

BBC/EWR Task Group – Minutes



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 16th December

Time: 9 – 10.45am

Venue: Hybrid

Attendees:

Craig Austin (CA)	Antigua Riley Corion (ARC)
John Molyneux (JM)	Sarah Combes (SC)
Jo Branson-Budd (JBB)	Margaret Birtles (MB)
Gavin Chinniah (GC)	Simon Joynes (SJ)
Dawn Staal (DS)	Anna Robbani (AR)
Ben Raza (BR)	

No.	Discussion	Actions
1.	Apologies Paul Pace (PP)	
2.	Minutes from meeting on 2nd December. Minutes circulated for agreement.	Actions carried forward: AR to provide outline of support available from BBC's Housing Service by next meeting on 7th January. SC to circulate log template for information / meetings that have not materialised by next meeting.
3.	Update from legal counsel Discussion regarding the legal DCO process being undertaken by EWR.	DS to share timeframes and milestones of DCO process.
4.	Engagement with properties affected by CPO ARC advised that BBC has still not received the community feedback from EWR's engagement, which has been requested repeatedly and raised by JBB with EWR's CEX at the meetings with Mayor Tom and Councillor Gribble 30 th Oct	

	<p>and 3rd Dec 2025. This issue has been recorded on the Actions and Issues log.</p> <p>ARC updated that she has spoken with residents and businesses affected by the CPO, and they want to submit formal representations.</p> <p>ARC confirmed the dates for BBC's engagement events for those in the Poets area, affected by CPO. These meetings will be held on the 12th and 20th January. ARC added that we still have not received a full list of affected addresses from EWR.</p>	<p>ARC to follow up again with EWR re list of CPO affected addresses.</p> <p>ARC to cross-check list of addresses we currently believe are affected with JK.</p> <p>ARC to send letters to affected addresses inviting them to engagement sessions.</p>
5.	<p>Licences</p> <p>MB and DS provided an update on the 108 licences EWR has requested to access assets both inside and outside the safeguarded zone.</p> <p>DS advised that licences are being granted on 16th December for EWR to access 18 assets.</p> <p>MB advised that despite BBC requesting justification from EWR explaining why they require access to assets outside the safeguarded zone, this information has not been forthcoming.</p>	<p>MB to send CA a copy of the letter sent to EWR requesting justification for access to assets outside the safeguarded zone.</p> <p>MB to share a list of licences with CA where further information from EWR is required to proceed.</p>
4.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Discussion regarding the CPO of the Doctor's Surgery on Ashburnham Road. ARC advised that the ICB is in contact with the Surgery, and are writing a report regarding impacts and options.</p> <p>Discussion around potential requirements for temporary accommodation, and the loss of Charis House as a result of the CPO.</p> <p>JBB advised of a risk regarding the MVL curve section for the line that passes through Cauldwell into St John's Station. EWR propose to increase the speed limit from 15mph to 40mph, but this will increase noise levels from the railway line and 'squeal'. Acoustic fencing has been proposed by EWR and varying options under consideration. Other alternative options/suggestions had been the relocation of a playpark and amenity land (currently overgrown scrub). This issue has been added to BBC's Actions and Issues log to raise with EWR for more clarity.</p>	<p>ARC to circulate report when this is received.</p> <p>AR to review potential impacts and associated costs to BBC re temporary accommodation.</p> <p>JBB to review notes from EWR following the interactive session on 11th December regarding the MVL curve and the potential for 'squeal' from the associated proposal noting BBC concerns. To note that various options were presented though none yet decided upon but BBC view sought.</p>

	<p>SJ noted that EWR had arranged a meeting w/c 5th December with 48 hours notice. Officers in the Task Group also noted that short notice is given for arranging and cancelling meetings. Agreement that instances where this happens should be recorded.</p>	<p>SC to circulate log for recording meeting issues, SJ to record this instance by next meeting.</p>
10.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 7th January, 9.30 – 10.30am (Hybrid)</p>	