

**NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SONNING ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021 at
6.45 pm.**

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Tony Farnese (SPC), Trefor Fisher (SPC) and Andy Halliday (SPC). The Chairman said that regrettably Rebecca Bullard and Joanna Harvey had stood down due to current pressures and said that thanks were due for their contribution.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING. The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. The Minutes, having been previously circulated were taken as read and agreed.

QUESTIONNAIRE VERSION 1.5 (including 2 letters) Any final amendments. A revised draft questionnaire had been circulated and the Chairman said that any minor spelling/word changes could be emailed to him, only major changes would be discussed during the meeting.

2.1 to 2.10.

2.1 OK

2.2 to 2.10

Mr Hart asked if there were any other ‘brownfield’ sites in Sonning as well as Bull Close. Mr Hine agreed to ask WBC. Mr Pascall asked if there was any land at Thames Valley Park. Mr Hart explained that only part of TV Park was in the parish of Sonning, and that was already occupied by one Microsoft building and the site previously occupied by BG. Mr Hully agreed to add any sites that WBC identified as ‘brownfield’, to the map as well as Bull Court. Mr Saunders said that he had spoken to a lot of people who didn’t ‘know’ about Bull Court. Mrs Bates agreed to check if Charvil had a Neighbourhood Plan (Note: WBC had designated Charvil as a Neighbourhood Area in September 2020 and they were in the initial stages of producing a questionnaire).

3.1 to 3.11.

3.1 Habitat to be changed to habitats.

3.2 to 3.3 OK.

3.4 Map. King George’s Field – football to be added to cricket. Mr Hully would extend the map to show the left-hand corner and would identify Thames Valley Park as wetland (blue).

4.1 to 4.7 No changes

5.1 to 5.5

5.1 Add Sonning Club to local facilities.

6.1 to 6.2

Mr Hart said that the Conservation Area preamble should mention the Conservation Area Appraisal. Mr Borshell said it would be helpful if a link to the Assessment was included.

7.1 to 7.13

7.1 Mr Borshell said that internet access was of concern amongst residents. Mr Hulley said that Sonning Meadows was fortunate to have fibre already. However, it was agreed not to make any changes.

7.3. Mr Saunders said that all new build dwellings had to have electric car charging points.

7.13 Mr Hart said that Reading Borough Council were not saying that the new bridge should be for public transport only, although Oxfordshire CC, who were against the bridge, might look favourably on this. Mr Hart said that only question needed was 'would residents support a third bridge'. Mr Hine said that most people wanted a mixed-use bridge. It was agreed to remove the second question.

8.1 There were no changes.

AMENDMENTS TO LETTERS (Docs at start/end of the Questionnaire). There were no amendments to the letters.

Mr Hully had concerns that it was possible to complete a hard copy and an online copy and return with different responses. The Chairman said that he would be able to check. There followed discussion as to whether or not the respondents should be identified and should 'confidential' be mentioned. Mr Hart was uncertain about identifying anyone. The Chairman said that if there was any abuse a decision would need to be made about including it but would check how others had dealt with this..

GRANT APPLICATION. Mr Pascall said that there had been no reply and explained the process. As the deadline for spending from the 2021 grant was 31 March 2021 any application for spending had to be in by 29 January. Any expenditure prior to the grant approval would not be considered. However, the printing would need to be carried out before the next round of grant applications. Rather than miss out on the printing costs the application had been submitted.

DISTRIBUTION, DISCUSSION WITH RESIDENTS AND COLLECTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES. Mr Hulley said that he was unsure if he could knock on doors as he was in the 'vulnerable' category. The Chairman said that there were other formats for obtaining the completed forms rather than meeting face to face. Mr Hart said that volunteers only needed to deliver or Nigel the postman might be prepared to deliver. Mr Borshell said that it was important to be prepared to go once the 'all clear' was given. The Chairman said that once the grant was agreed the questionnaires could be printed. If volunteers were agreeable the questionnaires might be delivered back to their home address. Mr Saunders said that he had offered to deliver as had Mr Hart. My Hulley had agreed to deliver in Sonning Meadows. Mr Morrison was happy to deliver in Thames Street, but felt collection might be difficult .and Mr Fisher would deliver in West Drive. The Chairman said that he was planning to print off 700 copied of the questionnaire and Mr Hart asked how the answers would be extracted. The Chairman said there were volunteers who would enter the dater in an Adobe programme that would do the rest. However, he agreed to look at this closely. Mr Hully mentioned that scans did not always appear as they were put in and asked if there was any 'feel' for the number of

responses needed for the survey to be meaningful. The Chairman said that it might be better to employ one person to enter the data.

CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES, GROUPS & SOCIETIES. It was agreed that these should be consulted, to understand what they were looking for. M Hully asked about the residents of Sunrise Homes and the Chairman agreed to find out how other parishes addressed such organisations.

Mr Borshell said that the 2021 Census would take place on 22 March.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for their input.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Monday 8 March at 6.45 pm via Zoom.