

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting of Wednesday 11 May
7.45 at 141 Godstow Road



Present: Christopher Hardman (Chairman), John Bleach, Mary Brown, Cllr Jean Fooks, Graham Jones, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, David Stone.

Apologies: Jenny Attoe, Cllr Steve Goddard, Angela Goff.

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 6th April** (previously circulated). Minor corrections will be sent to the Chair before posting on the website.
- 2. Matters Arising.** *It was agreed that members should consider and propose final ideas for the stand at the Summer Festival on 18 June and CH and JB would meet to consider these and make proposals at the next meeting. David will be able to provide the Gazebo as he did last year. We also need volunteers to help and we need to know what the Commoners plan to display as they are sharing the stand.*
- 3. The Northern Gateway Exhibition.** There was a mixed response to the exhibition and it was agreed that there were a number of concerns about the proposals as exhibited in the displays. It was agreed that it is important to maintain our engagement with Savills and St John's. *The chair asked to receive observations about the proposals and their communication to local residents to discuss them with Savills.*
- 4. Mill site and Co-housing.** A meeting in the Baptist Hall had been arranged on Tuesday 17May to present plans for a Community-led bid to purchase and develop the site for Co-Housing. It was clear that the principles of those putting forward this proposal accorded with some of the views expressed by those who had responded to our questionnaire and those expressed in meetings and workshops. However, we need to see the plans in more detail.
- 5. Godstow Abbey.** Graham gave details of the timetable for the unveiling of the information board on Saturday 21 May by the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire in the presence of the Lord Mayor. Music will be provided by the Oxford Waits and there will be a reception afterwards in the Trout. It is hoped that a second board can be financed in future.
- 6. Cherwell Local Plan.** After the meeting with representatives of Cherwell District Council and the developing co-operation with the city to meet the perceived City housing need, the concern about the potential for urban sprawl and increased congestion and pollution consequent upon a northern extension of the City was reiterated. It was clear that local people share with the people of Kidlington the wish to preserve the gap and are not in favour of building on the Green Belt. Houses built near Water Eaton station are unlikely to help provide housing for people working in Oxford but are more likely to encourage commuters to London. *The chair will write to the Chief Executives*

and Leaders of both Councils to express the concern of the Steering Committee.

- 7. Website, email and Facebook.** Considerable work on the Website has been done by Ann Charles and CH, JB and JA have spent some time with her on this. JA is still having problems with Facebook. It is hoped that this can be resolved. Val Tate has agreed to join us and will help with communications. It is crucial that the email base is expanded and that website and Facebook are kept up to date
- 8. Draft policies for plan – Built Environment.** The policies in draft form have been completed and need to be tested. *It was proposed that drop-in sessions be arranged at weekends in different venues offering tea and cake.*
- 9. Green Spaces and Biodiversity –** Mary has circulated a report on work so far and the timetable for completing this is set at the end of May.
- 10. Treasurer’s Report** There has been no new expenditure since the last meeting. There will be expenses in relation to the information board events.
- 11. Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 8 June at Rosamund Road (tbc)