



Minutes of the meeting of the NP Advisory Board held at the West Room on Monday 21st January at 8p.m.

Present: Gill Bindoff (GB), Matt Reid (MR), Tony Powell (TP), Terry Jackson (TJ), Keith Jackson (KJ), Peter Richardson (PR), Andrew McAuley (AM).

Officer: Rachel Gill

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting of 19th November 2018

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

4. Matters Arising

(i) Publication version of the WNDP

The final version is still not available, despite GB chasing up and the plan being adopted in August. There was some discussion on how to progress this given that major planning applications will be coming up soon.

Resolved: MR to draft a letter to SODC

(ii) WPC website

RG gave an update on the new website. As WPC were not given permission to use PayPal, we have now got a bank card for online payments. Payment has been made to Weebly, but the website domain still needs to be transferred over. RG said that this should be in the next few days and she would inform PR so he can put a comment on the old NP website directing people to the new website. When the new arrangements are in place, the item referring to the website in the Terms of Reference for the NP Advisory Board can be finalised.

(iii) Meeting with OCC on provision for early years education and expansion of the primary and secondary schools in Watlington

A meeting had been arranged with Barbara Chillman on 31st Jan at 11:30 at County Hall. GB and TJ will attend.

(iv) Meeting with local Patients' Participation Group

No update on this.

(v) Meeting with Ruth Cross – Sports and Leisure

Evidence papers relating to provision for sports, recreation and leisure have been published alongside the revised SO Local Plan. The district has been divided into regions roughly around the strategic development sites. Watlington is in the north sub district which includes Thame. The main areas mentioned are expansion for cricket and football. We do need to keep in mind hanging onto facilities if the school moves. There is no SODC money available, but they will assist in finding funding. Some may come from CIL. TP expressed concern that other popular sports such as hockey, netball and basketball were not included. It was felt this is because the facilities they need are more specialised – i.e. astroturf and indoor sports halls. RG asked about gym provision, GB said this was linked to swimming pools/fitness class facilities at strategic sites. Discussions will be needed with OCC about the retention of indoor sports and fitness facilities at Icknield College if the College moves to Chalgrove as part of the development at Chalgrove airfield.

(vi) Pyrton NDP: Examination Report

There was an informal meeting with Ricardo Rios to discuss the implications of the Pyrton NP Examination Report. The meeting was held on 10th January and attended by PR, GB, TJ and AM. The aim of the meeting was to clarify the relationship between Watlington and Pyrton NPs. This is still not clear and may come down to interpretation of policy and timing of the Local Plan.

5. Update on the Edge Road

A meeting was held with OCC on 11th January. This was very positive – OCC are pushing to get the road deal organised as soon as possible. The group visited locations around the town and got updates from OCC. OCC estimated work to start 12-20 months from now.

Notes have been written up and will be circulated once OCC have checked them for accuracy.

6. Update on Planning Applications

PYR1. PR gave an update on PYR1. As noted in the WPC Planning Committee meeting 08.01.19, Beechcroft are under pressure from the landowner to either gain planning permission ASAP or go to appeal on the grounds of non-determination. The stumbling block has been affordable housing, specifically the size of contribution required to counteract having no affordable housing on the site. It is believed that a sum has now been agreed with SODC. Beechcroft hopes that the planning application will be considered by the SODC Planning Committee on 20th February.

PYR2. Outline plan.

Site A. Full application in place. PR reported that Archstone believe they could have to wait until May for SODC to look at the application in detail because of the elections and purdah. TP was unsure about this.

Resolved: GB to investigate this and report back.

Sites B&C. Awaiting masterplans for outline permission- expected very soon. An exhibition was held at the Town Hall on 10th January and Providence Land reported that this went well.

SODC are looking at the scheme as a whole and will not give permission until the road is sorted out and contributions from developers confirmed.

A meeting has been scheduled with Emma Bowerman on 4th February at 2:30pm for an update on all the planning applications along the route of the edge road. 6 members of the NP Advisory Board will attend. The meeting will follow meetings between EB, Pyrton PC and other neighbouring communities at the end of January.

TP gave an update on a meeting with Holly Jones (SODC).

Notes of the meeting had been circulated. The meeting had been attended by GB, AM, TP and PR. The key purpose of the meeting was to discuss the relationship between the Development Plan and the WNDP. The Pyrton NP and its impact on OCC/SODC and Growth Board was discussed. Practice for applications was discussed, as was the weight given to NPs. HJ stated that it was not her departments role to give direction.

Given that there are now 10 made plans and 20-22 in development it was suggested that a Forum be set up.

NPAB also asked about new density levels given in the Local Plan. Previously they were 25/ha – the new figures are 45/ha, and this is a minimum not a target.

PR added that he had met with John Howell to discuss NPs and that John Howell felt that local planning authorities were finding it difficult to deal with NPs and were apprehensive. PR had also raised the issue of SODC Settlement Hierarchies and how inconsistent assessment was.

7. Review of Traffic Improvement Measures

OCC had advised that as the Edge Road was looking more certain it could be assumed to be in place for the purposes of reviewing traffic improvement measures. The previous list was:

- Safety on Britwell Road and Cuxham Road (possible one-way triangle is being looked at by WPC)
- Pedestrian safety by Windmill Piece and Hurdlers Green
- 20mph limit for all residential streets
- A trial of traffic calming schemes
- Improved signage at the High Street
- ANPR cameras

AM asked on what basis was a 20 mph being put through? He could see the benefits for safety but not for air quality. There was some discussion on this matter.

Resolved: GB to draft a revised list of schemes based on the notes of the Traffic Group already approved and the notes of the meeting with OCC. It was agreed at the OCC meeting that WPC will provide an updated list of schemes.

8. South Oxfordshire Local Plan Consultation

The deadline for responding is the 18th February. NPAB will draft a response to go to the Planning Committee and then Full Council.

The main areas of concern are:

- Introduction of new building densities
- Conflict between NP and LP on smaller settlements and settlement hierarchy / settlement sustainability.

GB added that the more individual comments on a policy the stronger objections were. MR added that there was a write up on this in the WPC section of the Watlington Times.

9. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

RG gave an update on the CIL spreadsheet.

There are 2 actions still to be completed from the last meeting:

RG to organise a meeting with SODC to discuss CIL and how to claim it

TP to gather the information for Chinnor/Benson/Wallingford on what projects have been undertaken and how they have been funded.

10. Getting advice on what renewables would be suitable and how to approach the developers about renewables from The Low Carbon Hub following the workshop held by South and Vale – TJ gave an update and suggested that we use the Low Carbon Hub for advice on what renewable projects might work in Watlington. TP added that CSE Bristol would also be worth talking to as they do similar work.

Resolved: TJ to contact both to see what we can talk to developers about as possible projects.

11. Other Business

- NPAB were asked by WPC to respond to a consultation but the deadline had already passed.
- Training for Planning Committee to be added to agenda for the next meeting.
- PR asked the group for advice on what to do about the gigabit voucher scheme. This is a government scheme where vouchers can be used towards better broadband (fibre optic). Businesses can get £2500 and individuals £500. There was some discussion on this. It was agreed that PR organise for BT to present to interested parties.

12 Date of the Next Meeting – Monday 18th February 2019

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10:05pm.