

Minutes

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:
Tuesday 29 July 7.30pm to 9.30pm held at 67 Rosamund Road

Item

1 Present: Christopher Hardman, Angie Goff, Graham Jones, David Stone (8.55pm), Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Alex Martyn. **Apologies:** Mike Gotch, John Bleach, Sue Pfunder, Jean Fooks, Anne Charles, Kate Richenburg, David Stone (for lateness)

2 Previous minutes: The minutes of the 18 June were agreed.

3 Plan-making

3.1 Comments on the templates produced by the Planning Aid

Angie presented her findings on Green Spaces and Bio-diversity, these consisted of issues identified and places where they should be applied. Angie felt that even with the help of the template more guidance was required for the work to continue. Graham pointed out that although Port Meadow is not within the ward, it still needs to be included in policy deliberations as it shares a common border. AG

Alex began speaking on HMO's, in particular with respect to the experience in Exeter St James and was reminded that he and Kate's research needed to cover the whole mix of housing policy. Richard introduced the idea of a percentage quota for HMO's, on a street by street basis and this was widely regarded as being useful. Clearly a lot more is needed to work up an entire mix of housing policy. AM/KR

3.2 Progress on themes

Christopher reported that even at this early stage in his research on Building Design, he has noticed a tendency toward generality in the overall specification of buildings to the point where it becomes almost meaningless and that we should guard against this and carefully balance it against the perception of changing the character of an area by being too prescriptive.

Graham's research into Heritage was still in its earliest stage, he commented on Godstow Nunnery and the lack of attention afforded it by its owners, Oxford University and how he intended to raise this matter with them. Christopher also suggested that the two bridges in the vicinity were worthy of similar consideration, given their probable medieval origins and, on a related issue not suitable for heavier vehicles etc.

Following on from the above, the sizeable amount of work required for evidence gathering was discussed. Alex suggested that this might be partially addressed by having an electronic questionnaire on the website in addition to physical means and this should be discussed with Anne.

3.3 Timetable

Review how we might speed up our progress at the next meeting and guard against distraction and being spread too thinly.

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4 Brief update on planning issues

4.1 Elsfield Hall

Alex reported that planning permission was unanimously granted at the City Council meeting of the 22 July and that it was subject to 21 conditions being satisfied, which may delay the start of the development until 2015. He felt that local residents were most interested in the outcome of the road safety audit, which will examine the effect that the creation of the new entry/exit point will have. Alex and Kate will be following this very closely and submitting a brief report for the website. AM/KR

4.2 Paper Mill

After a prolonged but inconclusive discussion Graham summarised the situation in saying that he felt the University would not re-submit any further applications unless it felt assured of success and that this was not likely in the event of material objections from the WNF, although some of our previous “objections”, e.g. school needs, could be changed to “observations”. Instead they would simply sell to developers and forego any financial gain. More discussion is required to decide how to present this in a report.

4.3 Transport consultation

There was major concern about the proposals for Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts and the closure of Five Mile Drive at the western end. David kindly agreed to put in a response to the Cutteslowe and Wolvercote Roundabout public consultation, due to end very shortly. He mentions that the City and County Council believe that they can mitigate the road capacity issue, despite an admission that capacity at peak times will not be materially different according to the Oxfordshire County Council Strategy Report. DS

4.4 Northern Gateway AAP

Following a lot of discussion about the poor quality of the document circulated to people in the area, Alex agreed to dig down into whatever raw traffic data was being made available in support of claims. Graham concluded that a lot more research was required and suggested that this might be a large topic for the next meeting.

4.5 Network Rail

Richard commented on how vibration testing has been performed on the wrong line and in the wrong geographical area. He and Graham referred to Muir Gray’s website and his fight to have more readings taken. Angie asked for this site to be included in the minutes. (<http://oxfordtobicesterrailwayline.net/>)

5.1 Website

The website is live and it took about a minute to find it on our phones at the meeting searching for ‘Wolvercote NF’. Ways to capture the attention of young people were discussed, for example Angie going into talk at Cherwell School, Wolvercote Young People’s Club etc.

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5.2 Flying Goose Article

John and Sue have written an article promoting the AGM.

Paper responses to questionnaires, inserted in the Flying Goose to be collected in the church?

Thoughts that we could compile a survey and have it included as an insert in the next Flying Goose. Graham to talk to John.

6 AGM & Constitution

6.1 Bob Keith's comments on constitution

Richard makes 5 brief points in response:

He agrees with Bob Keith that paragraph 4.1 is in the wrong order.

Oxford City Council require membership to include at least one councillor, which is why it was included.

Other councillors if they cover the area can be members even if they don't qualify on other grounds like living in the area, although they will not have a vote.

' ..Serving for a period of 6 years when only designated for 5 years' an extension is hoped for.

We need to look at how the plan will be signed off before being submitted, perhaps a new clause to specify this?

6.2 Actions for AGM

AGM is booked (15th Oct) and publicity is now required. Angie suggested Radio Oxford and also wondered if Kate might be free to help her.

7. Management and help

This was deferred until the next meeting

8 Treasurer's report (taken as the first item on the agenda)

Current account balance almost exactly £1000.

£8 net receipt from Angie – proceeds from bucket raffle.

9. Matters arising from the minutes

This was deferred until the next meeting

10. AOB

There were no other items raised

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, 20th August at John's house. (**SINCE CHANGED to Tuesday 26th August 7:00 pm for 7:15pm start, at Graham's house, 67, Rosamund Road.**)

Graham closed the meeting at this point.