

## **EYNSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING**

in the Bartholomew Room on Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 7.30pm

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Gordon Beach (Eynsham PC Chairman), Richard Andrews (Eynsham PC Deputy Chairman), Dennis Stukenbroeker (Eynsham PC Councillor), Sue Chapman, Christine Dowling, John Dowling, Richard Higgins, Rosland Kent, Marshall Leopold, Mike Nightingale, Rosemary Parrinder, Steve Parrinder, George Smith, Jane Thompson, Angie Titchen.

14/1 Gordon Beach welcomed those who had responded to the Parish Council's consultation on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) saying that the Steering Group, once set up, was intended to be community led and the Group would be responsible for the NP's direction and content.

14/2 Dennis Stukenbroeker outlined the NP procedure and the PC's position as the statutory Qualifying Body for NP purposes and what the PC has done so far. The PC has submitted an application to West Oxford District Council (WODC) to have Eynsham Civil Parish designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of producing a NP. WODC has commenced the statutory six week consultation, which will end on 1 December 2014.

14/3 The meeting was then thrown open for a general discussion of what the Group could do and the scope of a NP. Some of the comments are summarised as follows:

As the NP needed to be community led for the NP to be approved by an independent inspector, the Group should be community based and led and the NP project be separate from the PC, which would still be a necessary partner as it is the Qualifying Body and would be responsible for submitting the final draft of the NP to WODC.

Concern that the Group should publicise its existence and open up to the wider community as soon as possible to allow more people to participate and express their views.

Concern about the present state of planning. Developers are currently able to push through projects under the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. WODC still does not have a final Local Plan to set housing limits and further consultation is due next year which will directly affect Eynsham.

Need to come to grips with the scope of any NP and about what the NP should cover - how much detail it will include, how much it will cost and expertise required.

A NP will need a lot of research for the group to inform itself about what can be achieved and not achieved - it should take advantage of any training available from the Government, local authority or private firms - should enlist expert advice to direct the Group to more efficiently achieve its objectives.

A NP could include - housing areas without allocating specific sites - saying where development could not take place - preserve open spaces, views and site lines - control the size of developments - design - emphasize housing for young people - elderly, etc.

A NP does not preclude responses to individual planning applications as they arise - energies should also be directed at influencing the developing WODC Local Plan to achieve some of the same objectives as a NP.

A NP should include vision about what the community wants and become in the future.

14/4 Gordon Beach advised on the costs implication of a NP with regard to the precept for next year's Parish Council budget, if it were substantially funded by the PC. The Group needed to look at alternative sources of funding. As the PC finance committee would be producing a draft precept in November for approval by the whole Council, the Group should give the PC a budget estimate before then.

14/5 The date of the next meeting is Monday 10 November 2014 at 7.30pm - to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.