



James Doe
Assistant Director (Planning, Development and Regeneration)
Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum,
Marlowes,
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire,
HP1 1DN

Date **TBC**

Dear James,

Introducing CIVIC CENTRAL

We are writing to welcome DBC's aspiration, in identifying BK12 as a possible development site within the current draft Local Plan, to enhance Berkhamsted Civic Centre and consider the potential for other social and community uses on the site to the rear of the High Street. As representatives of community organisations in Berkhamsted, we wish to express our interest in contributing our skills and local reach to future developments.

We are wide-ranging partners of local organisations who see a great opportunity to transform this important, but largely neglected site on the High Street for the benefit of our town and its residents. The community's vision that you received favourably at the 2013 meeting with B-Hive in connection with the redevelopment of the Police Station is even more relevant today. The ongoing expansion of our town and the social and economic aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic create a critical need for a vibrant, revitalised town centre and more support for our community. We see a future, re-purposed Civic Centre being at the heart of our town's response to these challenges.

We will build further on the clear consensus of the 30 local groups and 1,000 people who, in 2013, created a vision for this area. That vision has now developed to envisage:

- a Civic Centre with improved accessibility in keeping with the architectural historic characteristics of the town centre
- sustainable redevelopment with a mix of multifunctional community, commercial and residential usage

- establishing and improving the link for pedestrians between the High Street and existing green space, connecting Butts Meadow to the town centre.

We are set to draw in all the main community organisations in the town and know we can count on their immense pool of skills and talents to breathe life into our vision for CIVIC CENTRAL, a source of pride and the focus for community life in our town. The overarching purpose and ethos of CIVIC CENTRAL are outlined in the attached annex. They focus on the need to promote health and wellbeing, support business and social enterprise, foster cultural life, and provide a living heritage hub in Berkhamsted town centre.

We would like to request an early meeting with you and colleagues to present our CIVIC CENTRAL concept and explore the potential for maximising the community benefit of the site. We understand that DBC has constraints in terms of finance, possible residential development of part of the site and an array of existing tenants in the main and ancillary buildings. We would, therefore, appreciate the opportunity to understand these aspects more fully before we proceed with our application to register relevant areas as an Asset of Community Value.

Our concept and ambition will rely on significant investment, so we are keen to discuss with you the scope for us to work in partnership with DBC, including the possibility of a fund-raising role.

We very much hope that you share our excitement at the prospect of re-purposing this building to make it into the prominent landmark and powerful asset our town needs for the 21st century. We look forward to meeting you in the near future.

{Signatories TBA}

CIVIC CENTRAL

CIVIC CENTRAL is our vision to transform Berkhamsted's Civic Centre into the prominent landmark and powerful asset our town needs for the 21st century.

CIVIC CENTRAL is supported by a wide range of partners representing Berkhamsted's community organisations.

CIVIC CENTRAL will promote health and wellbeing, support business and social enterprise, foster cultural life, and provide a living heritage hub in Berkhamsted town centre.

CIVIC CENTRAL will be a source of pride and the focus for community life in our town.

CIVIC CENTRAL is a place to:

