



Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2nd September 2019

10am. The White Hart

Present: John Bleach, Mary Brown, Christopher Hardman (Chairman), Katherine Kaye, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Sadie Paige (part of meeting), Cllr Liz Wade, Cllr Paul Buckley, Cllr Steve Goddard

Apologies: David Stone

1. Examiner's response to the Neighbourhood Plan

- A response from Tom Morris was awaited. *Stop press:* this was received together with one from planning officer Juliet Evans after consultation with the Council's legal team. The upshot was that the Examiner's comments were upheld.

2. Proposed timetable for progressing the Plan and referendum date

- The referendum could be held as early as February 2020, depending on how soon the officers' reports could be written in time for the October CEB/Cabinet meeting. However it was felt that May would be a more likely date to fit in with local elections.
- MB had not yet organized the maps requested by the Examiner and was waiting to see if the Council could provide this. *Stop press:* the Council has now agreed to do this.

3. Preparation for the referendum

- SP suggested that it was important to pass on to residents what had happened in the dialogue with the Examiner and to be positive, i.e. the Plan has been made legally enforceable and, once the Plan has been adopted, Wolvercote Neighbourhood Area would be entitled to a larger portion of CIL money than previously. SP said the account should be precise but not over detailed and agreed to help CH to compose this. **Action SP and CH.**
- Campaigning for the referendum would need publicity. Suggestions included distribution of leaflets with the Lib Dems' newsletter (Focus) and through the Wolvercote and Wytham News Facebook page.
- It was agreed that the projects arising from the Plan would require help from Forum members outside of the Steering Committee.
- SP, who was about to move house, said that she was happy to continue to help, but remotely.
- KK offered to communicate on the SC's behalf on W & W News via Facebook. This was accepted provided that all text was agreed by the SC beforehand. **Action KK.**

- Postal voting was discussed. LW agreed to check whether this would be possible. **Action LW.** Postal voting dates would need to be communicated to Forum members.
- Agreed that other community groups needed to get involved.
- SP offered to send action plan notes for inclusion with these minutes. **Action SP.**

SP left the meeting. She was once again thanked for all her work.

4. Response to the latest Oxford North planning application

- PB reported that the response to this application by Oxfordshire CC had been held up by drainage and funding questions. This was near to resolution, but no dates for publication of the response were yet available.
- There was discussion about the combined effect of other developments and Oxford North on the infrastructure of Wolvercote Neighbourhood Area. It appeared that the local authorities were reluctant to make judgements until formal applications had been received, even though these developments (e.g. proposed housing on Cherwell DC land) had been 'on the radar' for some time. The general view of the SC was that this approach was short-sighted – the antithesis of planning.
- The SC needed to consider if it would put in a request to speak at the planning committee meeting when the date for it was announced.

5. Arrangements for the AGM

- For the sake of the survival of the SC, an amendment to the constitution was needed to ensure continuity of SC membership as most of the existing members were approaching the end of their tenures. To meet the time limitations of the existing constitution, KK offered to propose this immediately. **Action KK.**
- At the AGM more helpers, i.e. new SC members and project leaders needed to be recruited. If possible, approaches to potential helpers should be made before the meeting. **Action All.**
- JB agreed to organize printing of posters (including posting on the website and in a round-robin email), previous minutes and accounts (50 copies), signing-in sheets and copies of the Plan (2 copies of whole plan plus 10 copies of summary). **Action JB.**
- CH to approach WI for provision of refreshments. **Action CH.**

6. Mill Site: CALA Homes new applications

- Deadline for Forum's comments on current reserved matters application: 9/09/19. KK offered to look at ground contamination and pass on her comments to CH who would coordinate. MB looking at wildlife, pollution and biodiversity. JB looking at lighting and pollution. **Action CH, KK, MB, JB.**

7. Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Planning Alliance meeting

- Meeting (AGM & general meeting) scheduled for 7th Sept. MB and JB to attend and report back. **Action MB, JB**

8. Community Council

- It is considered by the SC that as Wolvercote does not have a parish council, there would be advantages in setting up a 'community council' for the whole of the neighbourhood area. Such a council could take over and run CALA's Community Building at the Mill Site. It could also administer the neighbourhood's share of CIL monies from local developments, which will be needed for projects born out of the Plan. It was therefore agreed that it was time to raise the issue of creating this community council and that the subject should be introduced at the AGM.
- If the idea is found to be acceptable in principle, a process could be initiated with the City Council. This would involve a 'governance review' by the Council, and from the experience of Headington Neighbourhood Forum could take a year to carry out.
- MB agreed to raise the issue at the next meeting of the Commoners.

9. Oxford Brookes student projects

- CH reported that he was in touch with Adam Symons about a project for this academic year. The project would involve mapping of green spaces in the neighbourhood and could make a useful contribution to future projects. The meeting agreed to this idea. **Action CH.**
- It was suggested that the Vicarage garden could be included in this survey.

10. AOB. Nil

11. **Date of next meeting:** Friday 20th September 2019 at 10 am. Venue to be decided.

Meeting closed at 1pm.
JB 16/09/19