**WATLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FORUM**

**Meeting of the Development Sites Group on 15th December 2015.**

**Present:**  Tony Powell (Facilitator), Gill Bindoff, Keith Jackson, Terry Jackson, Tony Williamson

**Apologies for absence:** Ian Hill, Nick Greaves

**Declarations of Interest:** none

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 1st December 2016:** these were agreed to be a correct record.

Progress on contacting relevant people regarding the site of the Rectory and the small site to the rear of Bucklands Paddock is still outstanding. It was noted that a mature field maple had been felled in the Rectory garden, presumably in advance of a planning application being made by the Diocese. The loss of the tree was regretted as it was a fine specimen and there were no signs of rot.

1. **Draft input into the WNDP document:**

TP has made some amendments in line with comments from members of the group. It was agreed that some text would be better placed in the separate Topic Paper. Some text is duplicated in other parts of the WNDP draft document. Norman Perry will look at this as part of the document editing process. Refinements are expected to be made as further evidence is gathered, in particular the analysis of traffic impact linked to individual and grouped sites. When the WNDP document has made further progress Peter Canavan (SODC) will be asked to take another critical look at it and give advice.

1. **Public exhibition of development proposals by Archstone and Bloor Homes:**

The exhibition had been held at The Social, High Street, Watlington on 8th December and had been well attended. Indicative plans had been shown for up to 200 homes. Archstone has had discussions with the HCA and has agreed to ‘safeguard’ land for the re-alignment of the B4009 through the site leading to Cuxham Road. Bloor Homes will provide information about their other sites in the area so that visits can be made to see what their developments are like. One site currently being developed is in Thame. Archstone/Bloor Homes are willing to have a further meeting with Forum and Parish Council representatives when their proposals are at a more advanced stage. A planning application is expected to be made at the end of January.

1. **Meeting with Bilfinger GVA:**

A meeting was held on Tuesday 13th December at Watlington Town Hall. TP, GB , TJ and Peter Richardson had represented the WNDP Forum. Ian Hill had also attended the meeting representing Watlington Parish Council. No representatives of the HCA were present this time. The meeting was intended to report back on progress since the last meeting at Watlington on 4th October and the Strategic Corridor meeting at Lambert Hotel, Lewknor on 31st October. Representatives of Britwell Salome, Cuxham, Pyrton and Shirburn also attended. Expectations had been raised that GVA would use the meeting to share information about proposals being developed to improve traffic infrastructure in the area in advance of the major development at Chalgrove airfield. Proposals for individual villages were not covered in detail, however, a significant time was spent exploring how the Pyrton and Watlington NDPs could dovetail more closely together. Broad agreement was reached about the principle of using the sites in Pyrton known as WAT 7 and WAT 8 for a re-alignment of the B4009 to take traffic away from the centre of Watlington. It was confirmed that Pyrton would not include WAT 8 as a development site in their NDP. It is intended to hold another meeting in March when HCA proposals are much further advanced.

1. **Planning application by Providence Land at WAT 8:**

It was noted that the decision date for this application is 12 January 2017. The decision is very significant for both the Pyrton and Watlington NDPs.

1. **Communications and publicity:**

The Group is keen to begin a programme of publicity for the options being considered for development sites so that local people can become familiar with the possibilities. It was noted that the Coordination Group will bring forward initial proposals for communications and publicity to the next meeting of the WPC NP Steering Committee in January.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

A date will be set in January when more information is available about traffic analysis, SODC planning decisions and proposals by Archstone/Bloor Homes.