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Watlington Parish Council

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD ON MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30p.m.**

**THIS WAS AN ONLINE MEETING**

1. **Present:** G. Bindoff (GB) Chair, Tony Powell (TP), Terry Jackson (TJ), Kim Harris (KH),

Fiona Danks (FD), Keith Jackson (KJ).

Apologies were received from James Herridge-Leng, Isla Woodcock and Ian Hill

The meeting had been deferred for one week from 20th November as the date conflicted with the funeral of Robert Barber, a long time member of the parish council and the founder and convenor of the Watlington Environment Group. Several members of the NPAB wanted to attend the funeral.

1. **Declarations of Interest:**

GB declared an interest in item 5b and has had no sight of the quotes submitted by consultants. There were no other declarations of interest.

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 16th October 2023 and matters arising.**
2. Update on the completion of the shared cycleway/footpath from Red Kite View to Cuxham Road.

Despite pressure from Freddie Van Mierlo on OCC officers there is no update on this. There is also concern about the lack of information about the replacement of trees to compensate for the trees which will be removed as a result of the scheme.

1. Update on the draft SODC Air Quality Action Plan

GB has contacted Cllr Sue Cooper and Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo about this as the data for 2020 and 2021 should not be included in the assessment of cumulative annual results of air quality. Monitoring by SODC would continue even if the designation of the Air Quality Management Area in the centre of Watlington was revoked.. There is no information on when the draft AQAP will be available to view. GB will try to keep up to date on the latest information regarding any amendments to the AQAP as requested by WPC and confirmation of the Plan by SODC.

1. Publication of the report on the consultation on policies in the WNDP review.

Full Council approved the report at the November meeting. GB has submitted a copy for inclusion in the Watlington Times. RG to add to the website.

1. Treescape appraisal working group

FD has managed to find one volunteer and will also ask Ian Naismith. The request for volunteers to help with the project will also be places in the Watlington Times.

1. CIL Projects

WPC now has a new list of CIL projects to be assessed. No projects were proposed by members of the NPAB.

1. Review of the WNDP:
2. Confirmation of policies using evidence from the consultation and other updates

GB apologised for the delay in completing the update of the policies - they need to be cross checked vs the Local Plan, NPPF and AECOM report before sending to SODC. It will also be sensible to take into account the draft policies in the emerging Joint Local Plan. SODC will advise on the process going forward, i.e.is an environment report needed. It was agreed that GB and TP will meet to finalise the draft and then circulate it to the group for final comments.

1. Locality funded projects: updates:
	1. Application for support for Basic Conditions Statement and local consultations. Approval of quotations.

A vote was postponed to the end of the meeting after GB left as she has a conflict of interests. The group voted to use CFO for the work. RG to inform Locality so the grant application can be assessed.

1. Update on development:
2. Discharge of conditions on sites B and C

GB is concerned about the width of pathways – the approved Redrow plans show 2m width within the sites and OCC want 3.5m on the Willow Close side. GB has raised this with OCC but has had no response. The matter will continue to be raised until it is resolved.

WPC has agreed to sign a deed of easement with Redrow for the land alongside Willow Close. Unfortunately the draft paperwork was for underground services so new paperwork is required. The WPC planning committee will be looking at Tim Horton’s draft proposal for using this strip of land for housing development.

1. Update on the planning application for the Watlington Relief Road

GB has circulated the notes of the meeting held on 23.10.23. Another meeting will be scheduled once the OCC planning application is submitted. Details of several matters will need to be considered once the application documents are available including the proposals for street lighting and the provision of a crossing point from the Pyrton village road to Station Road – the Oxfordshire Way.

1. Landscaping on Site A – Red Kite View. FD has been in contact with the SODC planning officer, Emma Bowerman. It is clear that the planning conditions regarding landscaping are not being fully complied with. New planting is currently going ahead but the replacement of dead trees and the maintenance of live trees is not satisfactory. FD will continue to keep in touch with EB to establish what action SODC is taking to ensure that all requirements for landscaping are in place before the construction phase is complete and Bloor Homes leaves the site.
2. WPC Climate Action Plan: update on the working group and links with the WNDP policy review.

KJ gave an update on this. WPC should have an advisory group like the NPAB to monitor progress and conformance to on the WPC Climate Action Plan. No councillors have volunteered so far. As lay members can also join, an advertisement has been placed in the Watlington Times and KJ has also contacted the Climate Action Group to see of anyone else is interested. The aim to is do one climate project per year – the EV installation in the car park is the first one. The next one is potentially looking at improvements to the Parish Office.

TP added that a new policy “re-fit for the future” is going through the House of Commons- this is to prioritise re-use over new build. He also raised the issue of whether assessment of heat loss could be covered by CIL funds? RG to investigate.

1. Other matters and date of next meeting

TP mentioned the withdrawal of Chalgrove as a strategic housing site in the emerging Joint Local Plan. It was noted that WPC has consistently opposed this development. It was also noted that the decision has implications for the Icknield College as it would remain on the existing site in Watlington.

The next meeting will be held on 22 January 2024.