

The Minutes of Berwick-upon-Tweed Conservation Area Advisory Group Meeting - 10th August 2010

In attendance:

Annette Reeves	NCC Conservation Officer (Berwick)
Chris Burgess	NCC Conservation Team Manager (Chair)
John Robertson	Chamber of Trade
Tim Kirton	NCC Regeneration (North)
Alison Cowe + 1	Berwick Civic Society
Margaret Thomas + 1	St Boisil's Resident's Association
Philip Miller	Berwick Building Study Group
Peter Watts	The Greenses
John Robertson	Tweedmouth West End Resident's Association
Cllr Bowlas	Town Council

Public Realm Strategy: There was a presentation by Southern Green (Ros Southern & David Stokoe) at the start of the meeting. CAAG members had been invited to bring additional representatives to participate in the consultation and group discussion. The Civic Society and St Boisil's groups had brought additional members who stayed for the presentation only.

AR advised that CAAG were the first umbrella group to be consulted on the strategy and there would be further opportunities to contribute to the strategy and participate in the public consultation being organised by Southern Green. Today's presentation was available on powerpoint and AR would send it out to CAAG members for further consultation within their groups.

A question and answer session followed the presentation. The comments and discussion were recorded separately and would be circulated to CAAG members and Ros and David from Southern Green.

1. Apologies:

Peter Rutherford; Mike Greener (who would be sending another SIT representative in future) Unable to stay for resumed CAAG business; Tim Kirton; John Robertson (WE); Alison Cowe; John Robertson (CofT).

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July and matters arising.

The minutes were agreed. Matters arising;

Blackburn and Price application – AR confirmed that CAAG comments had been fed back to the applicant and PR/AR had negotiated further improvements and discharge of conditions. The presentation and CAAG's assistance had been very helpful to conveying the importance of stressing the detail.

9.1 – CB had reported that he was about to back fill AR's post but the applicant had turned down the position. CB interviewing another candidate on Friday of this week.

3. Regeneration Strategy – Protecting and enhancing the heritage asset (Update on THI and Area Partnership Schemes).

THI – the bid was with the Heritage Lottery Fund. Only a few minor budget queries had been raised. A positive decision was expected in September. AR continuing to spend the development grant budget.

The two complementary initiatives were also progressing – the artists' work through Inspire Northumberland would be published and used as part of the launch of the THI and continuing community/archive work.

Changemakers – AR had attended events and circulated the material through the Berwick Youth Project and Prince's Trust. There are several projects in Berwick and potential for sharing recruitment with other participating organisations. AR had received one strong candidate; a history graduate interested in Berwick's heritage. Looking to interview at the beginning of September – residential shared training for "champions and advocates" is in mid September; so hope to have recruited a young advocate for the launch of the THI.

Area Partnership Schemes –AR progressing a joint application (ground and first floor owners/tenants) for a listed building in Bridge Street and following up other interested owners. Castlegate scheme slower and AR to discuss with MS (CARA) the possibility of doing targeted promotion/publicity.

4. Berwick Listed Building Surveys (update).

AR received notification on the following buildings that had been rejected for statutory listing;

- St Aidan's Peace Church and Memorial Hall, Church Street;
Too significantly altered internally

- ☒ St Cuthbert's Parish Centre, Walkergate;
Loss of original features; extended and altered in the C19 not sufficient 'group value'
- ☒ 12-14 Eastern Lane;
Converted to flats and significantly altered; standard architectural detailing and few original features
- ☒ Former Auction Mart, Castlegate;
Stripped of internal fixtures that demonstrates its original function and altered too much to be able to read its former use and loss of context (removal of surrounding buildings and pens)
- ☒ Whyteside House, 46 Castlegate;
Too altered in the Victorian and Edwardian period; C20 alterations has resulted in the loss of period features.

AR had previously circulated the recent listing of Mansergh, 86 Church Street that reflected its position in the planned group of buildings around the Parade Ground and 'group value' notation with adjacent listed buildings.

PM had also circulated work by the Building Study Group on Eastern Lane. The group is now looking to progress work in Bridge Street. AR/PM to liaise as could be access to properties and recording initiatives as part of the Area Partnership Scheme.

5. Design Guides – progress AC.

Deferred to the next meeting. AC had requested another meeting with CB to discuss progress. PM also expressed a willingness to assist and produce a DG. AC/CB/PM to discuss before the next meeting.

6. Berwick's Future (update on progress of project groups).

- ☒ **Barracks** – consultant's meeting; proposals being put together for consultation with NCC first then to EH to gauge their reaction before a wider consultation.
- ☒ **Movement** – highway engineers looking at improvements to Golden Square, bus shelters/junction of Walkergate. Also Castlegate car park; Marygate and its multitude of requirements; coach parking area; Parade/Church St/Castlegate. All part of a long term plan. Looking at all the options. There will be full public consultation. Railway Station car park also being looked at – private purchaser looking at second deck? Cantilever? And depot space but this is in infancy – again would be full consultation. Issues with foundations/strength and archaeology.

☒ **Berwick's Future work** – are looking at the relationship between Berwick's Future and the Berwick Project. There is to be a community conference on the 20th September that will be chaired and reported by local people – series of workshops involving local people and professional input from officers; will also have a strong Scottish Borders input.

7. CAAG website.

CB will finish off website for the next meeting.

8. Current Planning Applications.

None for consideration. AR encouraging the King's Arms applicants to come back to CAAG as AR been working with the agent on accurate survey material and design led scheme; returning to basic principles of scale/form/mass. Hope to have a future presentation.

9. Any Other Business.

MS enquired about solar panels and when permission required. AR confirmed that if a building listed requires consent but unless included in article 4 direction very little scope to control. Energy conservation is becoming a growing issue in heritage locations. EH addressing some of this with studies and guidance (windows/wind turbines/solar panels) to provide alternative advice and scientific backed study that does not conflict with the government's 'green' agenda and sponsorship of alternative energy. Both the EH and HELM websites contain a lot of useful advice and references.

10. Date of next meeting.

28th September. 9.00 a.m. Committee Room 1.

