

**Minutes of the Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan Community Steering Group
Meeting
Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 8:00pm at The Bengoe Club**

Present

Members:

John Howson (Chairman)
Alex Daar (Transport WG)
Brenda Heninghem
Mari Stevenson
Hilary Durbin (LoBRA)
Steve Bayley
Ben Crystall
Joseph Whelan

1) Apologies for absence

Ben Penrose
Brendan Clifford
Peter Ruffles
Mark Lynch
Tansy Rothwell
Veronica Fraser
Jacqueline Veater
Maria Iancu

2) Declarations of Interest

None

3) Minutes of last meeting

Agreed the minutes of the last Steering Group meeting (5th March 2019).

4) Feedback from the Town Council Working Party

Joseph gave feedback, the group is pleased with progress and the momentum achieved. Very pleased with the numbers of people attending the event at Mill Mead school. It was commented by Maria that there were more people than any similar event she had been involved in.

Hertford Town Council are very supportive of the draft plan. There has been lots of opportunity to comment.

EHDC will get another chance to comment at the full council meeting

Action: to check Peter Ruffles comments are included.

5) Outcomes of the Exhibition and Community Consultation, 23rd and 24th march 2019

220-230 members of the public attended, including younger people. The response was heavily in favour of the policies as set out at around 96-97% approval. Many issues discussed at the meeting. The largest concern obviously being traffic management and roads.

6) The Draft Plan

The chairperson congratulated everyone who helped or contributed and made it possible to get to this stage. Particularly Brenda as writing the plan absorbed 3 months of her life.

The amended vision statement was discussed and only one minor amendment was suggested i.e. to change the wording to "create a place to walk and cycle safely" rather than "a safer"

Any comments are needed before Friday 10th

Design for printing by the 24th of May

Joseph advised that the Plan would need to be approved by the Hertford Town Council Development and Leisure Committee on the 17th June. Anyone can attend but you will need to tell Joseph if you wish to speak. Prior to that the Plan will go to the Working Group on the 6th of June.

The referendum is likely to occur in the spring or summer of 2020 depending on a number of different factors.

A brief discussion about the public consultation on the plan ensued, it was agreed that the plan should be available for public scrutiny. Joseph Whelan suggested suitable places may be The Castle, Public Library, Tourist Information. The Secret Garden and Bengeo Club were also suggested.

Feedback sessions will also be held during which key members of the team will be available to speak to members of the public.

The Plan was unanimously adopted for submission to Hertford Town Council.

7) The Summary Plan For Public Distribution

The Steering Group were advised that a draft Summary Document had been circulated and comments invited. The group were advised that the full Plan and Summary Document would be sent for layout and design and then sent to HTC by 24th May

A discussion on the assets of clear and simple layout and design of the feedback form was held. The chairperson outlined his view that the quality of the summary plan and feedback form would make a difference to the response rate and this justified the additional design work. The committee agreed with this approach. Methods for returning the form were download a word version and email, online form, fill in and post or drop in to the Town Council. Sponsorship for the design of the summary document (£200) has been offered by WERA. Thanks were given to WERA for this.

8) Sustainable Travel Town

The initiative to make Hertford a Sustainable Travel Town is being developed by Andrew Stevenson. Alex explained the initiative which needs to be ground up. She explained that it will be a Hertford wide scheme

9) Any Other Business

a) Rights of Way – John mentioned a rights of way application he is about to put in for an existing path between Watermill Lane and Bengeo Field. The application could go into the action plan.

b) A planning application affecting Mudlarks planning mentioned. Although outside Bengeo is causing anxiety JH to follow up

c) Ben Crystal was invited to the group and accepted

d) Next meetings are:

Wednesday 10th July 2019

Wednesday 11th September 2019