

Eynsham Liaison Meeting – Wednesday 4 April @ 2pm

Venue: Elmfield Rooms 1 and 2

Meeting Note:

Attendees

Giles Hughes (GH) – WODC
Jeff Haine (JH) – WODC
Chris Hargraves (CH) – WODC
Astrid Harvey (AH) – WODC
Odele Parsons (OP) – OCC
Richard Andrews (RA) – EPC
Gordon Beech (GB) – EPC
Dennis Stukenbroeker (DS) - EPC

1. West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

CH provided an update on the draft Local Plan with main modifications out for consultation until 9 April after which point any comments received will be collated and organised before being sent to the Inspector for consideration in preparing his final report.

It is anticipated that this could be received in May potentially allowing for adoption of the plan (depending on the Inspector's recommendations) in June 2018.

CH advised that to date the number of comments received had been relatively small but that a large number are expected to be submitted before the deadline.

2. Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan

AH provided an update on the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan including the most recent dialogue with the examiner Ann Skippers which has essentially identified two options; either to carry on with the examination of the neighbourhood plan now or to defer matters until adoption of the new Local Plan. The former option would mean the neighbourhood plan being examined against the currently adopted Local Plan (2006) which could mean it is rendered out of date later this year once the new Local Plan is adopted.

GB and RA expressed their dismay about the ongoing delay with the neighbourhood plan and a desire for the examination to continue as quickly as possible even if the adoption of the new Local Plan had a potential impact later in the year.

It was agreed that AH would seek further legal advice on the approach being taken by the examiner and report back to GB and RA accordingly.

3. Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)

OP provided an update on the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund through which around £300m has been secured towards two key projects in Oxfordshire including long-term improvements to the A40. OP provided an overview of the funding bid which includes the provision of additional dual carriageway on the A40 between Witney and Eynsham, westbound bus priority lanes, improvements to the Duke's cut canal 'pinchpoint' and a number of other related measures.

4. Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP)

CH explained that the timetable for preparing the Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP) has now been agreed with an initial 'issues' type consultation to be undertaken in late May 2018 followed by a 'preferred option' type consultation in the autumn and formal publication in early 2019.

The initial issues consultation is intended to be relatively high-level, seeking views on the most important issues, opportunities and constraints that need to be addressed to take this site forward. CH explained that the paper will seek to draw on the work undertaken to inform the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan to date.

Supporting evidence will be worked up between now and the autumn including Sustainability Appraisal (SA) transport modelling and infrastructure planning.

CH explained that Grosvenor Developments Ltd. is starting to undertake early preparatory work with a view to submission of an outline planning application for the garden village in 2019.

It was agreed that as far as possible, public engagement in the two processes should be streamlined and co-ordinated to avoid confusion and consultation fatigue.

5. West Eynsham Development Framework SPD

CH explained that alongside the Garden Village AAP the Council intends to prepare a development framework supplementary planning document (SPD) setting out the key parameters within which development to the west of Eynsham must be brought forward.

The timetable for preparing the SPD is proposed to align with the AAP as some of the evidence e.g. transport and infrastructure will be shared.

GB requested to be involved with any future meetings between WODC and the West Eynsham site promoters.

6. Eynsham Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)

CH explained that as an off-shoot of the district-wide IDP, the Council intends to prepare/commission a separate IDP looking specifically at the infrastructure requirements associated with planned growth at Eynsham including education, health, open space etc.

CH explained that initial discussions were taking place with key providers including Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and that these would be taken forward with a view to a full draft IDP for the Eynsham area being in place by autumn 2018.

There was some discussion and agreement about the importance of detailed cost analysis and viability assessment in order to ensure that necessary infrastructure is provided to support planned growth.

7. Suggested date of next meeting

It was agreed that WODC would consult EPC informally, early in the preparation of issues documents, to ensure that all locally-identified issues were included at the start.

CH suggested that a meeting in late April/early May (e.g. week commencing 30 April) could be arranged to discuss an initial draft of the issues papers for the Garden Village and West Eynsham due to be considered by Cabinet later in May.

It was agreed that a meeting around then may be difficult due to existing commitments/forthcoming elections but that views on any initial drafts could be sought via email with a face to face meeting to follow later in May.

8. AOB

GB raised a number of issues including:

- When the A40 outline business case would be submitted to DfT? In response OP confirmed this is now likely to be May 2018;
- A wish to see any relevant email exchanges regarding the Polar application and associated footpath diversion. In response GH agreed to speak to the Case Officer to obtain any emails of relevance; and
- A request that any future meetings held should be minuted with the minutes made publicly available. In response GH and JH agreed this could be done.

RA also made a request for any revisions to the design of the park and ride scheme at Eynsham to take into account future planned growth at the garden village and to the west of Eynsham (e.g. to minimise the number of different junctions along the A40).