

NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING HELD IN THE PEARSON HALL, SONNING ON MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2021 AT 6.45 pm.

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

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Tony Farnese (SPC), Rebecca Bullard. Mark Saunders.

MINUTES OF 5 JULY 2021. The Minutes, having been previously circulated were taken as read and agreed.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

- a) 371 responses imported into spreadsheet. The Chairman said that he had read all the inputs and had an overall idea of the answers. Residents clearly did not like the traffic and were against development. Top things they liked about Sonning were the shop and views. However, it was clear that prices meant that older people could afford to live in Sonning. Mr Borshell said that properties were either small 2-bedroomed or much larger. When it came to future development those proposals furthest away had proved most popular and this might be to preserve existing views across open countryside. There seemed to be a preference for infill rather than new land.
- b) How to analyse. The Chairman said that he could produce the numbers but how should these be analysed to develop into policies. Mr Borshell said that some questions were similar and would provide greater detail if viewed together. The question of how to weight the answers was explored, Mr Hine felt that the proportion supporting a question should be used and Mr Hart asked if numbers were preferable to percentages. Mr Borshell pointed out that a higher percentage didn't necessarily equal a high number. The Chairman asked how answers should be weighted, from strongly against to strongly support or from 1 to 10. Mr Hart had produced a spreadsheet using the initial results to question 2.3 and ranked them using two different weightings, which hadn't affected the rankings.

POLICIES

The Chairman suggested that someone who had worked on each section should look at the answers to their questions which could then be checked to see if a policy might be produced. However, following discussion, it was agreed that it would be worth paying someone with experience to carry out the analyses first. The Chairman would mention this to Mrs Halliday and possibly one of his other contacts.

HOLME PARK FARM DEVELOPMENTS

Mr Hine had spoken to WBC in general about the timing of the Local Plan. It seemed that they were hoping to be able to go out to consultation in the autumn and to complete by December with a draft plan in January 2023. On individual sites they had been vague but said that there was a lot to do before a site might be considered for inclusion in the Local Plan. Mr Borshell said that other options for development were now being considered such as converting redundant offices. Mr Hart said that the Oxfordshire people who had provided initial advice had taken a long-term view and any steps taken initially would build into the long-term plans.

Mr Borshell agreed and suggested that dates should be set, aims might include closing the Thames crossing. Mr Fisher asked how long Hurst had taken over their N P. Mr Hine said there was some information in the latest edition of Bridge and offered to extract the information.

MEETING WITH OTHER N P STEERING GROUPS (EYE & DUNSDEN/CHARVIL)

The Chairman agreed to set up a meeting with Charvil.

Mr Pascall reminded everyone that their applications for payment from the grant had to be done in advance.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Monday 13 August in the Pearson Hall at 6.45 pm.