

Minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Conservation Area Advisory Group Meeting on 25 May 2017.

In attendance:

Annette Reeves	NCC Conservation Officer
Margaret Shaw	CARA, EWT
John Robertson	CAAG HELM
Bob Steward	Museum and Archives
Ian Hay	The Greenses'
Catherine Kent	Civic Society
Julie Kennedy	Community Development Trust
Margaret Thomas	St Boisil's Residents Association
Dorothy Slater	Spittal Improvement Trust
Cllr. Alan Bowles	Town Council

Dorothy Slater has offered to take over as Secretary after July. Catherine Kent agreed to take the minutes for this meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Julie Kennedy,
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April and matters arising**

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising:

Lighting Strategy:

JR sent a copy of our letter regarding the potential threat to our heritage lamps to Gregah Roughead, copied to The Advertiser. He asked for an opportunity to speak to all councillors, to ask them to commit funding to ensure retention of existing lamps, which he facilitated. It will appear as an agenda item at the appropriate committee meeting.

AR has forewarned colleagues about the issue and felt that they would be supportive in the future, because it is a county-wide problem affecting many other conservation areas.

It was noted that modern lighting might be worth preserving; the new bridge had won a lighting award in the 1980s.

Some information from the street light survey was handed to CK, others will send theirs. It was noted that the positions of lamp standards should

be marked on a copy of the town map and sent to CK by June 2, to allow her to produce a record plan.

Cowe Buildings: The corner light fitting from the Cowe Buildings is currently stored in the green building, together with other fittings from both houses. There is no suitable power supply for it, but it was agreed that even if not functional it had considerable townscape and heritage significance. JR will contact Bob Lee to ascertain the feasibility of renovating it. Richard Schofield of ARCH would need to be approached for permission to re-fix it.

3/4. European Walled Towns , CAAG Annual Conference

Items 3 and 4 were taken together as 'walled towns' agreed as the theme/topic for this year's conference.

The members of the sub-committee, JR CK DS JK and MS, have held their initial meeting.

It was agreed that the a mid - morning start on the 18th October and a lunch time finish on the 19th with a lunch 'to go' may encourage those whose time is limited to attend. Lunch would be of local produce and an evening meal would be optional

We need to confirm our aims and objectives. Must look at positive aspects of the walls not the negatives. We need a strap line for the conference; all to consider please!

Agreed to approach towns with walls from the northern region although other towns may be interested in attending or contributing to the programme. MS will approach James Lowther for the use of the Maltings as an alternative venue, and individual sub group members were charged with varying activities before next meeting on June 9th.

5. CAAG website.

AR has sent text to Julie Kennedy to pass on to Joanne Douglas. This will need illustrating. It could also have a scan of the EH document 'Valuing Places: good practice in Conservation Areas' which opens with a study of Berwick.

MS will contact Julie to see how it is progressing.

6. HELM.

JR is going to a course on 'Conservation Areas at 50' in Yorkshire on 28 September. It was suggested that this seemed to be a useful event, and that delegates from the groups represented on CAAG should also consider attending. The next CAAG meeting will be changed to Friday to allow this.

7. Treasurers report.

No change to the Account's income or deposits

The Newcastle Building Society is giving grants to local organisations, and the advisability of buying our own projector and screen was **discussed**. MS said that she would enquire when the next round of applications will be considered

8. Current Planning Applications.

None for consideration. AR advised that until a new officer is in post contact with the Council will be via Sara Rushton and Liz Williams, who will receive copies of the minutes.

Any increase in the volume/height of the Blackburn and Price development would require a new application, which CAAG could comment on.

There is no movement on the other schemes mentioned in previous meetings. However, if CAAG wished to comment on the setting of the leisure centre (or any other proposals) the recent HE document on Setting and Heritage Assets would give useful guidelines.

<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

9. Any other business.

The lighting at Homebase stays on very late at night, and the Spa Well at Spittal needs maintenance. Local delegates were encouraged to contact their County Councillor. September's meeting will be on Friday 29th, not Thursday 28th.

Annette Reeves is retiring from the Council and was presented with flowers and a voucher to spend on at materials, as a mark of thanks for her contribution to the running of CAAG.

10. Date of Next Meeting

29 June 2017. Please note 9.30 start to assist our temporary secretary.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Conservation Area Advisory Group

9.30 a.m. Thursday 29th June 2017

AGENDA

Nomination of Secretary.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May and matters arising
3. European Walled Towns
4. CAAG Annual Conference
5. CAAG website
6. HELM
7. Treasurers Report
8. Current Planning Applications
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

27th July 2017.