##### **Reviva - Planning Application Ref: 19/0043/FUL – Outcome: Approved**

Cllr. Jeremy Newmark gave us a brief update on the Reviva situation. HCC advised the Company to revise their plan and then re-present it to the HBC, as there is no waste management involved in the new plan, only 'B8' storage use. However, it was unclear what this storage would be, as they did not have to specify this information. It was thought that Reviva would be dividing up their land into four mini compounds and subletting three of them out to third parties. This Planning Application was approved by the HBC Planning Committee last week after an hour and half debate. However, the Committee attached conditions to this approved Planning Application and these included that no vehicles will enter or leave the site during morning and evening rush hours.

It was questioned as to how the Planning Committee had voted to approve this Planning Application, bearing in mind Reviva's track record to date. There were eleven Councillors on the Planning Committee – the twelfth Councillor was not able to participate due to a conflict of interest - five abstained, two voted against and four in favour. However, three to four of the new councillors, who had abstained, had only just received one and half hours of planning training and were also expected to have read a 250-page document, that they would have received a few days earlier. Plus, this was a very complex Planning Application!

The adjacent site is however still composting illegally. It is run by a different company. HBC must undertake enforcement action on this site as it is deemed that the company's activities are unlawful.

##### **Possible Parking Charges in the Boulevard Car Park – Planning Application Ref: 17/2260/MPO:**

Sue Alford read out EBRA's letter of objection to the Borehamwood Shopping Park's application to change the original planning agreement and start charging for car parking in the Park. Objections included:

- i) issues with the actual Planning Application and their Vectos 'Car Park Charging Strategy',
- ii) and then she detailed the impact that parking charges would have on the vitality and vulnerability of the shopping park stores, the customer's shopping park experience, on 'low value item' stores, the community, the local economy and the local environment. She also raised concerns with regards the values and social conscience of the Landowners. Lastly, EBRA requested to be a recognised Stakeholder in the Consultation process, with a view to trying to agree a win-win outcome that satisfies all stakeholders.
- iii) EBRA have already emailed Tim Price of Savills on 19<sup>th</sup> March to introduce ourselves and request this involvement but to date there has been no reply. The objection letter was well received by those present.

**Action:** *Although this Planning Application was deferred, it is still a live application, we still need to fight it. Sue Alford of EBRA is running this campaign and has been in contact with all the stores around the Boulevard and has informed all the Store Managers about the situation, as many were not aware of this Planning Application. She has sent them all an email to forward to their Estates Departments to then refer the matter back to Savills and the Landowners.*

## **Churchill House, Stirling Way – Planning Application Ref: 19/0188/FUL**

The Churchill Business Centre application to change the use to offices and flats under ‘permitted development’ was approved back in January 2019 (18/2349/PD56). However, this Planning Application 19/0188/FUL is pending consideration and has been opposed by the Town Council’s Environment and Planning Committee. This was on the grounds of overdevelopment, inappropriate for residential use and that family sized dwellings (3 to 4 bedroom) were needed in the community in line with Hertsmere’s core strategy and there was a lack of amenity space. It will take the building from two stories to four stories. Cllr. Newmark added that as this is a case of ‘permitted development’ this may not need to go through the Planning Committee, although the additional building work would probably need to go through the Planning Committee.

Once the key employment sites come into play this sort of development will be more difficult to obtain. In the meantime, there will probably be a rush of these developments coming through before the key employment areas are agreed and before ‘Article 4’ comes in next year.

## **Lidl Supermarket, Elstree Way**

The projected Lidl Supermarket in Elstree Way, where the Donantonio warehouse was, will be coming up for planning consent soon. In the meantime, they are holding an exhibition in Allum Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 2 to 7 pm. Andy was concerned that the potential traffic turning to go into its car park could cause congestion problems. The other Lidl will be remaining in the Boulevard shopping park.

As a side note - the new Aldi will open on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

## **Transport update:**

Sullivan buses had no new updates for EBRA for this meeting.

Lawrence Stack, Committee Member and Bus Driver, tried out the new 357 bus service to Harpenden and reported back that it was a two-hour journey, mainly through various estates and was a very boring route. However, the 601 to Welwyn Garden City was a much more pleasant journey.

Lawrence also showed us various different sized and coloured and black and white TfL maps that he had collected at an event e.g. some were to help the visually impaired. These are available from Transport for London. They also showed where there was step free access at stations both over ground and underground.

Lawrence had also put together a set of four proposals to be addressed at the next Transport Forum, regarding:

- i) a replacement bus shelter with seats which is needed, opposite Morrisons. This has now been long outstanding and should have been replaced when the footpath was raised to allow better wheelchair access,
- ii) along Shenley Road there’s an allocated motorcycle parking bay outside Iceland but nowhere to actually chain the bikes! Can something be put in place?
- iii) stop pavement parking of heavy delivery lorries between Greggs and the Halifax, which are causing the pavements to crack and could be solved by creating a loading bay out of two of the parking spaces and the disabled parking space. The disabled space could be relocated nearby. This would then allow lorries to drive straight into the space and later to simply drive out.
- iv) change the direction of the parking spaces in Leeming Road – so people reverse into the parking bays and drive out of them, rather than drive in to them and reverse out, often ‘blind’ due to obstructions of other parked vehicles, into the oncoming traffic.

The Transport Forum was, however, now postponed until 3<sup>rd</sup> July, when these questions will be put to them. Lawrence felt that EBRA should take on small ideas like this because they are more achievable and would provide good publicity.

## **Police update:**

- ◆ A burglar, Azariah Morgan, has pleaded guilty at court to various burglaries around the area.
- ◆ A stolen Audi has been recovered and returned to the owner.
- ◆ There has been an increase in thefts of catalytic converters from cars especially Toyota Prius. Police advise people to lock their car in a garage if possible, if not, park close to a wall. The catalytic converters can be welded on, covered or marked.

Please report all suspicious activity to the Police immediately.

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

- ◆ **Station Redevelopment** - Bob Redman provided the meeting with an update on the Railway Station redevelopment which is almost complete. The Café will be opening soon and First Impressions will be putting the planters etc back once all the work is finally completed.
- ◆ **£80k Passenger Benefit Fund** - Following on from the disruption caused by the timetable change last year, the Secretary of State for Transport has appointed three MP's to oversee and run a £15 million Passenger Benefit Fund for stations that were affected. This fund is to supply tangible benefits for passengers. These stations will be allocated an amount of money. Elstree and Borehamwood Station experienced 'Tier one – Distress' and have been awarded £80k. This could be spent on things at the station or around the station forecourt area, such as providing toilets 24/7, passenger seating, shelters, living plant wall, or solar panels etc. EBRA have already suggested a canopy between the station building and the cover on Platform One. If you have any ideas, please put them through Sue of EBRA and she will forward them to Bob at First Impressions. Lawrence Stack suggested a TV with local news of events etc in Borehamwood and Elstree. Suggestions will be submitted on line by the end of July. After July, GTR will then look at the ideas and then decide if they should go ahead or not. There will be a deliberation in August/September as to how this money will be spent. Bob will forward our questions to his contact at GTR e.g. about rights to appeal and what happens to the money if it is not all spent etc.

#### **Any Other Business:**

##### **Leecliffe – Big Local:**

We welcomed Igor Novokreshchenov, a Community Development Officer, for Leecliffe, who gave an interesting talk on what the organisation has achieved so far. The area that Leecliffe originally covered, has increased slightly to cover almost all the Brookmeadow and Cowley Hill Wards – this was due to concerns that the Leecliffe project was inadvertently further dividing the north/south divide into three areas, and isolating other parts of the community and so they requested an extension to the area covered. They had to go through the local Trust first and then the Lottery to get it changed.

Ivor's role involved him carrying out a wide consultation within the community, speaking to many different groups and to over 3000 people and finding out what they wanted to see in their community. These findings formed the basis for Leecliffe's renewed plan and they have now launched their 2019-2020 plan, which can be found on their website or Facebook page. They have an investment pot which can be used to set systems and organisations in place and up and running before the funding ceases in 2026. Leecliffe is run by a Board of volunteers and they are looking for new board members and partners.

Leecliffe have been continuing with their projects to tackle depravation, poverty and isolation, health and well-being with an emphasis on mental health, family, children and youth activities and organising a BMX project and activities. They also have budgets for a Food Project, School Readiness Project, as well as for running costs and staff costs.

Lawrence Stack suggested that they could hire a hall for an exhibition to give small groups such as ours some publicity.

For further information please go to [www.leecliffe.org](http://www.leecliffe.org)

##### **Town Council – CIL Money:**

The Town Council have £60,000 of CIL money to spend on seats and noticeboards etc around the town. Lawrence Stack said EBRA should ask them to provide a noticeboard outside Shenley Road, as this was agreed when the old hall was demolished but has not yet been replaced.

### **Thank you from Hearing Dogs:**

Liz from Herts Hearing Dogs thanked us by letter for our donations, following her interesting talk and demonstration with her Hearing Dog, Rufus.

### **Defibrillator Campaign:**

Lawrence Stack, finally, after two years, managed to get a defibrillator into Shenley Road. It will be in a keycode cabinet and available 24/7 outside the Natwest Bank. It needs to be registered and then it will go live over the next two weeks.

### **Town Events:**

#### **Civic Festival Fortnight:**

- ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> June - Carnival Parade
- ◆ 29<sup>th</sup> June - Family Day – Meadow Park
- ◆ 22<sup>nd</sup> June - All Saints Church - Town Flower Festival

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

#### **Other events:**

- ◆ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Dog Show supported by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Greenwood Park Chiswell Green AL2 3HW
- ◆ Town Parade 15/6/19 - 1.45 – 3.30pm. Route reversed this year. Contact Town Council.
- ◆ Wednesday 19/6/19 BBC Concert Band – Anniversary of Moon Landings at 8pm Allum Hall, tickets £8.
- ◆ Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June Elstree and Borehamwood's Got Talent at 7pm Fairway Hall contact Town Council.
- ◆ Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Festival 5k Parkrun at Aldenham Country Park.
- ◆ Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June Festival Quiz at Royal British Legion 7pm free to enter, contact Town Council.
- ◆ Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June Families Day in Meadow Park 12 – 5 pm.

#### **Town Council Meetings in Fairway Hall:**

- ◆ 5/6/19 Community Safety Meeting at 7pm,
- ◆ 3/7/19 Transport Forum 7pm.

### **EBRA Matters:**

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

EBRA have a very tiny committee of currently about four 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 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 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:

- ◆ 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**The End**