



Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan

Minutes of the Community Steering Group Meeting

held at Bengeo Cricket Club at 20:00 on 9th November 2017

Attendees:

Mark Lynch (Chairman of BNAP Community Steering Group, Sacombe Rd resident)
Cllr Steve Cousins (middle Bengeo resident, town and district councillor)
Cllr Andrew Stevenson (lower Bengeo resident, town and county councillor)
Cllr Mari Stevenson (lower Bengeo resident, district councillor)
Jacqueline Veater (Hertford Town Council consultant for BNAP)
Hilary Durbin (Chairperson of Lower Bengeo Residents' Association)
Ben Penrose (Chairman of Molewood Residents' Association, Business WG)
John Cooper (Chairman of Great Molewood Residents' Association)
Sue Cousins (middle Bengeo resident)
Alex Pharoah (Bengeo Resident, Transport WG)
John Howson (Molewood Bengeo resident, Natural Environment and Green Spaces WG)

Apologies:

Terry Betts (Chairman of Hertford Civic Society)
Aska Pickering (Sacombe Rd resident, Communications & Strategy WG)
Justine Perry (Bengeo business owner, Business WG)
Paul Keyworth (lower Bengeo resident, Culture & Community WG)
Doug McNab (town planner, Molewood Rd resident, Natural Environment & Green Spaces WG)
Emily White (Molewood resident, Development WG)
Joseph Whelan (Hertford Town Clerk)
Maria Iancu (Hertford Town Council project officer)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (5 October 2017) were agreed as being a correct record.



2. Town Council Working Party Meeting 25 October

The meeting was very brief and raised no substantive issues. Some suggested minor changes to the BNAP Register of Interests form have been incorporated..

3. Register of Interests

The chair noted that the revised RoI form had only recently been circulated and that, given the meeting had a lot of business to discuss, the RoI could be deferred until the next meeting. Action: Mark Lynch to ensure this is discussed at the next SG meeting.

4. Communication and Strategy Group

Mark Lynch reported that the C&SG had met for the first time at Number 1 Port Hill on 3rd November. The chief outputs were:

- Jacqueline Veater led a discussion of the Project Plan and key target dates (covered later in these minutes)
- Douglas McNab and Mark Lynch agreed to start working on an overarching vision and objective section for the plan
- Steph Stewart agreed to work on the Communications Plan.

4. Working Group Status

Mari Stevenson asked that there be a clear record of who was leading the various Working Groups and if possible minutes of their meetings. It was pointed out that this is one of the functions of the C&SG and that status from the groups has been circulated. Mark Lynch agreed to share a list of WG leaders and to consider with Aska Pickering whether there are better ways to convey WG status.

Steve Cousins noted that it was important that each WG have a representative at Steering Group meetings even if the leader is unable to attend.

Andrew Stevenson also noted that any WGs contemplating transport-related issues should respond to the Local Transport Plan consultation - funding may be available for positive ideas. Groups looking to engage with HCC Highways may be able to have exploratory discussions which he could facilitate.

Jacqueline Veater then ran through her perception of the current status of each WG:

- Natural Environment and Green Spaces
Good vision and objectives.
Starting to investigate details of areas of interest (such as land ownership).
Jacqueline is planning to join the next WG meeting to advise on next steps.



- Homes and Development
Good vision, but a long list of objectives - perhaps too many?
There is consideration of new development, but Jacqueline wondered whether the WG should also look at potential redevelopment within the ward.
- Culture and Community
Good vision and objectives.
Jacqueline asked which WG was covering Heritage and it was agreed that Culture and Community seems to be the logical “home”. Mari Stevenson offered to raise it with the WG at their next meeting. EHDC has recently produced a Conservation Area Appraisal for Hertford (available on the website).
Jacqueline commented that this WG should also consider Assets of Community Value - possibly discuss with Emily White who was very successful with the Bengeo Field byway. Ben Penrose commented that Great Molewood residents might consider whether there are any Assets of Community Value around them - although liaison with Stapleford Parish Council may be required.
- Business
WG is struggling to get Businesses to engage - Jacqueline commented this is actually the norm.
The Breakfast Meeting on 9th November was not attended.
The WG are switching to approaching individual businesses.
Jacqueline suggested talking to “Business Buzz” - a Hertfordshire business networking website.
- Traffic and Transport
Still working on vision, although some objectives are emerging.
Jacqueline will try to attend the next WG meeting to give some guidance.
Alex Pharoah commented that the WG is trying to promote “non-car” travel, but realistically has to accommodate the needs of car users.
After some discussion of Action Plan vs. Policy Andrew Stevenson commented that an Action Plan could be as simple as agreeing with HCC to put an idea (e.g. a one-way system) out to consultation and then act on the result.

5. Project Plan

The key dates in the Project Plan are:

- Late December/January - Questionnaire survey
- Early February 2018 - Workshop on Policy writing
- June 2018 - Pre-submission draft ready for Public Consultation



The Communication and Strategy Group aim to start the questionnaire survey in the gap between Christmas and New Year (i.e. Dec 27-29). That means that the Working Groups should supply input for question design by 27th November, with the intention of having the questions ready for sign-off at the following Steering Group meeting. That in turn means that the next SG meeting needs to be later, so it was suggested that the SG meeting be moved to 11th or 13th of December. Mark Lynch to find out which date is likely to have the best attendance.

Jacqueline will provide some guidance about question development, but the key point for the WGs is that they do NOT need to produce crafted questions - we have at least one volunteer with the expertise to do that for us. The key input from the WGs will be a description of the information they need, based on their aims and objectives, in order to decide whether there is public support for their proposals.

Steve Cousins suggested that when the survey is put out, schools and the Parish Magazine will be good ways to publicise it.