



## **WNF Steering Committee**

### **Minutes of a meeting on 17 April 2024 at 7.30pm**

In attendance: Mary Brown, Paul Buckley, Tony Dale, Suzy Donald, Katherine Kaye, Andrew Siantonas, David Stone, Cllr Steve Goddard

#### **1. Apologies**

John Bleach, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Cllr Jo Sandelson, Cllr Andrew Gant

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

PB as Governor of Wolvercote Primary School (item 5.1).

#### **3. Minutes of previous meeting on 20 March 2024**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

#### **4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Item 5: PB reported that Oxford City Council are planning a 6 week public consultation on the re-designation of WNF, with a deadline for responses of 3 June. It would then go to Council Cabinet for decision in June. It was agreed that, in the meantime, the WNF SC would continue taking part in public consultations and making recommendations to the City Council on requests for money from the neighbourhood portion of CIL.

#### **5. CIL**

##### **5.1 Spring Round 2024**

TD had circulated a list of the 15 applications received by 16 April. It was agreed that the application from Jordan Hill Wolvercote Community Store did not yet meet the requirement that CIL money provides 'community infrastructure', since it asked for a contribution to the rental charge on an existing building. It was agreed that all the applications should be advertised on the website, to allow for public comments.

##### **5.2 Updates from previous rounds**

No second quotation for the White Hart kitchen improvements had been received, so this application could not yet be progressed.

##### **5.3 Development of CIL Strategy**

There was discussion of possible steps toward development of a CIL strategy. It was agreed to explore: (1) having an online survey of local opinion on what should be priorities for CIL - SD suggested the recent survey for the Wolvercote Mill showed this could be done without being excessively difficult or time-consuming; (2) creating a list and map of current community infrastructure, to reveal the major gaps; (3) attempting to construct an approximate timeline for the likely CIL income, especially from Oxford

North. It was agreed the CIL Team would assemble ideas for including in the CIL strategy. It was also agreed TD would lead on writing a WNF piece for the next issue of Flying Goose, where CIL would be highlighted and notice given of the upcoming General Meeting (which would focus on CIL strategy).

#### 5.4 Other CIL business

It was noted that JB had agreed to enquire with the City Council whether WNF could access CIL funds to meet its costs of administering the WNF CIL scheme. Also it was noted that RL-W had offered to prepare an estimate of how much funding would be required to fully cover these costs.

### 6. Local public consultations

#### 6.1 OUFC Stadium Planning Application

It was agreed to submit a response to Cherwell District Council's consultation on the OUFC planning application to build a large football stadium at the Triangle, to meet the deadline of 22 April. The WNF SC response would object to planning permission being granted, because of concerns about: (1) traffic congestion it would cause locally, road closures proposed, and lack of parking provision (as previously expressed); (2) inability of Thames Water facilities to cope with such large increases in (a) local sewage load and (b) water run-off from impermeable surfaces created, without increasing local harm from river contamination and flood risk. PB and KK would prepare a draft for circulation to the committee.

#### 6.2 Other public consultations that appeared since last meeting

*Planning Application 24/00663/VAR* (Oxford North, Building B): It was agreed MB would draft an objection from WNF, on the grounds that the new proposed building height exceeded heights previously permitted.

*Planning Application 24/00767/FUL* (52 Ulfgar Rd): The need for an objection was considered marginal: it was agreed to send an objection from WNF only if an immediate neighbour objected.

*Other public consultations:* The proposals of 'no comment' on all the other consultations were agreed.

### 7. County Council meeting on 15 April on plans for Woodstock Road

AS and PB reported on a stakeholder meeting they had attended, hosted by Oxfordshire County Council, to discuss the project: Woodstock Road Sustainable Travel Improvements. It was the fourth (and last) such meeting to be held. WNF had not been invited to the previous meetings. Other attendees were representatives of Summertown St Margaret's NF, Cyclox, Oxford Pedestrian Association, bus companies, and several OCC highways officers. Proposals were being drawn up including: reversing the bus lane at the north end of Woodstock Road where it approaches the Wolvercote roundabout and removing the southbound bus stop at that location; extension southwards to St Margaret's Rd of the shared cycle/pedestrian path on the west side of Woodstock Rd; improvements to the junction with St Margaret's Road to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians; similar improvements at Observatory Street and St Bernard's Road junctions with Woodstock Road.

Also being considered were: improvements to the cycle/pedestrian surface along Woodstock Road; a dropped-curb enabling access to the cycle/pedestrian path opposite South Parade. A public consultation would take place in May. Unfortunately, no consideration was being given to re-modelling of the junction with Bladon Close, to remove those residents' problem of flooding, or to provision of a pedestrian crossing at Osberton Rd (both had been previously requested by PB).

#### **8. Wolvercote and Wytham Summer Festival**

It was agreed that WNF should have a presence at the 2024 Festival. A stall had been requested at WVH on Saturday 22 June.

#### **9. WNF General Meeting in July**

It was agreed to hold a WNF public General Meeting on Wednesday 10 July at Cutteslowe Community Centre. Access would be available from about 7.15pm. The start time would be 7.45pm. The focus would be primarily on CIL and the development of a CIL Strategy for WNF. Other possible topics would be the developing plans for Cutteslowe Park greenhouse and Cutteslowe Park pavilion.

#### **10. Review of the Neighbourhood Plan: Green Spaces and Biodiversity**

There was sufficient time for only a brief discussion. It was agreed the Plan should specify the need for (1) children's play areas nearby to all new housing developments, and (2) wildlife corridors. It was noted that the copies of the current Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan publicly available on the Oxford City Council website and on the WNF website were both labelled 'Draft' versions. It was agreed these need to be replaced by 'Final' versions, and attempts would be made to find the final version or, if that fails, an editable version that could be re-labelled accordingly.

#### **11. WNF SC Operational matters**

##### **11.1 People**

It was agreed there is an urgent need to recruit more WNF members to help on the Steering Committee. The demands on the committee will continue to grow, especially as the number and size of CIL-funded projects will grow over the next few years. Committee members were encouraged to continue to seek potential co-optees.

##### **11.2 Money**

It was agreed to first seek CIL money to meet administrative costs – see item 5.4. If that fails, following SG's suggestion, a case would be made for a share of councillor's ward budget.

##### **11.3 Communication with members**

It was agreed that keeping communications with WNF members up to date and accurate is a priority of the committee. KK agreed to take responsibility for the Facebook account. In addition, as agreed previously, responsibility lay with PB (non-

CIL matters on the website, via Steve Roberts) and JB (CIL matters on the website, via Steve Roberts).

11.4 Dates of future meetings

It was agreed to meet: Tuesday 14 May (CIL decisions); Wednesday 5 June (if necessary); Tuesday 10 July (General Meeting).

**12. Any other business**

It was noted that the Draft of Oxford City Council's Local Plan 2040 had now been submitted and would next be considered by Planning Inspectors. The submitted draft was available on the City Council website. PB noted that he had not yet found any aspect of the Plan where changes suggested by WNF had been incorporated.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

AS/PB