

# Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

## Steering Committee Meeting

on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August

7.45 at 47 Rosamund Road



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

**Apologies:** Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Cllr Steve Goddard, Val Tate

1. **Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016.** Number 7. Oxford Local Plan. "*Consolation*" was changed to "*Consultation*".
2. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda.** Cutteslowe Fun Day. Summertown Neighbourhood Forum was uninterested in this event and so it was not attended by either group.
3. **Headington Neighbourhood Plan.** This has now been sent out for consultation – details on website. It was said to be "an exceptional piece of work". JB said we should take "a bit of the credit" as we spoke at their inaugural Neighbourhood Plan meeting.
4. **Timetable for completion of the Plan.** Tom Morris is willing to help out with the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan by looking over our policies. It was asked if we would be able to complete our own Plan by the summer of 2017 because the process takes a very long time.
5. **Annual General Meeting.** Preparations to be made: Minutes of the 2015 to be printed. Agenda. Microphones. Speaker? Refreshments. Elections for secretary (current secretary said she would be standing down) and possibly Vice Chair (to be advised when the situation becomes clear). If the community bus is to be offered to Jordan Hill and Cutteslowe residents this will need to be booked and publicised.
6. **Steering Committee Membership.** There is one other vacancy. AG said a possible new member was Paul Buckley. He is a potential Lib Dem candidate and will know for certain by May. CH to speak to him about the possibility of joining the WNF Steering Committee. It was recognised that the age profile (of the Committee) needs to go down but how to involve young people was the problem.
7. **Future Communications – leaflet.** It was thought that a lighter approach was needed to attract and inform people about who we are and to make it succinct, attractive and engaging. A three-fold leaflet with text that is not too dense. It was estimated that this would cost in excess of £150 for a colour leaflet and would take time to produce. Therefore thought must be given to the distribution. The Flying Goose delivery date would be too late. JF offered the services of her "Focus" distribution team and there was general agreement to gratefully accept this offer. Bob Watkins has offered to help with delivery and JB and DS also offered to help out. Because of production times the printer would need adequate notice but delivery must not take place too early or there was a danger that the leaflet would just be discarded. But three weeks' notice for the AGM must be given.

It was decided that a small group to work on the design was needed. The first meeting (of AG, JB, MB and pos CH) will take place at JB's next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 and the second at MB's on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30. JB is to ask Philip Dove if he is able to help with design and will speak to the printer to see how late the deadline can be. Ideas suggested for the leaflet included: AGM – date, time and location. Details of the community bus if transport is required. What we have done so far on Built Environment,

Green Spaces and Heritage. What other policies – next stages including the referendum, asking for people’s input and encourage consultation, feedback and engagement. Our Mission statement? This is *your* input on the future of the area. If you cannot attend please email comments. More details on the website.

8. **Mill Site.** The latest communication from Caroline Puddicombe is as follows: I am sorry, there is very little I can update you on with regards to the progress of the sale of the Paper Mill site. The University has received a number of offers, has considered them, and is taking matters forward. However, at present, due to the commercial confidentiality of the negotiations, I am not able to advise you any further. As soon as I am able to, rest assured I will be in touch.
9. **Student Involvement.** GJ said “If we do it again it has to be better than last year.” General feeling that we were not impressed with last year’s third-year students. CH said we must get something out of it for us as well as for themselves. We must make it clear what we want them to do.
  - 1) Area Character. There is the Oxford Toolkit which Summertown Neighbourhood Forum has used and it should be possible for the students to also use it. Postgraduate report: the need to engage with young people which this year's students could target. Need to engage with 18 – 19 year olds but not even 20 – 40s are interested. Maybe aim for 30 – 50s? Facebook was thought to probably be a good way but there were still problems accessing it to post reports. Reaching parents of school-age children through the PTA was another possibility.
  - 2) A new Environmental Consultancy module begins on 31<sup>st</sup> October and runs until May 2107 and covers a wide range of skills: Ecology, Environmental Assessment, GIS, Biodiversity, Waste Management and Environmental Management. It was asked (by Adam Symonds) if WNF wished to be involved. The feeling was that if it provided evidence for our reports it might be useful. CH to meet with Adam Symonds to discuss at a date tbc.
10. **Network Rail.** It was asked if we should comment on the attempt by NR to seek to withdraw from the agreement to install ‘silent track’ on grounds that it would not be cost effect. We are concerned that NR will expose residents to unacceptable levels of noise pollution and vibration and in any case there should be continual monitoring. There is to be a technical briefing on 6/9/16 by an independent expert at a meeting with the City Council in the Town Hall which will be open to the public. An agenda is due imminently. AG asked if the public would be able to speak. JF said they should be able to ask questions. There was concern that the outcome of the planning meeting might delay the rail connection which should be avoided.
11. **Proposals for the Reorganisation of Local Government.** No agreement has yet been reached on the reorganisation. It was vital that agreement was reached or there could be financial consequences. The city does not have sufficient income on its present boundaries.

12. **Draft Policies: Heritage.** GJ circulated his report for consideration. It was thought that a small bridge on the “old road” is possibly an ancient monument. It was asked if GJ should be asked to take on Local Enterprise and if we should have a policy on this. This will become relevant when the Northern Gateway is built and there will be more shops in the area. We would want to have influence in the development i.e. no large supermarkets. GJ to be asked to look at this.
13. **Treasurer’s Report.** In the absence of RL-W CH said that “As far as I am aware there have been no payments since the last meeting so the Treasurer’s report for 31<sup>st</sup> August is as follows: Credit balance at the bank: £1.864.90. This comprises the unspent balance of the ring-fenced "Godstow fund" £479.10, plus general reserves £1.385.80.”
14. **Any Other Business.**
- The Old School planning application for flats had been turned down.
  - First Turn Stores is up for sale.
  - First steps consultation to go on the web site. Air pollution in the area is not one of the 10 worst according to the City. Ann is to put this on the web site.
  - Engaging with the other side of the roundabout. DS was happy to do this but not alone. Where and when? The councillors’ surgery at Kendal Crescent was not possible and an advertised venue needed to be found. DS expressed concern that not enough consultation was taking place in this area. Under the covered area in front of the shops was possibly a good place. A timetable of who cover it would be needed and advertised possibly in ‘Focus’.
15. **Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at **7.30** at 47 Rosamund Road.