

MINUTES OF EYNESHAM FUTURES STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.30 pm ON TUESDAY 15th MARCH 2016 IN THE BARTHOLEMW ROOM,

Present: Richard Andrews (RA), Nina Turner (NT), Posy Parrinder (PP), Charles Mathew (CM), Marie Mills (MM), Steve Parrinder (SP), John Bright (JB), Sue Chapman (SC), Angie Titchen (AT) and Rolando Medina (RM) taking notes

Apologies for absence: Jane Osborne (JO), Jane Baldwin (JB), Scott Roberts (SR)

TOM McCULLOCH OF COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE to talk

Presentation to the EFSG by “Community First” charity

Rob Dance and Tom McCulloch from “Community First” explained that they are a rural development charity which over the past 18 months have assisted various communities (15 approximately) including Standford in the Vale, Berinsfield, Bloxham in the drafting of planing development reports. Rob explained that together with the document review support; they could assist EFSG in two ways (1) helping extension of the consultation reach by targeting specific community groups and building an evidence base to support development options and (2) assist EFSG with the process of identifying non-biased and viable planning development option(s).

Rob presented some evidence of “Community First” professional capability and explained that some of their previous work would apply directly to Eynsham based on the assumed requirements scenario for at least 250 dwellings and the pressure that WODC is under to meet more district development requirements. He considered that EFSG’s approach to consider this scenario together with larger development scenarios that may guarantee higher infrastructure investment was a sound strategy and that “Community First” could assist EFSG to build a evidence based case for each of these options.

Tom suggested that the reports produced by EFSG were of very good quality and that they would benefit from some tightening up on the following areas:

1. The draft “Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report” (section on Policy Analysis Context and Base line sustainability evidencing) would benefit from more evidence based on other policies and current development programmes (which should be supplied by WODC), also he suggested that they could provide EFSG with a best practice scoping report template developed from previous work which would help to tighten up the policy analysis and the extraction of the sustainability objectives.
2. The site options assessment may also benefit from a refinement of the site assessment criteria to ensure maximum objectivity.

Tom also suggested that an Environmental report (sustainability framework) currently developed with Long Wittenham and Cherwell to be submitted for examination may be useful to EFSG.

Action: RA may follow up on the (1) “best practice Scoping report” template and the Environmental report from Long Wittenham and Cherwell documents.

Q&A:

Q:NT&PP: What is the approximate cost for full support and for “hand-holding”?

A:It would depend on the degree of contribution from EFSG but likely to be between £8000-10000. Guidance and ‘hand-holding’ (e.g. document quality checking) would be below £8000 subject to the degree of ‘hand-holding’

Q:CM: How many projects are you currently engaged with?

A:about 10 different communities on a variety of commissions including development of Neighbourhood Plans.

Q:RM: Is the budget time bound?

A: No and “Community First” is flexible and understand that this type of projects may extend for a year and more. This types of projects are doable within a year.

Q:CM: Is ‘Community First’ capable of taking Eynsham’s work on?

A:yes

Q:NT: will you also carry out the document production?

A: Yes

Q:CM: How many people will be involved if EFSG engages with “Community First”

A: 2 people (Tom and Rob)

There was some discussion regarding application for a grant to cover support work. Tom explained that the available grant had gone up to £9000 from the 1st of April, he stated that it was generally a straight forward application and granting process.

Q:Posy: Would you recommend additional surveys to the ones already prepared by EFSG?

A:Probably better to target specific groups of people and attempt to identify candidate development options as soon as possible. People may develop survey fatigue. “Community First” can assist EFSG to develop a strategy going forwards.

Action- PP-May EFSG meeting to have agenda item to consider using consultants after Louise Thomas has spoken at April meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 FEB 2016- Approved

MATTERS ARISING

1. Louise Thomas will be attending the next EFSG meeting.
2. David Bell cannot take on the work to support EFSG work but is happy to come to meet with EFSG reps and share his experience with us. ***Action-*** *PP arranging meeting*
3. EFSG members discussed Nina’s work on various proposals. Nina presented illustrative sketches. SPAR site, Library site, CO-OP site. Nina registered several suggestions made during the meeting to her ongoing work (this is still work in-progress). ***Action:*** *Find out what is the status of the ‘semi-private’ land at the back of SPAR* ***When:*** *left as ‘open?’*
4. Apologies from Scott Roberts of Polar Technology who could not attend EFSG meeting due to being away from UK. He does not have any fresh news but stated that moving things forwards to build new factory units at the Old Station is proving difficult and that he is considering alternative locations.
5. SC pointed out that the Western end of the railway line has not been included in the map setting out green space sites circulated by PP. ***Action:*** *PP acknowledged that this was an accidental omission and will amend the map as appropriate.*
6. Project plan. 74% support option 1 and PP has summarised results and they are available in dropbox.

MEETING WITH WODC- JANICE BAMSEY & CHRIS HARGRAVES Update on new WODC LOCAL PLAN / Our Possible Development Options

PP and RA attended this meeting. Their new timetable aims at February 2017 for a resumption of planning enquiry hearings and hope that by December 2016 they should have gathered all necessary information and completed modifications to their plan and have it ready for inspection. By this point things should become clearer to EFSG. However, EFSG’s intention is to work closely with them and will aim to have a monthly meeting (the next meeting is planned for 12th of April). They have commissioned a mini SHMA to ensure more thoroughness with assumed housing allocation. They agree that they need to do more close work with adjoining districts and Oxford city before their plans are considered acceptable. They hope to find Oxford’s unmet need by August 2016. They assumed that they need to be prepared for WO having to take a lot more than the original 10500. However,

they have some doubts in being able to meet the new date target (August-December 2016) due to the issues associated with meeting the extra quota of Oxford's unmet need from the SHMA.

They are updating SHLAA- now STRATEGIC HOUSING AND ECONOMIC LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT (SHELAA)- and have put out a call for sites. Results are in. More land round Eynsham has been proposed by owners. SHELAA will be published soon.

EFSG participants to this meeting all agreed that it was important to progress with the Neighbourhood plans and a detailed assessment of the possible options in terms of numbers (even in the presence of a great number of unknowns) as it likely that Eynsham is considered as a potential target for growth and hence we must be prepared to be able to argue numbers, impact and requirements for each of the scenarios.

NP POLICIES

RA would like feedback on published documents (specifically the Policies document which is none site specific and which was published on 19th of February, version 2).

This version of the document addresses policies for housing types design, community facilities, landscaping, sustainability, sustainable transport, connectivity, parking, building strong sustainable economy, retail.

PP stated that a two phased approach to the development of Eynsham's Neighbourhood plan was explored during the meeting with Janice and Chris. With this approach non specific site policies will be developed in detail and used for discussion with relevant parties until more clarity about development requirements and options become clearer.

Action: All to provide feedback to RA regarding published v2 of Policies document (available in the dropbox "WorkingDocuments" folder).

Action: CM to setup meeting with Oxfordshire County Council officer in charge of Highways infrastructure planning- Beverley Hindle- to discuss Eynsham transport requirements.

PUBLIC MEETING

Angie (AT) described aspects of the meeting to be held on the 14th of April at the Village Hall (7:30 pm.) to quantify current findings and develop new ideas about the draft Policies and solutions with Eynsham residents and businesses

Action: All who can contribute (help) with this meeting contact Angie to confirm.

Action: AT to book kitchen facilities for this meeting.

Action: AT&NT to produce presentation posters for the meeting. Sue Chapman & Eleanor Chance to put them up and publicise.

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPEALS

Planning inquiry for the Litchfield (Station Road) heritages issues have been discussed and are key but complicated. Inquiry will end on Thurs 24 Mar. Inspectors decision later in summer.

VOLUNTEER TO TAKE MINUTES AT NEXT MEETING on 19 April 2016. NB- Louise Thomas will be addressing the meeting and possibly Bev Hindle. Early start proposed.

Action: RA has volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.