

**NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING HELD AT
VARIOUS LOCATIONS VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS IN
SONNING ON MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.45 pm.**

PRESENT: Jeremy Gilmore (Chairman NPSG), Nigel Borshell, Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC), 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) and Peter Morrison (SPC).

MINUTES OF 1 November 2021. The Minutes, having been previously circulated were taken as read and agreed.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

The Chairman had circulated Section 3 and said that each part seemed to take longer so he would only analyse when requested. People were welcome to carry out their own analyses if they wished to. Mr Borshell said that section 3 was full of little comments, so it was probably better to take a view on what was being said overall, such as ‘litter’ ‘traffic’. It wasn’t feasible to put every comment into policies.

VISIONS

The Chairman said that work on ‘visions’ should be prioritised. The Chairman thanked Mr Borshell and Mr Hart for their ‘visions’. Mr Hart said that the Conservation Area was very straightforward, he and Mr Jones had corresponded on it. The Chairman said it was important that members should try to avoid their own views influencing the ‘visions’ and he understood that Mr Saunders had also carried out some initial work. Mr Fisher said that he had put together some initial thoughts, with Mr Hully’s input. The Chairman suggested that if anyone had any comments to make on other groups responsibilities, they should share them.

DRAFTING POLICIES

Mr Borshell that he had just thrown something together, reflecting the answers, and came up with something similar, a lot of it was common sense. One difficulty was the difference between ‘gaps’ as wished and what existed. Gaps were associated with the old village, and it was incorrect to say gaps should ‘always be a certain distance’. Mr Saunders arrived at this point and said that he didn’t have anything to share, but had done some work, living away from home while the builders were in was a disadvantage.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Mr Fisher said that he had attended the exhibition at St. Crispin’s and had managed to speak to James McCabe. Mr McCabe had confirmed that WBC were only looking at site 1 (Bull Close. 25 dwellings) and site 8 (combination of previous site 5 & 8 Sonning Golf Club with 25 dwellings – now established that the number is 37) in relation to Sonning. It was noted that site, 1 and 5/8 were supported in the questionnaire. Mr Fisher felt that there was a need to clarify several points with WBC. Mr Saunders said that he understood that WBC had approached Berkshire Sports about relocating and the had been mention of 2000 on Golf Club. Plans for the Care Home on Golf Club land had not been submitted and were eagerly awaited.

Cllr Firmager said that he had been asked to comment on the Golf Club Care Home proposal by the Maidenhead Advertiser. Mr Saunders said that the Golf Club owner had always intended to make the most profit from the Club and he was still trying to contact Readingensians. Mr Hart said that he had spoken to Mr McCabe and asked if the Sonning Neighbourhood Plan put forward a larger site would it be a credit. Mr McCabe said that a NP could not recommend less building but could propose more. Mr Hart said that the Plan should be looking forward and have a vision for the next 25 years. If it was assumed that there would be some development on the Golf Club in the next 25 years. then perhaps this should be included. Some defence would need to be built into the NP and should define how everyone saw Sonning in 25 years-time and how it might look. The NP was the best defence but needed to include more than the minimum, it was inevitable that there would be some development along the A4 and this needed to be discussed. Mr Fisher said that Local Green Spaces, if nominated were another level of protection/defence. Twyford's KGV Field had already been nominated and Woodley had Green Spaces agreed between them and Earley, Sonning could do the same and it would be worth getting together with WBC to discuss. The deadline was 24 January 2022. Generally, it was agreed that residents should be encouraged to comment but Mr Hine felt it was not for the group to tell them what to comment. The Chairman said that the preferred site from the Questionnaire (site 4 next to Milestone Avenue, Charvil) was not one of those in the LPU, should residents be advised that it was unlikely that the Bull Court site could be changed and that the Golf Club already had permission for 13 houses. It was likely that the preferred choice was the one furthest, away but it did not allow for a green gap between Sonning and Charvil. Mr Fisher said that WBC were not offering other sites just 1 and 8. Mr Hine said that residents should be encouraged to look at the WBC proposals if they didn't that was their choice. Mr Fisher pointed out that supporting WBC's options would not reflect resident's views. Mr Hart said that he was prepared to draft a memo to residents drawing their attention to those sites as proposed and this agreed. Ways of distributing the letter, the Church Magazine went to every household, and something could be put in the magazine although the deadline was quite tight. The Round and About magazine (also free) went to all households and they were always interested in local news. The Chairman asked Mr Saunders if he had any update on developments at Berkshire Sports Club, there wasn't but Mr Saunders hoped there might be over the coming weekend. So far, he understood that WBC had asked Berks Sports to relocate their pavilion in order to build 4 houses. Mr Borshell suggested that the Berks Sports car park might be used as a Sonning Car Park.

Mr Hart reported on the RBCS head teacher's speech at the Society AGM, who had mentioned ways in which the school were hoping to mitigate the effects that increased numbers of pupils would have on the community. Mr Saunders reported that plans to sell Sonning Court had fallen through and the purchaser had been told to refer to Mr Murphy, the developer, for further information.

ANYTHING ELSE.

Mr Borshell said that he had noticed speed management in Pound Lane and wondered if SPC had access to other speed information. Mr Fisher said that SPC were about to restart their Community Speed Watch surveys and it was hoped that these would lead to a reduction in speed across the parish.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Monday 10 January in the Pearson Hall virtually via Microsoft Teams at 6.45 pm.