

# Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan

## Minutes of the Community Steering Group Meeting held at the Bengeo Club at 19:30 on 7 September 2017

### Attendees:

Mark Lynch (Chairman of BNAP Community Steering Group, Sacombe Rd resident)  
Cllr Steve Cousins (middle Bengeo resident, town & district councillor)  
Cllr Andrew Stevenson (lower Bengeo resident, town & county councillor)  
Cllr Mari Stevenson (lower Bengeo resident, district councillor)  
Ben Penrose (Chairman of Molewood Residents' Association)  
Steven Wells (Watermill Estate Residents' Association representative)  
Paul Keyworth (lower Bengeo resident, Culture & Community WG)  
Aska Pickering (Sacombe Rd resident, Communications & Strategy WG)  
Doug McNab (town planner, Molewood Rd resident, Natural Environment & Green Spaces WG)  
Nick Gough (Molewood resident, Transport WG)  
Peter Cousins (middle Bengeo resident, Development WG)  
Jody Saunders (middle Bengeo resident, Business WG)  
Sue Cousins (middle Bengeo resident)  
John Howson (Molewood Bengeo resident, Natural Environment and Green Spaces WG)

### Apologies:

Cllr Linda Radford (town and district councillor)  
Cllr Peter Ruffles (town and district councillor)  
Cllr Sue Dunkley (Folly Island resident, town councillor)  
Cllr Sally Newton (Ware Park resident, town councillor)  
Joseph Whelan (Hertford Town Clerk)  
Maria Iancu (Hertford Town Council project officer)  
Colin Broomfield (Buckwells Field resident)  
Jacqueline Veater (Hertford Town Council consultant for BNAP)

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (9<sup>th</sup> August 2017) were agreed as being a correct record.

### Feedback Town Council Working Party Meeting 31 August.

Steve Cousins described discussion of the Terms Of Reference, and that HTC BNAP WP were happy to accept the TOR as amended.

Andrew Stevenson commented that HTC BNAP WP were happy to adopt a "light touch approach".

## Adoption of Terms Of Reference

It was unanimously AGREED to adopt the Terms Of Reference in their current form (i.e. as amended by the 31 August WP meeting).

## Election Of Chairman

Steve Cousins proposed Mark Lynch be elected Chairman of the BNAP CSG and was seconded by Andrew Stevenson.

It was unanimously AGREED to elect Mark Lynch as Chairman of BNAP CSG.

## Election of Vice Chairman

Election of a Vice Chairman of BNAP CSG was discussed. There were no initial volunteers and it was unanimously AGREED to DEFER the election.

It was suggested in discussion that it would be desirable if a candidate could be found who would widen the Steering Group's representation in terms of both interests (e.g. a business person rather than a resident) and geography (Molewood and Lower Bengeo are already well-represented).

## Update from Communications Group.

Aska Pickering reported that there had been some progress in finalising the membership of the group, with a number of people interested but that some further work was required.

Andrew Stevenson emphasised the need to develop a Communications Strategy and that HTC BNAP WP would wish to approve "official" communications but that general communications could be left to BNAP CSG.

Steve Cousins noted that HTC BNAP WP appreciated the BNAP CSG's use of social media.

## Update on Working Groups

Aska Pickering reported that 5 WG had been established and that initial feedback had been shared with those groups. The 1<sup>st</sup> 3 areas of focus for each WG had been established, but no meetings had as yet occurred.

It was suggested that progress would be made following the BNAP Training Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September and that participants of each WG would have a better understanding of their roles and areas of responsibility.

## Working Group Training 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Aska Pickering reported that circa 30 people had expressed an interest and were expected to attend.

Mari Stevenson requested that follow-up information such as hand-outs and PowerPoint slides be made available for those unable to attend.

## BNAP Roadmap

HTC BNAP WP suggest that progress on the Roadmap should be prioritised. The meeting acknowledged the aggressive nature of the current outline Roadmap but Mari Stevenson expressed the desire to continue with the current momentum.

A discussion regarding moving forward with the BNAP acknowledged the external pressures created by the proposed HERT4 Development and how forming a draft plan prior to the adoption of the East Herts Local Plan would be advantageous.

Douglas McNab referred to recent Government publications on Local Design which are available online.

Mark Lynch reported that, as with the working groups, it had been difficult to make progress on the Roadmap during August. He will move this forward with help/advice from Douglas McNab with the aim of producing a draft in time for the next WP meeting (i.e. before 22 September).

Andrew Stevenson reiterated Tarmac PLC's interest in being involved with the Development WG in light of their draft proposal for sustainable development of properties on Salcombe Rd which they see as a flagship development.

Discussion moved to the Business WG and Aska Pickering gave a list of some of the businesses that had been approached. Jody Saunders discussed how best to reach the many business that operate not just within the traditional retail zone of Cowbridge/St Andrew St, but throughout Bengoe ward as it was acknowledged that this was an important sector to involve in the BNAP and suggested finding a venue where a business meeting could be held.

## AOB and Future Meetings.

There was a further request for participants and ideas to the Communications and Strategy WG. The Chairman suggested that Steve Cousins might have insight to share with Aska Pickering in the light of his involvement in the Sele Neighbourhood Plan.

Douglas McNab asked what information HTC holds and what information do the WG's require.

Steve Cousins responded that both Herts University and HTC have good resources that can be useful. Jody Saunders commented that he has contacts at Herts University who may be able to help.

The venue for the next meeting (Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>) is still TBC.

**ACTION PAUL KEYWORTH TO ENQUIRE IF COWBRIDGE HALLS OR ANOTHER VENUE IS AVAILABLE.**

The following meeting will be Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> - again venue TBC

The meeting closed at 20.48.