

WALTHAM CROSS NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



**BOROUGH OF
BROXBOURNE**

www.broxbourne.gov.uk

**Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 30 October 2019,
at 7pm, Waltham Cross Baptist Church Hall,
Waltham Cross**



**HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY**

Present: Councillor Patsy Spears (in the Chair)

Councillor Selina Norgrove. Alf Cuffaro (Head of Community Infrastructure & Regeneration) and Stephen Billington (Head of Support Services) (Broxbourne Council). Sergeant Michael Clark and Sergeant Chris Fisher (Herts Constabulary).

C Parnham
J Palmer
V Pearce
H Gralton
G Muskett
S Gurney
K Bagnell
B Beech

N Daniel-Tong
A Bull
H Todd
A Hunter
H Foster
G Gurney
J Rossiter
S McClellan

E Thorogood
M Garrod
A Ford
S Muskett
R Fitzsimon
T Cipullo
R Jess

23 residents

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman introduced officers of the Borough Council and the police and welcomed the attendees. Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Carol Bowman and County Councillor Dee Hart.

2. IMPROVING YOUR LOCAL AREA

(a) Policing Priorities for the Area

The police representatives reported that priorities concerning drugs, off-road motorbikes and the Youth Intervention Project continued to be priorities for the area.

They indicated that the police had achieved successful prosecutions in connection with the supply of drugs in the area and secured a closure order on a premises in Waltham Cross.

Residents also referred to the problem of drug dealing in the area, particularly in Kings Road Open Space, as well as other anti-social uses of this area such as noise nuisance. The police representatives indicated that residents should use the 999 service for emergencies and the 101 service for non-urgent incidents as reporting identified trends and influenced policing priorities through intelligence led reporting. Incidents could also be reported via www.herts.police.uk/contact

Residents also mentioned incidents of drug dealing around Teresa Gardens and Abbey Road.

(b) Waltham Cross Town Centre

Further to previous reports, it was noted that the new town centre square scheme, named Queen Eleanor Square, had been completed with an opening ceremony taking place in August. The project had been jointly funded by the Council and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership as part of the Council's wider regeneration scheme for the area.

Plans were now outlined for the next phase(s) of the town centre improvement and it was noted that outlineconcept designs for the next phase(s) of improvements were under consideration following which a ~~draft~~ master plan framework for the area would be completed. Subject to the Council's review, a preferred outline design option would be agreed following which public consultation would take place, which was expected to be in the autumn 2020. Following the review of the outcome of the consultation, a detailed design and delivery of the next phase would be agreed.

Whilst ~~generally~~ welcoming the proposals some residents felt that the appearance of the gateway into the town centre could be improved by removing items from the pavement adjacent to the Dog and Bone furniture shop and the Lodge Crescent shops where further seating was suggested. Residents commenting on the highway condition due to potholes were invited to report such incidents to the County Council as the highway authority via its on-line reporting service.

(c) Waltham Cross Controlled Parking Zone Public Consultation

Further to the report to the last meeting it was noted that the proposed consultation on the introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Waltham Cross had been carried out in June to July 2019. Of the responses received 30.8% were in favour of the introduction of a CPZ and 61.2% against with 8% undecided.

The support for a CPZ was mainly from residential roads in the vicinity of Waltham Cross station whilst other responses indicated that commuter parking was not a problem, but the increased number of cars per household. Residents of individual roads also provided comments which were supportive and against a CPZ. The Council had, therefore, decided not to proceed with the implementation of a CPZ as this would be contrary to the views of the majority of residents who responded to the consultation. Introducing a scheme only for the roads that were in favour of a CPZ would result in vehicles being displaced into neighbouring roads to the detriment of residents in those areas.

A number of residents expressed disappointment at the Council's decision and indicated an intention to submit to the Council a request for a traffic regulation order and a more limited CPZ scheme.

(d) New River Cycle Path

The Forum was informed of proposals to create a continuous path adjacent to the New River starting from the M25 in Waltham Cross and finishing at Church Lane in Wormley. The proposals would open the route to both cyclists and walkers as well as those with mobility issues. The proposals were being funded predominately by Highways England working in conjunction with the Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council who were also contributing funds to the scheme.

The works would provide greater connections to other transport and foot/cycle path networks as well as connections with key residential and commercial developments.

After considering views of the public, stakeholders and other local users, detailed designs of the route would be completed in Spring 2020 with works starting later that year following completion of the detailed design.

(e) Developments in Waltham Cross

The Forum was updated on the proposals by the owner of The Pavilions to redevelop the shopping centre which would include:

- Demolishing the top two floors of the car park
- Extending at ground floor level
- Creating an eight storey building above which would provide 119 flats for rental

The scheme was likely to be considered by the Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee shortly.

Approval had also been given to proposals to convert the Gala Bingo premises in the High Street into a hotel including 135 guest rooms along with a 24 hour gym.

3. BRIEFING ON ITEMS AND ISSUES OF LOCAL INTEREST

(a) Environmental Sustainability

It was reported that the Council had recently established a working group to address environmental sustainability. It was proposed to develop an environmental sustainability strategy which would include a focus on reducing carbon footprints, an extensive tree planting scheme and enabling the use of new technology to reduce the impact of vehicle emissions.

Further updates would be made to the Forum at forthcoming meetings.

(b) Air Quality in Broxbourne

The Forum were provided with an update on the air quality management duties of local authorities and specifically to a Government directive received by a number of local authorities, including Broxbourne, on the need to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide primarily emitted by vehicles.

The directive covered the southern section of the A10/Great Cambridge Way and required the Council to present an outline business case, including a charging Clean Air Zone, in order to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels. The business case now prepared included an alternative highway solution to reduce emission levels, set against the benchmark Clean Air Zone with exemptions for Borough residents and other highway users.

Further modelling works were currently being undertaken to test the business case elements, including the proposed exemptions, and following the submission of a second draft outline business case the preferred option would be agreed by the Council and Hertfordshire County Council as the highway authority and the Government. A public consultation exercise would be undertaken before the final business case was agreed in late 2020. The final scheme would be funded by the Government and was not expected to be in place until 2022 at the earliest.

(c) New Council Website

The Council has launched the first phase of its new website which allowed customers to do a number of things on-line not previously available including:

- report a fly-tip and pin point the location
- requesting business advice
- search for waste and recycling collection dates
- find housing advice tailored to individual circumstances
- report a missed bin

The new website could be accessed from a mobile device or tablet as well as on a personal computer or laptop.

To compliment the new website the Council's new reception at the Borough Offices was now open which enabled the public to self-serve for those customers who do not have access to the internet at home, as well as providing assisted self-serve as required.

A new monthly e-newsletter had also been launched entitled 'Our Broxbourne' and residents can sign up for the newsletter via the following link:

www.broxbourne.gov.uk/emailalerts

By searching 'Broxbourne Council' residents could also contact the Council via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

(d) Electoral Registration

It was reported that the Council was currently preparing the new register of electors to be published in December 2019. As the register would be used for future elections, residents were reminded to ensure they were registered.

(e) Autumn/Winter Town Centre and Community Events Programme 2019

The Forum was advised of the forthcoming Town Centre and Community Events Programme to December 2019. Information on all events could be viewed on the Council's website or in Council publications.

(f) Items Raised by Residents

(i) Raised Beds

It was suggested that the raised beds in the High Street should have the stones removed and replaced with bark and replanted with new grasses.

(ii) Kings Road

A resident enquired whether the Council had bought the land/parking spaces in Kings Road and whether they could be considered for sale or renting to properties in Kings Road. It was indicated that a response to this enquiry would be notified to the resident via Councillor Mrs Spears.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The arrangements for the next meeting will be confirmed in due course.

Useful contacts

Police (non-emergency)	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Police – Safer Neighbourhood Team	01707 354192 (and ask for the name of the officer you wish to contact)
Neighbourhood Watch	01992 533835
Broxbourne Council Helpline	01992 785577
Broxbourne Council Community Safety Team	01992 785573 community.safety@broxbourne.gov.uk
Parks Patrol	07974 696931
Broxbourne Street Pastors	01992 443514 Broxbourne@streetpastors.org.uk
HCC Defective Street Lights	0300 123 4047 www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults
Free fire safety check	0800 5873347
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner	01992 556600 commissioner@herts.pnn.police.uk www.hertscommissioner.org
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel	01992 785650 pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk http://www.hertspcp.org.uk