

Planning & Environment Report – September 2019

High Barnet & other station developments.

The Society has laid down 20 criteria we would like considered when developers make proposals for developing this site. The most important are:

- No high rise
- Keep a green gateway
- Enhance tube/bus/car interchange
- Retain car park
- Build bridge over tracks to Potters Way

Whalebones

We have submitted our objections which had the overwhelming support of our members. It is a serious breach of a Conservation Area – Currently it has permission for agricultural use and developers are asking for ‘change of use’. They do not appear to have considered it could be used for other forms of agricultural land. The Society has put in a proposal to keep it as agricultural land which could be beneficial to the hospital and community as a centre of rehabilitation.

High Street pedestrian improvements

These works have finally started and the Chairman has met the Engineers who accepted most of our proposals. But have now received planning applications for 3 telephone booths with advertisements on them two of which are in the Conservation Area. We will object as one of the reasons for the improvements is to reduce the clutter on the pavements.

Chipping Barnet Community Plan

The Town Team submitted a bid for funding to regenerate the High Street which was unsuccessful however it did focus the mind on identifying the priorities for the Town Centre. Agreed it should be a creative centre for small businesses, trade on historic assets and focus on the access to the countryside.

The Council has employed another Business Development Officer who is putting together a community plan for Chipping Barnet which will sit alongside the basic Town Centre Strategy and will identify at least 5 projects which could be proposed for funding in future bids. We will work with the Consultant to propose which projects will benefit with investments in the future.

Barnet Council – Meeting with Cllr Shimon Ryde

The Chairman and Gordon Massey of BRA had a useful meeting.

Fern Room site.

The developers have planning permission for a design more sympathetic to the existing street but the planners have insisted that part of the ground floor must be for community use.

Sewits Hill

We were informed that Hadley Wood Golf Club had placed huge piles of logs across footpaths to prevent access. We contacted Libby Martin our footpath expert, Enfield Society and the Golf Club and action is being taken to get the logs removed, footpaths recognised and put on the definitive map.

Barnet Council Consultations

Draft Growth Strategy

This is an important document as it sets out the way the Council sees the borough developing in the future. One of the key proposals was a Regional Park from Whalebones to Scratchwood. The Society's P&E team have prepared a detailed response

Draft Local Plan

This has been delayed

Draft Local List

The draft Local List has recently been published for consultation. About 2 years ago the Society recommended about 80 additions in our area and around 50 have been included which is a successful outcome.

King George Vth Playing Fields

This application is on the Agenda for November Environment Committee

Hadley Common

We have read the report and commented on it. Agrees to it in principle but questions what the protection against any alienation of land will be in the proposed new management: this currently requires an Act of Parliament but has not had a response.

Other organisations

London Green Belt Council

The Chairman attended and they will be increasing the subscription.

London Forum

There will be a follow up workshop on how to broaden the membership of Societies. The Chairman and Social Media Manager will attend

Other casework

- Kingmaker House – Refused planning permission
- Rear of 69-73 High Street development by Coxes refused permission
- 23 Hillside Gardens – Car port refused retrospective permission
- Fields north of M25 – Proposal to build has been put on the back burner as 75% of residents in Hertsmere objected.

- Duke of York Nurseries – This has closed and there is a proposal to develop the site. Hertsmere are also considering other land north of Dancers Hill Road for housing.