



Watlington Parish Council

Watlington
Neighbourhood
Development Plan



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD HELD ON
MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2019 AT THE WEST ROOM AT 8.00pm.**

Present:, Gill Bindoff (GB) Tony Powell (TP), Terry Jackson (TJ), Keith Jackson (KJ) Peter Richardson (PR), Tim Horton (TH)

Officer: Rachel Gill

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

Andrew McAuley and Matt Reid were attending another meeting and joined this meeting at 8:50pm

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 2019.

Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Review of Conservation Area –RG has been asked to look at grant availability to help fund this – if it is a review of the made NP then we can apply for funding from Locality again. GB has asked Ricardo Rios about the review of the WNDP, the examiner requested this after 2 years but as the Local Plan nor Edge Road are confirmed we would like to check that this is still suitable. Nevertheless work will begin on planning an update as we need to make sure that there are no misunderstandings. The best review would be to tighten up on supporting documents where there have been issues.

5. Workshop with WPC on 25th January / review of the WNDP

TH/TJ/KJ/PR can attend. TP unable to attend.

There will be some discussion on the strength of the plan. A draft of the strategic plan will be circulated.

TH asked when an updated plan was required – this will be August this year (2 years after the plan was made). Legislation requires a review at 5 years or sooner if there is a new Local Plan. Annual Monitoring is also required.

6. Update on Appeals : Expert Advice from Dr Christine McHugh / 3rd Application Submitted

The second appeal was withdrawn. It is unsure why this happened. SODC reviewed the application on the 27th November and agreed that they would have supported the approval if there was no appeal. It is possible the appellant decided at this point to submit the 3rd application and pull out of the second appeal. Our Air Quality report may also have influenced this decision.

We are still waiting for the result of the first appeal and our request for all the Edge Road sites to be called in.

GB and AM have asked for a meeting with Paula Fox to discuss the Air Quality Proof of Evidence from Dr McHugh before Emma Bowerman writes her report.

TH suggested writing to SODC to get assurances that Emma Bowerman will not write her report until our Air Quality report has been considered and there has been a result from the 1st inquiry.

Resolved : To send Emma Bowerman the evidence for our objections – full Proofs of Evidence ahead of the next SODC planning meeting.

Resolved : To seek clarification on the SODC procedures for withdrawing their air quality objections to the application.

The Board noted paragraph 4.6 of the SODC Statement of Case. This states that the decision to review and amend the council's position on the appeal was taken in accordance with the council's constitution and under the appropriate delegated authority of the Development Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

The relevant section of the SODC constitution is 2.1(b) which gives delegated powers to the Head of Planning to deal with all matters relating to planning appeals subject to the following:

(b) any amendments to the grounds on which the council will defend an appeal against a decision made by the planning committee. This has to be in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee.

It was agreed that NPAB will ask the WPC Strategy Committee to consider whether the SODC decision to withdraw its objections to the appeal on air quality grounds under the above delegated powers was reasonable. NPAB will prepare a report for the Strategy Committee meeting on 28th January.

Use of Employment Area and Open Area within Site A

TH raised this point. The application does not say what type of activity is planned for the employment area and that the community might want to refine it further. He was sceptical as to whether more of the same i.e. small offices /workshops was required in Watlington. He suggested that tourism might be another employment area to consider, possibly a hotel with pool/spa and some social provision for sites A,B and C.

GB and TP said that the use had been left open deliberately so that options could be considered. It would depend who was interested in developing it.

There was further discussion on whether the site would be large enough and what type of hotel could be required. Other suggestions were a small gym or social facility.

TH suggested that the open area might be used too. TJ felt that this should remain as an open /wild area.

Resolved : TH to write a paper on this.

7. Meeting with OCC in December

The minutes of this meeting have been sent to OCC for approval. TH asked whether we could approach the Growth Board regarding the slow progress on the delivery of the Edge Road.

Resolved : RG to check with KT whether there has been a response and if not then chase up giving a deadline, after which we will publish the minutes. RG to also chase the appointment of a consultant on their traffic modelling work.

8. SODC Report on Air Quality

Anna Badcock had asked to raise the issue of air quality at the Scrutiny Committee this week. The SODC 2020 Air Quality update is unsatisfactory and WPC will address the committee tomorrow. A letter has been sent to the Scrutiny Committee Members from WPC. GB will represent the Parish

Council at this meeting and give the message as per the letter. GB circulated this document and asked for comments by lunchtime tomorrow.

9. Progress on Fibre to the Premises scheme

PR gave an update on this. The deadline for the survey is Friday 24th January. So far there have been about 100 replies, this is a poor response of about 10%. Ideally around 20% will be needed. There will be a meeting on the 30th January 7pm-9pm at the Town Hall for interested parties. Open reach, Airband and Oxfordshire Better Broadband will attend. Airband have a contract for Oxfordshire and are keen to be involved.

10. Progress on Walking and Cycling Strategy

There has been no progress on this as the NPAB have been dealing with appeals preparation. This will be covered in the workshop on Saturday.

11. Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance – meeting with SODC

The ONPA met with Ricardo Rios (SODC) today to explain what ONPA hope to achieve. There are now 29 members of this group. There are plenty of issues where NPs needs tightening up to avoid issues. PR also gave an update on the Reading University NP Questionnaire. There is opportunity to liaise with them – ONPA is the only organisation of it's type currently and Reading University are keen to learn from them.

12. AOB

Pyrton Meeting AM and MR gave an update on the meeting they had just left. They had a constructive meeting with Pyrton PC and have agreed to move forward together with looking at getting accurate traffic figures for the local area (not just for the middle of Watlington).

Facebook Comments on the Edge Road TJ asked for feedback on her email response for the PC to load to facebook.

Resolved : to wait until after the scrutiny committee meeting, update if required and post on facebook.

THERE BEING NO OTHER INFORMATION THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10 PM