

**NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SONNING ON
MONDAY 29 MARCH 2021 at 6.45 pm.**

PRESENT: Jeremy Gilmore (Chairman NPSG), Nigel Borshell, Mike Hart (Society), Bob Hine (Society), Bob Hulley (Society), Trefor Fisher (SPC), Peter Morrison (SPC), Tim Pascall, Lesley Bates (Minutes).

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Tony Farnese (SPC). The Chairman said that regrettably Andy Halliday (SPC) had stepped down, but happily, Rebecca Bullard would re-join the group in a few weeks' time.

MINUTES OF 8 MARCH 2021. The Minutes, having been previously circulated were taken as read and agreed.

QUESTIONNAIRE. The Chairman said the questionnaire was almost there, having circulated it, he had made some changes as suggested and Mr Driver had now made some suggestions. Mr Fisher asked what should be included in the planning section, now that the site in Old Bath Road had outline planning permission for three, three storey blocks of flats and the Golf Club had full planning permission. The Chairman thought that all previously proposed sites should be included, and Mr Fisher asked if the planning permission should be mentioned. It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Fisher would discuss this at a later date. Mr Fisher thought it would be important to know what residents thought. Mr Hart said that the initial meeting with representatives from Oxfordshire, who had completed Neighbourhood Plans, had said that it had been beneficial because parishes had been able to get closer to their local authorities. Mr Hart said this had not happened in Sonning. The Chairman thought that it was important to understand residents views first and the time to have closer contact with WBC was after the results of the questionnaire were known. Mr Hine said that he had been tasked with contacting James McCabe (WBC) but he was currently on holiday. Mr Hart said that whatever residents wanted, WBC would decide how they used it. Mr Hart continued and said that as a group everyone had been thinking about the situation for some time. It would be important to understand how best to obtain good quality replies from residents who were unlikely to have given as much thought to the matter. The Chairman said that other questionnaires could be undertaken later but initially it was to obtain a general view. A more detailed view could be obtained based on the results. Mr Morrison said that he was with the Chairman on this and closer contact with WBC could be sought at a later stage. Mr Fisher said it was a big undertaking and interpreting the replies to the questionnaire was key. Mr Hart also said that he had found it difficult to find Readingensians on the WBC site showing the sites in Sonning. The Chairman said that Mr Driver's comments were mostly to do with green spaces, between Sonning and Charvil, Reading and Woodley. Mr Driver was now of the view that no limit should be set for the size of the gap. It was agreed to remove section 3.2 as section 1 said it all. Mr Hulley asked if it was worth considering what adjoining parishes were planning to do and the Chairman said Sonning's priority would be to protect itself.

QUESTIONNAIRE. Unique Identification..

The Chairman suggested that identification could be organised by having two stick-on labels one to go on the questionnaire as it was handed to the resident and the other put into the record

against the house name/number. Online replies would have their own unique identifier linked with their email. If there was a hard copy and an email reply for the same address they could be linked. Mr Hulley thought that the address would need to go on the email. The Chairman said that the first question asked that the nearest road was identified. Mr Hart asked if businesses were being consulted at this time, but the Chairman thought not at this stage, there would be an opportunity to consult them later. Mr Fisher said that some residents in Sunrise would be able to answer the questionnaire. Mr Hine suggested that the management could be asked to indicate how many residents were capable of doing this.

DISTRIBUTION AND DELIVERY ROUNDS.

The Chairman had a list of those willing to deliver but there were still some gaps, he would chase the wider group up. Mr Fisher said that Mrs Farnese had offered to assist. The Chairman said that he would circulate a copy of the delivery rounds. The question of pre-paid envelopes was discussed, and it was agreed that this would encourage returns. Mr Hart said that some collections could also be undertaken. Mr Hart was prepared to deliver and to chase after two weeks. Mr Fisher agreed. Mr Hine said it would be necessary to have a list of address to know who to chase. Mr Borshell thought a mixture of collection and postage would work well, and the envelopes could be collected at the same time if necessary. Knowing the potential number of replies from any one area should indicate if any misuse of the system had occurred.

GRANT APPLICATION. It was agreed that the Chairman would meet up with Mr Pascall to discuss this. The Chairman could supply envelopes at cost if this were acceptable. Mr Pascall said that he had a form to complete, and return having signed it to confirm invoices had been paid. Mr Hart asked about the delivery date. Following discussion, it was agreed that the letter for those delivering should be delivered to resident's week commencing 12 April and the questionnaire delivered the following week. Completed questionnaire should be returned by 10 May. The question of using an envelope identifying it as Neighbourhood Plan so that residents would be encouraged to read the letter was discussed. This would be costly and time consuming so it was agreed to print Neighbourhood Plan on the reverse side of the letter to identify it. Mr Fisher said that a good grade of paper would need to be used as many Sonning letterboxes were resistant to flimsy postage.

Mr Hine said that he had spoken to Mr van Went who was unaware of the RBCS planning application to increase the number of pupils registered at the school from 825 to 1100. Mr Hart said that he and Mr Fisher, together with Mr Hamblin, were to meet the RBCS Head to discuss the application the following day. Mr Morrison said that SPC had agreed to object to the proposal on highway grounds. Mr Hulley said that a lot of the traffic in Sonning Lane was to do with RBCS.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 April at 6.45 pm via Zoom.