

# 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Title: **Basingstoke District Association of Parish  
and Town Councils**

Held On: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Present:	Julian Jones	Dummer (Chair)
	Martin Biermann	Chineham
	Liz Ellis	Newtown
	Philip Kingston	Pamber
	Sandy Johnston	Sherfield on Loddon
	Mike Kean	Whitchurch

Guests:	Alison Edwards	Secretary
	Mike O'Mahony	BDBC
Apologies:	Lorna Cuthill	Mapledurwell & Up Nately
	Penny Mayo	Sherborne St John
	Sarah Curtis	Wootton St Lawrence
	Brian Langer	Overton
	Nick Thurlow	Mortimer West End
	Alan Cox	Ashmansworth
	Cllr David Leeks	Tadley
	Gareth Davies	Herriard
	Mike Harwood	Highclere
	Leslie Fryer	Chineham
	Chris Pottinger	Hannington

### **1 Minutes of the last meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

2.1 Noted as above.

### **3 Matters arising from previous minutes**

3.1 Julian Jones contacted HALC to arrange a speaker on Village Agents and they directed him to the Village Agent for Oakley. This matter has not progressed. **Action: Julian Jones to ask HCC if they can provide a speaker on Village Agents for the next meeting.**

3.2 There is currently turbulence in staffing in Development Control and Enforcement within BDBC and a consultant has been employed to review how BDBC handle planning applications. The consultants have spoken to some parishes. **Action: Martin Biermann will find out which parishes have been consulted and will put forward his ideas for improving the planning process (better use of IT, use of photographs) to the consultants.**

3.3 Tony Curtis has resigned from BDBC. **Action: Julian will carry forward his commitment to arrange a speaker on open spaces with Tony's successor.**

3.4 Liz Ellis informed the meeting that Newtown has a common of 56 hectares which is owned by HCC but managed by the parish council. The insurance company has told the council that they ought to undertake an assessment of the safety of the trees in the woodland that forms part of this common. Given that the cost of doing this is likely to be astronomical, Liz Ellis asked the meeting if anyone had any suggestions on how the parish council could manage this. Liz was advised to speak to Frank Wright in BDBC. **Action: Julian Jones to ask Frank Wright to attend the next BDAPTC meeting.**

3.5 Sandy Johnston has invited Mr Vince (General Manager, Stagecoach) to attend a Disability Forum meeting but he has so far declined. At a scrutiny meeting on transport Mr Dyer (Managing Director, Stagecoach South) stated that Stagecoach was a commercial operation and the service they were providing was all they could offer. On a positive note, the Disability Forum will be allowed to inform the training provided to drivers on how to treat passengers.

3.6 **Action: Julian to request a workshop session at the Mayor's Reception, to promote the work of the District Association.** Martin Biermann noted that Laura Taylor, Director of Governance and Commissioning at BDBC, would most likely be very happy to get more involved with the District Association.

3.7 Julian Jones has spoken to HALC about the cost of secretarial support for BDAPTC and has been granted a subsidy of £200 for this during this financial year (2014/15).

### **4. Leisure Needs and Recreation Assessment – Mike O'Mahony, Health and Well Being Team, BDBC**

4.1 Mike O'Mahony from BDBC gave a presentation on the Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (LRNA) 2014 (slides attached). The last LRNA was carried out in 2008 and so there is a need for a new, updated study to be done to provide the evidence base to inform future decision-making. The contract for the 2014 LRNA was awarded to Continuum Leisure in July 2014. The LRNA is being conducted through several stages of consultation, based on a range of evidence and information, and its purpose is to set the strategic direction for future provision and guide investment decisions. It should provide a robust assessment of the needs of BDBC residents for community sports and leisure facilities and playing pitches to 2029. The outputs must be informed by, and support the delivery of, the Corporate Plan (2013-2017), the Strategic Plan for Sport and

Recreation (2013-1029), and the Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013-2029). It should involve key stakeholders, including town and parish councils and their community/neighbourhood plans. Town and parish councils will be consulted via online surveys in September in two ways: 1) if a town or parish council operates a playing pitch site, a specific survey for the Playing Pitch Strategy re: needs, demand, maintenance and usage management, etc. 2) if a town or parish council doesn't own a playing pitch site, a generic survey on leisure needs and issues for Basingstoke and Deane.

4.2 The target completion date for the research and information gathering element of the work is January 2015, with the strategies completed by March 2015. The report will then need to go through the usual council approval cycles. Mike is happy to share the findings with BDAPTC and is trying to put up to date information on the BDBC website. If anyone wishes to speak to BDBC about this work the contacts are: [mike.o'mahony@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:mike.o'mahony@basingstoke.gov.uk) or [alex.piper@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:alex.piper@basingstoke.gov.uk).

4.3 Mike Kean pointed out that Whitchurch (amongst other parishes) was in the process of producing a neighbourhood plan and would be asking residents in October about sports and leisure facilities. He was keen to ensure that there was no duplication/confusion/survey overload for residents. Mike O'Mahony explained that Continuum's survey would be sent to parish councils and sports clubs rather than direct to residents. However he noted the importance of taking account of emerging community and neighbourhood plans. It was also pointed out that Continuum/BDBC should speak to the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston as they provide a lot of recreation facilities in the Aldermaston/Tadley area.

4.4 Martin Biermann made the point that in some parishes the existing development does not have the spare and appropriate space to put e.g. a football pitch, but when new developments are built they need to be very large before the amount of S106/CIL is enough to deliver such facilities. Furthermore there has been confusion in the past over how S106 funds are decided and a lack of parish consultation. Once developments are built it can be difficult to find the details of the agreements made on S106 and whether such agreements have been delivered by the developer. Philip Kingston made the point that S106 agreements are often borne out of "shopping lists" given to developers by council officers. Studies such as the LRNA can provide a better evidence base to develop such shopping lists.

4.5 Julian Jones pointed out that neighbouring developments can have an impact on the use of facilities in an area, for example the Beggarwood development has led to children using the recreation facilities (such as tennis courts) in Dummer – an outcome which was not envisaged at the time the development was being planned.

4.6 Sandy Johnston asked whether disabled facilities and minority sports were being covered in the LRNA. Mike O'Mahony advised that play areas were not part of the study but equality of access was. BDBC are also developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy which covers open space. The LRNA is confined to more formal use of open space e.g. football/cricket pitches. School pitches would be included in the LRNA where they are available for community use throughout the year. Julian Jones asked Mike O'Mahony to ensure that consultees know what is included in the study and what is outside of its remit.

4.7 Sandy Johnston asked what the aim of the LRNA was, and whether it would lead to any funds being available for provision. Mike O'Mahony explained that the aim of the study was to provide an evidence base which could be used to support applications for

funds, planning permissions, etc.

## **5 Reports:**

### HALC

5.1 Martin Biermann updated the meeting on the work of HALC. The landlord of HALC's previous premises at Chandlers Ford took HALC to court claiming that it did not receive formal notice before HALC moved out. The judgement went against HALC resulting in a hefty penalty. As a result, HALC are no longer supportive of Headleys Solicitors (who represented them and who currently provide legal support for HALC and its members), and so Headleys will provide legal advice to parishes until the Autumn, after which time HALC will seek legal support from elsewhere.

5.2 HALC is happy with the new Chief Executive of NALC, describing him as "a breath of fresh air". They are also trying to develop a replacement for the Quality Council scheme.

### Community Safety Partnership

5.3 There was nothing to report from the last meeting of the CSP, at which neither BDBC nor a police representative turned up.

5.4 Sandy Johnston received a letter today (9<sup>th</sup> September) from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding a consultation on the Community Remedy Act 2014. This is about dealing with low level, first time offenders within the community. The online public consultation ends on Sunday 14th September (Sandy received the letter very late). **Action: Julian Jones to circulate the email to councils.**

5.5 Julian Jones notified the meeting of a proposed reorganisation of rural policing. With effect from April 2015, it is proposed that PC Reid will relocate to Tadley Police Station from where he will be tasked as part of Basingstoke Rural South team. One constable per nine hour shift will be responsible for an area covering part of Whitchurch, Overton, Oakley and Upton Grey & The Candovers - an area of approximately 250 square miles. It is understood that a Community Support Officer may be recruited for the purposes of "community engagement" (i.e. attending Parish Council meetings and similar but only when on a scheduled shift). It was agreed that, at this stage, it would be left to the affected parishes to work together to oppose this move, rather than making it a BDAPTC matter. Since the meeting, Julian has received correspondence from the Police Commissioner in which the Commissioner states that he has asked Chief Inspector Simon Dodds to provide Julian with a full briefing, either by attendance at the next BDAPTC and / or a meeting with Julian personally to go through the detail.

### Disability Forum

5.6 Sandy Johnston informed the meeting that the Disability Forum is now a registered charity, and will be holding Disability Awareness Days. The Access Group has been asked by BDBC to find out about play equipment for disabled children. Sandy has found a leaflet on inclusive play equipment but has requested that anyone with further

information on suitable equipment please speak to him.

#### Voluntary Services Forum

5.7 Julian Jones has circulated information on data protection and pensions along with the minutes of the last meeting of the Voluntary Services Forum. He stressed that parish and town councils need to make sure they know whether they are liable for pension payments. If it is felt that there is lack of clarity on this topic then we can look at getting a speaker on this issue.

#### Local Strategic Partnership

5.8 The LSP held a workshop over the summer to look at whether it was doing a useful job. The LSP is still working on the report about how it should move forward.

#### Community Speedwatch

5.9 The minutes of the last Community Speedwatch meeting in July have been distributed. There is due to be a conference run by the police at the end of September, but no date has been confirmed.

5.10 Philip Kingston said that Pamber have four volunteers who wish to set up a Community Speedwatch scheme in conjunction with another parish. **Action: Philip Kingston to speak to Martin Slatford about this.**

5.11 Sandy Johnston stated that two people from Sherfield on Loddon had put themselves forward for Community Speedwatch two months ago but were still awaiting a reply.

#### **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014, 7.30pm.

**Meeting closed at 9.40pm.**