



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 8th AUGUST 2016 AT 8PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Present:

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

In Attendance: Peter Richardson, Gill Bindoff, Ian Hill

Officer: Kristina Tynan

1. Apologies

Robin Wilson

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest notified.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 18/7/2016 and 1/8/2016

Resolved: that these minutes are a correct record of these meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Traffic Consultants – PR has been in touch with the Locality Grant Officer and there is a Committee Meeting this Wednesday at which our grant application will be discussed. It is hoped that we will hear the decision ASAP after Wednesday. We do have indications of cost. Four Consultants were asked to tender and three are in the same ballpark figure. If we are awarded a grant we will need to have a NPSC meeting and David Cotterell will need to be present to discuss the detail of the traffic survey we need. There may be some help available from the HCA as some of their work may dovetail with ours.

5. Approval of draft NP Planning Policies and Basic Conditions Statement

GB stated that these are a first draft and they will need to be changed, as more information becomes known. The NP Forum needs feedback that these are on the right lines. It is only the content that needs agreeing at this stage. The Basic Conditions Statement is the compliance document, which governs planning.

GB noted that TJ and JB have made some minor comments that they have emailed to her. It was also noted that some policies should be re-ordered. Policy 3 to add 'Resilience to Climate Change'. Policy 5 needs expanding

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED: That the NP Planning Policies and Basic Conditions Statement be agreed.

It was noted that we need clarification on the CIL money.

RESOLVED: That JB seek clarification on CIL money.

6. Discussion of Draft Sustainability Scoping Report

GB stated that this is very much modelled on another report and in line with the SODC Sustainability Appraisal and a recommended do it yourself kit. There has been some Locality money earmarked for more work on this document in the grant gets approval.

RESOLVED: That this draft be sent to SODC to get a health check and any views that they may have.

It was noted that the Watlington Conservation Area Document (2002) which had been reviewed in 2009 is a very useful document and is available on the SODC website.

7. SODC Preferred Options Response

It was noted that Stephen Harrod had sent through an email with suggestions for some of the questions in the Consultation. IH and GB have also gone through the questions in detail. There was much discussion on this issue. Comments made included:

TB: Forecasts for Oxfordshire have decreased from 2.3% to 1.9% after Brexit and that the SHMA figures should be re-looked at as economic prospects are much less rosy than previously.

IH: SHMA figures were in double figure growth – about 11.7%. It is a key point that this figure was an estimate made 2-4 years ago and those figures were not believed at the time so they do need reviewing and lowering.

MR: Unemployment figures in Oxfordshire are amongst the lowest in the Country.

GB: With regards to Planning, Planning Inspectors are now taking into account, when considering Appeals, that SODC does not have a 5-year housing supply and this has led to a number of large housing development Appeals being allowed. It was noted that SODC lost two appeals only last week.

JB: Stated that he will make an enquiry about the legal basis of doing this, as the majority of Local Authorities do not have a 5-year housing supply. SODC have given permission for enough houses to be built, mostly in Didcot, but Developers are not building, as people cannot afford to buy the houses.

RESOLVED: That we write to our MP John Howell to ask him to take up this issue of having the problem of the 5-year land supply policy suspended.

GB: Watlington should be referred to as a small market Town, not a large village.

IH: Villages to come forward with their own numbers for new housing rather than being dictated the number.

A number of questions were discussed:

Q1 – No

Q1.4 – Focus on Development should be mainly on Science Vale and Didcot, which can be linked to the A34. Disagree with the proposed development at the Chalgrove Airfield. [PR stated that following a Freedom of Information Request it was confirmed that SODC were talking to the MOD about Chalgrove Airfield quite a while ago, it is not a new idea as they have implied.]

Q2 – Development across settlements should be proportionate to the size of the settlement. In addition, 3750 houses for Oxford is not sufficient justification for using the Green Belt.

Q3.3 – Locating overflow houses for Oxford City in the countryside with already stretched infrastructure and no clear plan for alleviating this does not support sustainable journeys to work.

It was noted that no mention is made of loss of farmland and mitigation of climate change is not mentioned. It was agreed that we should include these.

All Councillors and residents need to respond to this questionnaire individually as the WPC

response only counts as one response.

RESOLVED: That MR be delegated to draft the response to this Consultation and to email all members of the NPSC for approval prior to it being sent on the 19th August. GB and IH will give their comments to MR ASAP.

Due to Standing Order 3(w) and with the time being nearly 10pm it was:

***Resolved:** That the meeting be allowed to continue until 10.10pm at the latest.*

8. Any Other Business

NP Work/Website - PR said that Rachel Gill is now away until the end of August and there is a lot of work to be done which he will be doing including archiving and updating of the website. He asked that the NPSC are happy that he does this work. It was agreed that the NPSC are happy with this and PR to liaise with JB/GB on this.

Meeting in Chalgrove - JB said that there is another meeting on the Chalgrove Airfield issue this Friday at 6.30pm in Chalgrove. Four reps from the NP Forum and four from WPC are allowed to attend. KT will confirm who will be attending.

Developer Meetings – It was noted that these will be put on the website ASAP.

Pyrton – They are moving on with their NP. They have issued a questionnaire asking people to suggest sites. They are using Consultants to do their work.

Resignation - JB said it was extremely regretful that IH had been driven to the position of resigning from this Committee and thanked IH for all his hard work whilst on this Committee. A vote of thanks was given to IH by all present.

9. Date for Next Meetings:

Provisionally if all information needed is received: **Tuesday 23rd August 7pm** in the Community
Monday 5th September at 8pm in the Community Office

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

