

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

Steering Committee Meeting

on Tuesday 12th July

7.45 at 67 Rosamund Road



Present: Christopher Hardman (Chairman), John Bleach, Mary Brown, Cllr Jean Fooks, Cllr Steve Goddard, Cllr Angela Goff, Graham Jones, David Stone, Jenny Attoe (Secretary).

Apologies: Richard Lawrence-Wilson

1. **Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 7th June 2016.** AG questioned whether she should use the title “Cllr” on WNF meeting minutes. It was agreed that she should. At 10. Para 1. “*for every election to serve as a polling station*” was added after the word “Portakabin”. 10. Para 3. “*at*” was added between “placed” and “the end”.
2. **Matters Arising.** Green Spaces. Comments had been asked for and to be sent to MB. None have been received to date.
3. **The Summer Festival.** The day had gone well but there was not as much interest as had been hoped for. Wolvercote Commoners’ Committee’s Treasure Hunt had produced more interest on the shared stall. Even so it was felt worthwhile to show a presence at local events. It was noted that the space was a little crowded and next year maybe two gazebos would be preferable? Staffing levels would need to be regulated e.g. the dog show was the main attraction and all interest was on that so at certain times only one person was required.
4. **Future Communications.** JB asked where we should next display the copies of posters and policies. It was suggested possibly at Cutteslowe’s Fun Day on Saturday 20th August in Sunnymede Park or Wolvercote Farmers’ Market but this was in decline and no longer a viable venue. JF will also get details about Cutteslowe’s Surplus Food Party and film night to see if it might be a suitable event. Also, ask if Summertown Neighbourhood Forum would be interested in having a joint presence. The Big Lunch at the Plough on Wolvercote Green was suggested. CH said that presence is important as long as it is not too much effort for little reward. Therefore the Councillors’ surgery at Kendall Crescent was also suggested.

The next step following on from the questionnaire is a leaflet (A4 3-fold) to include a table of events, what is happening and has already been done and WNF contact details. These could be sent to everyone in the ward – with the Flying Goose but this was regarded as a Parish magazine or Focus but this was political. It was felt it was vital that the leaflet should reach everyone within the whole ward and could also be made available or displayed at pubs, shops, the church and the doctors’ surgeries. Thoughts for what should appear in the leaflet were requested. JB to circulate Built Environment and Green Spaces texts which will need to be edited down and all text must be concise and to the point. Ideas were asked for before the next meeting to enable the leaflet to be published in advance of the AGM in October. There was some question of the date of the AGM. JA to check the two dates which were reserved at the Village Hall and to book 26th if available. AG said we should write to the Oxford Mail about all the things we want to publicise. The AGM date should appear in the Flying Goose (deadline 30th July).

5. **Mill Site and Co-Housing.** The chosen developer had still not been announced; it had been due on 30th June but was postponed until 7th July. There had been an emergency meeting at short notice of Oxford Co-housing, in the White Hart. This was not well advertised and consequently not well attended. At the first meeting there had been support in principle for the

project. However, no details of the bid nor a business plan had been available then. When the bid was available after the emergency meeting it became apparent that the possibility of there being 260 houses was included. However, this would not be possible on a site with only one access and would certainly have been contrary to the views of local residents who would have preferred fewer not more houses. It was agreed that while it had been proper to support the principles the Forum could not give support to any particular bid.

6. **Proposals for the Reorganisation of Local Government – Workshop.** This is to be a one and a half hour presentation and workshop. The hope is for larger budgets which will mean more devolution. Wiltshire Unitary Council (JF had attended a presentation) works well but in Oxfordshire there is an unsatisfactory situation as the two sides cannot agree so there will be an independent review. It was felt that comments on the Local Plan should be submitted to Oxford City Council as it is now or a new authority could delay it.
7. **Oxford Local Plan: First Steps Consolation.** It was asked if smaller groups were needed to deal with this. The six weeks given for consultation is too short and the places where information is on display and consultation can be carried out are unsuitable: Summertown Farmers' Market, Cowley Road Carnival, West Oxford Fun Day are not appropriate locations for consultation and give the impression that the exercise is not being taken seriously. CH, on behalf of WNF, and our councillors are to write to the local press pointing their concerns and asking that the consultation period is extended and more suitable locations are found to carry it out. A meeting was arranged for Thursday 28th July at 10.00 am at CH's house to discuss a response to the questionnaires. There is a deadline for responses to the shorter questionnaire on the Local Plan of Friday 5th August. The deadline for the online questionnaire is 12th August. It was suggested that the questionnaires should be filled in with proposed Forum answers in time for the meeting. Not everyone likes, or can use online forms and GJ said we should ask for a reference set of documents and, at a later stage, we may require other documents.
8. **Draft Policies: Heritage.** GJ had looked at Local Plans that have already successfully been passed. Heritage looks after preserves and enhances what already exists. Examples given: Newton Abbot "installation of appropriate artworks". Tangmere: includes historic maps. It was pointed out that if WNF is to include historic maps permissions may be needed and these will take time to obtain so we should be aware of time constraints. The historic heritage needs only a couple of statements and historic or listed buildings could appear in an appendix or register. GJ read a condensed version of the Victoria County Histories description of Wolvercote to give a feel for what was needed: "*Two settlements...Upper and Lower Wolvercote... Lost Parish status in 1929... Godstow was in Berkshire...Mix of houses and settings... Protect and enhance the varied nature of the ward and ensure that all development is appropriate...*" There is to be a sub-committee meeting on Heritage on Thursday 18th August at 7.45 at 67 Rosamund Road.
9. **Treasurer's Report.** RL-W was not present so no report was available.
10. **Any Other Business.** GJ reported on the Bosham near Chichester's Local Plan which had been rejected by an independent inspector.

Cotteslowe Roundabout. The design had been criticised as "not thoughtfully designed for cyclists". At Jury's Inn on Wednesday 20th July, 11.00 – 16.00 there will be an opportunity to discuss alterations with the company in charge of the re-design.

GJ asked how Headington's Neighbourhood Plan was progressing. JF said the city council will consider it in October.

11. **Date of the next Meeting.** Wednesday 31st August at JB's at **7.30** pm

The meeting was closed at 21.55.