

# Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation Statement.

## Contents

1. Cross reference between data gathered at initial Open Day and similar consultations and the Sustainability Assessment Scoping Document.

# EYNSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – CONSULTATION STATEMENT

## Section 1. Initial consultation summary and cross-reference to Sustainability Assessment (SA) Scoping Document.

The purpose of this document is to cross-refer the issues raised at the first informal consultations at the Launch Days (following a village-wide leaflet drop), community Open day and the Carnival to the SA report.

The data collected during the initial consultations was first grouped under common themes or titles.

Data was collected on separate boards under headings related to the working sub-groups preparing the Plan – this is indicated under the 'source' heading.

Data was then grouped into HEADINGS and finally into a theme which is one row of data with the title of the theme in column one.

As each theme brings together more than one resident comment, additional details are included in column two. Where possible these details endeavour to represent in summary the comments made by residents.

The third column provides a reference to that section of Eynsham's SA which addresses each theme raised by residents.

The starting point for the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan SA is that prepared by WODC for the emerging local plan; this is being amended in the light of our consultations with residents and other stakeholders to reflect the particular needs and circumstances of Eynsham within the more general district-wide view of WODC. As the purpose is to provide justification for amending the more general WODC SA, comments to this effect are included in the third column

At this stage of the process the information gathered has limited statistical significance – the attendees at the events were self-selected and no attempt was made to get a balanced cross section of opinion – that will happen later in the process. However, the input was given in residents own words with no risk of leading questions so it is still valid.

Where an issue (for or against) raised by residents matches one identified by WODC in their SA report, we can be confident that it is relevant to Eynsham.

Where an issue raised by residents was not considered by WODC, we will check the strength of opinion during subsequent data gathering; similarly we will ask direct questions later in the process where WODC has noted an issue but residents have not.

Some comments provide valuable suggestions about the detail to be included within the plan during its development. These are noted with the comment [*Specific detail to take note of*] and we will be looking to use these ideas at a later stage. The alternative comment [*Design requirement*] is used to indicate that this feature will be considered for inclusion as a design requirement to be placed on developers by the NP.

*Comments in italics have been added to aid understanding to those not familiar with the specific issues in Eynsham. These are not directly attributable to residents comments at the consultations but are included for the benefit of anyone unfamiliar with specific local issues.*

## EYNESHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – CONSULTATION STATEMENT

| <i>Resident's comments</i>   | <i>Details of issues mentioned</i>  | <i>Relevant SA section</i>  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Source</b> – data collected by the Natural and Social Environment sub-group. The first 3 pages were mainly general comments, summarised here with a few specific items highlighted.</p> <p><b>SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT:</b></p>  |   |   |
| <p><b>Community Spirit</b> – many very positive comments about 'community spirit'</p> <p><b>Social Mix.</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a good mix of ages, class-free and with lots going on</li> <li>- friendly, welcoming</li> </ul>  | <p>Table 5.2.3.</p> <p><i>These set the general parameters for the ENP.</i></p> <p><i>We need to relate these general comments into specific requirements which need to be met to maintain the attractiveness of the village expressed in these comments.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Wealth of community facilities</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- both schools are popular</li> <li>- facilities within walking distance</li> <li>- arts/music; clubs – garden/cycle</li> <li>- something for everyone</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>Village atmosphere</b> – many positive comments, including</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- working village, clean but not just a 'chocolate box' picture.</li> <li>- generally peaceful, especially in evenings</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>Size and location</b> – both are attractions of the place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- close to centres at Witney and Oxford and on the bus route</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- big enough to support shops and services but retaining a village community feeling.</li> <li>- need to prevent any 'merging' with Oxford or Witney</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>Young people</b> – unhealthy and undesirable behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– need for (more) positive outlets for energy/enthusiasm</li> </ul>  | <p>(Fear of) anti-social behaviour, groups 'hanging around'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved play activities needed, especially for older teens.</li> <li>- more playground equipment, e.g 'adventure playground'</li> </ul>   | <p>S5. Table 5.2.5.</p>   |
| <p><b>Leisure and recreation</b> – incl, walking, cycling, sports facilities plus allotments combining physical activity with good food!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to retain <b>school sports facilities</b> was noted.</li> <li>- Few facilities are suitable for those with learning or physical disability</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gym (sports centre)</li> <li>- Huge support for a swimming pool and for tennis courts.</li> <li>- Noted that local team sports are all for boys, not for girls.</li> <li>- Allotment space is in SE corner – furthest from likely developments.</li> <li>-Footpaths are not generally accessible.</li> </ul> | <p>S3, S6. Table 5.2.2.</p> <p><i>WODC mainly concerned with childhood obesity but there is a wider social and economic benefit in maintaining good health through making physical activities readily available and encouraging activity generally.</i></p>       |

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|---|---|--|
| <b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:</b>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Rural feel / green space</b><br/>close proximity of countryside and river, linked by footpaths, encourages a rural feel.<br/><i>(Local features such as Millennium Wood and Fishponds are much appreciated, especially when maintained)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- green spaces in developments, ideally a public park.</li> <li>- strong support for more trees.</li> <li>- LED street-lights avoid light pollution.</li> <li>- foot/cycle path links between developments, especially routes to schools.</li> </ul> | <p>[design requirement]</p> <p>[design requirement]</p> <p>Table 5.2.6.</p>  |
| <p><b>Encouraging nature</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- need more open spaces, not less</li> <li>- green spaces in developments, possibly a public park.</li> <li>- strong support for more trees</li> <li>- wild flowers rather than grass</li> </ul>   | <p>Table 5.2.13.</p>   |
| <p><b>Village edges and entrances</b><br/>create a sense of arrival in village and departure into countryside</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- important in defining rural feel</li> <li>- allotments and small-holdings will help provide a soft boundary</li> <li>- alternative long-distance routes to Oxford and Witney</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>Walking/cycle access to countryside</b> – you can only appreciate what you can access</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- links out into countryside</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FUTURE</b>  |   |  |
| <p><b>Protection of green spaces and countryside</b></p>  | <p>Already covered in previous section</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Proposed gravel extraction poses challenges</b></p>   | <p><i>Comments refer to gravel extraction to west of village which is not proposed.</i></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Protecting the Countryside</b> – desire to protect swathe of countryside from NE to SW</p>  | <p><i>Most of this area protected by Green Belt and Flood Plain</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conserve key views</li> </ul>  | <p>Table 5.2.2, 11, 13, 14</p>   |
| <p><b>Preserve and maintain wildlife</b> - particularly wild places, green or wild-flowers</p>  |   | <p><i>NP will address the matter of green space within the developed area, ensuring a transition zone into open country. Beyond that, on private land, we have no opportunity to influence events.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Environmental activism</b> – low/zero-carbon homes, make Eynsham an eco-showcase, don't build large houses, limit car use, encourage other transport</p>  |   | <p><i>EFSG will look at the possibility of specifying higher eco-standards</i></p> <p><i>Controlling car use by limiting parking places does not work- just makes on-street parking worse.</i></p>         |

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|--|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Environmental Sustainability</b> – all comments positive about a more environmentally beneficial future - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- green and bio-diverse spaces</li><li>- buildings compatible with wildlife, e.g. bats, swifts etc</li><li>- more efficient new homes</li><li>- more public transport, fewer cars, more walking and cycling</li><li>- local food production</li><li>- more employment locally</li></ul> | Table 5.2.6, 10, 11, 13, 14 |
| <b>Flooding</b> – development must not make things worse and must plan to prevent flooding                   | <i>These are now standard practice, enforced by planning process and regulations</i>  | Table 5.2.12.               |

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| <p><b>The following are now part of separate themes and will need to be included in them.</b></p> <p><b>Source: Health sub-group</b><br/><b>HEALTH</b></p>  |   |  |
| <p><b>Health facilities</b> – medical centre is much appreciated but concern that it struggles to meet all needs now and will get worse as population grows and ages.</p> <p>- Problems getting to hospitals in Oxford (and Witney)</p> | <p>Lots of suggestions – summary: - Non-urgent appointments typically 2-3 week delay.</p> <p>- Hard for 'working people' to get convenient appointments.</p> <p>- Medical centre will need to expand capacity and capabilities.</p> <p>- takes a long time to get to Oxford hospitals, especially by bus.</p> | <p><i>There is no reference to medical facilities in WODC SA.</i></p> <p>ENP issues to include:</p> <p>- space for medical centre to expand and add facilities; add extra question Table 5.3.18.</p> <p>- access to S7 bus. Table 5.2.6.</p> |
| <p><b>Source: Education sub-group</b><br/><b>EDUCATION</b></p>  |   |  |
| <p><b>Education</b> – lack of capacity at primary and secondary schools to take on more pupils.</p> <p>- concern that primary school does not become too big – maybe a second school instead.</p>                                       | <p>- considerable support for redevelopment of primary school to west of the village.</p> <p>- ideally senior school would be rebuilt as part of a larger move of village westwards possibly leaving space in centre for sheltered housing etc</p>  | <p>Table 5.2.4.</p> <p><i>(A significant and current local issue given that both schools are at the limits of their capacity despite the building of new classrooms in the last 2 years)</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Source: Business and retail sub-group</b><br/><b>ENCOURAGING LOCAL BUSINESSES</b></p>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Business &amp; retail</b> – footpaths between industrial area &amp; shops</p>   |   | <p>Table 5.2.6.</p> <p>[Specific detail to take note of]</p>   |
| <p><b>Source: Transport sub-group</b><br/><b>TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC and PARKING</b></p>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Transport</b> – low-carbon transport for future.</p> <p>- cycle paths to Botley/Standlake</p> <p>- significant support for 20 mph zone but w/o speed humps.</p> <p>- restrict heavy vehicles.</p>                                 | <p><i>There is an active campaign for the cycle path and EPC plan to consult on a 20mph zone in Autumn 2015</i></p>   | <p>[Specific detail to take note of]</p>   |
| <p><b>Parking</b> – additional space to reduce on-street parking.</p>   |   | <p>[Specific detail to take note of]</p>   |

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| <b>Traffic congestion</b> – much concern about A40 and Toll Bridge at peak hours. |                                    | Table 5.2.6. <i>This is a major issue affecting most aspects of the ENP to a greater or lesser extent</i> |

| <i>Resident's comments</i>  | <i>Details of issues mentioned</i>   | <i>Relevant SA section</i>                             |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Source: these issues were raised at a number of locations but are not specific to any of them.</b> |  |  |
| <b>VARIOUS</b>  |  |  |
| <b>A new burial ground –</b>  | <i>an ongoing local problem - the churchyard is full and landowners unwilling to sell while there is the slightest chance their site might be used for homes</i> | Table 5.2.19.<br><i>This is an addition to WODC SA</i> |
| <b>Travellers</b> – some support for a site for a local “traveller” family                            | <i>Actually they do not 'travel' but they do live in a non-permanent dwelling on an unapproved site.</i>   | Table 5.2.3.   |

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| <p><b>Source: Housing and Design sub-group</b><br/> <b>DESIGN of NEW HOMES</b></p>   |   |                            |
| <p><b>Context, priorities and alternatives -</b><br/>                     - concerns about need for and scale off new development<br/>                     - need for a 'rest home' (= care home?) and facilities for older people</p>   | <p><i>Size, location, countryside setting re-iterate comments above, plus</i><br/>                     - urbanisation seen as a risk<br/>                     - many comments were against development in general and specifically against sprawl, rental property, Children's Assessment Centre, use of greenfield sites</p> |                            |
| <p><b>Housing growth</b><br/>                     - use sites within village first<br/>                     - needs of new families<br/>                     - needs of older people<br/>                     - need proper infrastructure to support new housing first.<br/>                     - no 'gated communities'</p> | <p>- infrastructure included better access to (medical) doctors, primary school redevelopment and roads.<br/>                     - against becoming 'housing' for Oxford/Witney/Kidlington</p>   |                            |
| <p><b>Suitable sites for development</b><br/>                     - much support for redevelopment of the industrial area and further along Stanton Harcourt road<br/>                     - much mention of 'redundant industrial buildings' and 'mixed development'</p>  | <p>- use of brownfield sites<br/>                     - redevelop with 'clean' starter businesses/ incubation units<br/>                     - suggestion to relocate school and use site for retirement homes</p>  |                            |
| <p><b>Sustainable building</b> – substantial support for highest environmental standards for new developments</p>  | <p>- standards apply to homes, businesses and public buildings.<br/>                     - opportunity for self-build.<br/>                     - still need to be affordable.</p>  | <p>Table 5.2.1.</p>        |
| <p><b>More to come!</b></p>  |   |                            |