



Elstree & Borehamwood Residents Association

Minutes of Meeting for 12th September 2017

Date: 12th September 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

Updates 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:

This project is ongoing. A delegation will be formed to sign the memorandum. All delegates will pay their own costs.

EBRA also submitted a query as to whether EBRA could sit on this Committee. The initial response given by the China Sister Town Committee was that they thanked EBRA for the enquiry but stated that there was no current provision for us to be on the Sub-Committee, which was set up in 24/5/17. The function of the committee was to find out how to establish businesses and cultural links with China and that these were at the embryonic stage. They added they were looking at the practicalities of sending a delegation to China. It was also clearly stated that this sub-committee was not a decision making one and that it reported to the GMC.

Aldenham Reservoir Update:

In May the Aldenham Country Park Trust (ACPT) won a Definitive Map Modification Appeal concerning the footpath around the reservoir. Hertfordshire County Council has made an Order for the path to be created. The Order was advertised in the Watford Observer on Friday 25th August and some notices went up near the proposed path. These notices are just part of the process. In the notice Hertfordshire County Council asked for representations to be made to them by 6th October 2017. In this instance, ACPT asked that we take NO ACTION. People are urged **not** to write in and support this request as that will delay the process and the ACPT Ltd have already submitted enough evidence for the Secretary of State to accept.

We will then need to see if the owners of Liberty Aldenham/Liberty Lake Leisure Ltd, put in any objections. They can object but have to accept HCC findings. HCC may decide to hold a public enquiry. This will be expensive for ACPT Ltd!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liberty Aldenham – Green Belt Land Update:

Liberty Aldenham, who are the owners of the Aldenham Reservoir, have put their greenbelt land forward as an allocated site to be considered under the 'Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Development Plan' (SADM) for the next local plan etc.

Reviva Compost Waste Site Update:

A meeting with officers was cancelled. The smell was bad over the Bank Holiday. Some smell was also emerging from Woodcock Hill Farm the week before too.

Yavneh Primary School Update:

Further to a Special Planning Committee meeting on 31st August 2017, a deadline of 7th September was given for additional work to be done regarding the traffic and travel management issues before an outcome could be reached, EBRA are still waiting to hear the outcome of this Planning Application.

Todd Close Campaign Update:

This Planning Application 16/0899/FUL was heard on 20th July 2017 and it was given approval by the Planning Committee, despite strong opposition by the residents who lived on that estate. In essence the location of a three classroom satellite college, with a further 12 flats built on top, was planned to be built on the small piece of green space at the front of the Todd Close estate, currently played on by local residents' children in more recent times. This Planning Application had already been agreed in 2010.

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

Andy Lewis reminded us that three new units were being proposed to be placed in the parking bay area next to the Metro Bank in the Borehamwood Shopping Centre. This would result in the temporary loss of 75 parking spaces during the construction phase, with an actual loss on completion of 26 parking spaces in this busy privately owned car park.

To date hardly anyone has objected and written in. We understand that at least two of the three units will be food outlets. EBRA are working with Cllr Michelle Vince to see on what grounds we can object to this Planning Application, in respect of the impact of the loss of these essential parking spaces and the impact it will have on traffic management, e.g. queues, in the local surrounding area especially during peak shopping hours and the Christmas season (subject to if and when any building takes place) and the likely increase in air pollution due to increased traffic jams in the local area. Although HCC said these units would have no impact on local traffic conditions. Here is the link:

https://www6.hertsmere.gov.uk/online-applications/files/D0083E56741FEE2BD679B2722283F22F/pdf/17_0947_FUL-RESPONSE_TO_HIGHWAYS_COMMENTS-662127.pdf

Police Update:

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

i) Burglary update:

Police are not aware of any increase in burglaries in this area.

ii) Concerns about Travellers pitching up in our parks:

Travellers continue to be a problem and if they settle on an area, the landowner (often the council) will issue a direction to leave. They then have a period of time to leave the location before bailiffs will come in and move them out. Generally they move out before the time period is up. The problem then is that they will settle on some other land if the police do not keep tracks on them, which is why there is often a Police presence in the area.

Cllr Vince added that we have three travellers sites but these are small and often filled up especially in times when a travellers group arrive in the area and are therefore inadequate. It would appear that Hertsmere Borough Council are only concerned if the groups arrive on their land. There's an on-going concern over the

mess left behind after a group has moved on and the disruption to our Community during and after any such visit has happened.

Our EBRA members would like our Authorities to be better prepared for any future visits and to have appropriate barriers/ boundary control initiatives in place to prevent such a group accessing our key park areas.

iii) In the paper, there was an article about East Herts police pushing a pram along the pavement as a crackdown on motorists who continually block pavements with their cars. EBRA asked if Borehamwood police would be doing this? And if so, can they use a wheel chair instead as its wider and harder to push?

At this time the local police in Borehamwood have no plans to deal with inconsiderate parking the way that East Herts did.

iv) Updates about off road motorcyclists:

With regards the motorcycles, here is an email from Claire Morris, the anti-social behaviour officer which she recently sent to another resident. Hopefully this answers our question.

“Whenever we are able to catch or identify these youngsters, we have been issuing section 59's - this is essentially a warning to stop this behaviour or have their bikes seized. Along with the section 59's, we have been issuing Community Protection Notice warnings. This is an official warning that Police will take further action if they continue to behave in this way, the CPW (for short) covers things other than nuisance bike riding.

When the warning is breached, this leads to a Community Protection Notice (CPN) and a breach of this is a criminal offence for which they will be summonsed to court. As you can appreciate, catching them in the act is quite difficult and then awaiting the length of time it takes to get to court can seem like an eternity! If they are caught misbehaving on their bikes after a section 59, Police will seize the bike and they will have to pay to get it back.

So far we have issued 5 section 59's, 2 section 60's (which is the seizure of the bike) 6 CPW's and 2 CPN's purely on the back of the bike offences.

It is a never ending battle for us, however, calls on 101 at the time is invaluable for us as if we have the resources available at the time, we are one step closer to catching up with them. Registration numbers and descriptions of drives and bikes are extremely useful to us.

I am sorry that you still have these issues, but please be assured, we are trying to deal with them.

When you call 101 you could always give them the following reference - Safety net SNT priority 10515. This would be most helpful.

*Regards
Claire Morris*

Andy then read out updates taken directly from the Police's website. This covered:

- ◆ a 22% increase in flytipping in Hertsmere,
- ◆ a robbery at the Carphone warehouse on 23/8/17,
- ◆ thefts of motor vehicles in Bushey from 11/8 to 16/8/17,
- ◆ anti-social bike rider in Carrington Avenue,
- ◆ an assault by boys on 23/7/17 in Brook Road
- ◆ and the launch of a safety outreach programme in Hertsmere e.g includes tool marking events, community hubs and listening to residents' concerns etc.

Please contact Police on 101 if you have any information.

Buses Update:

Steve Simmonds of Sullivan Buses was not able to attend but sent us this response for our meeting:

In July Steve kindly sent us changes to the 306 and 398 bus services. In addition to these he has added that there will also be some school bus changes affecting services that run into Borehamwood. He said that neither Hertfordshire nor Hertsmere Councils were able to offer assistance to retain the hourly 398 service.

Although not a service running into Borehamwood, we should note that according to TfL, the cut back to the 298 in Potters Bar, is as a direct result of Hertfordshire ceasing funding of TfL's bus services. Steve also reminded us that the funding also ceased for the 107 and 292, so we need to be alert to further developments!! Although out of our area, another example of this is the Metropolitan line extension in Watford, which now appears to be in abeyance following a rise in costs, which TfL say they cannot fund and for which Hertfordshire County Council don't seem to be prepared to finance.

*Please see **Appendix 1** (attachment) for further details.*

Transport Forum Update from the 5th July 2017 meeting:

School travel/traffic plans:

It's a legal requirement for schools to promote sustainable travel plans and traffic management schemes – the town council wrote to all twelve local schools in the area and very few responded initially with details of their plans. However in many cases they are now deemed to be 'work's in progress'. To add to the problem in sorting out the traffic management issues per school is that there's also the additional factor in that children are often attending schools now all over the borough and so traffic generation is no longer a local matter but goes further afield, hence the problem in easily being able to devise a simple school travel plan per school.

Trains:

Proposed New Station: Elstree and Borehamwood station is now in its third station building. However we could see a new one coming, subject to the challenge of funding this station improvement by March 2019. However there is the possibility of seeking contributions from CIL (Community infrastructure levy monies) from HBC and /or the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council.

Station Ticket Buying Facilities: In the meantime there will be an increase in ticket vending machines in the station.

Station Mobility Assistance: Once the 700 series of trains are running, there will be mobility markers on the platform so people know where they need to stand, along with raised areas on the platform to allow easy access on to the trains by wheelchairs and bikes etc.

Bus:

Bus Services: These have been generally have been affected by on-going ad hoc issues with resurfacing roadworks and other traffic blocking issues and pressure points on the routes of our various buses.

New Agenda Items:

Local Plan:

The next local plan is about to be launched, we have now had three and a half thousand homes added to Hertsmere over recent years and we are due to have a further six and half thousand homes built over the coming few years! If we agree to more than this we may get a new GP surgery.

Cllr Vince said there are also a number of other options available to us, of other sites which could be developed, of which three of them include Letchmore Heath, Bushey Heath or develop a new village near Willows farm. However it is thought that these sites are not likely to be under threat as yet. It has also been firmly stated that we will not get any new roads!

Neighbourhood Plan Update:

The neighbourhood plan is 'on hold' whilst Hertsmere Borough Council is carrying out the Local Plan exercise. This was deemed sensible in order to avoid duplication of work and so that any future neighbourhood Plan would be relevant situation (i.e. once the Local Plan is in place). The Town Council has sought to play an active part in shaping the Local Plan e.g. feedback on consultation stages and areas (most currently on the Community involvement strategy).

Brook Road – Loss of Basketball Courts

Cllr Michelle Vince updated us on the temporary loss of two basketball courts for two years. The situation that led to this decision by the Planning Committee was that the BBC needed to find alternative parking areas for their employees to park in whilst building work was taking place on the BBC premises. The BBC employees were given permits to park in the Brook Road car park. Unfortunately this then had a knock on effect with parents trying to drop off their children at school as they could no longer park in this car park. So the council came up with a temporary idea of converting two of the basketball courts into an extension of the car park. However this was met with strong opposition by those who use the basketball courts and see the benefits in using such a facility for the local children. There was also concern about the increase in vehicle fumes coming from the car park into the local school next to the carpark. Cllr Vince explained the basketball courts are free for use and are popular and that the town has already lost its 'putting green', 'crazy golf' and 'cricket' facilities over the years. She also added that the Basketball courts are routinely locked at 4pm (at the time children would be leaving school and may want to use them) and Cllr Vince was having to unlock them in order to get a community basketball event arranged for the local children.

The Planning Application was due to be heard on 14th September 2017.

Local Shop Rent Increases:

Cllr Vince informed us that in the Leeming Road area, the shop rents have increased by up to 400%. We have now lost the plumbing shop, Tina's hairdressers in Aycliffe Road, the Carpet shop will now go from two shop fronts to just one and that whilst Mirzan have agreed to the rent increase, it is with a view that they will keep going as long as they can. Mirzan incidentally have a unique initiative of supporting elderly residents with cheaper priced food.

Cllr Vince warned us that Hartford Road and Howards Drive would be next to be affected by a hike in rent costs.

Cllr Vince also added that there was a concern over a difference of facts with regard to information the Council had put out in a public statement regarding these rent increases and what shop owners had told her. She said the rent increase issue had already been discussed on 'Three Counties Radio', but with these differences of facts that have now come to light, that 'Three Counties Radio' would be reinvestigating this matter.

Bushey Arches:

Although Bushey Arches does not come under EBRA's area, it is on a popular route that many local residents take if going towards the Watford or Bushey areas and any such proposed large development could impact on future journey times during any such construction phase etc. There are plans to build an 11 storey flat complex next to

Bushey Arches. This development will contain 229 flats but will only be providing 80 parking spaces. This is due for submission to the Planning Committee in Autumn 2017.

Please see: <https://oxheyvillage.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/10-12-chalk-hill-pt1.pdf>

Any other business:

Guest Speaker – Bob Redman – First Impressions – 150 years of Railway ‘All Change’:

We were delighted to have Bob Redman, of Elstree Screen Heritage, give us a talk about a milestone anniversary, whereby the Elstree and Borehamwood Railway station has been part of our local 150 year old railway system. This project is an initiative called ‘All Change!’ (150 years of Railway). This is the latest project of the ‘First Impressions’, of which Bob is Chairman. The results of previous projects are evident when you visit the forecourt of the Elstree and Borehamwood train station, and see the visual display on the side wall with its ‘film’ theme, and then throughout the town there are various Heritage Panels which inform readers about various film stars and film information over the years.

For this talk, Bob explained about the importance of our railway station, which was located along the route of the Midland Railway Company when they extended their line from Bedford to St Pancras. Bob asked the question ‘what if there hadn’t been an Elstree and Borehamwood station?’ on this route. We were given a better understanding that with this railway line in place it allowed the film studios to start locating here from 1914 onwards and later resulted in Elstree and Borehamwood becoming a fully-fledged town.

Fast forwarding onwards to today, we now have around four million people a year passing through our station. Indeed we are one of the busiest five percent of mainline stations in the UK; along with having the second highest projected growth in footfall along the Thameslink railway network.

To celebrate this milestone year of 150 years of railway, Bob and his team have planned a programme of events and activities, including:

- ◆ Museum exhibition at 96 Shenley Road (January to July 2018)
- ◆ School Visits
- ◆ Reading Programmes
- ◆ Brief documentary film
- ◆ Screening railway films that were ‘Made in Elstree’ – “The Railway Children”, “Murder on the Orient Express”
- ◆ Theme for the Town Council’s Summer Civic Festival

Bob asked if anyone has any old memories, photos or memorabilia of our local 150 year old railway system then please contact him. Email: contact@elstreescreenheritage.org

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is on 7th November 2017 at 7.50pm at St Teresa’s Church Hall, 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG. Our future meeting dates for 2017/18 are:

- ◆ 7th November 2017
- ◆ 30th January 2018

The End