

**MINUTES OF THE BENGEO NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA PLAN WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018 IN THE ROBIN ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD**

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

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

**600. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

**601. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Ruffles declared an interest as President of the Bengo Club. Cllrs Dunkley and Radford declared an interest as Members of the Hertford Club.

**602. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 were approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

**603. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

**604. MINUTES OF THE BENGEO COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP MEETING (PAPER A)**

The Members of the Working Party noted that the Chairman of the Folly Island Residents' Association attended the Bengo Community Steering Group. They were pleased to see that the Neighbourhood Plan project is inclusive of the "fringe" areas of the Bengo ward.

The Chairman of the Working Party praised the professional look of the survey, which was a recommendation of the previous Working Party meeting. It was discussed that there are still small areas in Bengo ward, especially towards Ware, which still have to be covered in terms of the delivery of paper surveys.

In regards to the content of the Community Steering Group minutes, the Working Party Members were pleased to see that they are very informative and detailed.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Working Party **noted** the minutes of the most recent Community Steering Group meeting.

**605. UPDATES ON THE PROGRESS OF THE BENGEO NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA PLAN (PAPER B)**

The discussion then moved to the work that has been done in the past month in regards to undertaking the Bengo survey. This includes preparing the posters, arranging up the survey drop-off points and ordering additional paper surveys, while remaining within the allocated budget.

The Working Party noted that the breakdown of expenditure appears in PAPER B and commented that transparency over how the budget is managed is very important. The Town Clerk fully agreed with the comment and added that due to accounts management actual budgets cannot be updated immediately.

The Members felt that good planning of expected costs is essential for the success of Neighbourhood Plan project. The Working Party stated that they would be pleased if officers made contact with the Chairman of the Community Steering Group in regards to working together to create an expenditure projection for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was recommended that sufficient timing should be allowed for the accomplishment of each of the project steps.

Then the Members discussed the matter of green spaces in Bengo. They noted that “Leafy Bengo” is a name sometimes used to describe the ward. It is important that this trait of Bengo is preserved. It was discussed that while some green spaces may already be protected via other means such as Tree Protection Orders (TPOs), there would be no harm if such protection would be doubled up by designating those areas as Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Working Party received and noted the existence of a paper of the Natural Environment and Green Spaces Working Group. This contains a list of the green areas in Bengo that the community would like to protect via the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Working Party **noted** the report on the progress of BNAP.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:55.