



**Berkhamsted
Town Council**

Town Council Newsletter November 2011

Notes from the Mayor

As Mayor I was present at the successful Lions' August Bank Holiday Fete which, for me, always signals the end of summer – although the weather this year has been playing games with us.

This Armistice Day we saw the laying up of the Berkhamsted Royal British Legion Standard and, of course, on Remembrance Sunday, the Town came together in the afternoon at St. Peter's Church to remember those who gave their lives so that we may live.

It has been my privilege to be present at the opening of two new ventures along our High Street. At No. 162-168 above Costa Coffee the BAYoga Studio which also provides acupuncture, and at the other end of the High Street, above the Way Inn Post Office, we now have the Upstairs Gallery, a showcase for local artists. It is good to welcome new business to the town and we wish them well.

With all the financial problems and cut backs the future looks daunting, but we must travel in hope and do our best in these difficult times.

Festival of Light

A note for your diary: Christmas 2011 starts on Sunday, 4 December at 3.30 pm with the Festival of Light celebrations in Berkhamsted High Street. There will be over 50 charity stalls, entertainment including Rock Chorus, Berkhamsted School and Hemel Hempstead Bands as well as the Ashlyns School Samba Band accompanying the arrival of Father Christmas. This promises to be an event for the whole family. The Mayor will switch on the Christmas Lights at 5.15 pm. Everyone is welcome to The Festival of Carols at St Peter's Church, starting at 6 pm, to round off a wonderful afternoon.

Housing in Berkhamsted: The Core Strategy.

The Submission Draft of the Core Strategy for Dacorum Borough Council has been published for consultation. This document contains plans for future development and for

housing growth across the Borough, including Berkhamsted. It can be found on the Borough's web-site at <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6853>. Its main provisions for Berkhamsted are:

- 1180 houses to be provided for between 2006 and 2031. Since 570 have already been permitted since 2006 this leaves a further 610 to be provided by 2031 – a rate of 31 each year on average.
- Developers' plans to build 1000 homes to the south of Berkhamsted are not acceptable and have been excluded from the plan.
- Just one site has been allocated for Green Belt release – land at Hanbury's on Shootersway – the other proposed sites have been deleted from the plan.
- The link road between New Road and Springfield Road will not be constructed. Instead,

improvements to the junction of New Road and Northchurch High Street are planned.

- 180 houses are allowed for on the site between Egerton Rothesay School and Shootersway, along Durrants Lane. This is more than the current allocation of 100 houses but fewer than the 240 proposed in earlier drafts of the Core Strategy.

Consultation on this document will continue until the 7 December, and Berkhamsted Town Council will be making representations. After consultation the amended draft of this Strategy will be submitted to a Government Inspector who will take evidence from various parties and judge its “soundness”. If sound, it will be adopted as the plan for the future of the Borough.

School Expansions in Berkhamsted

Following a recent consultation on the expansion of Greenway and Westfield First schools to provide for an increased need for reception places in the town, the County Council has decided not to proceed and to consult on two other options instead. The expansion of Westfield would have led to problems with the local road network and the proposal to expand Greenway gave rise to significant opposition from the school and its neighbors. The two new options are, either

- (a) to construct a new First school on Green Belt land next to Bridgewater School,
- or
- (b) to reorganise and expand schools across the town to form a mixture of infant, junior, primary and secondary schools. In this option Ashlyns School

would become a secondary school and take pupils from the age of 11. This option is supported by the schools in Berkhamsted.

The County Council will consult on these options early in the New Year

FLYTIPPING

- Please report rubbish or fly-tipping to the Borough Council at Cupid Green on **01442 228375**. [You can also contact the Call Centre and ask for Clean Safe and Green on the Borough’s switchboard 01442 228000]
- If you make a note of the vehicle number it will help track down the culprits who are costing the Borough [which means all of us] a tidy fortune. If you are getting jobs done by casual tradesmen please make sure they are taking your garden rubbish or building materials to a proper refuse site.
- **Lagley Meadow Youth Centre**
The Youth Centre at Lagley Meadow is up and running again after a re-vamp over the summer holidays. The Centre is now managed by the Town Council and is the home for BASH and the Community Playgroup. The hall is available for hire for a variety of uses including children’s parties.
- Enquiries and bookings : Town Clerk 01442 228945



BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL

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Bold - Also serve on Dacorum Borough Council as representatives for Berkhamsted

Berkhamsted's representative on Hertfordshire County Council and a Town Councillor:

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Berkhamsted Town Council

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Town Warden

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