



**NOTES FROM EYNSHAM FUTURES STEERING GROUP MEETING.
7.30 PM, TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 2015. BARTHOLOMEW ROOM, EYNSHAM**

eynsham futures

TAKEN BY PP
PRESENT: Jane Baldwin JB, Sue Chapman SC, Nina Turner NT, Steve Parrinder SP, Rolando Medina RM, Charles Mathew CM, George Smith GS, Posy Parrinder PP, Angie Titchen AT, Richard Andrews RA, Pauline Ulijazsek PU. Jon Bright JBr.
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Eleanor Tingle ET [possible new member], Scott Roberts SR, Jane Osborne JO, Paddy Coulter PC, Les Day LD.
DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Agreed to be allowed throughout the meeting.
MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 20 October, 2015- approved as an accurate record.
MATTERS ARISING: 4. Arrangements for meeting with David Cameron on 4/12/15 finalised. PP, RA & NT to go. They will get together a plan in advance. [NB meeting postponed to 11/12/15.] 6. Consultations with school PTAs- arrangements being progressed by AT. Good Neighbour Network are contacting their volunteers. Letters to businesses, developers and community groups to go out shortly (PP). Public Meeting 7.10.15 report to go on Dropbox soon (JB). 8. Nick Bullard attended AGE UK/ Cottswoy – official report due soon.
CORRESPONDENCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EFSG letter to local papers published re BBC News report involving housing plans in Eynsham. The BBC are still giving unsatisfactory response to resident complainants. Agreed EFSG would not pursue it as it is unlikely to further the NP project & would be a distraction. Individuals left to pursue complaints independently. • Email from Professor Dowling was circulated & noted. • Email from PU was circulated & discussed. PU suggested EFSG use services of a professional urban development specialist that she knows. Discussed whether professional help needed for an “Issues and Options” Report which will be our next step. <i>See next item.</i> NT can help with plans and maps. She does this professionally. RA has a great deal of expertise as evidenced by the Sustainability Appraisal draft Scoping Report. “Community First Oxfordshire” helps communities professionally with NPs. Their Tom McCulloch leads on NPs and lives here and their CEO Jon Bright is now on our Steering Group. Agreed it might be worth seeing what PU’s contact could add to this. PU to give her details to PP who will contact her.
REPORT ON Leadership group meeting- PP, RA & AT- 16/11/15 There was a wide ranging and useful exchange of ideas. A verbal outline of issues as agreed by the EFSG reps was given by the Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of growth needed is fraught with uncertainty due to current WODC Local Plan Inspection and the unknown outcome of the Joint Working to address Oxford’s unmet housing need. NB newspaper reports on 19/11/15 announced a figure of 15000 homes for this. Some of these will need to be provided for in the proposed early review of WODC LP. • This means EFSG would be unwise to only plan for the current minimum outlined in WODC LP (250) • The NP process should control the discussion of sites/types of development and not be limited by SHLAA sites. NB. Consultation has started with the questionnaire and the article in Eynsham News. • We need to review all the areas around Eynsham parish and assess the feasibility of any land for development and the relative merits and demerits of all sites identified. • Broad consideration should be given to infrastructure (in particular access, roads, sewers and schools) local green space, design of homes, addressing identified housing needs, flood prevention, community facilities, public realm projects. • It would be beneficial to open discussions with WODC Planning Officers soon. • A “master plan” is needed- say an “Issues & Options” report. We need to consider use of some professional expertise for drawing up outline maps/plans. We may have enough such expertise in the group- <i>see previous item.</i> • We would need to apply for Locality grant funding if professional help is sought. NB £8000 is the max. We

may have more urgent need of this later on.

The Steering Group agreed that RA and NT start to look at some of these issues with a view to preparing an “Issues & Options” report. A decision on whether to employ professional help was deferred. JB will seek a meeting with WODC Planning Officers- Phil Shaw or Giles Hughes.

PROJECT PLAN PROGRESS:

QUESTIONNAIRE- Responses continue to trickle in – not massive. Survey Monkey will analyse the online questionnaires. PP will enter details from the paper questionnaires online too. NB- most of this is a housing needs survey and planning guidance does not attach as much weight to this as to other forms of evidence collection that we have already pursued.

If we have another survey in the future, say on the issues and options, it may be necessary to hand deliver to every household with post paid return or hand collection.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT SCOPING DOCUMENT- We are still researching who the required consultees are at this stage if any.

WODC Advisor- Astrid Harvey has gone on maternity leave and not been replaced. She says there is “limited capacity” within the Planning Policy team to support us. We are told to contact her boss, Dene Robson, for support. He says he will just put us in touch with the relevant section of planning dept as and when we need it. She has given us copies of the Local Government Association guidance to WODC, as the body supposed to support NP, setting out what WODC should do; the government Planning Practice Guidance to district councils on Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisals; and the Planning Advisory Service NP Advice on Housing Needs Assessments.

If anyone would like to go through these thoroughly please contact PP. They will all be in Dropbox.

JB agreed to arrange a meeting with planning Officers eg Phil Shaw to discuss our issues and site option proposals.

Next Steps- See previous item.

COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE (CFO)

PP attended their Annual Conference/Relaunch from previous incarnation as Oxford Rural Communities Council. Interesting speakers- eg CEO of CFO, Jon Bright; leader of Cherwell DC, Barry Wood; chief policy officers at OCC, Maggie Scott, and Healthwatch Oxfordshire, Rachel Coney.

They drove home the limits on funding for all services other than statutory responsibilities and the importance of voluntary sector and getting the max **planning gains** possible from housing developments.

The venue was just such a planning gain- a super new village hall and primary school as part of a development of 58 houses. JBr offered to find out more detail of how this was negotiated.

PP collected some information on the kind of NP professional support CFO can offer for future reference.

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Chief Executive- Nigel Tipple. Issues to discuss with him at next meeting on 15 Dec 2015

NB PP to check his familiarity with Eynsham and the businesses here in advance. Maybe invite him to come earlier for a tour/refreshments?

- What is the LEP remit from the government for the Oxford area, including Eynsham, as a major centre of growth in science & technology?
- How can the LEP work with our NP to help make Eynsham a place for such businesses to grow and prosper?
- What does he see as the major problems?
- Can LEP contribute to infrastructure improvements that might make a difference?
- Would LEP be interested in a possible scheme to address the housing shortage for the newly qualified staff that our leading businesses need to recruit?
- Can he outline LEP’s approach to the “eco economy”, such as local power generation and safe cycle routes?

PP will send him these questions.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Land west of Thornbury Rd –

Planning Application in for 160 homes and access via Thornbury Rd- being deferred for a site visit by WODC Lowlands Planning Committee.

OCC highways say the road is technically capable of taking the traffic. They do not comment on the safety issues and addition to the congestion outside Bartholomew School. Many objectors incl EPC do. OCC Education and the Eynsham Partnership Academy have said that the Primary school hasn't got the capacity to meet the needs of the proposed development and they have not got a solution yet. The County Council therefore does not support the "scale of growth".

Land west of Station Rd-

Date for the Planning Appeal to be heard is 15 March 2016.

Land at Eynsham Garden Centre-

A Planning Appeal has been made against WODC refusal of 77 homes on the site.

Sites North of A40-

An Oxford college land owner has contacted EPC with ideas for development of their land.

Liaison with OCC over A40-

RA has requested that OCC officers involve EFSG/EPC in the technical planning of the improvements to A40 Science Transit as they affect Eynsham. He will put it in writing to OCC Highways.

General Discussion on amount and sites for housing

A variety of views expressed. The need to balance local peoples' views and the pressures from outside to get max homes at least cost. Most people want smaller developments/ only larger developments will bring the sort of infrastructure people are demanding. It is a complex equation. Local people have a good track record of building a good community/ there are professionals with expertise to do this as well. We need to accommodate new residents with high tech skills/ they are not part of those in need of affordable and extra care housing who must also be catered for.

REPORTS OF GROUPS:

Community Engagement-

Our policy on level of impartiality on part of EFSG members at public meetings/events.

Discussion ranged from need to stay in our quasi official role to how to respond if asked directly what we think. We all are gaining a lot of detailed knowledge about problems and possibilities and it is a fine balance at times. There was broad agreement that members of EFSG should remain as impartial as possible. When asked directly we will just present the evidence base and say "what do you think?" Only if pressed- make it very clear that this is a personal view as a fellow resident.

Housing-

AGE UK/Cottsway Forum- Issues for extra care developments for the elderly- Nick Bullard attended.

Provision of Post Office, Cafe, shop, hairdresser were welcomed. They could be open to the wider community. Downside is development needs to be large (60/80 units say) to sustain such provision and that increases service charges for residents.

Elderly tenants said they preferred developments that were not mixed in with other housing as working families were out all day and they found it lonely.

Next Housing meeting will look at PAS Housing Needs document from Astrid Harvey.

Landscape & Design-

NT outlined proposals to prepare some public realm improvement projects that could be part of the NP. These would become priorities for use of CIL monies allocated to the parish council -25% once NP is made. CM cautioned OCC may have powers to claw back some of this??

EFSG members were asked to think of projects.

NT (who is a professional landscape planner) has suggestions-

1. the bottleneck at Harris Corner (outside the Co-op)
2. the space between the Emporium/Post Office and shops- including traffic calming.
3. improve the "sense of arrival" along Hanborough Rd entrance to village- avenue of trees?

This will be an agenda item for January meeting. Ideas to PP, RA or NT before then.

AOB- None

VOLUNTEER TO TAKE MINUTES AT NEXT MEETING on 15 December 2015 –Steve Parrinder. Rolando Medina volunteered for 19th Jan meeting.