

Minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Conservation Area Advisory Group Meeting on 29 September 2017.

In attendance:

Margaret Shaw	CARA, EWT (Chair)
John Robertson	CAAG HELM
Bob Steward	Museum and Archives
Catherine Kent	Civic Society
Margaret Thomas	St Boisil's Residents
Ian McCaffery	NCC Conservation Officer (arrived later)

1. **Apologies:** Marion Mead, Ian Hay
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July and matters arising**
Minutes of the last meeting were agreed, with minor amendments.

MS & JR had met IM, and found him very supportive of CAAG's role. However Sara Rushton has informed MS that he will not be able to act as CAAG secretary. It was agreed to ask Judy Nicholson to take on the role. **MS subsequently approached Judy Nicholson who regretfully declined but has very kindly agreed to continue to produce a list of relevant planning applications for our meetings**

3. **Matters arising:**
MT introduced a short discussion on the lack of advanced notification on tree felling. JR mentioned that Berwick has one of the lowest levels of tree cover in English towns.

There was no information on progress of the Premier Inn development.

3. **European Walled Towns, CAAG Annual Symposium**

MS has met with David Bruce (EWT).

Peter Osborne, life president of the for runner to EWT Walled Towns Friendship Circle, has left a 'legacy donation' to fund a commissioner enabling the linking of UK walled towns. The prime aim is to enthuse young people about their heritage. A precedent has been set in Berwick with the 'Changemaker Project' with Berwick Middle School but the co-ordinating member of staff has left the area.

JR indicated that Ann Robertson from Tweedmouth West First School may be interested in pursuing the concept.

The speaker from Chester will now be represented by Jane Hebblewhite who will talk about the developments on Chester Walls

It was agreed to give a gift to Peter Rutherford to recognise his contribution to the Symposium. **MS gave him a bottle of red and white wine at the end of the symposium.** Discussion of expenses payments in general was referred to the subcommittee.

MT will check whether Chris Burgess has an invitation.

MS reminded members of the need for help on the 2 days.

4. CAAG website

The old website still comes up in searches. MT will ask Chris Burgess to take it down or to allow Joanne to contact him for the access information. In the meantime, members were encouraged to key in the new address, berwickcaag.org.uk

5. HELM

JR reported on the 'Conservation Areas at 50' event. There is a growing number of CAs in (England & Wales?), with fewest in the NE. A group of new CAS in Craven district (Yorks) had assessments rather than character appraisals, and the role and nature of character appraisals in general is in transition (to address the needs of development?). There was an afternoon visit to the planned garden village of New Earswick. The whole meeting had been worthwhile. JR was thanked for going in work time and at his own expense.

Berwick's CA Annual Report and 'at risk' status will be discussed at a future meeting. IM will bring next year's forms to the meeting in April/May, for discussion before they are submitted.

6. Treasurers report

£100 paid to the Trust as a donation towards the monthly room hire. The Trust was thanked for their continuing support both for these meetings and for hosting the adhoc planning meetings for the Symposium.
Balance now £1,060.87.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

MT attended a meeting on Policies and Principles, earlier in the week. Attendance was very low. There is still very little information available to the public. Elaine Patterson's report will go forward to the Town Council today. BS suggested asking questions at Council meetings.
MS will follow up CAAG's involvement with Julien Lake.
IM will ask David English what he knows about the Plan.

8. Current Planning Applications

Continuation of CAAG minutes 29 September 2017 taken by BS after CK had to leave.

Ian McCaffery went through the current planning applications and commented on each.. It was noted that there were plans to develop a charcuterie shop in the builders yard by the

Barracks, and it was thought the Barracks Development group might like to be informed of this.

In addition, in noting changes to a property in Castle Terrace, which was outside the conservation area, it was decided to raise the matter of extending the conservation area (to include Castle Terrace), at the next committee meeting to take advice as to whether this is a realistic proposition.

There was a question raised as to the signage at the Limoncello development in Hide Hill, and this was to be chased up.

It was noted by Bob that the Berwick Archivist, Linda Bankier, does not have back copies of CAAG papers. Margaret Thomas intimated that she had a good selection of past minutes. **MS has subsequently received these from MT and they are on the CAAG website.**

It was noted by Ian that a HLF bid had been put in to help preserve and maintain the Union Chain Bridge. Proof of community support for this venture from both sides of the Border was now needed.

Margaret Thomas reported on the success of getting T.P.O.s for the Goodie Patchy, following a site visit by councillors. This demonstrated the importance of site visits. Margaret also expressed thanks for the support of local county councillor Georgina Hill, who had been very helpful in this matter. The intention would be for the Goodie Patchy was to become a training ground for woodland management.

9. Any other business.

None recorded.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday **November 30th at 9.30 WEB**

**Berwick-upon-Tweed Conservation Area Advisory Group
Agenda, 26 October 2017.**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July**
- 3. European Walled Towns , CAAG Annual Symposium**
- 4. CAAG website**
- 5. HELM**
- 6. Treasurers report**
- 7. Neighbourhood Plan**
- 8. Current Planning Applications**
- 9. Any other business**
- 10. Date of Next Meeting**