

BBC/EWR Line Task Group – Minutes



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 4th November

Time: 10am – 11am

Venue: Hybrid

Attendees:

Craig Austin (CA)

Margaret Birtles (MB)

John Molyneux (JM)

Antigua Riley Corion (ARC)

Jo Branson-Budd (JBB)

Sarah Combes (SC)

Gavin Chinniah (GC)

Anna Robbani (AR)

Callum Fletcher (CF)

Paul Pace (PP)

No.	Discussion	Actions
1.	Apologies Dawn Staal (DS)	
2.	Minutes from meeting on 22nd October The minutes from the previous meeting held on 22 nd October were circulated and agreed.	Actions carried forward: JBB to circulate finalised Subject Experts spreadsheet and confirm process for logging all time spent on EWR matters with information saved in one place so it can be charged back to EWR under PPA. JBB to circulate time sheet instructions. JBB to circulate strategic and technical issue logs for all to review and add to. JBB to prepare a briefing note for the Mayor outlining licence agreements and implications <i>before</i> these are signed. DS to look into suitable external legal support
3.	Update on meeting with the Mayor re BBC engagement CA provided an update of the meeting held between representatives of the EWR Line Task Group and the Mayor on 31 st October. At this meeting, proposed BBC specific engagement activity was discussed. The Mayor approved for	

	officers to engage with residents and businesses affected by EWR plans: those newly notified of CPO in Ashburnham Road, those already impacted, and those in other affected areas.	
4.	Ashburnham Road and impact to numbers 2 – 20 – CPO / Stakeholder engagement EWR and BBC ARC presented the proposed engagement plan, with a phased approach to incorporate engagement activity in the impacted areas. Engagement activity will include door-knocking, with the ward Cllr and Portfolio Holders to be invited. Discussion regarding timeline for BBC engagement activity in relation to EWR non-statutory consultation period, in order to feed into this. Discussion regarding the proposal to report to Full Council once resident and business feedback has been collected. JBB advised that EWR are holding a public session with MP Yasin and the Mayor on 6th November. ARC confirmed that EWR are holding a drop-in for residents and businesses on Ashburnham Road on 1st December at the RAFA club. PP confirmed he has requested the programme of engagement activity from EWR. JBB confirmed she has requested the feedback that residents and businesses have provided to EWR during their engagement activities. Discussion about the ‘EWR safeguarded zone,’ areas impacted by EWR plans and requirement for specific addresses from EWR. JBB advised that EWR have so far not been forthcoming with addresses. ARC advised that Alex Wrack, BBC’s ICB Place Lead, will support with engagement with the Doctor’s Surgery affected on Ashburnham Road.	ARC to review engagement plan timeline to reflect EWR consultation deadlines. ARC to share finalised plan with the Mayor. JBB to confirm consultation period timelines with EWR. JBB and GC to attend this meeting. ARC to contact EWR again for impacted addresses in all areas.
4.	Forward Plan of EWR/BBC Meetings JBB confirmed she has received a forward plan of meetings from EWR, but no dates have been provided.	JBB to collate list of meetings for the month ahead.
5.	PPA	

	GC confirmed he has requested a meeting with EWR to discuss the structure of the PPA and further funding for a BBC project team. GC reiterated the importance for legal counsel as part of this project team and the requirement for their opinion and advice on the CPO and DCO process. There is no BBC funding outside the PPA until 2028/29.	JBB & PP to discuss resources and funding through the PPA. GC to liaise with DS re legal counsel. GC to collate questions for legal team and counsel to advise on. JBB to clarify BBC funding position with finance.
9.	AOB JBB requested feedback from EWR consultation to date at meeting with the EWR CEX on 30th October 2025. We await EWR to action this. MB advised that BBC has not received letters regarding the property owned by BBC on Ashburnham Road: Charris House.	MB to contact EWR advising that we have not received communication regarding our properties on Ashburnham Road. MB to meet with JBB regarding licenses.
10.	Date of next meeting Friday 21st November, 2 – 3pm (Hybrid)	