

Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting
7 December, 65 Five Mile Drive

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

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** 9 November 2016. Additional actions were discussed.
Action: VT to revise CH's Notes (circulated prior to this meeting) and re-circulate.
2. **Matters Arising:**
Wolvercote Paper Mill site: CH quoted Carolyn Puddicombe (Oxford University Director of Asset & Space Management) as saying that the negotiations were continuing 'but not as fast as {she} had hoped'.
3. **Action:** CH to write to CP to note that the delays don't create a good impression of the University with the local people.

4. **Publicity**

Linda Johnson-Bell has provided VT with access details for our Facebook page. The only non-functional link is the Donate button. LJB noted that the Steering Committee had previously failed to decide which organisation should be used for collecting donations. On advice from VT, it was agreed this should be Virgin Money Giving.

The Committee noted for future publicity PB's comment that the AGM leaflet front cover, although sporting a brilliant logo, didn't refer to the AGM.

AG commented that the WNF doesn't use the Commoners' noticeboards. New noticeboards are being sought for Cutteslowe and Five Mile Drive.

Actions:

- VT to start the registration process with Virgin Money Giving.
- VT to meet Anne Charles to discuss mailing lists, Mail Chimp and website updates
- VT and DS meeting to discuss Communication planning, including use of noticeboards

5. **CIL funding and Grant application**

SG reported that he and AG are preparing an application for £2650 to fund pulling together the draft plan using pre-March items off Adam's proposal. It should be a matter of weeks before we learn whether the application is successful.

6. **Neighbourhood Character Assessment & Brooks Students**

GJ reported that he had briefed six students who would conduct their initial assessments in Upper Wolvercote using the City Council's preferred toolkit. He had subsequently been given four days' notice of the students presenting their initial findings at a poster exhibition on Friday

9 December in the Gibbs Building.

Actions:

- GJ to ask students to email materials for his comments prior to presentation
- CH & JB to attend poster session
- CH to feedback the Committee's views to Sue Brownill

7. Business & Retail

The first of two subgroup meetings has provided GJ with feedback on his draft policies, the prime issue being the need to establish what businesses are already operating in the Ward and where. A third subgroup meeting will be necessary.

Actions:

- VT to share 2009 St Peter's Parish Audit which contains historical information about businesses
- GJ to update and re-circulate draft policies before 14 December sub-group meeting
- GJ to research definition of a business

8. Meeting with postgraduate students working on Green Spaces policies

MB and CH met the "reasonably-impressive" student group. Contacts have been shared and Tom Morris (Principal Planning Officer, Oxford City Council) is willing to respond. The aim is to complete the work by the end of May.

9. Community & Health policies

The Committee asked DS and RLW to prepare draft policies for what is envisaged as a short section, currently missing from the Wolvercote plan. The Committee agreed that education should be highlighted in this section as far as it influences community and health issues.

Action:

- DS/RLW to produce first draft by the next meeting.
- JB to send notes

10. Cherwell Development Proposals

On 5 December, CH received notification of Cherwell District Council's Options Consultation, which runs from 14 November to 9 January, two days prior to the first of two parish meetings to discuss the plans. CH responded that, although WNF is interested in the review and expects to respond to the Options Consultation, no one was available to attend due to short notice. The Principal Planning Officer of the Planning Policy Team offered a closed meeting but the Committee decided, by email, that would not be necessary. Some Committee members will attend one or other of the two Public Exhibitions prior to an internal meeting to prepare its response.

The Committee discussed *inter alia*: the pros and cons for maintaining the Kidlington gap; the influence of the Oxford-Cambridge Knowledge Corridor on the siting of housing developments in Cherwell's northern areas (DS); the concerns of more rural areas taking Oxford's overspill (JB); paucity of hard data on housing need and numbers commuting out from the areas (PB); the future of the Green Belt;

Action: The Committee (not SG or VT) will meet on Wed 21 December, 2:30pm at 47 Rosamund Road to consider those proposed developments adjacent to, or directly impacting,

our area, and to prepare a first draft response.

11. AOB:

Heritage meeting: DS unable to attend. He raised the question of the need for further conservation areas. GJ noted that the wording allows for this but isn't specific. JF commented that heritage assets like the White Hart community pub could have stronger protection than offered by a conservation area.

Action: Proposals of buildings for a catalogue of heritage assets such as Wolvercote cemetery lodge should be sent to GJ.

CPRE: PB attended a meeting at which a neighbourhood planning specialist spoke. Some information from his presentation on plans elsewhere is available on the [CPRE website](#).

Action: PB to circulate papers.

Wolvercote Commoners Carols: Monday 19 December, 6.45pm, Wolvercote Baptist Church. All welcome.

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 January, 7:30pm at 141 Godstow Road. DS to take Minutes.