



## Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association

### Minutes of Meeting for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 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

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#### **May Update Since Our Last meeting:**

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

#### **China Update:**

With regards to the sister town twinning with China – China correspondence and arrangements are on-going. There is no firm date for any travel as yet.

Jeremy Newmark asked if EBRA would request a position on the 'China Committee' to represent the local residents. EBRA responded that this would be discussed within our Committee.

#### **Aldenham Reservoir Update:**

Liberty Aldenham have submitted details of their Green Belt land to HELAA (Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (was known as SHLAA)) as part of the local plan. The local plan is going into a new phase of consultation. Town councillors on the Environmental and Planning committee will meet the HBC planners for updates on this in two weeks' time.

#### **Reviva Compost Waste Site Update:**

STENCH have not yet met up so there is no news from STENCH at present.

However Sue Alford contacted Hertsmere borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency to get an understanding as to the current status of Reviva's working operation in light of any enforcement notices since they had withdrawn their planning application on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

In summary:

- On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 the Environment Agency (EA) have confirmed in an email that:

*"Reviva is currently able to operate. There are no active enforcement actions on the site. The EA are working with the local authorities to manage this site".*

- On 28/6/17 the Planning Enforcement and Appeals Team Leader from HBC said that:

*'enforcement action was a matter for Environmental health to look into. However from a Planning Enforcement perspective, the issue of caravans on the land is a matter being reviewed, with regards to what possible actions can be taken in that respect'.*

- On 29/6/17 the Environmental Health department sent an email saying:

*'Officers have recently been in contact with the Solicitor representing Reviva, Herts CC and the Environment Agency to see what is the current position. They understand that following the withdrawal of Reviva's planning application (made to Herts CC) the company have agreed a contract with the Environment Agency to receive consultancy advice to find a practical solution to deal with the issue of odour and a fresh planning application is to be made. In respect of ongoing odour complaints people should continue to complain direct to the Environment Agency who remain the primary regulator for this site. The EA hotline to be used is 0800 807060.'*

- Sue Alford contacted the Environmental agency again and enquired about this 'contract' and received this response on 4/7/17. The Environmental Agency stated that:

*"We have spoken with our planning team and we cannot send the actual contract out to members of the public, at present.*

*What we can tell you is that the charged agreement is a contract between the Environment Agency and Reviva to look at purely the planning application. We can use the time we have set out in the contract to discuss the objections we had and how they could overcome these objections. In this case we have asked that we would need further information regarding the control of odour at the site should a building be erected, as the information they submitted in their planning application did not contain enough detail for us to be able to make a decision.*

*As part of the contract, they are able to submit information to us before they submit it in a planning application for us to review it. This is not an unusual set up, and our planning team have these contracts for example, with developers when we object to a planning application and the developers want to know how they can improve the application to overcome our concerns.*

*There is no set timescale for this contract. We have had our first meeting with Reviva about it though. As far as we are aware, Reviva have up to 12 months to re-submit their planning application from the date of withdrawal without having to re-submit their fee. However, that is down to Herts County Council to enforce.*

*We believe the Environmental Health Officer got his message quite wrong about what the agreement is and it is not to do with the current site operations and controlling the odour on site at the moment. It is just for their planning application for the site."*

The above information has been forwarded to STENCH to review as part of their campaign.

#### **Yavneh Primary School Update:**

There were concerns about which road would be required to allow access to build this new primary school during its construction phase – which needs to be completed by September 2018. It was deemed that the cul de sac at Monksmead would be the best for large artic lorries, as it offered the path of least disruption and resistance in terms of the turning circle of these HGV lorries. It was asked if these vehicles could avoid peak school traffic times. Local residents also needed conditions and confirmations regarding traffic, the construction period and what would happen afterwards with regards to replacement fencing and damage to hedgerows etc.

This Planning Application was due to be heard on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## Leecliffe Project Update:

We welcomed Donna Inwood – Chair of the Leecliffe Partnership Board - who gave us an update on where they were with the Leecliffe Big Local Project. She said the Community Consultation closed in April and in December the community Plan was endorsed. This has now been running for six months. They had identified the following areas of concern in the community:

- ◆ Isolation
- ◆ BMX Project
- ◆ Children & Youth
- ◆ Gardening & Food
- ◆ Deprivation & Poverty

Donna explained that what they had found was that isolation was not just centred around the elderly, but parents whose children had gone off to school, women who have moved into the area through domestic violence and workers who could not afford to go out.

She explained that they would be working with other organisations to find a way to identify these people. This was the first pilot in the UK to see how these agencies would work together.

- ◆ They have set up projects for BMX bike users and are running a series of BMX events and hoped to get a BMX bike track put in. There is a consultation that was being wrapped up in September to identify some suitable land for this track and they hoped this would be in the Leecliffe area.
- ◆ They are organising events for Year 10 (14 to 15 year olds) children for over the summer holidays.
- ◆ There is a school ready project for those at nursery school level who need help to develop social and language skills etc. Leecliffe have been consulting with 'Home Start' on this project.
- ◆ A parent support group for parents with children who were currently without any medical 'diagnosis' for their child's condition will be starting in September.
- ◆ Leecliffe recognise that there's a lack of mental health support for Year 7 children and upwards and this needs to be focussed on before those affected start to 'drift'.
- ◆ A garden project for those people who did not have access to a garden and where there's a lack of community garden space. It was to be a place where people could grow and pick their own produce. There will be consultation days arranged to see what people want to grow in this garden. There will also be various day trips including one to see the Todmorden community gardening project. Leecliffe also need land for this community garden.

Finally, Leecliffe need more volunteers to initially gain experience for a couple of months by working in their various sub groups before they join the Partnership Board.

## Police Update:

No Police attended. This Police update answered these questions that EBRA had submitted earlier:

1. Farriers Way - Wheelie bin fires - what's happened to the person who was arrested? have all the fires stopped now?

*As you are probably aware the fires do appear to have stopped. We had arrested someone for these fires but this person denied everything. Unfortunately at the time the person was arrested for circumstantial reasons and we had no evidence to put to them. However following interview, this person was issued with a Community Protection Warning and this does appear to have been successful in putting a stop to this persons actions.*

2. Nuisance off road motor cyclists - what is the name of this Operation and what progress is there with this?

*'Operation Carm' deals with nuisance motorcycles. This is an operation run periodically throughout the summer months. We did have some success in stopping and dealing with five off road bikers about a month ago, but this was outside of the operation. Unfortunately this problem will persist and it is going to have to be dealt with as and when we get reports of this type of behaviour from residents and, allowing for available resources, we will do what we can.*

3. Nuisance kids on their bicycles - what progress is there with this?

*As with motorcycles, for a lot of the time we are relying on residents to call in the problem kids on their bikes. The kids are often below 16 which does cause us some issues as a lot of the legislation we have at our disposal only operates above that age. However a 15 year old was recently arrested for (among other things) dangerous cycling, for which he was interviewed and charged.*

Lastly, Andy Lewis informed us that the police have a new method for reporting 'damage only' to cars involved in any traffic collision in the Hertfordshire Constabulary area, that does not require police attendance, either by going online or calling 101.

### **Buses Update:**

Unfortunately we did not get time to read this response from Steve Simmonds of Sullivan's Buses out at the meeting but he kindly updated us as follows:

1. *There is a lot of resurfacing work is going on. As a result we are making changes to the B3 as we will not be able to serve much of Well End from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July outside of the peak hours. We are therefore introducing an emergency timetable for the period of the roadworks as set out in the attached notice.*
2. *There will be various diversions to the evening service of the 306 in July due to resurfacing in the Bushey area. Notices will be posted.*
3. *From early September Sullivan Buses will be making changes to our buses as follows:-*
  - **306 Borehamwood to Watford via Elstree and Bushey:** *Minor timetable changes during Monday to Friday peak hours and school times and on Sundays to reflect worsening traffic conditions throughout the route. The extra buses from Tesco's to North Borehamwood at 16.55 and 17.25 will no longer run. There will be an extra 306 bus from Queens' School to Borehamwood in the afternoons.*
  - **398 Potters Bar- Borehamwood-Radlett- Watford:** *There will be extra buses in the evening peak between Potters Bar and Borehamwood, although the last journey from Potters Bar will be one hour earlier at 17.45. Owing to disappointing loadings the Monday to Friday service is being reduced to two hourly between peak hours and the evening departures from Watford will be reduced to hourly with the last bus at 18.55.*
  - *It is believed there may be changes to the Uno 601, 615 and 658 at the end of September but details are not yet known.*
4. *Please see **Appendix 1** for further details.*

### **New Agenda Items:**

#### **Fire Safety – Cladding and High Rise Buildings:**

In light of the terrible situation regarding Grenfell Tower in London that burnt down, EBRA contacted Cllr Morris Bright and the Hertfordshire Fire Brigade to ascertain the situation within Borehamwood as to the safety of the high rise flats in the area with regards cladding materials used and what people should do if there was a fire in such a building.

Cllr Morris Bright replied that Hertsmere's officers, along with members, were looking at the safety of buildings across the Borough and that the Chief Executive, Dr Donald Graham, has been leading on this matter.

Hertsmere Borough Council responded with this statement which was read out at our EBRA meeting. In conclusion the HBC report to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) concludes that:

*‘whilst four buildings (either already built or under construction) in our borough meet the 18m height criteria, none have been clad in aluminium composite material (ACM) used at Grenfell.*

*The tallest building in the borough, Canterbury House (18 floors), has been insulated and rendered, rather than clad.*

*A further four buildings were just under 18m but again, did not have ACM cladding.*

*Therefore, Hertsmere has sent no cladding for testing to DCLG’.*

Please see **Appendix 2** for the full statement.

The local Borehamwood Fire Station also replied that Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue as part of the Community Protection Directorate have a link to safety information regarding High Rise Buildings. Please find the attached link for residents. Sue Alford read out the document below to those present:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/fire-and-rescue/about-the-fire-service/high-rise-flats.aspx>

The questions raised in EBRA’s email have been forwarded on to the relevant departments within the Community Protection Directorate.

The Fire brigade also run a free smoke alarm installation service for the public, free fire risk assessments and now do wellbeing checks on residents who call them out. So please contact them directly to make an appointment: 020 8258 1100

It was questioned by a member of our audience as to why there was a 24 hour fire warden on duty at Canterbury House if it was rendered and not cladded.

### **Todd Close Campaign:**

CLLr Michelle Vince kindly agreed to speak about the situation at Todd Close, which was built on the former Oaklands College site.

In summary – back in 2009, planning permission to build 125 dwellings and a three to four storey college building on what was the old Oaklands College site was rejected by HBC, but then it went to appeal as an educational led development and this was approved by the Inspectorate, who granted permission. Since then at the front of this development area has been sited a temporary Taylor Wimpey Marketing suite and two small green grass areas on which residents’ children frequently play. It should be noted that this housing development is currently mostly made up of 91 flats which typically each have just a small balcony and there is no provision of any other garden areas or any other suitable local outdoor land within or without this development, for children to easily access to play on or adults to relax on. Although residents knew of the plans for this college, as it showed up when doing searches carried out when buying these properties, due to various factors, the residents were lulled into believing, as time passed, that this college may not actually ever be built there. However in May this year, a further planning application was submitted by Oaklands College and Taylor Wimpey to build a part three /part four storey mixed use building comprising of a 3 roomed satellite college with residential apartments on top (8 private and 5 shared ownership flats) and associated car parking and landscaping. Since this Planning Application has come to the attention of residents of Todd Close, they have been campaigning to try and save these two green areas from being built on. Plus they are very concerned about the inclusion of these 13 flats on top of this education building which was not previously known by the residents and this has given them cause for concern regarding privacy issues etc. Plus there were also great concerns about the lack of parking in the area and that this proposed college facility would not only remove some of the limited parking but there were concerns that users of such a college, estimated to be around 200 students a day, would generate an even greater need for more parking spaces.

There was a Consultation event held for this Planning Application in November 2016 but only a few residents attended it. It is questionable if this event was appropriately advertised – EBRA were not aware of this Consultation event. However, the fact remains that the majority of residents were aware of the potential threat of this college being built at the front of their development since 2010 and these two green areas were never these residents' to use for a permanent children's play area

Cllr Vince explained that if the residents could not keep these two green areas, then they had mooted they would prefer a college there rather than any further flats. She said that we were entitled to this college and she was in support of this college being built for the community to use and as a community asset but recognised that parking provisions were poor.

This Planning Application 16/0899/FUL was being heard on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

#### **Borehamwood Football Club:**

BFC has refurbished its pitch but has taken an extra one metre without requiring any planning permission and that this was the depth of a goal. Christine Lyons, Head of Planning and Economic Development, then permitted it on the grounds that this was negligible due to the overall mass size of Meadow Park.

#### **Borehamwood Shopping Centre Boulevard – Planning Application Ref: 17/0947/FUL**

Andy Lewis informed us that three new units were being proposed to be placed in the parking area next to the Metro bank. This would actually lose 26 parking spaces in this busy privately owned car park.

To date hardly anyone has objected and written in. We also do not know what outlets will be in these units.

#### **Hertfordshire Police and Fire brigade Governance proposals:**

Andy Lewis covered the proposal by David Lloyd, our Police Crime Commissioner as follows. He also added this was NOT a merger. The information below is extracted from the PCC website:

*“The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire would like to bring the governance of police and fire services under the same roof.*

*A new law – the Policing and Crime Act of 2017 – has made this possible. It has also made it a legal requirement for all of the emergency services – police, fire and ambulance to find ways of working more closely together. Under this proposal, there would be a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner setting the strategy for both services and holding both chief officers to account, as happens with the police at the moment.*

*There would still be a Chief Constable operationally in charge of policing and a Chief Fire Officer operationally in charge of fire.*

*The business case (published below) suggests a number of benefits to this proposed model:*

- ◆ **Improved public safety** through joint training and combined operational activity.
- ◆ **Greater protection of the fire budget**, meaning that what is raised for fire is spent on fire, rather than being diverted to other services.
- ◆ **Increased accountability**, with a directly elected person accountable to the public for their actions.
- ◆ **Speeding up** improvements in joint working.
- ◆ **Greater coordination and streamlining of decision-making** across emergency services.
- ◆ **An improved joint response** to road traffic accidents and other major emergency incidents.

- ✦ *A better use of resources, such as a co-located control room and innovation through shared police and fire estates.”*

**Your feedback is needed:**

*This is a consultation. When we have heard what your views are, we will decide whether to proceed with the business case. This would be submitted to the Home Office for consideration after this consultation closes.*

Please send your comments to [your.views@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:your.views@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) or write to

**Fire Consultation  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
Harpenden Police Station  
15 Vaughan Road  
Harpenden  
Hertfordshire  
AL5 4GZ**

*This consultation will run from the 19th June to the 14th August 2017.*

There is a further main document here that covers the options available with regard to this proposal.

<http://widford.org.uk/main/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/18c-Hertfordshire-PCC-Fire-Governance-Business-Case-v1-7.pdf>

**Any other business:**

- EBRA were concerned that during the Family Day event that stall holders and other participants were expected to pay to park in the Brook Road car park which is normally free to use on this day. An email will be sent from EBRA to express our concerns.
- Lawrence Stack informed us about his sponsored charity bus adventure where he would be attempting to go to Penzance and then use his bus pass to get back to Borehamwood via the means of 16 buses. Lawrence is raising funds to help buy a blood pressure machine for Edgware hospital. We wish him well on his journey.

**Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.50pm at St Teresa’s Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG.

Our future meeting dates for 2017 are:

- ✦ 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- ✦ 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**The End**



## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **ROUTE B3**

#### **ROAD CLOSURES IN WELL END**

**WEDS 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO WEDS 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**9.30 AM TO 4.00 pm**

Road closures for resurfacing will be taking place in Well End on the above dates. During these times Route B3 will be unable to serve bus stops in Denham Way and the section of Studio Way from the Banks Road (Toby Carvery) roundabout to Rowley Lane.

To give certainty and to minimise the inconvenience for our passengers route B3 to Well End will be diverted and run in two separate sections (each one running once an hour) as follows:

**Alexandra Road bus stops dep** 9.49 and every hour until 15.49

**Tesco dep for Alexandra Road** 9.43 and every hour until 15.43

**Toby Carvery bus stop for Town Centre** depart 10.17 and every hour until 15.17

**Tesco dep for Toby Carvery stop** 10.08 and every hour until 15.08.

**No other bus stops in Well End will be served during the above times.**

Monday to Friday peak hour buses before 9.30 am and after 16.00 will run over the normal line of route and serve all bus stops as will all buses on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. School route 823 is not affected.

Normal service will be restored once both Studio Way and Denham Way are fully open to traffic. We will keep passengers up to date on Twitter  @Sullivanbuses or phone 01707 646803.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **“High Rise Cladding Update**

*In the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has written to all local authorities asking them to check any cladding on their tower blocks and if appropriate, send it for testing.*

*As part of the checks, they’ve asked for a report on all buildings over 18 metres which includes any refurbishment, whether cladding was used, what type and any implied issues. This equates to buildings of six or seven stories or more.*

*Though, Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC) owns no housing stock, our building control team has liaised with local registered social landlords and private landlords to complete a thorough inventory of all high rise buildings in the borough.*

*Our report to DCLG concludes that whilst four buildings (either already built or under construction) in our borough meet the 18m height criteria, none have been clad in aluminium composite material (ACM) used at Grenfell.*

*The tallest building in the borough, Canterbury House (18 floors), has been insulated and rendered, rather than clad.*

*A further four buildings were just under 18m but again, did not have ACM cladding.*

*Therefore, Hertsmere has sent no cladding for testing to DCLG.*

*Meanwhile, Affinity Sutton have sent letters to tenants advising on fire safety and published up-to-date information on their website including a Frequently Asked Question section.*

*<http://www.affinitysutton.com/news-and-resources/news/2017/06/information-for-residents-following-the-fire-at-grenfell-tower/>*

*Aldwyck Housing do not own any high rise buildings and have confirmed there are no issues with any of their buildings in a letter to Donald Graham, Hertsmere’s Chief Executive and on their website.*

*<https://www.aldwyck.co.uk/latest-news/fire-safety-measures-at-aldwyck-housing-group-833/>*

*Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) have published advice on the Hertfordshire County Council website. The service is currently reviewing their strategies for high rise buildings.*

*<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/fire-and-rescue/about-the-fire-service/high-rise-flats.aspx>*

*Last week, a representative from HBC, attended a meeting at Fire Service HQ, along with representatives from Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire County Council and other district and borough councils to consider what pre-planning can be undertaken in the event that a building in Hertfordshire is identified as fitted with combustible cladding.*

*Other local authorities in Hertfordshire have done similar screening of their high rise blocks. They are also coordinating with HFRS and other emergency services through the Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum”*