

**NOTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING HELD IN THE
PEARSON HALL, SONNING, ON MONDAY 1 AUGUST 2022 AT 6.30 pm.**

PRESENT: Jeremy Gilmore (Chairman NPSG), Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC via video link), Trefor Fisher (SPC), Mike Hart (Society), Lesley Heaney (Society), Bob Hine (Society), Tim Pascall, Lesley Bates (Minutes).

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Nigel Borshell, Tony Farnese (SPC), Cllr M Firmager (WBC), Peter Morrison (SPC), and Mark Saunders.

MINUTES OF 25 APRIL 2022. The Minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and agreed.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE.

The Chairman said that he hadn't prepared an agenda as there were only two items: everyone's comments on the draft version 2 of the SNP and what was going to be on display/handouts/published at the group's stand for the village show (including what we should include in the light version of the SNP). Mr Hart was concerned about the lack of comments on his draft.

Mr Fisher said that one important development was WBC's refusal of the plans for a Care Home on the Golf Club site. The site had now been enclosed behind a hoarding and an application to comply with the details on the approval for 13 houses had been submitted. This left the question as to whether site 8 would go into the WBC Local Plan. The application for 57 flats still hadn't been decided, having been reapplied for due to the reluctance on behalf of the developer to pay the previously agreed S106 contribution for affordable houses to be built off site. Mr Fisher had checked out the Dorchester Neighbourhood Plan and found they hadn't identified specific sites for development. There followed some discussion as to whether the Sonning NP should have a policy on affordable homes and the Chairman felt it would be helpful if materials could be specified for particular sites. It was suggested that the University should be asked if they had a view on site 1 (Bull Court). Mr Fisher suggested a mixture of large and small homes would be suitable and that the NP vision should have more about important issues. Mr Hart said that, with sufficient open space on site 1 (to retain the existing rural atmosphere), there would be insufficient space to provide mixed development. Mr Hart also thought that this should be more specific, and the Chairman asked if everyone thought it would be necessary to put out a secondary questionnaire to fully understand what was important to residents. Mr Fisher said that the answers would reflect how each issue would affect each resident.

Mr Hine said that some questions could be put out at the Sonning Show. Mr Hart asked what would go on the display boards and suggested that 11 boards were required reflecting the sections in the draft plan. The Chairman questioned if the audience at the Show was large enough to represent the whole parish and if a display in Pearson Hall would be more appropriate. This could be over a whole day sometime after the Show. Mr Hart said that a maildrop, similar to the last one, and including the summary of the draft NP, should result in a good turnout. Mr Fisher said that traffic had been high on residents list of concerns and wondered if a Third Bridge Action Group ought to be set up. There was support for this and Mr Fisher said that the existing traffic calming measures were inadequate and didn't do the job. Chicanes might have more success. Mr Fisher also mentioned that Mr Farnese was anxious to

include more about the drains in Sonning. Mr Hine said that there was the data from the last questionnaire, which should show which questions needed additional input from residents. The Chairman suggested that the group press on with the NP despite the delays to the Local Plan, the NP could be updated if there were important changes to the Local Plan. Twyford had put theirs out for consultation and seemed to have accepted the large housing development off the A4. Mr Fisher had tried to contact the Twyford Chairman to ask their reasons but hadn't had a reply. The Chairman mentioned social housing on Plot 1 (Bull Court). Mr Hart said that he had asked James McCabe if social housing on the site would be viewed as suitable and Mr McCabe had confirmed that this was the correct.

Following discussion plans for the Sonning Show and subsequent exhibition in the Hall were confirmed as:

- Sonning Show 10 September. Display boards would be sourced, and the Chairman and Mr Hart would be available to answer any questions. Mr Hart would précis the summary and some copies would be available. The Chairman and Mr Hart would produce a fact sheet.
- Maildrop October. The Chairman confirmed that the emails of 30 people willing to assist who would be asked to help. A summary of the results of the questionnaire would be circulated with a link to the full details online.
- Exhibition and Talk 5 November. Volunteers to man the Exhibition needed.

Mr Fisher said that he would develop Infrastructure and Mr Hart said that Environment also needed to be developed. Mr Hart also suggested that the Goring NP was a good reference aid.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Monday 19 September at 6.15 pm, in the Pearson Hall.