

**MINUTES OF THE BNAP COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 4th JULY 2018 AT THE BENGEO CLUB, HERTFORD**

Attendance:

Mark Lynch (Chairman), Angela Dove, Cllr Andrew Stevenson, Cllr Mari Stevenson, John Cooper, Cllr Peter Ruffles, Brendan Clifford, Ben Penrose, Maria Iancu (HTC), Jacqueline Veater, Welly Edjenguele (Jacqueline's intern).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from John Howson, Paul Keyworth, Aska Pickering, Hilary Durbin, Cllr Steve Cousins and Sue Cousins.

2. Declarations of Interest

The chairman recorded that he is a near neighbour (about 150m) of the Waterford Wick development.

3. Feedback from the Town Council Working Party

The agenda and minutes from the Working Party meeting on 19th July were noted. Attention was drawn to the last paragraph proposing a review of progress involving the Steering Group, Hertford Town Council and East Herts District Council. The chairman responded that he fully supports this proposal. A meeting has been arranged on November 5th.

4. The July 7th/8th Exhibition

Most of the initial recording of the feedback from the exhibition has now been done. The Chairman will circulate the information.

There was a discussion of reports that some exhibition leaflet deliveries may have been missed, but no-one could see a way to verify or quantify this nor were there any suggestions for a distribution method that might be more reliable

Jacqueline and Welly have done some further analysis of some of the survey answers looking at the split between lower Bengoe and the rest of the ward.

Jacqueline has realized that a picture of the wrong bridge was used in the potential Heritage sites exhibition material (Port Hill instead of Port Vale). After discussion it was agreed that since the material says "Port Vale" responses should be considered to be about that bridge - it was agreed that some responses may have reflected genuine concern for the preservation of the Port Hill bridge, but that since that bridge carries the B158 it is relatively safe from any redevelopment within the lifetime of the plan.

Angela commented that there is some long-standing "Scooby Doo" graffiti on the Port Vale bridge which is popular with the local community.

Jacqueline and Welly have also looked into the practicalities of preserving the Water Tower. Age and aesthetics are the main factors. Examples exist of similar age water towers being listed. Aesthetics is more subjective, but there is certainly support for preserving the tower. Ben Penrose agreed to ask for more input via the Molewood Outlook (MRA magazine) - a final decision on the water tower was deferred until that input is available.

It was reported that the Warren Lodge gates into Hartham are in need of refurbishment - the Town Council is liaising with the District Council to progress this.

5. Housing and Development Working Group

The group is still understaffed and it's work needs to be progressed quickly. Heston Attwell has agreed to join and Ben Penrose offered himself or possibly another MRA committee member - that may be enough for the group to function.

6. Cerda Planning

It was generally agreed that there was little substance at Cerda Planning's recent Public Exhibition about developing the Sacombe Road Nursery Site. Some were concerned that the current proposals don't take enough account of the neighbouring HERT4 development area and that they may involve 3 storey structures.

Both Maria and Andrew have had contact with CP at a recent HERT4 Master Planning meeting and CP seem keen to meet with the BNAP Steering Group. It was agreed that Maria should try to arrange for them to present and discuss their proposals, preferably at the next Steering Group meeting on September 4th.

All agreed that it is therefore crucial that the Housing and Development WG make progress on objectives and, if possible, draft policies before that time. Jacqueline suggested a Workshop and a tentative date of August 20th was agreed.

7. The Waterford Wick Development on Sacombe Road

The Chairman provided a brief background to this development, which aims to replace a derelict brownfield site with a small low density area of high-sustainability housing. In view of the high level of resident support, the Steering Group were asked to vote on whether they would be prepared to send a letter in support of the development to EHDC planning. The motion was unopposed - the Chairman will draught a letter and circulate it for comment.

8. BNAP Planning and Next Steps

Jacqueline Veater presented a revised plan showing that the BNAP has slipped several months on the previous estimate. The chairman reported that

plans to hold a second iteration of the July exhibition in Lower Bengeo have also slipped and an October date now seems likely to be the earliest possible.

It was agreed that it therefore makes much more sense to instead make the Lower Bengeo exhibition a consultation on draft policies (the next logical step in the BNAP process). The chairman will send more information to the Working Groups.

9. AOB

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 4th September.

Subsequent meetings will be held on:

Wednesday 3rd October

Thursday 1st November

Tuesday 4th December

Wednesday 9th January

The meeting finished at 9pm.