

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday 12 April 2017

65 Five Mile Drive



Present: Christopher Hardman (Chairman), Mary Brown, Cllr Jean Fooks, Cllr Angela Goff, Graham Jones, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, David Stone, Val Tate (Secretary)

Apologies: John Bleach, Paul Buckley, Cllr Steve Goddard

1. **Minutes of Previous Meetings** – 6 March 2017 Meeting Minutes accepted as correct
2. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Pending actions: Update WNF website “Progress” section; posting WNF contact details on community noticeboards (GJ); proposal for engaging young people (AG);
3. **Proposed Bid Plan Phase 2 - Internal consultation:** date for forum meeting pending meeting with Adam Symons (AS) 25 April

4. **Community Rights Programme Grant**

WNF has been awarded £6,075 - £2,650 less than requested. Cuts related principally to the final Phase 4 – Final Draft preparation. However, WNF has been encouraged to re-apply for further funding as work progresses. CH will ask AS when we might re-apply.

The final date for WNF to accept the grant offer has been extended to allow arrangements with Wolvercote Commoners to receive the grant on WNF's behalf.

Failure to comply with the Grant's Terms and Conditions may require repayments of all or any part of the grant. Members of the Forum are equally liable.

5. **Summertown Neighbourhood Plan:** Since many issues are common between Wolvercote and Summertown, Sam Clarke (Chair Summertown NF) has agreed to share information about such issues raised in its recent public consultation.

Even though SNF is further ahead in the process of developing their Plan than WNF, they will not be ready to go to final public referendum by May 2018. It is even more unlikely that WNF will be ready for its final referendum by 2018. The future of local elections is currently uncertain, depending on the decision whether a single Oxfordshire unitary authority is created. Therefore, it is uncertain when either SNF or WNF might be able to hold its final (unlinked) public referendum.

WNF's constitution runs for five years from October 2014. This would need to be renewed if the process isn't complete by 2019, and might require a change of officers. It is not known under what auspices any Neighbourhood Forum continues to monitor local activities once its own Neighbourhood Plan is approved.

6. **Leaflet for June Flying Goose:** VT has secured agreement from Peter Bridges that a WNF leaflet, advertising the time and venues for exhibitions relating to the external consultation planned for May-

Aug, may be included in the June issue of the Flying Goose. Printed FG copies will be available 1 June. WNF has a day to stuff all 3000 and take to David Brown for delivery through St Peter's.

7. **Northern Gateway:** WNF has been invited to a meeting with Savills at Wytham Court 11 West Way Botley Oxford OX2 0QL on 28 April at 2:00pm. **Steering Committee members should let CH know if they wish to attend.**
8. **Wolvercote Paper Mill Site:** The only available information is that Oxford University is still undertaking due diligence on the prospective proposal.
9. **Plan Development:** a meeting will be held in the afternoon of 25 April, 2:30pm (tbc) at Oxford Brookes with AS to discuss next steps and to review timetable.
Action: ALL wanting to attend should email CH
10. **Green Spaces** – the final Environmental Consultancy Project Report has been received from Oxford Brookes students. AS requests comments by 28 April. Preliminary reactions are favourable, the report assessing the importance of urban gardens in maintaining biodiversity and offering a model to develop mitigation strategies that will protect wildlife in the face of continuing local development. WNF will use the report to inform relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies. It was noted that there was a good response to the students' survey.
11. **Wolvercote Commoners AGM – 26 April:** AG reported that it hadn't been possible to secure someone from another Neighbourhood Forum to speak about the importance of the Planning Process but alternatives are still being pursued.
12. **Business & Retail:** GJ was unable to meet the 17 March deadline. A revised version of these policies will be circulated by 23 April at the latest in preparation for the meeting with AS.
13. **Community & Health:** a revised version was circulated as agreed in mid-March and responses received. Quite a few of the proposed policies are also raised in the Built Environment policies. It was agreed that AS would be asked if he will take on the task of cross-referencing.

Proposed policies H7-H9 call on developers to fund necessary improvements to upgrade community, medical, meeting and road/pathways in connection with developments >100 dwellings. As the regulations stand, any financial benefit derived from a developer goes into a central city pot, and the local community does not necessarily benefit. Therefore wording should be explicit to do our best to ensure that the benefits come to Wolvercote.

JF noted that SNF had had useful meetings with Oxfordshire CC regarding transport provision. Her offer to arrange a meeting between WNF and the County Council was accepted.

DS noted that a letter to Summertown Health centre requesting information about future medical centre needs in our area in response to planned growth had gone unanswered. The Committee asked that DS follow-up his request in the hope that an answer can be obtained before we meet with AS at the end of April.

14. **Fun on the Green 17 June:** it was agreed that WNF should have a presence. It was suggested that the environmental study could form the basis of a quiz.
15. **AOB: CH to ask JB** to report back at the next meeting on the Oxfordshire Community Land Trust/CPRE Meeting 23 March concerning Affordable Housing in Oxfordshire.
16. **Date of next meeting:** Mon 8 May 2:30pm, venue tbc. DS and RLW unavailable.