

## **BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Reports and Minutes of a Meeting of the TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted  
On **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010** at 7.30 p.m.

#### **MEMBERS:**

Councillors: R. Cowie - Chairman  
P. Matthews – Vice Chairman  
M. Allen  
Fiona Macdonald  
G. Stevens

#### **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:**

Councillors: J. Lythgoe

#### **EX-OFFICIO:**

Councillor J. Laws - Town Mayor

#### **OFFICER:**

Mr. A. Kemp – Town Clerk

#### **43/10 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bateman and Mr. Calderwood, Birtchnell's Copse.

#### **44/10 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Cowie declared a non prejudicial interest in item 49/10aiii as he is Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

#### **45/10 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **46/10 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

A complaint was received regarding the misuse of Dacorum and Town Council notice boards by "Rock Chorus". Following an investigation by the Town Clerk a full apology was tendered and an assurance given that such

misuse would not be repeated (a substantial number of adverts for the same event were placed on each notice board to the detriment of other advertisers).

A copy of a letter sent to the owners of The Goat Public House by the Conservation Area Residents Association of Berkhamsted (CARAB), regarding the adoption and planting of the ancient water trough has been received.

A copy of a letter sent to the Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Conservation Officer by CARAB regarding a broken litter bin outside 104 High Street has been received. The Town Clerk has subsequently been in correspondence with Simon Coultas (DBC), who has responsibility for such matters, in an effort to get it repaired or replaced.

A letter has been received from CARAB regarding a replacement seat / bench on the Town Moor. This is being investigated by the Town Clerk.

A letter has been received from John Wood, Director of Environment and Commercial Services, Herts County Council, regarding further consultation with County Councillors and District Councils regarding winter maintenance. *Councillors requested a copy of this letter.*

***Action Town Clerk***

A letter has been received from Hertfordshire County Council with the following leaflets enclosed:

‘Hertfordshire Transport Facts 2009’

‘Hertfordshire Traffic and Transport Data Report 2009’

These are available in the office if you would like to view them.

Numerous complaints have been received about a fault on the traffic lights at the junction of High Street and Lower Kings Road. They are not working correctly. Hertfordshire County Council have been contacted on numerous occasions and a repair is awaited.

## **47/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were seven members of the public present, six of whom wished to speak in relation to agenda item 49/10g.

The Chairman proposed that this agenda item be brought forward and dealt with immediately. This was agreed.

## TRANSPORT

### 48/10 TRANSPORT POLICY

- i. Berkhamsted and Northchurch Transport Plan  
The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Berkhamsted Civic Centre.

### 49/10 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. Traffic Management
  - i. Proposal from a local resident to convert part of Bank Mill Lane to one way traffic.  
Councillor Laws confirmed that a response had been received from Herts County Council stating that a one-way system was not a viable option and that there was nothing further the Town Council could do. Councillor Laws requested that the Town Clerk write to the original complainant.  
**Action Town Clerk**
  - ii. Vide 17/10 biii. Further correspondence received regarding the road junction at Doctors Commons Road and Charles Street from Mr Lee, Doctors Commons Road.  
This item was dealt with at a previous meeting. A reply had been received from Herts County Council which was to be forwarded to the complainant.  
**Action Town Clerk**
  - iii. Request for installation of brown tourist signs from A41.  
Response required from Berkhamsted Town Council by Hertfordshire Highways regarding the location of brown tourist signs.  
The Chairman again declared his interest in this item. Following discussion Councillor Allen proposed that the Town Council reverse its previous decision to support these signs due to their cost and the proliferation of street signage. This proposal was not seconded.

After further discussion it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council supported two signs placed either end of the town at the entrance/exits to the A41 at Wigginton and Bourne End and a letter to this effect be sent to Herts County Council.

**Action Town Clerk**

b. Parking

- i. Residents Parking Zones. Report on Resident's Survey  
Councillors Allen and Laws updated the meeting in that there had been a substantial response to the survey. That due to public demand the survey had been extended to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010 but they would commence analysing the data immediately and report back accordingly.

**Action Councillors Allen & Laws**

- ii. Vide 39/10 bii. Berkhamsted Civic Centre car park, proposal from Gordon Bluck for public parking –  
The Town Clerk's report circulated with agenda was accepted and noted. The Town Clerk further updated the meeting that Dacorum Borough Council were looking to let the first floor together with a number of the existing car parking spaces thus reducing the number that would be available for general parking.
- iii. Vide 39/10 biii. Proposed waiting restrictions – Brownlow Road and New Road.  
The updated correspondence was noted. Councillor Laws updated the meeting that she had attended the Joint Members Panel meeting where Herts County Council had advised that any further proposals to amend the scheme would seriously delay implementation and as there was a serious safety concern they did not wish there to be any further delays. The scheme as proposed by Herts County Council was therefore accepted.
- iv. Parking Review – Opportunity to feed back Town Council Views.  
The papers circulated with the agenda were noted. After discussion it was

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council recommend that no further increases are implemented for the forthcoming year for the following reasons:

- Out of all the Dacorum Borough Council car parks Berkhamsted's are the most used and therefore already bringing in substantial revenue.
- Unlike Tring Berkhamsted does not have the first hour of parking free.
- As a town, particularly in light of the current difficult financial circumstances, the town/town centre needs to remain competitive.

**Action Councillor Laws / Town Clerk**

- c. Pedestrian routes and footways
  - i. Footpaths in Canal Fields, The Moor and Velvet Lawn.  
Standing item – To report recent work carried out on Velvet Lawn footpath  
The Town Clerk updated the meeting that the Velvet Lawn footpath surface had been cleared and refurbished where necessary.
  - ii. Parish Paths Partnership – Minutes of last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Councillor Cowie  
The minutes were approved.
  - iii. Proposal to use a snow plough to clear High Street pavements in snowy weather  
The paper circulated with the agenda was noted together with input from Mr. G. Barnes requesting that any snow clearance route include Lower Kings Road. Following discussion members asked the Town Clerk to contact all interested parties namely, Herts County council and Dacorum Borough Council to establish whether such a snow plough/salting scheme was a viable option as a matter of urgency. Councillor Allen undertook to forward the technical details of the machinery involved to the Town Clerk.  
**Action Councillor Allen & Town Clerk**
- d. Roads  
There was nothing to report.
- e. Cycling  
There was nothing to report.
- f. Rail Services  
There was nothing to report.
- g. Bus Services

The Chairman adjourned Standing Orders to allow Phyllis Shoebridge and Frank Cutting to speak on behalf of the group. Both complained that the 62 bus no longer stopped at the top of the Chiltern Park Estate forcing the majority of the residents, who were quite elderly, to have to walk a considerable distance up and down a steep hill in order to catch the bus. They stated they had been in contact with their local MP, Herts County Council and Dacorum Borough Council who had advised that they were unable to force Arriva Buses to resume their previous stopping route. They stated they believed this route to still be a viable proposition for the bus company and had the support of a number of the bus drivers.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillors Allen and Lythgoe advised those present that the Town Council fully supported their aims and objectives and would do all it could to assist them. However the Town Council could not order the bus company to resume the route.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Arriva Buses and Dacorum Borough Council requesting a meeting to discuss this and other Berkhamsted bus route issues. Members asked the Town Clerk to expedite a response.

**Action Town Clerk**

## *ENVIRONMENT*

### **50/10 a. Town Projects**

- i. Millennium Garden
- ii. Gateway Garden
- iii. Gossoms End Flower Beds
- iv. High Street Hanging Baskets

There was nothing to report.

- b. Birtchnell's Copse, Ivy House Lane – progress report  
A report by Mr. Calderwood was circulated at the meeting. Councillors stated that the recent works had been noticed and there had been a great improvement in the area since the arrival of the new Warden. Members asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Calderwood and members of the Countryside Management Service.

**Action Town Clerk**

- c. Sustainability Developments  
Councillor Stevens updated the meeting and referred to three documents circulated by Dacorum Environmental Forum which were "Passport to Go", "Minutes of the Dacorum Environmental Forum" and "Updating the Sustainable Community Strategy". Councillor Stevens stated funding had been agreed for a specific project which involved regenerating unused allotment space in Hemel Hempstead.
- d. Canal Fields Liaison Group  
Councillor Allen updated the meeting to the effect that the Responsible Officer from Dacorum Borough Council had now moved on and there was concern that there was no specific individual from Dacorum Borough Council now responsible for the site. Concern was expressed as to its future viability.

- e. Raised flower bed between Doctors Commons Road and Montague Road – Transfer of responsibility to the Town Council agreed. To note maintenance being carried out by Mrs Sarah Garrett.  
Councillors noted that Dacorum Borough Council had accepted the transfer of responsibility to Mrs. Sarah Garrett and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to her recognising her hard work and efforts.  
**Action Town Clerk**

## **STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES REPORTS**

- 51/10** a. Roads, Pavements and Parking (Councillors Laws and Allen)
- b. Recycling (Councillor Stevens)
- c. Litter and Nuisance (Councillor Reay)
- d. Berkhamsted Heritage and Environment (Councillor Cowie)

There was nothing to report.

## **52/10 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.