

Extract:

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BALDOCK and DISTRICT COMMITTEE
(Baldock, Arbury and Weston and Sandon Wards)

**Meeting held in The Main Hall, Knights Templar School, Park Street, Baldock
on 7 August 2007 at 7.30 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Councillors A.D. Young (Chairman), M.R.M Muir (Vice-Chairman), Marilyn Kirkland, I.J. Knighton and M.E. Weeks.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Stuart Izzard (Senior Community Development Officer (Youth))
Louise Symes (Projects Manager - Planning Policy and Projects)
Terry Nickolls (Principal Engineer - Planning Policy and Projects)
Susanne Gow (Committee and Member Services Officer).*

Roxanne Glaud (Hertfordshire Highways)

ALSO PRESENT: *Mehron Kirk (Landscape Architect Associate, Building Design Partnerships)*

Approximately 72 members of the public for Agenda Item 6.

19. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S.K. Jarvis.

21. MINUTES – 4 JUNE 2007

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2007 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman, subject to confirmation that at line 2 of Minute 10, Mr Mills and Mr Jenkin were officers of Baldock Town Football Club, not Baldock Town Youth Football Club.

22. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of other business.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor A.D. Young declared a personal interest in the relevant item in Minute 26 as he is a trustee of the Baldock Bowls and Social Club and confirmed that he would remain in the room, take part in the debate and vote if it was appropriate.
- Councillor M.R.M. Muir declared a personal interest in Minute 28 as he was the founder of Friends of Baldock Greenspaces who have submitted a Grant Application for approval by the Baldock and District Committee. He confirmed that he would remain in the room, reserved the right to speak and vote.

24. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items presented under public participation.

25. BALDOCK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME – DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR AGREEMENT FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Projects Manager introduced the item and advised that some 200 written responses had been received to the consultation on the draft proposals, and that the majority of the responses were positive. She then introduced Mehron Kirk of Building Design Partnerships (BDP), who

presented to the Baldock and District Council Meeting the findings of the 6-week consultation on the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme, and BDP's draft proposals for the actions to be taken to enhance Baldock town centre. These proposals are to be approved in stages by the Baldock and District Committee, and implemented between April 2008 and April 2009.

Mr Kirk listed Building Design Partnerships' "Proposals for Approval to Freeze the Public Realm Masterplan" under Category A as follows, and formally requested that the Baldock and District Committee approve this list so that the Consultants could proceed with preparation of the detailed design and maintain progress on the agreed project programme.

- General public realm masterplan layout;
- New public spaces and War Memorial;
- Closure of the south end of Church Street;
- Parking locations for all areas, and allocation for core areas;
- Style and character of materials and street furniture:
 - Types of material to include a mix of York stone, granite, buff coloured bound gravel on footways and asphalt on carriageways;
 - Street furniture to be a neutral, elegant and contemporary design, making use of timber material for seating, litterbins and bollards;
- Street trees, including existing trees where appropriate, and planting new semi-mature lime or similar species and green areas comprising mostly lawn;
- Church Street to become one-way to Pond Lane;
- Incorporation of a roundabout at the main junction and relocated queuing.

Mr Kirk then presented a list of additional studies to be undertaken as a direct result of consultation, a report of which will be brought to the Baldock and District Committee Meeting to be held on 19 November 2007. He listed these as:

- Slip road towards the southern end of High Street;
- Extent of parking controls, including permit parking;
- Railway station car park;
- Link to Tesco supermarket
- Land ownership issues;
- Further traffic management and parking in Baldock;
- Improved signage outside Baldock, diverting traffic away from Baldock town centre;
- Introduce pedestrian phasing at junction of Station Road/Whitehorse Street;
- HGV restrictions in Baldock town centre;
- Public toilets.

Mr Kirk advised those present that there would be another public meeting early in 2008 to inform Baldock residents of the progress of the plans, as work was programmed to begin in April 2008.

Baldock and District Committee Members then asked pertinent questions interalia, the provision of additional disabled parking, the exact position of "gating" for Baldock town centre, and the means of easing traffic flow and slowing down traffic in Baldock town centre.

Mr Kirk answered some of the questions, and assured the Members that those questions he had not answered would be taken on board, and answers provided at the Baldock and District Committee Meeting to be held on 19 November 2007.

The Chairman requested a Recorded Vote of the Baldock and District Committee Members on the recommendations (below) made by the Head of Planning and Building Control, and this was proposed by Councillor Weeks and seconded by Councillor Knighton. The Recorded Vote was taken as follows:

Councillor Jarvis	Absent
Councillor Kirkland	For the motion
Councillor Knighton	For the motion
Councillor Muir	For the motion

Councillor Weeks For the motion
Councillor Young For the motion

The motion was therefore passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Baldock and District Committee agreed the amended proposals for the Baldock Town Centre Enhancement Scheme in accordance with:
 - the list of proposals in Category A;
 - the revised Public Realm Masterplan (Ref: 90 LP004 Revision C);
 - the parking locations and core area plan (Ref: 90 LP007).
- 2) That the Baldock and District Committee consider the list of additional studies required as set out in Category B, and that officers report back on the outcome of these studies at the meeting of the Baldock and District Committee to be held on 19 November 2007.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To maintain the best possible rate of progress, the areas of work associated with Categories A and B have been separated. Requesting Members to consider and agree the areas of work associated with Category A would release a substantial volume of work to the Consultants, which would allow the momentum of progress to be maintained in the meantime, while the outstanding areas of work in Category B were considered. The recommendations were offered after due consideration of the information collected over the last four months, and in the full knowledge that the amended design reflected the majority and/or balanced views of the various groups consulted, survey material and expert consideration.

The Chairman thanked Building Design Partnerships and the Planning Policy and Projects officers for their hard work for the people of Baldock. He also thanked the public who had taken the time to attend this District Meeting, and opined that this is an exciting time for the people of Baldock, as it is the start of the refurbishment process for their town centre, which would shortly become a great place in which to live and work.

The Chairman then announced a short break in which those present could speak briefly to their Councillor, or be added to a list for receipt of details of the presentation.