

**NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING HELD AT
VARIOUS LOCATIONS VIA ZOOM, SONNING ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2021
AT 7.00 pm.**

PRESENT: Jeremy Gilmore (Chairman NPSG), Nigel Borshell, Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC), Trefor Fisher (SPC), Mike Hart (Society), Bob Hine (Society), Bob Hulley (Society), Tim Pascall, Mark Saunders (Sound only). Lesley Bates (Minutes).

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Tony Farnese (SPC).

MINUTES OF 2 AUGUST 2021. The Minutes, having been previously circulated were taken as read and agreed.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

The Chairman had circulated an initial Data Analysis, v 1.4, on the completed returns and provided an useful outline of the assumptions he had made in order to provide it,

- a) Initial data Analysis. The Chairman said that the analysis was taking a lot longer than expected and he hoped the final result would be available by Christmas. Mr Fisher offered to assist and said that he was familiar with Excel, the Chairman said he would be in touch. Some of the difficulties encountered were:
 - Some families sent in one PDF and asked that it counted as multiples, an X had been put in the box to indicate this.
 - Front pages of paper forms had been removed making it impossible to identify as genuine. Assumption had been that only residents would have received a form.
 - Many respondents ticked more than the required number of boxes making it impossible to understand which had priority. All ticked boxes had therefore been counted.
- b) Data and Diagrams. The Chairman had explained how he had used responses, which differed to those asked for, such as not selecting one of the Likert agree/neutral/disagree questions, their response had therefore been valued as “Neutral” in the chart.

The Chairman said that to get an overall impression of the data he was recommending the use of the modal value i.e. the most common score. This was the figure at the bottom of the data table. The stats expert did say that although it would be correct to use a -2 to +2 weighting on Q 2.3 it made no real difference. A few Word clouds had been included to gather everyone’s views on how useful they were.

It was agreed that the Word clouds would probably be most useful when it came to the final document. Regarding the bar charts it was agreed that they told the story and that the weighting was successful. The Chairman was unsure if the numbers would be helpful in drafting policies and asked for suggestions on the next steps. Mr Borshell was happy to reassemble his original group to draw up some draft policies using the data as a pointer to resident’s views. Once the intent could be captured, policies could be put together providing something to work from. Mr Fisher agreed and said that the draft Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan had just been published and it would be possible to check how their policies had been worded to reflect their residents wishes. Mr Hart was prepared to gather his group together (Mr Hully and Mr

Saunders) with the intension of drafting a CA policy. Mr Borshell said it might be that, initially, there were more policies than were necessary, but this could be reassessed and changed to reflect what the replies were saying. It was important to be able to justify the inclusion of any policy and suggested looking at the data to get a vision. It was agreed that each of the original groups would work on this basis and circulate the results for everyone to comment.

LPU AND RELEVANT POINTS RAISED AT MEETING WITH Cllr JOHN HALSALL

Mr Hart said that Cllr Firmager, Mr Fisher, and he had met Cllr Halsall, the Leader of WBC, who had agreed to address questions raised by SPC and suggested that Cllr Firmager or Mr Fisher should report on the meeting. Mr Fisher said that Cllr Halsall had agreed to discuss the problems that SPC were experiencing with highways, including frustration over the lack of progress on projects and recent planning decisions. Cllr Halsall had sympathised and had referred to the 'elephant' in the room' several times, it had been unclear what he had meant but it was probable that he was referring to the introduction of site 12 in Sonning in the latest LPU. Site 12 included the whole area of land from Gunners Lane to the A4 including the RC&FC and possibly Sonning School (Mr Hully had since shown details, which included Sonning C of E School). It was agreed that WBC should be told that this proposal was unacceptable, and this should be done via Cllr Firmager. Cllr Firmager was happy to be the conduit with WBC and said that he was concerned about the potential traffic hazards these proposals would have on the area. Mr Borshell said these new proposals made it difficult as they hadn't been included in the Questionnaire. Residents had responded with the initial sites in mind, what was on offer had now changed. Mr Fisher agreed that these proposals could have influenced residents replies. Mr Fisher also suggested that Cllr Firmager might be able to establish the status of these new proposals and if the NP Group could get involved. There was some discussion about preparing a supplementary Questionnaire, just for the new sites. Mr Hine agreed to contact James McCabe to see if he could establish the position. Mr Saunders had a contact at Berkshire Sports and would find out if they had any more information.

MEETING WITH OTHER NP STEERING GROUPS.

Mr Hart had attended the Sonning Eye Open Day, where information was displayed on boards around the room, the information was available on their website. The Chairman said that meeting with other groups had probably gone as far as it could at the present time. Mr Fisher suggested that money could be made available from the budget to pay for a consultant to look at these latest proposals and the proposed care home at Sonning Golf Club, which was a major application. Cllr Firmager said that he could list the application when it was submitted.

It was agreed that the various groups would submit their vision to the Chairman before the next meeting

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held using Microsoft Teams on Monday 29 November at 6.45 pm.