



eynsham futures

creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Eynsham

EYNSHAM FUTURES STEERING GROUP – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19.4.16 at 6.15pm

- 1. Present:** Richard Andrews(RA) - note taker, Posy Parrinder(PP)- chair, Jon Bright (JB), Sue Chapman(SC), Dennis Stukenbroeker(DS), Peter Emery(PE), Steve Parrinder(SP), Nina Turner(NT), Charles Mathew (CM), Angie Titchen(AT), Jane Osborne(JO), Ed James(EJ), Joan Stonham (JS), Judith ?, 2 other members of public.
- 2. Apologies;** Scott Roberts(SR), Paddy Coulter(PC), Eleanor Chance(EC), Rolando Medina (RM)
- 3. Presentation by Oxfordshire County Council** - represented by Beverley Hindle, Odele Payne and Will Pedley, Janice Bamsey, our main contact at WODC, also attended. OCC updated the meeting on the current plans for improvements to the A40. These remain much as previously presented to Eynsham Parish Council with the following key dates:
 - May 24, 2016 – publish report on the long-term options (such as dualling the road, various rail and guided bus options) in preparation for review by OCC Cabinet. These schemes have no funding yet and are very much options for the future.
 - July 2016 – consultants preparing the design for Eynsham Park and Ride and associated east-bound bus lane publish preliminary report for comment. A west-bound bus-lane and possible bus lane at the Toll bridge may follow later. This scheme is funded and will materially affect the Neighbourhood Plan. We will be able to make comments at this early stage.
 - December 2016 – formal consultation begins on the Eynsham Park and Ride and associated east-bound bus lane scheme.
 - Implementation will be during 2018 to 2020

EFSG described their thinking about the possible options for development either to the west or the north, both of which were heavily dependent on new road access from the A40 and therefore it was important to work closely with OCC as the plans for the Park and Ride developed. The OCC team were given copies of the EFSG Policies and Site Options documents which present the village's future needs as far as the A40 is concerned.

OCC explained that Eynsham looked to be at the right distance from Oxford for a Park and Ride; it was unfortunate that the dual-carriageway ended before the P&R site but removing significant numbers of cars from Eynsham to Wolvercote would still speed up everyone's journey considerably.

OCC said that new style Park & Rides could incorporate commercial opportunities that might benefit the wider community. Ideas were requested. EFSG reps thought this would need careful consideration to avoid damage to Eynsham's village centre shops.

Concern was expressed that a charge for parking might result in people parking in Eynsham to catch the bus.

SP asked whether the Eynsham Park & Ride site had been chosen because it is OCC land. Bev Hindle responded saying that this was the case because it makes it easier.

Janice Bamsey from WODC outlined their difficulties with allocating housing target numbers given the revisions ongoing to the draft Local Plan- they are working on a revised housing target for the whole district and the WODC quota for Oxford's unmet need has to be added in as well. The new Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) is due out soon after a "call for sites". OCC works with WODC on the SHELAA.

In a wide-ranging discussion both parties noted the interconnected nature of the NP, LP and A40 work. Bev Hindle was keen to ensure close cooperation not only between EFSG and the Highways team at OCC but also the Education team as School provision is also a major concern for Eynsham.

It was agreed that OCC would attend the next liaison meeting between WODC and EFSG, currently scheduled for the end of May (date yet to be decided). This was supported by Janice Bamsey who has reported since the meeting that WODC are planning a workshop to include representatives from Eynsham (EFSG and EPC), WODC and OCC together with land-owners / agents as a way of bringing everyone together to find common ground on which to progress the Plan.

At the end of this presentation Jon Bright (JB), Jane Osborne (JO) and Janice Bamsey gave their apologies and left.

4. In the gap between the two sessions, Nina showed her designs for improvements to existing sites in the village, notably outside the Library and Co-op. These interesting ideas will be discussed in more detail at future meetings. They would be part of a number of village improvement projects to be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy raised from new developments.
5. (At 7.30 pm) **Presentation by Louise Thomas**, Urban Design Consultant, based in Oxford.

Louise presented examples of her work from many projects, focussing on a number of Neighbourhood Plans she had worked on in Princess Risborough, Longwick-cum-Ilmer and at Lenham in Kent.

The presentation actually became a fascinating master-class in Neighbourhood Planning- including some new pit-falls to beware of- for which all of us present were very grateful and appreciative.

At the conclusion Louise, who had prepared by reading some of our draft documents, suggested that there wasn't much she could help us with. In fact she had already suggested two situations which would be very attractive to us -

- the use of a day-long workshop which she had moderated to bring together local representatives, district/county officers and landowners/developers. When this idea was suggested to WODC, they had already had the same idea – see end of item 3.
- The preparation of a Master-plan for development at various locations. This isn't a cheap option and may be beyond the resources of Eynsham (in her case the District Council paid as it needed to expedite the allocation of new sites) but it would mean that many of the important details are agreed between local representatives and developers in a way which integrates all the aspects of the design.

At the end of the presentation at 9.30 pm it was agreed that the other items on the agenda could be deferred until subsequent meetings and the meeting was closed.

Richard Andrews

07/05/2016