

**MINUTES OF THE BENGEO NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA PLAN WORKING PARTY
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 01 FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE ROBING ROOM,
THE CASTLE, HERTFORD**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S Newton (C), Dr L Radford, P Ruffles

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Whelan, Town Clerk; Dr M Iancu, Project Officer

538. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S Dunkley (prior engagement).

539. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Ruffles declared an interest as President of the Bengo Club.

540. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017 were approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

541. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

542. UPDATES ON THE PROGRESS OF THE BENGEO NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA PLAN (PAPER A)

The Members discussed the upcoming survey for the Bengo ward and its associated costs. They considered that a good response will ensure there is value for the money invested.

Then the Working Party considered the content of the survey. It was commented that while no survey is perfect and changes are always possible, the current version is able to get the interest of the residents who may be less involved or knowledgeable in local government matters. Equally, the Members felt that the survey is comprehensive enough to help inform the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan and the objectives of the Action Plan.

Members emphasized that the cover of the survey booklet needs to be attractive enough to capture the attention of the less-interested residents. It was also discussed that the survey should not leave the impression of actually promising to deliver the proposals that are being consulted on.

It was agreed that the Working Party will have the chance to see the content of the booklet before it gets typeset and printed.

The Working Party then discussed the recent grant application from the organisation Locality. The application was successful and will support the costs associated with producing the Bengo ward survey until the end of the financial year (end of March 2018). It was mentioned that there is the possibility to apply for another grant in the next financial year.

The Members wanted to clarify that Locality is a national organisation that supports Neighbourhood Plan projects by means of financial support and practical advice. The grants offered by this organisation are not related and should not be confused with the budget that each County councillor receives from Hertfordshire County Council to spend on projects in their area, which are also named Locality funding.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Working Party **noted** the report on the progress of BNAP.
- b) The Working Party **approved** the costs associated with the production of the Bengo ward survey.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:35.