



East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan (EHNP)

3rd Steering Group Meeting, 7:30-10:00pm, 23rd May 2016, 12 Main Road

This meeting was convened to meet our new SODC contacts and discuss how to quickly progress from the Launch meeting to a Parish Survey

1. Attendance and apologies, declarations of interest

The meeting was attended by Crispin Topping (Chairman) plus Bill Barksfield ; Sally Barksfield ; Andy Barmer ; Frances Clay ; Iain Duff ; Anne Dunsdon ; Mike Mulligan ; David Rickeard ; Justine Wood ; Marcus Wood

For CFO: Tom McCulloch

For SODC: Keerpa Patel; Gayle Wootton

There were no apologies or declarations of interest.

2. Background to the Neighbourhood Plan

The meeting welcomed Gayle and Keerpa who are our new contacts in SODC.

Crispin gave a summary of progress to date and introduced Gayle and Keerpa to the key features of our parish. Gayle asked if we had considered an 'other' category to capture comments that might not fit easily into the five policy areas. The group noted the comment, but felt that the policy categories were quite broad and should capture most ideas.

From the SODC perspective, the 2012 Core Strategy is currently the legal planning framework, however the Local Plan 2032 'Preferred Options' consultation will start on 27th June (for eight weeks) and this will give us a good idea of the proposed Local Plan requirements (although there is an opportunity to provide comment).

There was discussion of the respective time frames: we hope to have a complete draft of the NP in one year's time. The Local Plan is expected to move slightly quicker with submission in the first quarter of 2017 (this is not the same as 'adoption' but a submitted plan has some weight in planning decisions). Both of these could potentially impact on an eventual appeal by Grainger on their 'Green Gap' proposal.

We discussed the likely requirements for new houses in the parish. Eventual targets will be based on

(a) the needs of the community as expressed through the housing needs survey

(b) requirements of the Local Plan [it is likely that small villages will be required to contribute a small part of the District's growth].

It was noted that there has been a steady process of infilling over the past years which might be worth quantifying and that there was already a good number of affordable homes, notably in the Wilcher Close area.

In response to Gayle's question as to what our NP was trying to achieve, we identified 'keeping East Hagbourne separate as a village' as the key objective. It was noted that respecting smaller communities was enshrined in the Science Vale and other local plan documents and that the village was valued as 'green lungs' by Didcot as well as those living in the parish. Marcus said that our task was to build a case that our environment is valuable.

Tom asked whether an SEA would be needed if housing or green space allocations were to be made. This may be a need in future, but our SEA screening opinion has been submitted based on the current position that we have no current intentions to allocate. Discussion of green spaces covered the 'Green Gap' and the Greenmere band between East Hagbourne and Didcot as well as existing public areas like the Recreation Ground and Butts Piece. The expectation is the NP may specify housing numbers (guided by (a) and (b) above), but probably not designated building sites.



Gayle commented that consideration should be given to those who may wish to move to the village, perhaps because of family associations. David explained that we were alert to this need and knew of several people in Millbrook and other parts of Didcot who had village associations.

Andy asked if the NP could define a parish 'settlement boundary' as distinct from the existing built environment, but no conclusion was reached on this.

In discussing the Grainger proposals on the 'Green Gap' the SG were of the view that such large numbers of houses were out of place in a small village. The density of the proposal placed it firmly as a suburb of Didcot rather than part of the village. Crispin pointed out that the capacity for house sales in Didcot was limited and the number of potential buyers would not increase just because more houses were built.

The types of policy that might be formulated on housing were discussed. Gayle said that new Design Guidance would be consulted on by SODC in June and that these might prove helpful.

Gayle asked if there were plans for independent studies in support of the NP. An LVIA is not currently planned, but might prove valuable, particularly given the impact of the AONB comments in the Green Gap planning refusal.

Gayle and Keerpa left the meeting at this point.

3. Review of Feedback from the 5th May Launch Meeting

The launch meeting identified a number of people prepared to help with the plan development. After discussion it was decided that this help was best employed through the policy groups and that we would not co-opt onto the SG at this time.

Transcripts have been made of all the individual comments and it is intended to post these on the web site (after screening out just a few unsuitable comments) to show that everyone's input has been captured.

ACTION: David will collate and provide to Andy

The more challenging task is to analyse the responses and identify key themes that can be used to frame questions for the village survey. We discussed the best way to do this using the Transport feedback analysis provided by Bill as an example. To maintain our schedule we need to move quickly on this so that the questionnaire is designed by the end of June for distribution early July.

Tom had circulated examples of surveys from Benson, Warborough and Chinnor and the SG has already looked at NP material from Drayton, Wantage and Blewbury. The intention is to pick the best ideas from this material to form our own survey questionnaire. Some feedback has already been produced. Crispin felt that the format of the Benson survey was a good starting point.

The core of the survey is related to demographics and housing needs and Tom will lead preparation of these elements. East of the policy group leader teams has the task to review the Launch Meeting feedback in their area and shape this into questions that can be included in the survey

*ACTION: Feedback to Tom on proposed questions for the survey questionnaire by **SUNDAY 5th June** - All policy group leaders.*

David asked about validation of the eventual data entry process and Tom confirmed that he would maintain quality control over the process. The questionnaire will be filled in by each household and will be anonymous, however some form of control is needed to avoid duplicate submissions and to know whether the respondent is a resident of the parish (the mechanism for bringing in those with Hagbourne affiliations is still to be clarified). David also asked if some form of zoning was possible, so that we know if some ideas are specific to one part of the parish. Tom felt this could be addressed by asking respondents which street they live in. By sending all the responses to Tom, confidentiality can be maintained.

Tom will be away on leave from 27th June, so printing and distribution of the questionnaires will fall to the SG to arrange. the mechanism for returns needs to be specified - probably a combination of freepost, village shop with door knocking to encourage a good turnout.

ACTION: Be prepared : All

4. Other Items



David proposed that we hold a special event to reach out to younger people and gain their input - preferably before the questionnaire is finalised. The age range envisaged was up to 18. Frances felt that the views of young adults (20s) would be more useful and that this age range felt rather left out of the discussion. Decided not to hold a specific event at this point, but Tom will circulate questions that have been used in other surveys and are specifically aimed at younger people.

ACTION : Tom to advise on suitable questions.

5. Next steps

It was decided that a further formal meeting was not needed in the run-up to the survey, but that we should all play our part to ensure that the questionnaires were delivered in a timely way and the responses gathered before the summer holidays.

Glossary

AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CFO – Community First Oxfordshire
EHNP – East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan
LVIA – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NP – Neighbourhood Plan
SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment
SG – Steering Group
SODC – South Oxfordshire District Council

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