



Watlington Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Kristina Tynan

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 5th SEPTEMBER AT 8PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Present:

Councillors: Jeremy Bell (Chair), Terry Jackson, Robin Wilson, Tom Bindoff, Matt Reid

In Attendance: Peter Richardson, Gill Bindoff

Officer: Rachel Gill

1. Apologies

None.

JB suggested that a new committee member to replace Ian Hill should be sought.

Resolved: Request Kristina to add an item to the full council agenda asking if any other councillors are interested in joining the NP Steering Group.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Preferred Options – SODC Local Plan 2032 Consultation

It was noted that responses from the Parish Council and NP Forum have been sent.

Chalgrove

Around 1,500 responses to the consultation have been received. OCC are opposed to the Chalgrove site.

Several NP Forum members went to a meeting at Chalgrove on the 12th August. This was a constructive meeting with representatives from communities around Chalgrove. Adrian Duffield, Senior Planner for South and Vale answered a lot of detailed questions around why Chalgrove was chosen.

Action PR to request a copy of the OCC statement and track down any notes from the meeting.

The group also thanked PR for his hard work on updating the website in the last 3 weeks.

Action – JB to get clarification on CIL

5. NP Forum Update

GB asked for agreement to put the NP Forum monthly update on the website

Resolved – agreed to put these reports on the website.

Policies

GB and NP met with Peter Canavan (PC) to go through the Policies written so far. PC asked that the wording be tightened up, ie be more specific and clear on how things should be done. Another draft is due to be completed at the end of September.

Basic Conditions Statement

Peter Canavan was happy with this document, there are just a few additions required.

SA Scoping Report

The content of this document is ok, there is more work to finalise the look of the document. Gayle Wootton (SODC) offered to have a look at it. Recommendation is to send off now to the three statutory consultees (Env Agency, Natural England and Historical England)

Traffic

Locality have offered a grant for the amount requested (£4500 Traffic and £1500 consultation materials). There was an admin error at Locality which meant they did not include a further £3000 for support on sustainability work, a separate application is in progress for this money.

The traffic grant has some conditions, most importantly that the money is spent on traffic impact assessment relating to sites. This means it will not cover any traffic calming/ management measures such as chicanes and traffic lights.

JB raised the question of whether improving roads increased traffic? As a council are we ignoring this or taking it on board?

GB said that the traffic group are concerned about this. Peter Canavan has asked to see the responses from the consultants who quoted to see if SODC can help with anything. GB and PR have also met with OCC Highways and will be getting some information and data from them. There is also traffic data included in the WAT8 planning application.

JB reiterated the importance of getting data on the impacts of roads and traffic calming.

GB said there will be OCC information on this as they are doing regional modelling and AECOM are looking at it as part of the Chalgrove project.

TJ asked whether there might be any funding via Air Quality?

RW asked for an update on the traffic modelling quotes.

GB said we have had 4 replies, 3 very similar prices around £8-12k and one considerably more. OCC advised that we get modelling rather than just 'desktop' analysis. The level of support from SODC and OCC is still unknown and we need to cover the cost of the traffic management assessment.

RW asked what the deadline is for completing this work? GB estimated that the work needed to be done by the end of October to not effect timing on other aspects.

JB asked that the group agree:

1. We consider that the traffic impact assessment , not just sites but the surrounding area and impact traffic is a priority.
2. It is important that we establish a model of the effectiveness of traffic calming on the town centre and any new roads.

Resolved – all agreed to these statements.

TJ suggested that PR contact the consultant who offered to help if we needed to look for further funding.

MR also suggested using data from the air quality modelling.

JB asked what actions are being taken regarding regional traffic modelling?

GB said this was mainly via SODC and that James Gagg would be meeting David Cotterell again in the next 2 weeks. OCC are also doing modelling and GB and PR have met with them too.

JB asked whether Pyrton had been contacted about traffic modelling? GB said IH had some contact but not much progress has been made.

Action JB to arrange to meet with Pyrton.

JB asked about traffic benchmark information. We have the TPP report and further info in the WAT 8 planning application.

Consultation and Communication Statement

PR has been working on this document, it should be complete to date in 2-3 weeks.

Infrastructure

Another meeting is being set up by PR.

Site Selection Workshop

Good progress has been made on this. JB commented that as the items were not weighted most items could be green but one item red could make the site not viable. GB said that there would be a commentary on each site which would highlight important areas.

GB asked for approval to attend a meeting with Archstone, requested by them. She also asked whether it is necessary to record the meeting?

Resolved – to meet with Archstone. Date to be agreed.

Resolved – not to audio record the meeting but write detailed minutes.

MR asked about phasing of development – do we have any control over this? In summary no, development will be pushed to happen as soon as possible.

GB asked how the Parish Council will respond to the WAT8 planning application and what information could the NP Forum supply to help ?

JB suggested a separate meeting?

RW suggested that the approach be discussed at the next Planning meeting.

Resolved: AOB item to be added to Planning to talk about what approach to take.

6. AOB

JB read a statement – see attached.

JB asked for an update on legality of Neighbourhood Plans and the 5year housing supply.

GB summarised:

- The current Local Plan is not valid, it has successfully been challenged on the grounds of the lack of a 5yr housing supply.
- The next logical step is that the NPs already made (Henley, Thame and Woodcote) are not enforceable until SODC has a Local Plan in place.
- The government will most likely get involved as a free for all is not wanted.
- Housing figures are out this month but as SODC has underdelivered a 20% buffer will be added to the numbers and they will try to get ahead to get in 'credit' if they can.
- This could mean our completed NP cannot be enforced until SODC complete a Local Plan and this could be as late as 2018.
- Having the NP will give us greater influence and will support the Parish Council in dealing with planning applications.

Meeting Closed 10pm

Next Meeting:

Monday 3rd October 8pm