

15th October 2015

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

Held On: Thursday 15th October 2015

Present:

Julian Jones	Dummer (Chair)
Martin Slatford	Baughurst
Heather Taylor	Ashford Hill with Headley
Lynn Austin	Ashford Hill with Headley
Chris Curtis	Baughurst
Penny Waterford	Baughurst
Les Fryer	Chineham
Sadie Owen	East Woodhay
John Bond	Hartley Wespall
Sue Edwards	Highclere
Mick Farey	Kingsclere
Janet Bond	Kingsclere
Geff Chapman	North Waltham
Mark Oszczyk	Old Basing and Lychpit
Peter Bloyce	Overton
Adam Trickett	Overton
Laura Harley	Overton
Scott Mason	Rooksdown
Paul Mahoney	Rooksdown
Rebecca Jones	Sherborne St John
Chris Wilson	Sherfield on Loddon
Steve Spillane	Silchester
David Leeks	Tadley
Nicki Barry	Tadley
Paul Gray	Upton Grey
John Buckley	Whitchurch

Guests:

Alison Edwards	Secretary
Mike Townsend	Planning and Development Manager, BDBC
Alan Tully	Operations Manager (Litter), BDBC

Apologies:

Tony Baldwin	Hartley Wespall
Ian Pryce	Oakley and Deane Parish Council

1 Minutes of the last meeting – 9th June 2015

- 1.1 The rollout of faster broadband was discussed. Martin Slatford explained that areas within the 4% who are not scheduled to receive the faster broadband in the current rollout under Hampshire County Council can set up a community scheme to fund and install faster broadband and can apply for community funds to do so. Rotherwick is doing this and Crux Easton is looking into it. **Action: Martin Slatford asked parish councils to share experiences of this outside of the meeting. Please email Martin Slatford on martin.slatford@googlemail.com.**
- 1.2 The revised Code of Conduct for Parish Councils, being put together by the Standards Committee at BDBC, has been finalised and is waiting for approval at a meeting of the full Council. The changes are around how to handle complaints. The rest of the Code remains the same.
- 1.3 The planning application for the proposed Critical Treatment Hospital, CTH, near junction 7 of the M3 went through last week (w/c 5 October). The hybrid proposal includes a Cancer Treatment Centre, CTC, a combined heat and power unit, a birthing centre and some elective surgery plus outline permission for a Central Pathology Laboratory and Ambulance Station. However, the commissioning bodies have announced that they can't afford the Centre as part of their five year forward view and so it is currently on hold.
- 1.4 HALC representatives reported back from the annual meeting, which was also attended by the Chief Executive of NALC, a representative from the Society for Local Clerks, the Leader of Hampshire County Council and a representative from the Department for Communities and Local Government. Martin Biermann and Brian Langer have been voted in as Vice Presidents of HALC. **Action: BDAPTC HALC representatives to invite Martin Biermann and Brian Langer to future BDAPTC meetings.**
- 1.5 The Government has asked areas to put together plans for devolved areas with powers similar to London or Manchester. The Government will look at proposals and decide who should get more powers. The Government proposes that the devolution should be three-tier, with more powers filtering down to parish councils. Fifteen councils in Hampshire have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that such devolution is a good idea they would like to explore further. The MoU proposes that councils are given the business rates generated in the area to spend on integrating social services, education and health services. It was agreed that anything significant emerging from this proposal is a long way off. See. www3.hants.gov.uk/devolution-prospectus-september-2015.pd.

2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Noted as above.

3 Planning

3.1 Mike Townsend, Planning and Development Manager at BDBC, informed the meeting about the current situation with regards planning applications and planning appeals for major residential developments in the borough.

3.2 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning decisions to be made in accordance with the Local Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. However, relevant policies and plans are not considered up to date if a Local Planning Authority (LPA) cannot demonstrate they have a five year housing supply. BDBC currently has around 3.4 years of housing supply identified. Furthermore, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has a presumption in favour of development, meaning that LPAs should grant planning permission unless the adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF. Consideration of these policies should balance the social, economic and environmental impacts of development. The NPPF also requires decision-makers to work proactively with applicants. As a result of these requirements, BDBC has lost six public inquiry planning appeals since 2013.

3.3 The draft Local Plan is currently at examination, with adoption anticipated for Spring 2016, depending on what the Local Plan Inspector says. Nevertheless, the adoption of the emerging Local Plan will not instantaneously provide a five year housing supply as sites will not all come forward straight away. Therefore BDBC will still be in a vulnerable position with regards applications from housing developers. Many councils across the country are in a similar position.

3.4 Mike Townsend took questions:

Q: Will sites ruled out of the emerging plan be vulnerable in future plans?

A: If the evidence base behind the decision to rule a site out is still valid, this will support the future rejection of a site.

Q: How long before we can expect to have a demonstrable five year supply?

A: BDBC don't control delivery rates. Planners make assumptions when forecasting. Developers will try to argue that they can't deliver as fast as predicted in order to delay a five year supply, thus keeping planning policy in their favour.

Q: How much does the weight of public opinion factor into planning/planning appeal decisions?

A: At the moment, public opinion is not considered to carry much weight.

4. Litter

4.1 Alan Tully of BDBC Operations Team attended to discuss the problem of littering in rural areas and how parish and town councils can work in partnership with BDBC to tackle the problems.

4.2. Alan Tully explained that he has a staff of 50 street cleaners covering public land and highways in the Borough, with five mobile teams covering rural parishes and major highway routes. In October 2014 the team underwent a restructuring with Geoff Strudwick put in charge of the north of the Borough and John Williams put in charge of

the south. Alan acknowledged that this restructuring led to a period of adjustment, with a loss of local knowledge and communication channels with parish councils. However, the schedules have now been reviewed and revised so that all areas should be covered weekly, with hotspots being visited more regularly.

4.3 Alan believes that littering today has a number of contributory factors: rubbish generated from fast food outlets; lack of education on littering (from schools and parents); lack of sufficient penalty; existence of only one household amenity site on Wade Road; and commercial companies not securing their loads sufficiently on lorries, etc, resulting in waste on roads and verges.

4.4 Since January there have been 67 calls to BDBC about litter issues, down from 75 over the same period in the previous year, and 403 reported flytips, down from 422 in the same period for the previous year. There are now more enforcement officers issuing fixed penalty notices of £75 (reduced to £50 if paid within 10 days). Dog fouling is included under this penalty. There have been three successful prosecutions, with 14 more scheduled between now and November. The forecast increase in development in the Borough, both residential and commercial, will require a bigger litter team and bigger premises. This is being looked at.

4.5 Waste 24 is a draft Government document that deals with how local authorities and private companies should carry out litter removal safely. When it eventually comes into force (no date known) it will require changes to conform with it, such as traffic management when clearing central reservations (which is expensive and could cause traffic congestion or require night-time working) and the requirement for all litter pickers working on roads with no footpath to wear long-sleeved high visibility jackets and trousers when working. Alan Tully would like to help parish councils who have litter wardens to carry out the necessary risk assessments and advise on how they can conform with Waste 24.

4.6 Alan Tully asked parish councils to notify him of any areas that require a major clean up by his team. His team can also supply extra litter bins. He asked that all reporting of litter issues be channelled through the BDBC contact centre (even if subsequently followed up with a phone call or email to a known colleague or manager) so that the calls can be logged, monitored and an audit trail is available. This can be done by calling BDBC and following the call system menu options for Waste or by filling in a form on the basingstoke.gov.uk web site.

5 Community SpeedWatch

5.1 Kingsclere reported that they have recently placed their Speed Indicating Device (SID) on a lamppost in a 30 mph zone. In four weeks they identified 140 cases of speeding over 50 mph, with the highest offence being 76 mph. The SID can't record number plates, but it provides evidence to the police that there is a problem of speeding in that area. Martin Slatford advised the meeting that, at the inauguration of SpeedWatch, the plan was that, where speeds of more than 50 mph were recorded in a 30 mph area, the police would deploy their own speed cameras. However, there are not enough resources for this to happen.

5.2 Martin Slatford reported that, in October 2014, there was a meeting with police about SpeedWatch. The police reported that they were installing software to keep a record of offences and correlate it between parishes so that multiple offenders across parishes could be identified. This software was due to be installed at the beginning of this month. However, when the police updated the system, the SpeedWatch data was

corrupted. Current data is therefore not being processed. Martin reported that, across the most active SpeedWatch areas in Basingstoke, there have been five cases of a third offence, which results in a PCSO knocking on the offender's door. There is no record of what happened in these instances.

5.3 Despite the disappointment regarding what SpeedWatch can actually do to penalise repeat offenders and encourage the police to take action, it was agreed that the publicity around SpeedWatch has been very helpful and the visibility of SpeedWatch volunteers with SIDS is also very effective. SpeedWatch is an educational system rather than a penal system.

6.Any other business

6.1 Les Fryer told the meeting that Chineham Parish Council are considering installing a camera to record the registration numbers of cars who dangerously overtake buses waiting at the bus stop by the village hall, in the hope that the police might look at the evidence.

6.2 The next meeting of the BDAPTC is scheduled for 3rd March 2016, and then 7th June 2016.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.