## ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 September 2008 at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, starting at 7.30pm

PRESENT:	Councillors:	H David (Chairman) R Butler, J Heywood, F Turner
	In attendance:	Paul Welsh, Deputy Town Clerk

#### 1 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies had been received and accepted from M Heywood due to ill health. It was Noted that J Heywood was acting as substitute Member.

## 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 August 2008 were Approved and Signed as a true record

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr H David and Cllr J Heywood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application TP/08/1295 although it was believed it had actually been withdrawn.

## 4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FROM HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A total of 29 planning applications were considered with 4 objections raised, as attached lists.

#### 5 DECIDED PLANNING APPLICATIONS FROM HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A list of decided applications were Noted.

#### 6 **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

#### a <u>Stapleton Road Site</u>

It was Noted that an approach had been received from an individual interested in renting the Stapleton Road site for commercially growing organic vegetables. He appears to be a sole trader with very little traffic movement anticipated.

The site is apparently 2.95 acres and is very overgrown. It appears that it was an active allotment in the 1960s onwards and was originally a cow meadow in private hands. In 1977 Herts County Council decided to sell the land and it was offered to Shenley Parish Council, in whose patch the land technically lies. They declined so, in 1979, this Council purchased the land for £2,250 and at that time 20 allotment holders were listed with about 50% under-occupancy.

The land has a public right of way and we are also responsible for a brook that runs through it.

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MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 September 2008 continued....

By 1984, all the allotments had been abandoned and Government permission was granted to convert it for leisure or recreational use.

In 1989, Lyndhurst and Hawksmoor Schools attempted to turn the site into a nature study area with help from the Herts Groundwork Trust. However, the scheme did not continue due to lack of interest/time from participating schools and the site was abandoned.

In 2001 there was an approach from Ridgehill Housing Association regarding possible use for housing but this was not pursued.

In 1987 it was Noted that Hertsmere Borough Council (Housing Department) own a strip of access land between the site and Stapleton Road.

The Committee RECOMMENDED that in principle the idea was acceptable but further investigations were required with Hertsmere Borough Council and legal advice sought from the Council's legal advisers before another report is submitted to the Committee.

## 7 CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN:	•••••	 
Date:		 