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**RENEWAL AND RECREATION
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 10 December 2015 at
Beckenham Library, Beckenham, BR3 4PE*

***PLEASE NOTE STARTING TIME**

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2015 (Pages 1 - 10)**
- 3 UPDATE ON PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS**
- 4 BECKENHAM GREEN DESIGN UPDATE**
- 5 TOWN CENTRE TEAM/TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**
- 6 ALBEMARLE ROAD JUNCTION UPDATE**
- 7 WAITROSE CAR PARK ENTRANCE UPDATE**
- 8 ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION FOR OFFICE USE ALONG THE HIGH STREET**
- 9 UPDATE ON BECKENHAM JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION**
- 10 HERITAGE PLAQUES**
- 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**
- 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 13 FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS**

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Agenda Item 2

RENEWAL AND RECREATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30 pm on 15 October 2015

Present:

Councillor Michael Tickner (Chairman)
Councillors Ian Dunn and Stephen Wells

Marsha Berg, (Beckenham Business Association)
Chris Cole, (LBB Environment & Community Services)
Julian Lewis, (East Architects)
Gail Low (Guide Dogs for the Blind)
Tom McConnell (Senior Contracts Manager—FM Conway Ltd)
Kevin Munnelly, (LBB Regeneration & Transformation Service)
Stephen Oliver, (LBB Regeneration & Transformation Service)
Marie Pender, (West Beckenham Residents Association)
Janice Pilgrim, (Kent Association for the Blind)
Chloe-Jane Ross, (Copers Cope Area Residents Association)
David Wood, (Beckenham Civic Society)

Also present:

Jean Appleton, Beckenham Resident
Alan Old, Beckenham Resident
Terry Stanley, Beckenham Resident
Sue Woodward, Beckenham Resident
Nick Goy, Beckenham Resident

10	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Apologies were received from Cheryl Curr, Martin Pinnell, Cllr Vanessa Allen, Dr John Parker, Cllr Sarah Phillips, Cllr Russell Mellor and Pat Notcutt.
11	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND JULY 2015
	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
12	PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS-DETAILED DESIGN PROCESS & PROGRAMME--FM CONWAY, CONTRACTOR TO BROMLEY COUNCIL.
	Mr Tom McConnell (Senior Contracts Manager—FM Conway Ltd) attended to update the working group on this item. The Chairman noted that FM Conway was the Term Contractor appointed to take

developments forward. "Term Contractor" was a reference to the fact that FM Conway had made an initial contract bid for a designated period with an estimated contract bid for that period, which had been accepted. This arrangement had previously worked well for a similar project at Orpington. It would be the case that FM Conway would be working closely with Julian Lewis (East Architects) in order that the designs that had been drafted by East would be brought into reality. FM Conway would progress the design to the next stage, ironing out any perceived problems in the process. Mr McConnell distributed previous designs that FM Conway had worked on with respect to work undertaken in Bromley North.

A discussion unfolded concerning the previous work undertaken at Bromley North, and problems that had emerged concerning uncharted cables and water pipes. The problems that had been discovered were solved by close partnership working with the water company, and there were no delays in completing the overall scheme. Mr McConnell informed the Group that in Beckenham, ground penetrating radar would be used to locate pipes and cables, thus avoiding a repeat of the problems that had been experienced in the Bromley North development. Attention was drawn to the fact that in Bromley North, carriageway reconstruction had been required, but this would not be required for the Beckenham Town Centre Development.

Mr Nick Goy commented that he was not happy with aspects of the previous project at Orpington, and it was asked if Mr McConnell had been working on this project. The answer to this was affirmative, in 1983. The Chairman gave Mr McConnell the opportunity to comment on this. Mr McConnell responded that the problems that had been experienced on the Orpington project were to do with buses continually stopping, and with inadequate and faulty materials being used. Lessons had been learnt from this project, which meant that FM Conway were in a good position to ensure that the same problems did not reoccur.

Cllr Stephen Wells enquired as to the timescale involved in getting a final sign off for the price and design of the Beckenham Town Centre Major Scheme. It was anticipated that this would be in 5-6 months time. At this point, the final project details and budget would be referred to LBB's Executive to sign off the budget.

Mr Goy, expressed confusion in terms of what the specific design materials were. The Chairman noted that the Group would be looking at design materials later in the meeting. It would be the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation that would make the final decision with regards to materials.

	<p>Marie Pender (West Beckenham Resident's Association) asked what the budget was, as there was a 13% shortfall previously. It was noted that the budget was initially costed at £3.25m, but the latest revised costing was £4.6m. LBB were in ongoing discussion with TfL to cover any shortfalls. It was also the case that LBB were in discussions with Network Rail concerning upgrades to Beckenham Junction Station. It may be the case that LBB could use National Stations Improvement funding to resurface the forecourt of the station, along with Section 106 monies. The Chairman praised Mr Kevin Munnell (LBB Regeneration and Transformation Service) for successfully accessing a range of funding sources. Mr Munnell commented that the scheme was of good quality, and was achieving the required objectives.</p> <p>The Section 106 funding earmarked for the improvements on Beckenham Green (tap with drainage, improved electricity, stage cover and storage) had been assumed into the Major Scheme. Kevin Munnell confirmed that the Beckenham Green Improvement Project would be implemented under the Major Scheme.</p> <p>It was noted that FM Conway would be dealing with all drainage and electrical issues, and that in total the Major Scheme consisted of twelve different sub designs.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that Mr McConnell report back to the Working Group at a future meeting.</p>
13	PALLET OF BUILDING MATERIALS--DISCUSSION--EAST ARCHITECTS
	<p>The update concerning building materials was given by Mr Julian Lewis from East Architects. Mr Lewis gave a recap of the main objectives of the Major Scheme, and of the materials that he was recommending. Samples of the materials that may be used for parking areas, kerbs and pedestrian areas were passed around for examination of texture and colour.</p> <p>Mr Lewis explained that all kerbs were going to be replaced and all footways would be changed; it was also the case that lighting would be upgraded. New seats would be provided, pedestrian crossing points would be improved, and a general decluttering process would take place. It was anticipated that the improvements would bring about a better traffic flow. It was suggested that the kerbs should be changed to granite, and the slightly pink colour seemed to be a favourite with the Group. The alternate colour for the Kerbs was silver. The existing paving on the footways was going to be replaced.</p>

Mr Goy questioned why the footways should be replaced as he was of the opinion that they were not going to fail and were adequate in their current condition.

Mr Munnelly expressed the view that the transformation of Beckenham's public realm was key to a successful economic future for the town. He said aspirations should not be limited to patching broken paving and he encouraged the Group to utilise the available funding to make a noticeable difference.

Marsha Berg raised the issue of cleaning chewing gum off pavements, and Mr Lewis commented that this was a genuine international problem. The Chairman suggested that it would be good if samples of the proposed new paving were laid for the Group to see and test. Mr Lewis thought that this was a good idea. Mr Goy commented that whatever new paving was going to be used, it should be able to be easily replaced; Mr Lewis responded that all of the proposed materials were widely used and available.

Gail Low (Guide Dogs for the Blind) informed the Committee that new guidance had recently been drafted by the Department for Transport concerning tactile paving—this had gone for consultation. Chris Cole stated that plans would need to progress based on the current situation, and that there was not time to wait for the guidance to change. Ms Jean Appleton stated that she favoured audible and rotating lights at crossings, and that the corner of Rectory Road was a particularly difficult place to cross.

There was discussion amongst the Group concerning the colour of kerbs and paving, with a variety of opinions expressed. Ms Low pointed out that a change in colour between pavements and kerbs helped blind people with orientation. Chloe Jane Ross stated that she preferred the use of brown and red paving, and that when changes were made to paving in the recent TfL scheme in Sydenham, no one noticed as the paving remained a dull grey.

Mr Lewis expressed the view that trees could be enhanced by light, and that it may be possible to put lights in the trees at Beckenham Green, and perches next to the Odeon.

Mr McConnell informed the group that he was familiar with all of these materials, having worked with them previously—this included lighting schemes. Marsha Berg stated that she would like to see illumination of buildings maximised. Chloe-Jane Ross expressed the view that it was important in the public realm improvement to create a step free access environment wherever possible.

	<p>It was RECOMMENDED that the Major Scheme should seek to maximise the use of illumination on buildings, trees and walkways.</p>
14	<p>ALBEMARLE ROAD/HIGH STREET JUNCTION REALIGNMENT UPDATE--CHRIS COLE, TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER</p>
	<p>Mr Cole informed the Committee that all of the design work for the junction was complete, and had been approved by TfL. However, it was the case that there was still an unresolved issue with Virgin Media concerning the depth of cables that they had installed. Virgin Media were disputing the fact that their cables had not been layed to the correct depth, and were refusing to move the cables unless they were paid. Negotiations were ongoing. LBB had previously given permission for the works to start, but the relevant email detailing the contractual obligations around laying the cables had not been found to date. The issue of cables not being installed to the correct depth seemed to be a UK wide problem. It was the case that carriageway construction could not take place until the cables were lowered.</p> <p>Because of this delay, works would not now be able to be completed before the December moratorium on works. Cllr Stephen Wells stated that it was likely that LBB would end up having to pay Virgin, and if this was the case the money for this should not be taken from monies allocated for the Major Scheme.</p> <p>Once the issue of cables was resolved, the Group were happy to progress with the work. The full programme of works would take between 6-8 weeks, and temporary traffic lights would be in place during this period. This scheme will utilise the materials proposed for the Major Scheme.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that works on the junction realignment proceed as soon as the Virgin Cables were moved.</p>
15	<p>CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES (CPZ) UPDATE--CHRIS COLE, TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER</p>
	<p>The update on Controlled Parking Zones was given by Mr Chris Cole, based upon a report that had been written by Mr Malcolm Harris.</p> <p>The Chairman enquired when the changes would be implemented and if the changes would impact on the Major Scheme. The answer to this question was that the changes could be implemented as soon as the relevant Traffic Order was obtained, and that there would be no impact on the Major Scheme. It was noted that with respect to Fairfield Road, it had been agreed that for residents living in numbers 6-16, the single yellow lines would be replaced with residents' parking bays, and that only the residents living in those</p>

	<p>premises would be allowed to apply for parking permits.</p> <p>It was noted that concerning Burnhill Road, it had been agreed to implement parking bays, and also to put double yellow lines opposite the LIDL supermarket. This would improve access for Lidl deliveries and other vehicles passing. The Group noted that the reference to Kelsey Park Lane in section 2.2 of the report was not correct, and that it should refer to Kelsey Park Road instead. It was also noted that single yellow lines would be removed in Village Way, to be replaced by parking bays and permit bays.</p> <p>The Group were in favour of using thinner yellow lines in Primrose Yellow wherever possible. Marsha Berg pointed out that in the report there was no mention of parking zones around the Beacon Hospital, including in Cedars Road. Chris Cole responded that this was something that he would investigate. Cllr Dunn mentioned that there was currently an ongoing consultation concerning CPZ's in the Clockhouse Ward.</p> <p>Mr Goy felt that the entry signs to Controlled Parking Zones were difficult for the general public to understand, and that they were confusing. Chris Cole responded that the signs complied with DFT guidelines. The Chairman enquired if it was possible to have Controlled Parking Zones with no yellow lines and just bays as in Orpington High Street. Mr Cole responded that this was possible but in his view not advisable; he felt that it made more sense to use thinner lines rather than Restricted Zones. He was of the opinion that the general public did not understand Restricted Zones, and the resultant issue of PCN's caused huge annoyance to residents.</p> <p>Mr David Wood expressed the view that it would be good if the regularising of parking controls and charges could be achieved to make matters simpler for all concerned.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that all new and replacement yellow lines in Beckenham Town Centre be of the thin Primrose Yellow style as used in conservation areas.</p>
16	<p>TOWN CENTRE TEAM/TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT UPDATE--CHLOE-JANE ROSS, CHAIRMAN, BECKENHAM TOWN TEAM</p>
	<p>The Town Centre Team update was presented by its Chair, Chloe Jane Ross, the Working Group Chairman having expressed his disappointment that no Town Centre Manager was present.</p> <p>The Town Centre Team update is noted in the following sub sections.</p>

17	ALLEYWAY PROJECT
	<p>It was reported that a contractor had been appointed, and that work on improving the signage for the alleyways would commence shortly. Some of the alleyways had problems with rats. Lighting would be checked, and any problems and/or recommendations for the installation of security lighting would be conveyed back to freeholders as appropriate.</p>
18	BECKENHAM GREEN IMPROVEMENTS
	<p>Mr Munnely informed the Group that it was his intention to use funding primarily for the market element of Beckenham Green at this stage, and that he would try and get funding for the canopy later—the canopy project had not been abandoned.</p>
19	REFUSE BINS AND STREET SIGNS
	<p>Group members commented that the bins on the Green looked disgusting and were not being emptied sufficiently regularly; Mr Munnely said that he would investigate.</p> <p>Chloe Jane Ross asked who was responsible for maintaining the bins, and the Group were of the opinion that it was the Landscape Group, and that the matter should be brought to the attention of Cheryl Curr.</p> <p>The Group heard that there was a problem with the new fingerpost street signs that were broken, moveable and consequently pointing the wrong way.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that a report concerning the bins on the Green and on Fingerpost Street Signs be presented at the next meeting.</p>
20	OTHER MATTERS
	<p>The ‘Purple Flag’ status application in respect of Beckenham town centre was progressing well, with assessments due to be submitted to the accreditation body.</p> <p>Chloe-Jane Ross raised the issue of the “Permitted Development” of office and commercial premises for residential use, advising she had written to Cllr Dean on behalf of the Town Centre Team to seek an Article 4 Direction for Beckenham High Street to exclude it from the effects of the General Permitted Development Order.</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, allows changes of use from office use (Class B1a) to dwelling house use (Class C3) subject to prior approval.</p>

	<p>In order to address the housing shortage more rapidly, the Government had ordered that, for a period up to 30 May 2016, change of use of an office building and land within its curtilage to residential use falling within Class C3 (which includes flats and houses) will be Permitted Development (i.e. the change of use will not require planning permission).</p> <p>There was concern expressed by the Group regarding the rapid take-up of this planning relaxation in Beckenham Town Centre. There was concern as to how small businesses would survive with less lunchtime trade from office workers. The Group was encouraged to make their views known on the Local Plan consultations. The Group felt that it would be appropriate to seek an Article 4 Direction for Beckenham High Street to exclude it from the effects of the General Permitted Development Order.</p> <p>Cllr Wells stated that the market was not elastic and that, once premises were converted to residential use, it would be difficult to ever see them changing back into business use to provide employment in the future. There was concern amongst the Group that the Order would adversely affect the employment and economy of the area.</p> <p>Chloe-Jane Ross asked the Copers Cope Ward councillors whether they supported an Article 4 direction for Beckenham Town Centre. Both councillors present advised that they did.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that the concerns of the Working Group regarding Permitted Development be conveyed to the Development Control Committee, and that an Article 4 Direction be sought for Beckenham Town Centre.</p>
21	BECKENHAM JUNCTION STATION--NETWORK RAIL OR SOUTHEASTERN (IF AVAILABLE)
	<p>The update on Beckenham Junction Station was given by Stephen Oliver (LBB Project Planner from the Town Centre Renewal Scheme).</p> <p>He stated that there was going to be a meeting of a Network Rail Committee to discuss funding for Beckenham Junction Train Station improvement works at the end of October. A letter from LBB had been sent to Network Rail supporting improvement works.</p> <p>The Chairman commented that it would be good to get an update from Network Rail, but that they never turn up for Working Group meetings. Mr Munnely stated that he would try again to get them to attend one of the meetings. He informed the Group that the recently closed newsagent shop in the station booking hall had not been</p>

	<p>evicted, but rather they had voluntarily closed and given up the lease. Chloe Jane Ross wondered if the premises would be re-let.</p> <p>Councillor Stephen Wells asked how much of the forecourt Network Rail controlled. He also expressed frustration that both South Eastern Trains and Network Rail were not available to answer questions.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that invitations be sent to both Network Rail and South Eastern trains asking them to attend the next meeting, and that the item concerning Beckenham Junction Station be retained on the next agenda.</p>
22	OTHER BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED
	<p>The Chairman stated that momentum was required as far as the Albemarle Rd/High Street junction improvement was concerned, and that issues with Virgin Media should be pushed forward.</p> <p>It was requested that an update on "Heritage Plaques" be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Group heard that the closed toilet block in Beckenham was for sale by tender, and that the closing date was October 21st 2015.</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED that an update on Heritage Plaques be brought to the next meeting.</p>
23	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10 th December 2015.

The Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

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