

Bo Planning Update

John Archer returned to Bo in November 2010 (see photos on next page)

Following progress on mapping and planning in Bo as reported in the last newsletter, I returned to Bo in November last year with Richard Hall on a joint visit to pursue both planning and environmental health issues.

On the planning side, I met again with William Alpha, the Chief Administrator of BCC to discuss ways of helping plan the future of Bo. We used the new maps prepared by Rashid and his team to discuss how to coordinate and influence development in meetings with the Paramount Chief and the Ministries of Lands and Housing.

I attended a meeting of Bo City Council to talk through the benefits of planning ahead for development and the Council agreed to set up a Land Use Planning Committee. Its purpose is to bring together all the parties involved in land development to discuss how best to manage land resources. Further stakeholder meetings were held with infrastructure providers such as SALWACO and BKPS together with the paramount chief.

It was clear that a key to the future is to achieve greater coordination between land holding families who dispose of land for development and the City Council and other infrastructure providers. Close involvement of the wider community through the involvement of the chieftaincy system will be necessary to help in this. To make progress, it will be necessary to get technical planning expertise embedded within the City Council and the idea of a volunteer planner working with BCC for an extended period of time is being explored.

On a related matter, I was also fortunate to be present when the OWL land purchase on Mattru Road was being surveyed and marked out which, as well as providing a supportive presence from OWL Leamington gave a useful wider insight into the processes of land disposal.

Overall, it was a very successful visit, which hopefully will enable future progress on the planning project to continue.

This was reinforced during William's visit to Leamington in Jan/Feb this year during which we discussed in more detail the sort of placement that would assist the city in planning its future and looked at the tasks that would need to be undertaken to get real progress in place.

We are continuing to work with the City Council to support its wish to be able to plan and hope to see more real progress this year.

Photos from John Archer's visit

Speaking at a Bo City Council and setting out land.

