

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

Steering Committee

Meeting of Wednesday 20th January

7.45 at 7 Godstow Road



Present: Christopher Hardman (Chairman), Jenny Attoe (Secretary). John Bleach, Mary Brown, Cllr Jean Fooks, Cllr Steve Goddard, Angela Goff, Linda Johnson-Bell, Graham Jones, Richard Lawrence-Wilson (Treasurer), David Stone.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 9th December 2015. Corrections to those minutes: Paul 'Kirkwood' changed to 'Kirkley'. DS not JB circulated the Telegraph article. Under 'Project Management' it was agreed that the wording be changed to "Our latest aim is for the Plan to be ready for the referendum in 2016".

1. **Matters Arising.**

- i. Savills have not yet replied and JF will chase them for a response.
- ii. Wolvercote Paper Mill. The Chair of the Committee which considered the planning application had said in response to CH's complaint that the minutes were not a complete record because they did not include a record of the oral statement by the Forum that the submission should be available on the Forum website. It was also expected that any developer would pay close attention to the conditions attached to the planning approval. CH had replied that he thought it would be in the interest of the council to make available a summary of oral submissions at meetings.
- iii. Brookes Students' Project. CH urged everyone to keep engaged with the project. Comments on the students' posters should be sent directly to Sue Brownill before the end of the month. Copies should be circulated to the Committee.
- iv. Low Carbon developments. LJ-B was concerned that developers are saying that this cannot be achieved in budget. Zero Carbon is our aspiration but we have been undermined by the Government relaxing the conditions imposed on developers. We should continue to push for what we want and include it in the Plan. LJ-B and JB to liaise on this matter.

2 **Matters Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.** None.

- 3 **Facebook – Page update.** Circulated by LJ-B. Explaining: Access information. Donate Button and Press Release. JF expressed concern that anyone could post on the page and that it might not necessarily be the views of the WNF. LJ-B said it the identity of posters could be seen and therefore there was control over content. CH said it was for LJ-B to manage the site. Anything expressing the opinion of the Steering Committee would be agreed by the Steering Committee and if necessary could be referred to the Chair or Vice-chair. There was discussion of which provider to use for donations in terms of fees and time limits. LJ-B will research fees of various sites and find the best deal. It was agreed that a time limit concentrated people's minds and so it was decided that we aim for £20,000 in 120 days. JB said it was good to have a target but he would be very surprised if we achieved it. AG said in the first instance a Project Manager was needed and the money raised could be shown to be being used for that and possibly for a sustainability study. LJ-B had produced a draft press release (circulated by email) and we should aim for 1st March to get this out.

- 4 **Publication of Questionnaire Results.** CH said he was very keen to have something published as soon as possible. DS showed his breakdown of results in the form of data and bar charts – a huge amount of work that he was thanked for producing. LJ-B emailed the Excel data immediately to Committee members to study. The charts showed how the different areas (Cutteslowe, Five Mile Drive. Upper and Lower Wolvercote and Woodstock Road) responded to each question. DS was asked if he noticed if anything in particular stood out from the results. He said there was generally a similar response from each area. People need to see the results and evidence of what is being done with the information or they will not respond in future. So what is to be published? DS, AC and CH to liaise to decide what is put on the website.
- 5 **Flooding.** CH has received a letter highlighting the recent flooding in Cumbria and asking if a re-think was needed about building in an area of high flood risk. JF said the Mill Site has gained planning permission so there was nothing further to be done. JB had learnt that the flooding and drainage survey was “conceptual” and the planning approval says there is need for further investigation. Given the concern about flooding we should press for this to be done. It should be recorded on the website that there is a lot of local concern and attention drawn to the list of advisory points. GJ said that developers will be looking to maximise their profits and would not necessarily take any notice of anything we said. JB and CH will write a statement of local concern to go on the website and a copy will be sent to the local press.
- 6 **The Plan and Project Management.** JB, MB and CH to liaise to work on updating a timetable. This could be reviewed by a Project Manager when appointed. It was necessary to find out the things that are important, how a Plan is made and how the process works and ultimately to get the Plan approved. Summertown employs a Project Manager (@£15 per hour) and CH will contact them
- 7 **Housing and Planning Bill.** This has been described as a ‘wholesale power grab’. The Council is currently investigating the possibility of setting up an independent local housing company not subject to the right to buy rule covering social housing, affordable private sector renting and key worker housing. It was asked if we should comment on the Bill and it was decided that we should consider how to make our concerns known. There will be greater force to lobby MPs if we work with other Forums, for example Summertown, as the Neighbourhood Plans emerge.
- 8 **Review of Main Arteries into Oxford.** The Woodstock and Banbury Road corridors will be looked at early next year. There is a drop in session this Friday (22nd) to comment on this. It is not an open session and there is only limited access to stakeholders. The session was to raise concerns about how the corridors can be improved. Ideas are wanted now but there is no budget for this at the moment. AG said Jordan Hill was on the Banbury Road and as far as she was aware their Residents' Association had not been invited. They were not the only group not to be consulted. SG said there must be wider consultation. LJ-B said the A40 was to be reduced to 30 mph on approach to the roundabout and JF said the aim should be to eventually take steps to reduce the traffic . CH said a congestion charge in the rush hour was worth considering.
- 9 **Godstow Abbey.** GJ reported that there was to be a launch event on a Saturday morning in May (14th or 21st). It will unveil the display board, show amendments and progress so far and display the history of the site and conservation being undertaken. Interested groups to be invited as well as locals.
- 10 **Any Other Business.** RL-W reported £2600 in the bank account. This included £500 from SG. Of that total £1000 is ring-fenced for the display board. LJ-B was thanked for her hospitality.
- 11 **Date of the Next Meeting.** Wednesday 24th February at 7.45 at 141 Godstow Road.