

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum

Steering Committee

Meeting on Tuesday 7 June

7.45 at 141 Godstow Road



Present: Christopher Hardman (Chairman), John Bleach, Mary Brown, Cllr Jean Fooks, Cllr Steve Goddard, Cllr Angela Goff, Graham Jones, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, David Stone, Jenny Attoe (Secretary), Val Tate.

Apologies:

- 1. Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 11th May 2016.** Corrections to those minutes: “e” was added to Anne Charles’ name.
- 2. Matters Arising.** CH wrote (email and letter) to the CEOs of Cherwell Council and Oxford City and County Councils to express the Forum’s views on the “Northern Expansion”. Only one reply from Cherwell Council that was a holding email. There was nothing from either City or County Council. The government is to cease funding for decontamination of brown field sites by 2017 and this will affect the mill site development.
- 3. Plans for the Summer Festival.** It is planned to share a stall with the WCC. The Commoners will arrange a Treasure Hunt in the form of a map sectioned in 100 squares one of which will contain the “treasure” – possibly a cash prize. There was a need to draw attention to the WNF and its logo. Various suggestions included helium-filled balloons and bunting with the logo printed on. Local businesses were suggested as a source of sponsorship but the WCC had been told that the Festival Committee had already obtained raffle prizes from these and there were only so many times they could be asked. JB said there should be no commercialism in the Summer Festival anyway. Estate Agents seem most keen on sponsoring this sort of event but that could be seen as a conflict of interest with the Forum’s objectives. CH has, as a pdf, the flyer produced for the unveiling of the information board for the Abbey and more can be printed to be handed out. It asks for donations on it.
JB produced an example of A3 sheets (of which there were to be four in total) on which the précised information from the Green Spaces, Built Environment etc could be displayed. VT offered to help condense the information into easily readable ‘headlines’. These would engage people at the time as well as information to be taken away. On the day (18/06/16) DS would arrange delivery of the gazebo to Goose Green. JB and GJ would help erect it. JF, JB and CH would be on the stall. MB and AG would be there and as part of the WCC. JF would be there for part of the time.
Two separate forms would be needed: one for comments and one for collecting email addresses. Both forms required a form of words asking for consent to use the information collected. The possibility of kite drawing for children was mentioned and it was thought this would draw in the parents.
- 4. Communications: Website, emails, Facebook.** VT asked who this was aimed at? There was a need to increase contacts and engage with more people. Focus, The Flying Goose and the WCC’s Newsletter are already used. There were still problems accessing and posting on the Facebook page. It was important to get a link between the website and

Facebook. It was felt that the East of the ward was not connected with the rest of the area and this area needed to be reached.

5. **Timetable for Draft Policies – Heritage.** GJ said that he has a volunteer who will help with the street research that will begin after the Summer Festival. There is to be a selection of sample streets representing different aspects of areas. GJ to email possible dates for a work party meeting. AG said there was lots of information on heritage available in Ann Spokes Symonds books. It was agreed on early to mid September for the production of the draft policy.
6. **Green Spaces.** The draft policies have already been circulated and any comments should be sent to MB. There was an additional heading of Water: the Thames, the Oxford Canal and locks saying how valuable the water and waterside environment was to wildlife. Trees and temperature was also added as a heading.
7. **Mill Site and Co-housing.** Housing-for-Oxford's first proposal has been turned down by Savills. Their next plan is to work as a partner with one of the developers still in the running. We will have to engage with the winners whoever they are when they apply for detailed planning permission. We will do our best to make sure that all planning conditions are adhered to. A suggested press release should say "We now look forward to working with the developers..." This would show that we are still here and we are still interested in what happens on the site.
8. **Godstow Abbey.** The information board is now in place and was unveiled by the deputy Lord Lieutenant in the presence of the Mayor in a ceremony on Saturday 21st May which included a performance by the Oxford Waits and was followed by a tour of the site and a reception at the Trout. Thanks were given to CH for tidying up the site and clearing away nettles before the ceremony. DS recorded a video of the ceremony and the Waits' performance, which included the song "Fair Rosamund", particularly pertinent to Godstow Abbey.

It is hoped that the information on the board can be reproduced (the pdf is available) to provide handouts at the Festival stall. It was thought that it would be useful to have all exhibition material in one place and JB offered to collect and manage the material for display.

Future plans for the site are: geo-physical (ground radar) investigation of the area and how to raise funds for a second board. A press release was suggested but it was too long after the event. The Oxford Mail had not attended the unveiling although they were informed. Tim Metcalfe (ex-editor) had suggested to GJ that WNF contacts the new editor of The Oxford Times' magazine 'Limited Edition' who might do a feature on the Abbey site

9. **Treasurer's Report.** All the material for the plaque has been paid for - £358 to Martin Coombs for the aerial photograph, six sketches by Grimm, the licence for public display of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's work. RL-W reported that he had not paid out anything for the cost of the materials and the construction as this had been taken out before the grant money

was released. There was £479 left over which could be spent on a second board. RL-W also said he had let the licence lapse for the Freepost used for the questionnaire

- 10. Any Other Business.** The permanent replacement pavilion in Five Mile Drive is in need of support. Presently £2500 is being spent for a temporary Portakabin over five years. In due course support from Wolvercote Commoners' Committee and Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum will be requested as there are currently no proper facilities in this area or in Jordan Hill. CH said we could provide moral, although not financial, support and this was a good way of engaging with all areas of our 'patch'.

GJ said he was grateful to RL-W for picking up on Oxford Future growth Strategy.

A footbridge has been placed the end of an overgrown footpath to go over the railway. Network Rail should have put in a footpath and cycle track alongside the railway line but they haven't. JF will investigate this and the impact it will have when the Northern Gateway is built.

- 11. Date of the next Meeting.** After much discussion Tuesday 12th July was settled on. Location 67 Rosamund Road.

The meeting was closed at 21.55.