



## **Annual Report 2023**

For the Annual General Meeting on 7 November, 2023

This report summarises the activities of the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum since the previous AGM on 14 November, 2022.

### **1. WNF Officers and Steering Committee**

Following the 2022 AGM, the WNF's officers and Steering Committee (SC) members were: Chair - Christopher Hardman; Vice-Chair – John Bleach; Treasurer – Richard Lawrence-Wilson; other committee members – Mary Brown, Paul Buckley, Tony Dale, Suzy Donald, Katherine Kaye, Tamsin Smith, David Stone; co-opted member (minute taker) – Andrew Siantonas; councillors (non-voting associate members) – Cllr Steve Goddard, Cllr Jo Sandelson, Cllr Andrew Gant. In addition, we are most grateful to Steve Roberts for continuing to manage the website. Soon after the 2022 AGM, however, Christopher Hardman resigned because of ill-health and John Bleach, and then Paul Buckley, took over as Acting Chair. Christopher's departure was a big loss. He had been a major driving force behind the WNF since its early days. There remained a vacancy for WNF Secretary.

The Steering Committee (SC) met nine times during the last year, and hosted a WNF Open Meeting on 7 June 2023, at Cutteslowe Community Centre. About 40 local residents attended and heard the latest news on big local developments in the pipeline, such as Oxford North and the Water Eaton development. They asked questions and shared their views. We also had a stall at 'Fun on the Green' on 17 June. In addition we have engaged with other Neighbourhood Forums to learn from their experiences: SC members attended joint meetings with Summertown St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum and the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Forums Alliance (ONPA).

### **2. Representing the community in responding to local developments**

The Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in 2021, provides us with an agreed vision for our locality as it develops. In addition, the SC tries continually to keep aware of views of our residents on newly proposed developments, as they appear. Against this background, the SC has been monitoring carefully all new planning proposals emerging for our neighbourhood, and for nearby, but with the potential to impinge on our neighbourhood. Fortunately, since WNF is now accepted by Oxford City Council as a formal 'consultee' in planning matters, we are kept informed of all new proposals for our area, making this job easier than it was previously. Where the WNF SC has had concerns, we have exploited opportunities to express views to developers and local councils, to attempt to influence outcomes.

Thus during the past year so far we have examined 53 plans and applications for planning permission, and responded to public consultations 8 times with written comments and objections, and we had a speaker at 2 council meetings, to make the views of WNF known. We commented on a range of developments, varying from house extensions to the huge

Red Hall at Oxford North. The table below lists WNF’s responses to public consultations, submitted since the last AGM. The texts of the responses are available on the WNF website at [www.wolvercotenf.org.uk](http://www.wolvercotenf.org.uk).

Date submitted	Sent to	Location of subject of consultation	Consultation identifier (e.g. planning application number)
27/01/2023	Oxford City Council	Oxford North Red Hall	22/03042/RES
21/02/2023	Oxford City Council	99 Harefields	23/00095/FUL
22/03/2023	Oxford City Council	99 Harefields (revised)	23/00095/FUL
04/04/2023	Oxford City Council	21 Meadow Prospect	23/00416/OUT
09/06/2023	Cherwell District Council	Water Eaton (Plot PR6a)	23/01233/OUT
22/07/2023	Oxfordshire County Council	The Triangle	
31/07/2023	Oxford City Council	Oxford North Plot C	23/01412/RES
18/09/2023	Oxford City Council	Oxford North Plots A,B,C	23/00707/RES, 23/00708/RES, 23/01412/RES

### 3. CIL money for community projects

A pleasing job of the Steering Committee these days is supporting local groups in our community by allocating them money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) raised by Oxford City Council from developers in our area. Since our neighbourhood is currently in the midst of a sequence of significant building developments (The Mill Site, Oxford North and St Frideswide), there is a flow of CIL at present. In the past year we moved from having one to having two decision deadlines per year, and we supported a total of 15 projects, totalling approximately £60,000.

### 4. Proposal for a new Wolvercote community hub

The past year has seen the development of plans to create a new community hub for Wolvercote, based in the building that was previously the Cala Homes Mill Site sales office. This building is being handed to the Wolvercote community under the terms of an agreement between the developer, Cala Homes, and Oxford City Council, and that agreement explicitly requires Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum to be satisfied. Consequently, we have monitored developments closely. The SC is delighted that a good outcome has been achieved, assigning this asset to a new charitable organisation, that will provide new facilities benefitting the WNF area community for years to come.

More detail on all these topics will be provided by speakers at the Open Meeting and AGM on 7 November 2023, together with opportunity for questions and discussion.

Paul Buckley  
(Acting Chair, Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum)  
28 October, 2023