

MINUTES OF EYNSHAM FUTURES STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.30 pm
ON TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015 IN THE BARTHOLEMW ROOM, EYNSHAM

Present: Richard Andrews (RA), John Bright (JB), Sue Chapman (SC), Geoff Haynes (GH), Ros Kent (RK), Marshall Leopold (ML), Charles Mathew (CM), Rolando Medina (RM), Jane Osborne (JB), Posy Parrinder (PP), Steve Parrinder (SP), George Smith (GS), Dennis Stukenbroeker (DS), Nigel Tipple (NT), Angie Titchen (AT). Nina Turner (NT), SP had agreed to take minutes.

Apologies: Jane Baldwin, Eleanor Chance, Peter Emery, Sue Johnson, Scott Roberts, Eleanor Tingle

1. DECLARATIONS OF ANY PERSONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: It was agreed that the public would be welcome to contribute to discussions throughout the meeting.

3. OXFORDSHIRE LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership): The Chief Executive of Oxfordshire's LEP, Nigel Tipple, gave a talk elaborating on what the LEP is and their focus which is: to help drive the economy by bridging the gap between business/enterprise and local authorities; develop a strategic economic plan for Oxfordshire and to secure investment for infrastructure improvements, the lack of which might inhibit potential development.

There were some questions about the accountability, transparency and accessibility of the LEP but NT insisted that the LEP had to report to government departments and that they were easily contactable. NT suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan might address the issue of growth opportunities for business, what factors might inhibit development and what support the LEP might provide to developers (e.g. negotiating loans) to "de-risk" investment.

A long and rather circular discussion ensued about the rejuvenation of the southern industrial site and the possibilities of mixed commercial and housing development. NT stated that WODC would need to identify the site as mixed use before any proposals are made.

The Chair thanked NT for his contribution and NT then left the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24th November (PP): Accepted as an accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

PP's reworked letters to businesses and owners of land were approved.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: e-mails from Matthew Andrews and Stanley Ulijazsek opposed to development north of the village had been previously circulated and were noted.

7. PROJECT PLAN PROGRESS: Draft format for evaluating NP options circulated by RA which were generally approved. RM and NT suggested ways in which the information collected could be more easily evaluated to provide more detailed and objective appraisal.

RA had contacted Barry Norton (chief planning officer) for advice from WODC. Meeting to be arranged.

A decision on the employment of professional help at this stage was deferred.

8. POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT (Official Process Item)

a. The developers' appeals on the 4 sites to the west of the village are still pending.

b. A new, reduced, application for 'The Gables' site has been submitted.

c. RA briefly talked to Savills' scheme for a large development (1200 houses) north of the A40 which he will put on dropbox. Initial observations were that it was "unambitious" in terms of its design and that there were no links with the village. A fuller discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

PP agreed to circulate WODC Design Guide. It was generally agreed that it needed amending/massaging to take account of Eynsham's particular character and needs.

9. MEETING WITH DAVID CAMERON MP on Friday 11th December: Brief report from RA, PP and NT. Mr Cameron was informed of our concerns and agreed to put our proposals about planning guidance to the appropriate minister.

JB reported on his meeting with John Howell, MP for Henley and Neighbourhood Planning 'champion'. He suggested that we set a date for a referendum on the NP, possibly May 2017, and draw up a timetable with that in mind which would be more persuasive for planners considering development applications. We need to engage planning officers in the process to see what is feasible.

AOB: None. The meeting closed at 9.45pm. Seasonal refreshments provided by PP

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 19th January 2016. RM volunteered to take the minutes.