

# **BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL**

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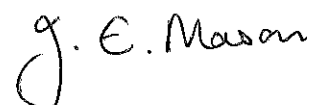
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28 January 2019

## **SUMMONS TO ALL MEMBERS**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the **TRANSPORT and ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted, on **Monday 4 February 2019 at 7.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below and you are hereby summoned to attend.



Mrs J Mason  
Town Clerk

### **MEMBERS:**

Councillors: T Ritchie (Chair)  
S Bateman  
D Collins  
F Earl  
P Matthews (Vice Chair)  
I Reay  
G Yearwood

Substitutes: C Green  
G Corry  
J Jones

### **EX OFFICIO:**

Councillor S Beardshaw - Town Mayor

Substitutes: J Jones  
D Collins  
G Corry

**THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

- TE 01/19** To receive **apologies for absence**
- TE 02/19** To receive **Declarations of Interest** regarding items on the agenda
- TE 03/19** To approve the **minutes of the meeting** held on 12 November 2018
- TE 04/19** Actions taken following the 12 November meeting. (See report attached.)
- TE 05/19** **Chair's Communications**

- (i) NHS 10 Year plan Conference, 3 April 2019  
(25-01-19)\*
- (ii) Proposed Waiting Restrictions In Berkhamsted – Consultation pack, e-mail from Lance Holman, HCC, dated 9 November 2019.  
(12-11-18)\*
- (iii) News Release Hertfordshire County Council: I can't thank Herts Warmer Homes enough.  
(18-12-18)\*
- (iv) NHS Herts Valley CCG - Meeting to update residents on developing refreshed plan for hospital sites in west Herts on 29 January at the Stanborough Centre in St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL from 7pm to 9pm.  
(02-01-18)\*
- (v) West Midlands Trains Online Stakeholder Research 2018.  
(25-01-19)\*
- (vi) Latest News from Visit Herts  
(21-01-19)\*
- (vii) NALC Newsletter  
(25-01-19)\*
- (viii) HAPTC - Enter our draw for a free defibrillator  
(25-01-19)\*
- (ix) HCC - Walking in Hertfordshire – February 2019  
(25-01-19)\*
- (x) BDCC - Networking Lunches Launched! - Tuesday 12 February 2019  
(25-10-19)\*
- (xi) Annelly Robinson (NHS Herts Valleys CCG) – e-mail received 21-01-19 enquiring about obtaining CIL/s106 funding from the Town Council.

Ms Robinson will be asked for more details although it should be noted that the CIL working group commented in its 13 April 2018 notes that "The group's view was that although health is an infrastructure issue, it was felt that contributing (*ie from the Town Council's budget*) to NHS budgets would have little impact..." . Once a response is received the Town Clerk will feedback that information via the CIL working group in the first instance. (21-01-19)\*

\*Date circulated to councillor

**TE 06/19 Public Participation**

To suspend Standing Orders so that **members of the public might speak**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**TE 07/19 Ashridge Estate Woodland Management Plan Consultation**

To **receive** feedback and **proposals** from Cllr F Earl who attended a presentation regarding the above at Ashridge Estate Visitors Centre on 22 January 2019.

**TE 08/19 CIL Working Group**

To **note** that there will be a meeting of the group on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 4 pm.

**TE 09/19 Replacement of trees in Upper Hall Park**

To **receive** proposals from Cllr G Stevens.

**TE 10/19 Street cleaning in Charles Street and rubbish in Cowper Road**

To **receive** proposals from Cllr G Stevens.

**TE 11/19 Heritage Hub**

To **receive** an update report from Mr N Groves, BLHMS, on the Heritage Hub project (attached).

**TE 12/19 Berkhamsted Castle**

To **note** that Cllr P Matthews and the Town Clerk will be meeting with Mr T Cockerill, Free Sites Partnership Manager, English Heritage, on Friday 1 March 2019 at 10 am.

**TE 13/19 Station Road / Lower Kings Road – concerns and solutions**

To **discuss and agree** action as appropriate. This item arises from a complaint made by a member of the public about the state of the highway and general appearance of the area which, in his e-mail, he describes as "...one of the main gateways into Berkhamsted...".

**TRANSPORT**

**TE 14/19 Parking Forum issues**

Multi storey Car Park project and other updates (Cllr T Ritchie).

**TE 15/19 Phasing of traffic lights at the High street/Lower Kings Road/High street junction and implementation of waiting and loading restrictions in Lower Kings Road**

To **discuss and agree** further action in the light of recent e-mail correspondence referred to in the Clerk's report attached to the agenda.

**TE 16/19 Parking in Bridgewater Road**

To **receive** an update from Cllr Reay and to **consider** possible proposals regarding restrictions to commuter parking in the area.

**TE 17/19 Pedestrian crossing at Billet Lane**

To **discuss and consider** a request from a member of the public for a pedestrian crossing to be installed in Billet Lane on safety grounds (a letter dated 14 January 2019 from a Chiltern Park Avenue resident was circulated to councillors on 17 January 2019).

JEM 28-01-19

Transport and Environment Committee  
4 February 2019  
Actions taken following the 12 November meeting  
TE 04/19  
Clerk's Update

**TE 89/18 Parking in disabled bays by market stall holders**

Cllr Reay raised the matter at the Berkhamsted Market Fund AGM, under any other business, on 30 November 2018.

**TE 90/18 Displays of produce and goods outside premises in the High Street**

Cllr Corry was unable to attend the 12 November meeting and asked that the item be deferred. The Town Clerk has collated some information from the Market Trust, HCC and DBC. This action needs to be progressed with a view to reporting more fully in April.

**TE 96/18 Chair's Communications**

Three Rivers, Dacorum and Hertsmere Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy – The Town Clerk completed the survey and returned it to the consultants and asked them to contact her if they required any further information.

**TE 100/18 Petition from Berkhamsted Youth Town Council**

HCC has been alerted to the petition and request. Town Clerk is awaiting contact with the YTC reps to finalise the paper to be submitted.

**TE 101/18 Phasing of traffic lights at the High Street/Kings Road/Lower Kings Road Junction** *(item referred from Full Council 22-10-18 FC 104/18 refers)*

*Implementation of waiting and loading restrictions in Lower Kings Road arising from the construction of the multi storey car park.*

Cllr D Collins undertook to raise this matter at a forthcoming meeting with the MSCP project team members at DBC who will have been liaising on this issue with officers at HCC. See below also.

*Meeting with HCC re phasing of the traffic lights at the junction*

You have been copied in to e-mails between Mike Younghusband, myself, Rupert Thacker and Mark Youngman at HCC. In brief, Mike Younghusband has now left HCC and Rupert Thacker is covering that area of work. The only timescale for the phasing and traffic restrictions etc seems to be "*Prior to first occupation of the development...*". Rupert Thacker would be happy to meet on site with us to discuss phasing.

JEM 28-01-19

TE 11/19

4-2-19 meeting

## Progress with investigating the Berkhamsted Heritage Hub and Network

The Berkhamsted Hub and Network Project in January 2019 is a work in progress, being a third way through its investigatory research stages. The overall aim is to explore ways of widening understanding of Berkhamsted's rich heritage among "not-the-usual-suspects" residents, and among visitors to the town and around. The Society wants to help answer the question "How did Berkhamsted get to now?" in an entertaining and accessible way.

As part of this, the Project is working to explore :

- what would appeal to different audiences, for example young people, to help them engage
- the feasibility of, and role for, a physical Heritage Hub in a building
- whether, if a physical Hub is difficult to achieve, a bespoke online service would be the most beneficial way forward
- if heritage asset owners and other key stakeholders see value in working together in a Network, to plan and promote increased understanding and enjoyment of the town's history
- how best to better employ the considerable numbers of artefacts held in collections
- how, in an affordable and sustainable way, to build on existing valuable heritage activities, such as history talks, online services, and other heritage events.

In February 2018 the BLHMS was awarded £60,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (thank you, Lottery players), plus also £3,500 from Berkhamsted Town Council, to explore the concepts. This mainly covers specialist consultancy advice, and a new skills training programme, to deliver a thorough Brief approved by the HLF. After the competitive tendering process during the summer of 2018, the chosen consultancy, Fourth Street Place Consultants Ltd, commenced work in October 2018 with an inception workshop. The consultant team includes historians, architects and exhibition designers.

In January 2019 the draft Context and Option Report for Consultation is under preparation and development. In it the consultants consider, in the light of experience elsewhere and the constraints of the existing circumstances in the town, what could be done, the stories to be told, the options to best get the heritage messages across, and the financial requirements of various suggested interventions.

During 2019 the various options identified will be consulted on and refined, looking to find consensus and support where possible. The final package is intended to be a guide to the way forward, and a springboard to seek funding to make activities happen. The more ambitious projects will require considerable years to bring to fruition, but it is also hoped to seek some early winners to build momentum. As the History Society owns no property, any proposal affecting a building or site will need the willing and active involvement of the relevant owners. The final decision of course is respected as theirs.

The following is a summary of the consultant's key findings to date, which they put forward for discussion and consultation.

- A heritage visitor centre at the Castle is a key proposal. During discussions in 2017 about heritage in Berkhamsted, this location was considered as giving most potential. This is something that has come a step closer with improvements in 2018 such as the formation of the Berkhamsted Castle Trust, occupation changes at the Castle Lodge, transfer of the East Field to the Trust, and a start on preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan lead by English Heritage. A visitor centre would be a headline and important activity, but it is obviously one requiring sensitive and thorough planning, and very large capital and revenue funding. Therefore, preparing for this would take a considerable number of years. It is hoped that a Centre at the Castle may be able to tell the story of Berkhamsted up to the middle ages.

Other key developments proposed include:

- An Enhanced Heritage Trail, larger panels that explain the wider heritage context on suitable walls, plus small boards for specific sites, and possibly free standing "monoliths" in suitable locations. This would be linked to paper and online Trail Guides.
- As suitable locations for displaying artefacts from the collections are limited, an online virtual "museum" will be considered, with digitised images of key heritage items. This could be accessible via several routes. Any online resource will need to carefully complement existing services.
- History festivals are considered by the consultants as good ways of engaging a wide range of audiences. Bearing in mind the strengths of Berkhamsted, one option could be theming this around heritage film and historic images.
- Drama and recreation performances illuminating past ways of life are a proven way of appealing to diverse audiences and can be woven into festivals or added to existing cultural events. Practically any location, from street to open space, can act as a pop-up "theatre".
- Other enjoyable activities that will be investigated include heritage art, photography, or poetry and prose events and competitions.
- Provided all the church authorities approve the idea, the consultants consider that St Peter's Church could possibly host a small exhibition space which could focus on Berkhamsted from the middle ages up to recent times.
- An architectural model of the town as it existed in history, say in the 1500s, is considered a great way for adults and children to visualise the past.
- Permanent historic photo displays are already found in some Berkhamsted public buildings, but it is suggested these could be upgraded and enhanced.
- Bronze monuments to key local figures are often popular in the right location and lead to much sharing of images across the world. Some can be designed to be especially appealing to children.
- The concept of a having mini-exhibitions with collection displays in central public buildings with all-day public access has been considered by the consultants, but the scale of available, large enough, and suitable locations is not considered sufficient to make a worthwhile impact.

The immediate next steps are to refine the proposals and consult further on all the options, as set out in greater detail in the Options Report for Consultation. Delivery over time will need a multi-agency approach and working in a network, and some of parts of the evolving strategy, particularly the property related ideas, will obviously take a great deal of careful planning and fund raising. Other aspects can be envisaged as happening sooner but will still very much benefit from joint partnership working.

Norman Groves and Jenny Sherwood, for the BLHMS.