

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **BRADFORD ON AVON AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **7 February 2008**

Held in: **ST MARGARET'S HALL
BRADFORD ON AVON**

Present

West Wiltshire District Councillors: Cllrs Brown (Chairman) & Martindale

County Councillors:

Bradford on Avon Town Councillor:

Parish Councillors: Cllrs Keith Brendish, John Allison & Jane Grant

Parish Liaison Group Rep:

Community Area Partnership Rep:

Also in attendance: Sgt Sandy Ralph

Officers: Jacky Nicholas – Community Development Officer and Karen Hart Member Support Team Leader

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bolwell and Repton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2007 and 12 November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman updated the members on the installation of BIG Lottery Play Projects

The BIG Lottery have confirmed that West Wiltshire District Council has been successful in its application for £240,000 funding to provide improved children's play provision across the district.

Bradford on Avon will see the installation of an i-play unit in the north of the town at Bearfields Recreation Ground. The i-play is a solar-powered electronic game that encourages children to play actively. The equipment is aimed at 8 – 14 years and is considered new, innovative, and exciting.

Work on site will begin in early March and should take approximately one week to complete.

5. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public were invited to speak on the agenda items, but chose to speak when the items arose.

6. OUTCOME OF ITEMS REFERRED TO CABINET

No items were referred to Cabinet.

7. UPDATES FROM THE LAST BRADFORD ON AVON AREA SEMINAR

The Chairman updated the Members on the following items:

Kingston Mills

At a special meeting on 29th November, 2007, the Planning Committee indicated that it was minded to grant planning permission, conservation area consent and listed building consent for application relating to the redevelopment of the Kingston Mills site subject to :

- a. the reference of the listed building consent application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for her to consider whether the listed building application should be determined by her.
- b. the completion of a section 106 agreement
- c. planning conditions

By letter of 10th January, 2008, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government indicated that she did not require the application for listed building consent to be determined by her department.

Discussions are ongoing with the applicants in respect of the section 106 agreement. It is hoped that the agreement will be completed shortly and the planning permission, conservation area consent and listed building consent issued.

We are also putting in place the measures and staff we will need to discharge of planning conditions and to monitor the development of the site as it proceeds to ensure the full and proper implementation of the development in accordance with the approved plans, the section 106 agreement and the planning conditions.

Bradford on Avon Hospital

The P.C.T. originally put forward plans for the future of Bradford on Avon Hospital at Berryfields. The house itself was to be divided into three flats and there would be twenty -plus units of housing, including social housing. Many of the listed trees would have been felled and a nursing home was to be built in the bottom left-hand corner of the site.

There were complaints about the number of trees to be felled and the occupants of Cedar Court, sheltered housing complained of being hemmed in by houses. The P.C.T. then declared the scheme was uneconomic and dropped it.

Without any local consultation the hospital was closed. The Friends of Bradford on Avon Hospital protested, but in vain.

Recently the hospital site was bought by Future Heritage, working with Edward Nash, architect and Blanchworth Care, a company specializing in care home facilities and a group backed by The Friends and the Town Council.

An exhibition of the plans were held in October 2007 and the public were happy with what they saw.

Unlike the previous plans the architect has worked around the listed trees.

Berryfield House was to remain one dwelling and there would be a total of only 14 units of housing on the site. The grounds were to be cared for by a Management Committee and there would be a separate access off Berryfield Road.

The Town Council were ready to pass the plans, but letters from members of the public living in the Bath Road and Leigh Park Road pointed out that the Care Home's footprint was larger and that it was now three floors in height instead of two, thus taking sunlight and privacy from their houses.

For this reason the application was turned down by the Town Council on 29th. January 2008.

In response the Nash Partnership has gone to some lengths to explain the revised lay-out of Block A on the site, so it may not be an issue.

Julia Evans the case officer might have other queries, but may not wish to discuss them at this early stage.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS (NPT)

Sergeant Sandy Ralph updated the seminar. The NPT has been running for a year in Bradford on Avon, it was implemented in April 2007. There are 2 teams the town centre team and the rural team covering the parishes in the community area.

With the help from the website and the Community Support Officer – Laura, people have been able to report more crimes and as such the crime rate has increased.

The NPT consults with partner agencies such as the Council Housing departments and youth services. A tasking group specifically deal with issues raised by the community and issues tackled so far are car parking and anti social behaviour.

Traffic and speeding issues have also been addressed with the use of speed gun. Hopefully the problem has been resolved, but if the need should arise it will be addressed again.

In the Town Centre there have been some nasty assaults but people have been arrested and charged for these offences.

Bradford on Avon could be helped with the aid of CCTV as it would assist in identifying the culprits causing the trouble.

The NPT's have been working with local shopkeepers and pubs and off licenses to help address the issue with Car parking and antisocial behaviour.

The service on the 0845 number has drastically improved and the public would be encouraged to use this service to contact the police to report non urgent crimes, urgent crimes should still use 999.

Trowbridge Library now has a link to the Melksham Police Station by a direct dial telephone if any one wishes to report any crime. In addition, staff at the Library will assist people to contact the police via email.

9. REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rosemary Brown updated the Seminar on the Youth & Community Support Centre and the Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership.

10. COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP THEME GROUPS UPDATE

Cllr Isabel Martindale updated the seminar on projects that are going on Bradford on Avon.

- It will be interesting to see children playing with the new i-play
- WWDC have given a grant to Westwood to help improve their play area surface
- More play equipment is required for under 8's at Bearfields play centre which lacks imaginative play equipment for that age group
- There will be a commuted sum of £104,000 from the Kingston Mill Development which is intended for the young people of Bradford on Avon
- Potential new cycle track to be implemented at Poulton alongside the present skateboard track.
- There has been some consultation regarding the possibility of a 'Trim Track' for Senior citizens.

Cllr Rosemary Brown updated the seminar with regards to car parking.

- Issues surrounding the BOA car park will be raised with the NPT tasking group.
- Part of the Station Car Park is to be Pay and display and a 2 hour free parking designated area has been introduced, but a ticket will need to be on display.

11. SMALL GRANTS AWARDED

Jacky Nicholas encouraged groups to seek funding via Meril Morgan at WWDC. There is still £550 available to date £1250 has been spent.

Grants have already been awarded as follows:

Organisation/Group Applying	Brief Description of Application	Date of Application	Amount of Application	Amount Granted
1st Bradford on Avon scout Group		23/08/2007	£ 250.00	£ 200.00
Bradford on Avon senior Citizens Forum	contribution towards publication of quarterly newsletter	22/10/2007	£ 400.00	£ 200.00
Bradford on Avon Old Thyme and Modern Sequence Dancing Club	to support the promotion of events and cost of hall hire for monthly dances	04/12/2007	£ 400.00	£ 350.00
Woodland Tots, Baby & Toddler Group	to upgrade arts & crafts equipment, baby area and role play equipment	30/11/2007	£ 300.00	£ 300.00
Bradford on Avon Fairtrade Town Group	contribution towards a fairtrade directory	20/12/2007	£ 200.00	£ 200.00

12. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS UPDATE

Jacky Nicholas reminded members that as a Community Development Officer, she is here to support their community leadership role, also encouraged members to attend NPT Tasking Groups.

13. AIR QUALITY IN BRADFORD ON AVON

Open Forum Speakers: Professor Brian Harris, Godfrey Marks and Gerald Milward-Oliver

Cllr Rosemary Brown updated the seminar of the current situation regarding the Air Quality in Bradford on Avon.

WWDC have continued to monitor air quality in Bradford On Avon using nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes and an automatic analyser located in St Margarets Street.

Data

Unfortunately nitrogen dioxide levels in Masons Lane particularly are not improving.

Current Work

We are currently in the process of investigating the use of indoor air purifiers for certain properties in Masons Lane. This has involved monitoring at the rear of the property for a year with diffusion tubes (the 2007 annual average came out at 21 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The decision as to whether such systems are installed will ultimately lie with the occupants/owners of the property.

We have been following a trial on Nox absorbing pavement by London Borough of Camden. Unfortunately it does not appear to have been very successful and there are a number of limiting factors associated with BOA such as very small surface area of pavement.

We have started work on producing a County wide planning guidance document specifically in relation to air quality along with the other district councils in Wiltshire.

Further Monitoring and Work

We have been lacking in real time monitoring data for Masons Lane due to the constraints of finding a suitable monitoring location. We are hoping to move the nitrogen dioxide automatic analyser from St Margarets Street to the Aukana Trust, Masons Lane sometime in February.

The Council is also hoping to purchase an automatic particulate monitor for Masons Lane if we can overcome siting issues. Particulate monitors are much harder to locate due to the nature of the machine as the air inlet needs to be rigid unlike a gas monitor which can be served by a flexible connection.

A proposal was put forward at 'Climate Friendly Bradford' in January regarding the setting up of a community based diffusion tube project. The aim being to

get the community involved in monitoring at their chosen locations with guidance from ourselves. If there is sufficient interest a working group will be set up.

It has been suggested that the increasing use of 'Sat Nav', particularly for business and commercial use, may be bringing extra traffic including commercial vehicles through Bradford on Avon. We are intending to explore, firstly whether there is a measurable increase in such traffic by looking at traffic counts undertaken by the Wiltshire County Council and then whether any increase can be attributed to the use of sat/nav and, finally, whether more appropriate alternative routes can be programmed into these devices.

Wiltshire County Council has set aside £60,000 for works in the Bradford on Avon Air Quality Management Area, the expectation was that this should be used principally for mitigation on properties where exposure will exceed the action levels in 2010. As the proposals for helping these properties are still being considered, the monies will be rolled into the new financial year.

The open forum speakers were very concerned regarding the Air quality issue, Cllr Brown offered to organise a meeting between the concerned parties and officers at WWDC to help move forward with the issue.

Cllr Martindale commented that the pollution was directly linked with the traffic issues and that WWDC need to work with County to sort out Traffic issues particularly in anticipation of increased traffic due to the new Kingston Mills site. It was also recommended that the issues be raised via the Community Area Partnership.

REPORT ON REVIEW OF AREA BOARDS

There is nothing concrete in place regarding the new Area Boards. There has been much dissatisfaction at Cabinet regarding the issue.

14. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was suggested that perhaps a special meeting should be arranged specifically to address the issue of traffic and air quality in Bradford on Avon.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Bradford on Avon Seminar meeting is to be arranged

(7.05pm – 9.05pm)

These minutes were prepared by Karen Hart, Member Support Officer
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