

**Minutes of the Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan Community Steering Group  
Meeting  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 8:00pm at the St Andrew Centre.**

**Present:**

Members:

John Howson (Chairman)  
Cllr Andrew Stevenson  
Alex Daar (Transport WG)  
Brenda Heninghem  
Hilary Durbin (LoBRA)  
Brendan Clifford (Folly Island Association)  
Tansy Rothwell (Natural Environment WG)  
Veronica Fraser (Culture and Community WG)

HTC Consultant and Officers:

Jacqueline Veater (BNAP consultant)  
Maria Iancu (HTC Project Officer)

HTC BNAP Working Party (Observer)  
Cllr Peter Ruffles

Mr William Batchelor (Member of the public)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mari Stevenson, Aska Pickering, Mark Lynch, Ben Penrose, Justine Perry.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**4. FEEDBACK FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL WORKING PARTY**

The Chairman mentioned that four members of the Bengoe community attended the Working Party meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February. It was reported that the feedback from the East Herts Principal Planning Officer was positive though it was recognised that the draft is at early stage. It was discussed that policies have been updated following the comments received and the Community Steering Group would need to approve them. The Chairman added that, should members of the Steering Group have any comments about the emerging policies, it would be helpful if these were as specific as possible.

## **5. PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS**

### **Natural Environment and Green Spaces**

The Group met on 4<sup>th</sup> of March. They have revised their policies and have added two more Local Green Spaces (LGSs) to be consulted for designation. It was discussed that allotments were not included in the list, but consideration could be given for these to be designated as Assets of Community Value (ACVs). The group is ready to produce the exhibition materials.

### **Transport and Travel**

A meeting of the group took place on 4<sup>th</sup> of March. They are currently preparing the exhibition material, which will include pictures of traffic congestion and overgrown hedges that are slowing down the movement of pedestrians and cyclists. The rat run is an important issue for the community, so it will be mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan and added as a project in the Action Plan. It was discussed that a review of the crossing points in the Hartham area is currently ongoing.

The Planning Consultant mentioned that Bengoe could possibly be considered as pilot area to implement the “little Holland” system. This would mean no through traffic is allowed and priority is given to pedestrians and cyclists. This is an open concept and is likely to get divided opinions, but after deliberations, the Group agreed to include it in the exhibition and seek feedback from residents.

### **Culture and Community**

Work is still being carried out to prepare the exhibition materials, which will include photographs. Currently, the Chairman is the only person undertaking all work tasks and she has asked for additional support if possible. Feedback received by the Chairman suggested to focus on community matters and less on cultural events. This is because the venues used for cultural events in Bengoe are actually used by people throughout Hertford. It was added that the proposed Cultural Quarter would be considered in the Housing and Development section of the Plan.

### **Housing and Development**

No member of this Working Group attended the meeting. It was discussed that the policies of the Group need to be finalised very soon. A draft of the policies has been attempted and the Planning Consultant will review them. It was discussed that a number of houses could potentially be delivered on Tamworth Road, which would reduce the number of houses needed to be delivered through the HERT4 site. This is of direct interest for the Community Steering Group, as shape and density of housing developments are matters that can be influenced through Neighbourhood Plans.

## **6. THE EXHIBITION**

It was discussed that more volunteers could be needed at the exhibition on Saturday afternoon. Exact number of people who wish to help needs to be

confirmed. Other organisational details (such as display boards, printing and stationery) will be established in the following period.

**7. WORKING GROUPS ACTION PLANS**

Brenda commented that the projects in the Action Plan need to be SMART and if possible, Working Groups should seek to identify who would carry out the project and possible sources of funding, to avoid the Action Plan becoming a wish list. In addition, the list of projects will be useful when new sources of funding become available.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Next meeting will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May. The provisional date for the following meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.