

**MINUTES OF THE BENGEO COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2018 IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD**

Attendance:

Mark Lynch (Chairman), Paul Keyworth, Angela Dove, Alex Pharaoh, Cllr Andrew Stevenson, Maria Iancu (HTC), Cllr Steve Cousins, Sue Cousins, Doug McNab, John Cooper, John Howson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Hilary Durbin, Mari Stevenson and Brendan Clifford.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the previous Community Steering Group meeting were approved as a correct record.

4. The BNAP Survey analysis

A 13-page document was presented to the members attending the meeting and has since been circulated by email. The HTC officer mentioned that this is not a completed document as further work is required to correlate postcodes of the respondents with their responses on sensitive topics such as traffic in lower Bengoe. If members of the Community Steering Group would like to send comments on the paper, they can email them to Maria Iancu.

Mark Lynch has shared the results of survey question 22 with the ongoing Public Enquiry (an Appeal against HCC's refusal to allow a quarry in Bengoe Field) to show that there is strong support from the community for protecting green spaces such as Bengoe Field from development.

It was discussed that it would be helpful to work together with the Sele Neighbourhood Plan Community Steering Group for common projects such as walking and cycling routes that will connect the two areas.

5. BNAP response to Hartham Common Greenspace Action Plan

The Members of the Community Steering Group praised the thorough letter produced by Doug McNab. Suggestions came about adding a reference to improving access to the area, which can refer to the pedestrian and car access from Port Vale and from the East Hertford station. Also it was discussed that there could be mentions of the need of an improved pavilion, toilets, and preservation of the area's biodiversity.

Steve Cousins mentioned that there was once a bridge at the former pitch-and-putt area and it was discussed whether reinstatement of the bridge would improve usage of Hartham's western end.

It was agreed that Doug would update the response for circulation and that any further suggestions should be sent to Mark Lynch who would submit the final version on May 18th.

6. Status update on the schools survey

Status of engagement with primary schools:

Sue Cousins has approached Millmead and Bengero schools for engagement with KS-2 pupils. Millmead School is currently working on this proposal and would like to make the survey part of a larger debate event. It was discussed that St Joseph's School and Duncombe schools have pupils who reside in Bengero so these schools will be approached too.

Status of engagement with sixth forms:

Steve Cousins said that work on this is still in progress, first school to be approached will be Simon Balle, followed by Sele School and Richard Hale. The school will identify students who live in Bengero. It is intended that this will happen before the summer holidays.

7. The BNAP vision statement

Currently there are three draft versions written by different members of the Community Steering Group. It was discussed that the other members of the and the Steering Group and the Working Party can consider these and amend them by the next meeting, if necessary, sending their preference and/or comments to Mark Lynch.

8. HERT4 development

It was discussed that the Housing and Development Working Group should work on the community's preferred design for any new development. This can be shared with East Herts and considered by the Masterplanning team.

The discussion then moved onto the Bengero car wash which has recently closed. It was considered that McMullen's own the land and Andrew Stevenson offered to approach them for more information.

9. Public Exhibition/consultation

It was discussed that the consultation event could take place on 16th and/or 17th June at Duncombe Hall. It was discussed that on the same weekend is the Hertford Music Festival and that there may be an opportunity for joint

publicity. It can also be promoted on schools' websites, newsletters, on Facebook and Twitter, etc.

For the organisation of the event will be needed leaflets (graphics and printing), name badges for the volunteers, maps, and graphs with the results of the survey. Working Groups would need to convene and work on the policies of their theme by 2nd of June, in order to allow for the organisation of the event.

10. AOB

It was announced that due to time commitments Alex Pharoah was stepping down as leader of the Transport and Travel Working Group, and that Angela Dove had offered to step in - members of the Community Steering Group expressed their gratitude to her.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 5th of June at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.30pm.