

Minutes

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee:
Tuesday 26th August 2014 7.00pm to 9.50pm, held at 67 Godstow Road.

Agenda Item	Action
1.1	Present: Christopher Hardman, John Bleach (chair), Angie Goff, Jean Fooks, Graham Jones (host), David Stone, Kate Richenburg, Alex Martyn.
1.2	Apologies: Sue Pfunder, Anne Charles, Mary Brown (invited guest), Jonathan Dean (invited guest), Jackie Gray.
1.3	Resignation: John announced that due to his recent illness he would be resigning from the position of Chair at the AGM. However he would be willing to remain on the Steering Committee.
2.	Previous minutes -
2.1	18th June: 5.0, 2 nd sentence re. Forum Website: speaking on behalf of Anne Charles, John asked for correction to omit "John had purchased some temporary space for the website and tabled details..." and instead to read: "John and Jonathan had registered the domain name for the website as: wolvercotenf.org.uk and tabled details..." This amendment was accepted.
2.2	29th July: 3.2, 1 st para: STOP PRESS: to clarify, Christopher has subsequently proposed the following rewording: "...guard against this. We should be careful not to be too general nor too prescriptive." 3.2, 2 nd para: should read "three" bridges (not two). 4.1: should read "20" conditions (not 21). The minutes were otherwise agreed.
3.	Brief Update on Planning Issues:
3.1	Northern Gateway AAP, CPRE meeting and transport: John asked Jean if an extension of the 15 th September deadline was likely due to the number of unresolved questions in the North Oxford transport strategy. Jean had proposed a Forum-hosted public meeting on 17 th September with invited officers and has achieved some support from council officers. Graham suggested that the transport meeting involve only council officers and the Forum steering committee. STOP PRESS: the meeting on transport suggested for 17 th Sept. did not happen. With regard to the idea that the Forum should co-host a public meeting with CPRE on 4 th September, John felt cautious. He asked whether there were potentially too many public meetings being planned. He also felt that there was not enough time for the Forum to organise this meeting properly. David felt that the Forum needs to be seen to consult the public and that therefore our manifest presence at such a meeting was important. Christopher felt it better that CPRE have their own meeting but that we needed to participate in a way that we cannot be accused of not being aggressive or forceful enough. Graham felt that we should attend and make our position clear and Kate agreed. Since John would be on holiday for this meeting, Graham agreed to speak for the

Forum.

GJ

Angie reported on a newly formed group who were also talking of holding a demonstration and who had made contact with W.C.C. The re-emergence of ENGAGE was also noted.

In response to a query by Angie no one knew the source of some figures quoted at a previous public meeting by Robert deNewton to dispute the council's workforce predictions. Kate recalled figures quoted informally by Michael Crofton-Briggs' figures at one of the Oxford Hotel meetings, i.e. 80,000 sq. metres allows space for 8,000 employees.

Kate also pointed out that the work profile of those employed at the NG would be highly skilled. In her view the Council had not looked closely enough at the effect that this would have on travel patterns and therefore the estimated traffic volumes were based on incorrect assumptions.

John asked for volunteers to help submit the Forum's comments on the AAP (to meet the current deadline). David, Graham, Angie, Jean and Christopher volunteered to help. Agreed that Graham would coordinate contributions. John reminded members that we need to comment on the 'soundness' of the AAP. There was also some discussion on its 'legality'.

(Angie was to seek permission from WCC for the Forum to share their comments as prepared by her with two WCC colleagues, Mary Brown and Paul Kirkley. She also referred to WCC's concerns about the Conservation Area. She noted that Paul Kirkley had no concerns about flooding, other than perhaps the contingencies made about water run-off.)

STOP PRESS: the Forum's comments were submitted in time.

3.2 **Wolvercote Paper Mill:**

John reported on the meeting held with Carolyn Puddicombe, Michael Crofton Briggs and members of the Forum (JB, GJ, AG, CH, JF, MG) on 16th July. The outcome was that the University would be re-submitting their planning application and in the process would address the issues which led to the Forum making its objection to the original (now withdrawn) application. The three main issues to be addressed were: (i) the Environment Agency's requirements, (ii) adjustment of the development boundary, which had erroneously been shown crossing the Green Belt boundary and (iii) adjustment of the access road design, for which the University had been led to believe the community had produced its own design (in fact not the case).

At this meeting John had been struck by the strength of influence which the Forum as recognized representative of the community had wielded in this case.

Alex queried brinkmanship by the University. Kate reminded members that co-operation with the Council rather than objection had proved positive in the case of Elsfield Hall. Christopher said that if our concerns are addressed we should

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accept the alterations.

4. **Plan Making**

4.1 **Progress on themes:**

Alex and Kate had been looking at other web sites including that of Headington Forum, who are considering 6 policy areas and sending out questionnaires with 3 identified issues on each.

Alex asked if there would be any benefit in local Forums aligning on certain policies. Members felt strongly that as neighbourhood Plans are a local matter this would not be advisable.

Jean reported on a suggestion made by Michael Crofton-Briggs that single-person housing might be appropriate at the Northern Gateway. This might be something to be considered in the Wolvercote Plan.

Angie reported that she and Mary Brown had also been considering other web sites with regard to Green spaces and Biodiversity and liked the approach made by some but felt that they needed help to bring uniformity/consistency to the Plan.

Christopher mentioned building height concerns and noted Angie's point that this was particularly relevant in a conservation area.

Kate recalled with some scepticism Rachel Williams' assertion that the ridge-and-furrow field pattern could be preserved in the Northern Gateway scheme.

Graham had been trying to make contact with people with regard to 'heritage' – notably the Nunnery.

4.2 **Timetable:** not discussed.

5. **Constitution:**

5.1 It was noted that this needs to be put on the web site urgently. It was agreed that the term of office should be 5 not 6 years to coincide with the statutory life of the Forum. Angie to liaise with Richard over the latest version and ask him to add an extra clause on signing off the Plan. **AG, RLW**

STOP PRESS: see section 6.1, last paragraph, below. Checks needed to facilitate voting only by those eligible to do so.

6. **AGM:**

6.1 There was further discussion about recruitment and the need for officers.

John produced a draft agenda and a plan of actions needed to organise the meeting.

STOP PRESS: for actions see updated plan issued with these minutes. **ALL**

John to take responsibility for advertising – Angela agreed to ask her granddaughter, Georgia, if she would be able to design a flyer. **JB,AG**

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Members agreed to try to recruit new members e.g. Nigel Bray, Mary Brown, Francesca, Harriet Milles. **ALL**

It was agreed a flip chart not necessary. Sue was to be asked if she would take minutes. Election results needed to be added to list. **JB**

Much discussion on the agenda. It was proposed to have the invited speaker at the end of the meeting followed by refreshments. First choice speaker agreed as Helen Gosh to be invited by Christopher. Second choice Alex James to be invited by Graham, and third choice Tim Walker to be invited by Jean. **CH, GJ, JF**

It was noted that there could be problems concerning who in the hall would be eligible to vote. This needed to be made clear in the constitution. It was hoped that the register of attendees would help in ensuring that only eligible people would participate. This needed further discussion, but time prevented it.

7. **Management and help:** No time for discussion

8. **Website:**

8.1 No time for discussion

8.2 No time to discuss the idea of including a questionnaire with the next issue of Flying Goose.

STOP PRESS: this will now have to wait until the December edition

9. **Treasurer's report:** not available

10. **Matters arising from Minutes not already dealt with above:** not addressed.

11. **AOB**

11.1 It was agreed that we post the CPRE meeting on the Forum website and ask Nick Malden to put it on the Wolvercote website.

STOP PRESS: posted on the Forum website.

12. **Dates of forthcoming meetings:**

1) **Steering Committee:** Wednesday 24th September, 7:15pm at John's house: 47 Rosamund Road

2) **AGM:** Wednesday 15th October, 7:30pm at Wolvercote Village Hall