

**Minutes of the Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan Community Steering Group
Meeting
Thursday 9th January 2019 at 8:00pm at the Bengoe Club.**

Present:

Members:

John Howson (Chairman)

Mark Lynch

Brenda Heninghem

Ben Penrose (MRA)

Hilary Durbin (LoBRA)

Tansy Rothwell (Natural Environment WG)

Veronica Fraser (Culture and Community WG)

HTC Consultant and Officers:

Jacqueline Veater (BNAP consultant)

Maria Iancu (HTC Projects Officer)

HTC BNAP Working Party (Observer)

Cllr Peter Ruffles

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Brendan Clifford, Andrew Stevenson, Mari Stevenson, Alex Darr, John Cooper, Aska Pickering.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. It was discussed that working group membership lists should be updated as necessary.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Peter Ruffles mentioned that the BNAP Working Party is fully supportive of the efforts of the community groups. It was discussed that a meeting with the East Herts Neighbourhood Plan Officer will take place on 14th February. The officer will consider the policies produced to date related to land use and will provide advice on their soundness.

5. WORKING GROUP STATUS

Natural Environment and Green Spaces

The most recent meeting of the group was attended by five members. At the moment the group has completed the policies draft and is working on the list of projects (Action Plan). It was discussed that maps are necessary for the Neighbourhood Plan but Steve Bailey, the Public Sector Mapping Agreement Principal Contact for Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), will be leaving the position at the end of March. Jacqueline Veater will contact HCC to ask if support for mapping can still be provided after April.

Transport and Travel

A meeting of the group took place recently and was very well attended. It was felt that this was a very productive meeting that did not avoid the most difficult topics. An initial draft of policies has been written, which might need further adjustment, this is ongoing. It was suggested that one project may be a separate group to liaise with HCC and EHDC to discuss possible solutions for traffic issues of the 'rat run' in lower Bengoe.

Culture and Community

Updates from the group were provided by email prior to the meeting. While some members have resigned from the group, the Chairman believes this is not a concern for producing the policies. It was believed that the group will produce two or three policies (related to land-use) and a larger set of project actions. It was discussed that community and cultural venues in Bengoe are also used by people who do not live in Bengoe and they should be consulted while BNAP is prepared. It was mentioned that the Heritage section of the plan will be considered by the group.

Housing and Development

Ben Penrose started in October a survey of land use (including brownfield and developed area), with the aim to identify sites where additional houses could be built. The details will be shared with the Environment working group. Updates on the future work of the group will be provided within a few days after the Community Steering Group meeting. It is aimed that policy writing will be attempted soon.

Cllr Peter Ruffles mentioned that comments are now welcome for the planning application on the site of the former Bridge House pub.

Business Group

Ben Penrose offered to share previous work with anyone interested. John Howson and Veronica Fraser mentioned that they had the idea of visiting businesses on The Avenue and Bengoe Street to ask for opinions with regards

to the future development of Bengo. Ben said that all additional work would be welcome and helpful.

6. THE EXHIBITION

The dates initially proposed for the exhibition (9th and 10th March) cannot be taken because Millmead School is already booked that weekend. Considering the availability of the members present, it was decided that 23rd and 24th March is the first option for organising the exhibition. This will be confirmed after contact is being made with Millmead School.

It was considered that each working group will produce their own slides, following the template produced by Tansy Rothwell. The Communications working group should organise a meeting soon to work on a strategy for preparing the exhibition.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was decided that the next meetings will be organised on 5th March and 8th May.