



Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

Steering Committee Meeting

Friday 20th September 2019

10am. 141 Godstow Road

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

Apologies: David Stone, Mary Brown

1. Previous minutes.

The minutes were agreed

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

- PB apologized for not having been able to do any character assessments. CH confirmed that these would not now be included in the current Plan.
- LW suggested that a possible WNF project might follow the example of the Jericho Conservation Area (Council's website), using Article 4 directions (These serve to restrict permitted development rights, e.g. in a conservation area, and require a landowner to seek planning consent).
- PB reported that Summertown NF had organized a meeting with community groups about the use of CIL money. **Action PB:** to attend and report back.

3. Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA) meeting

- JB and MB attended on 7th September. This was both an AGM and a General Meeting.
- JB reported that ONPA had been set up (1) "to promote and raise the profile of neighbourhood and community planning in the County, to share best practice, monitor effectiveness and to play a role in improving the well-being of the area"¹, (2) to address the perceived "imbalance" in the local planning system where Oxfordshire's draft Joint Strategic Spatial Plan 2050 (JSSP) and the Oxfordshire Growth Board (OGB) had so far failed to take account of neighbourhood planning. "We consider that the lack of involvement of neighbourhood planning in Oxfordshire means JSSP cannot legitimately be part of the democratic planning process in the County"², (3) to organize workshops on issues that regularly confront plan making groups.
- MB reported by email on 13/9/19: " It was encouraging to see that there are so many other areas involved in the production of Plans, and I think the group should be able to give us support, particularly about the monitoring of how or if plans are

¹ ONPA – Position Statement included as Appendix 1 with minutes of Inaugural AGM, 7/9/19 – para 2

² ONPA – Position Statement included as Appendix 1 with minutes of Inaugural AGM, 7/9/19 – para 5

used by planners and developers in the future... My impression was that almost all of the Plans were written by Parish Councils, so their representatives were coming from a different angle from us... It was agreed that there will be an annual membership fee of £50, (£25 for Associate members like us, until our plan is ratified). It was also decided that John Howells MP who had offered to be Patron should take on that role, and that other supporters willing to be Patrons should be sought.”

- The SC agreed that WNF should enroll with ONPA as associate members.

4. Potential conflict of interest for councillor SC members

- PB had become concerned about possible conflicts of interest arising from membership of the Steering Committee and his future role as a councillor participating in the distribution of CIL funds. LW and SG could therefore also be implicated in this way. A conclusion was not reached and it was decided to leave things as they were until after the Plan had been adopted.

5. Preparation for the referendum

- Account passing on to residents what had happened in the dialogue with the Examiner and WNF'S entitlement to CIL money. **Outstanding action CH** – with Sadie Paige to compose text for inclusion on website.
- Communication on the SC'S behalf on W & W News via Facebook. **Ongoing action KK.**
- Postal voting: check whether this would be possible. **Outstanding action LW.**
- Sadie Paige offered to send action plan notes. **Outstanding action SP.**

6. Oxford North

- PB reported that funding for the proposed link road to the north of the A34 had been withdrawn.
- The 'hybrid' planning application was scheduled to be considered by the Area Planning Committee on 24th September. **RL-W**, on behalf of WNF, PB, and LW would be speaking. **JB** also planned to attend.
- It was reported that the developer TWO had come to an agreement (as yet unratified) with the Council to provide 35% of the housing as 'affordable' homes.
- SG left the meeting.

7. Arrangements for the next AGM

- A local resident, Simon Ryde, had put himself forward for election to the Steering Committee. He would not be able to attend the AGM, therefore he would be asked to name his proposers and to make a statement to be read out at the meeting. **Action CH.**
- If possible, approaches to potential helpers should be made before the meeting. **Action All.**
- JB to organize printing. **Action JB.**

- LW gave her apologies for not being able to attend the AGM, which was scheduled to take place at the same time as Council's Cabinet meeting, where the Plan was on the agenda.
- LW agreed to ask Chris Cameron (CIL officer for the Council) to attend and talk for five minutes about CIL. **Action LW.**
- LW suggested that we bring out the display used at this Summer's Fun-on-the-Green event and again ask those in attendance for their votes and ideas for ideas. **Action JB.**
- The AGM agenda and the Treasurer's report were discussed and agreed.
- LW suggested we would need a returning officer for the SC election. **Action CH.**
- The post of secretary, replacing Sadie Paige, needed to be filled. CH would approach potential candidate(s). **Action CH.**
- JB to ensure that all names of people who had expressed an interest in WNF activities since the last update of the mailing list were included on it, before sending out the round-robin mailing. **Action JB**
- Someone was needed to supervise the signing-in. **Action.**
- It was assumed that the Council would be including with its committee papers an edited version of the Plan incorporating the Examiner's revisions. CH to check to see if we could have a copy to include with the AGM papers. **Action CH.**

8. AOB

- PB reported that the County Council would be holding a consultation on traffic calming in Wolvercote, including the proposed zebra crossing at The White Hart. This was imminent.
- PB reported that a meeting of the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change would be held on the weekend of 19th and 20th October. See City Council website for details.
- PB reported that the new 'Connecting Oxford' had been launched by the County and City Councils had announced the introduction of employee parking place charges for large areas of the City. Congestion Charging was not currently part of this plan.
- PB reported that the canal towpath from Liz Jennings Way to Wolvercote was to be temporarily closed for 4 months for improvement works.

9. Date of next meetings:

- AGM: 7:30pm, 9th October 2019 at Wolvercote Village Hall.
- Next SC committee meeting: to be decided.

Meeting closed at 1pm.

JB 03/10/19