

MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD IN THE PAVILION ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Tony Farnese, Trefor Fisher, Joanna Harvey (all SPC) Lesley Bates (Minutes), Mike Hart, Bob Hine, Jeremy Gilmore, Ian Runnalls.

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

INTRODUCTION. Mr Gilmore had been on a Neighbourhood Plan Training Session, which had been very informative and had found it very beneficial. (Details to be circulated by JG). Mr Gilmore said he had found it interesting speaking to other delegates and had discovered that different examiners (of the neighbourhood Plan) had different views. One parish had delayed submitting their plan due to this.

CHAIRMAN. Mr Gilmore was asked, and agreed, to take on the responsibility of Chairman.

STEERING GROUP SET UP. It was agreed that those in attendance would form the basis for the Steering Group, but this would not be definitive and there could be additional/changes to membership from time to time. Mr Farnese suggested that, initially, the meetings would be at approximately monthly intervals. It was agreed that the first would take place on Wednesday 1 April and the second on Monday 11 May both starting at 6.00pm in the Pavilion. The group would be responsible for overseeing all evidence collected during the process and bringing the different factors together. A timeline was discussed, and 18 months agreed on. Mr Hart said that during the Conservation Area Appraisal process volunteers, were divided into groups of Character Areas and a Tool Kit had given direction to this. The Chairman said that several Neighbourhood Plan Tool Kits were available and agreed to check out the one most suited to Sonning's needs. This would form the basis for the process.

PROCESS. The Chairman said that of the 120 in attendance at the open meeting on 18 February 70 had signed up to say they would like to be kept up to date with the process and 16 actively wanted to be involved in the process. The Chairman undertook to send a follow up email to all those on the list to ensure that the enthusiasm that had already been generated was maintained. An article was to be included in the forthcoming edition of the Society Magazine, Bridge, and the Parish Council would be publishing a Newsletter, which was delivered to every household, in the coming weeks. Mr Hine would provisionally book a space at the Sonning Show, which would be an ideal opportunity to publicise the Neighbourhood Plan and possibly to include a workshop. Whatsapp was also mentioned but for the Steering Group only. Mr Hine mentioned the meeting with representatives from Oxfordshire who had successfully completed their own Neighbourhood Plans. The Chairman confirmed that they had provided him with the examples as promised, which would be very helpful in gathering resident's views. Mr Hart said that the Oxfordshire representatives had all agreed that they had increased their knowledge of Planning through working on their Neighbourhood Plans. It was agreed that Mr O'Callaghan had a lot of experience of Planning and Mr Hine agreed to ask if he would join the Steering Group. The Chairman said that the Neighbourhood Plan was not just about Planning. There followed a brief discussion about infrastructure, and it was agreed that building on the green sites surrounding Sonning and traffic were major concerns in the community.

ROUND UP. The Chairman agreed to provide WBC Officers with an update, including the link to the new website and to liaise with Sonning Eye. Mr Fisher said that a friend in Cambridge had been involved in his Neighbourhood Plan and unfortunately the enthusiasm

had declined after the first year, so it was important to keep everyone involved. It was suggested that it was worth looking at the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan as an example of a village of similar size to Sonning.

Lesley Bates was asked, and agreed, to be the group co-ordinator and minute taker

The meeting finished at 7.00pm.

Next meeting Monday 1 April followed by Monday 11 May both at 6.00pm in the Pavilion.