



East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan (EHNP)

Public Meeting, 7:30-9:30pm, 25th October 2016, Hagbourne Village Hall

This meeting was convened to provide feedback on the results from the Parish survey carried out in July of this year.

Crispin Topping presented gave an overview of the response - the presentation material is available on the EHNP web site <http://www.easthagbourne.net/>

following which the meeting was adjourned for inspection of the full survey text, before a Q&A session which is documented below.

The principal comments were:

- Concern about speeding along Blewbury Road and desire for speed bumps or a chicane.
- The review covered the most popular items in the survey questions, but equal attention should be paid to those which received negative comments.
- It was asked whether government will pay any attention to the Neighbourhood Plan: Crispin explained the role of the Plan in the planning system
- It was noted that a recent newspaper article had analysed the success rate at planning appeals: areas that had no Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan were losing appeals.
- It was suggested that speed was important and that we should move quickly and get a Plan approved, even if it were at a basic level.
- It was questioned why housing needs had to be spread out over the region. Crispin explained the limits on growth of Didcot and gave his support for the general approach being taken by SODC.
- Concern was expressed that Science Vale might accelerate the demand for housing and we might be asked to support more. Crispin explained the background
- Does Didcot's garden Town status affect things? Crispin explained that the NP Steering Group had discussed with the Garden Town officers. One issue is how far you have to go from the town centre to see green fields. In this respect East Hagbourne and the Green Gap are valuable assets.
- A southern perimeter road exists in some planning documents, but had not been scheduled and is not likely to happen in the foreseeable future.
- How will the NP strengthen out position? Crispin explained that it will include criteria by which planning applications will be assessed.
- will we designate areas not suitable for housing? Crispin explained that it is unlikely that we will designate areas. Instead we will have a set of criteria against which planning application can be assessed.
- Will the Parish Council play an expanded role once the NP is in effect? Yes, the NP will become part of planning policy and the pressure towards a Unitary Authority may increase the role of the Parish Council.
- Many of the survey results are a wish list, much work is needed to turn them into practical plans. Yes, these are many practical considerations to be taken into account. On road traffic, for example, a lot of work was done to implement the Parish plan of 2011 and the Parish Council held extensive discussions with OCC another bodies before deciding on the actions taken.

The presentation then moved on to the Vision and Objectives for the NP which are still being evolved, based on the 12 bullet points presented by Crispin.

- Question: what does a 'soft transition' mean? It means a soft transition from the built environment, through pasture and paddocks to the wider arable landscape as is found to the north of East Hagbourne and at the Great Mead triangle.

Tom McCulloch of Community First Oxfordshire spoke about the next steps in preparing the Plan. There is a formal procedure we have to go through. The District Council will be the body to endorse the Plan once it has gone through a review process including a referendum of residents of East Hagbourne. The Plan belongs to the community, not the Steering Group and must have their support to be successful.



The parish referendum will be based on all those on the electoral roll and a simple majority is needed to approve the Plan.

It was asked whether SODC could reject a Plan if it had community support. There are limitations on what can be included in the Plan: where policies exist at a higher level of government, the Plan cannot override them. However, conflicts of this sort should be resolved in the consultation process before the referendum.

Crispin added that some areas of interest may not be appropriate as policies in the Plan, but we can have statements of community wishes in these areas, which also carry weight.

Will the NP be advanced enough to influence the Grainger appeal: there is no clear answer to that question, but the more advanced the Plan is, the more influence it will have.

What is the process for designating Green Areas: Tom explained that a high level of evidence is needed. A site has to be adjacent to the community, well used, special and unique.

The meeting closed at 21:10.

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