



Newsletter 2018

AGM Monday 14th May 2018

7.00 for 7.30pm at Allum Manor, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3JP

Throughout 2017 Borehamwood and Elstree have experienced the problems of building development and population growth, bringing with them traffic congestion and strain on the infrastructure.

The Green Belt Society has tried to monitor these changes and express the views of our members to the local Planning Authorities. The preservation of our Green Belt and the countryside around us is our aim while accepting there must be some necessary change.

It may be said that Borehamwood has taken a heavier burden of development because of the amount of brownfield land available along Elstree Way. We have written to Hertsmere Planning Authorities asking for a moratorium on building to allow time to adjust. The new Local Plan is imminent and we have been to all the consultation meetings and contributed our views.

We have, by a majority, opposed the proposed development of 58 houses on Potters Lane by the Wrotham Estate in exchange for a new Primary School on Cowley Hill because of the loss of Green Belt land, the inevitable traffic congestion in a narrow country lane and the destruction of the rural character of the area. Expansion of existing schools could provide the school places. Our two councillors supported the building of the houses, believing this is the only way money will be available for a site for a much needed 2FE primary school and ensure the survival of Maxwell community Centre for future generations.

In the case of Aldenham Reservoir where a similar bargain is proposed we have reluctantly agreed to building on 12 acres alongside Watford Road in return for funding for a Community Interest Company to own and maintain the

Reservoir. This, in our opinion meets the 'exceptional circumstances' criterion required for Green Belt development because there was no other source of money and the Reservoir is a local

treasure which should continue to be a place of recreation for the community.

We strongly supported the reclassification of the path round the Reservoir as a Public Right of Way. The outstanding issues related to path maintenance are being sorted out.

Together with other conservation organisations we have campaigned vigorously against the Reviva Recycling Station. For several years the putrid stench coming from the waste dump at the bottom of Elstree Hill South has nauseated the residents of Elstree Village and Brockley Hill and could be smelt all over Borehamwood and as far as Stanmore. The Environment Agency has been slow to react to complaints and eventually STENCH, one of the protest bodies, organised a march which we joined in and supported. Our MP Oliver Dowden held a meeting in which we all took part. The Recycling Plant is now closed because of non-compliance by Reviva but instead there is an alarming application to change from compost to a Waste Transfer and Storage Station. This will undoubtedly cause noise and air pollution with much heavy lorry traffic. The Reviva Dump should be closed altogether and should never have been placed there on Green Belt land and so near to peoples' homes.

The Green Belt Society will continue to fight for the preservation of your environment and keep our town a pleasant place to live in. Please join us as our influence depends on the weight and number of our membership.

Ann Goddard - Chair E&BGBS



WHVG newsletter

Working parties continued in February and March. A letter from The WHVG team will be going to houses in Byron Ave backing onto the field, imploring them not to dump items of any size or description. WHVG will be applying for grants and donations to have a more substantial and higher fence erected to prevent dumping.

Snowfall this year the first for many years meant that residents were able to use the slopes for sledging etc. Vast amounts of litter were left by those using the hill for sledging but most litter continues to be dumped over the fence at the bottom of the hill.

A grant from the Tesco Green Bag Fund had meant that 3 large ponds have been excavated at the bottom of Woodcock Hill. The ponds will hopefully help to alleviate flooding that occurs by Byron Avenue and will produce habitats for water creatures. Clearance around the edges will allow meadow plants to flourish

Another grant has paid for Marginal plants and trees for the ponds.

These were planted on Sunday 8th April. The WHVG volunteers were joined by a number of fellows from the



Rotary Club and Satellite club of Elstree and Borehamwood to help plant the trees.

In March Gratitude presented the Committee with bird feeders.

Dog mess continues to be a problem as a few owners fail to clean up when their pets foul on the footpaths.

On July 8th we celebrate 10 years since Woodcock Hill has been granted Village Green status. We invite all residents across the Town to bring a picnic and join from 12-2pm.

On Sunday 11th November “The Battle’s Over” will be celebrated on Woodcock Hill as part of National Celebrations. The Beacon will be lit a 100 years after the end of WW1 to remember

those who gave their lives. Last post will be sounded. A new piece of music the Battles Over will be played and the Bells of peace will ring out.



REVIVA newsletter

In the last year the smell

from the Reviva site has been even more long lasting and far ranging than in previous years. No tests have ever been carried out to find the long term effects on the health of residents. A march was held in January from the Holly Bush to Reviva site involving residents and local politicians. Reviva were already under threat of closure as they could not meet the new regulations for composting. Even more stringent rules would be applied in March 2018 with which Reviva could not comply.

Reviva directors applied to Herts. County Council for changes of use from a compost site to a waste transfer site. The application is vague.

STENCH committee with Oliver Dowden and County Councillor Caroline Clapper and Borough Leader Morris Bright met officers from the Environment Agency and the consensus was that two things should not be considered together.

The composting should cease and the application for a waste transfer station should be decided separately.

The new application is for storage and waste.

Construction Waste – soil, metals and whatever else is placed in a skip

Soil Screening – soil removed from developments

Storage units – warehousing (non specific)



The main issues are the application for an additional entrance and the huge amount of vehicular movements. These are likely to be in the 100s daily, bringing noise and air pollution and damage to roads

No composting anymore so no smell but other issues would potentially arise. Reviva wants to lease the site out to a number of companies. This would make it even more difficult to use enforcement to deal with breaches of contract.

PARKFIELDS off Red Road Spinney in Allum Lane

After a very wet squelshy winter, we hope the fields will dry out ready for dog walkers, joggers, picnics, kite flyers and children playing games this summer.

We have new activities for children with astro turf which helps to keep feet clean and dry, always a blessing!



The astro turf football pitch continues to be well used, we would however be so grateful if people using the pitch would put their litter, mainly bottles, crisp packets etc into the bins provided.

Luckily, we have hard paths around the field which are used to avoid the soggy grass.

Objectives 2018 / 2019

Our aim is to preserve as much as possible of the peaceful green and pleasant countryside, which has been left to us after the ravages of road and building developments.

We live in an exceptionally fragile habitat. Major motorways radiate out from London through Hertsmere and the urban creep of London is always a danger. The proposed construction of a huge Rail Freight Interchange Station at Park Street is the current greatest threat. If it goes ahead it will undoubtedly

blight the whole area and cause endless road and rail problems.

We are opposed to it together with every other local conservation organisation and the local councils.

Sadly the Green Belt though protected in Law from 1947 is not immune to Central Government edict and we await the outcome of recent developments with great anxiety.

It is not our policy to interfere with reasonable improvements to private property and we are in favour of brownfield development.

We accept that a community has changing needs and cannot be preserved as in a museum. Playing fields, community centres, libraries and some new housing have to be provided. Our quality of life depends on careful planning especially in the control of traffic.

We try to retain those buildings with interest, history or architectural merit.

The destruction over the years of many landmark houses has robbed Elstree and Borehamwood of much of its visual amenity. I include the razing of the old cottages on Elstree High Street, the loss of the timber framed house at the Shenley Road / Theobald Street junction and the current demise of Little Organ Hall Farm. We must preserve what is left.

We are trying to serve the community and speak up for you all.

Contact details

Chair: Ann Goddard:

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Please join us for our 2018 AGM which will take place on Monday 14th May at 7pm for 7.30 in Room 3, Allum Manor, Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 1PJ

Our speaker, John Cartledge, a Borehamwood resident and green transport campaigner, spent almost 40 years' associated with London TravelWatch and its

predecessors for which he was awarded a Lifetime Contribution to Transport in London award at the 2014 London Transport Awards. He was also previously a County Councillor and has recently authored "Teddy's Trails", a network of self-guided historical walks through the countryside around the town.



John with Teddy



Elstree & Borehamwood Green Belt



ELSTREE and BOREHAMWOOD GREEN BELT SOCIETY

Membership Application/ Renewal for the year to March 20__ *

Dear Member,

The Green Belt Society exists to protect the Green Belt in your area. Please join us and continue to support us!

Your subscription is now due for the year ending 31 March 20__ *.

We should be most grateful if you would return this page with your subscription (minimum £5 per household) to:

Mrs. P Strack, 36 Carrington Ave., Borehamwood, WD6 2HA

Name/s:

Address:

.....

Telephone number:

Amount enclosed £..... .. Cheque/cash *

The Committee meets monthly to examine all local planning applications and to discuss relevant Green Belt issues.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

For your convenience, you may wish to use the Standing Order Form (a separate download) to send to your bank or building society

Please give us your email address:

Note that we will never share this with any other organisation or individual, it will be used ONLY for Green Belt Society business, probably not more than