

Whitchurch Village Plan Steering Group Agenda

Tuesday 11th February 2020, at 20:00

St Johns Hall, White Horse Lane, Whitchurch

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

In attendance were Charlotte Lincoln (Chair), Karen Smethurst (Secretary), Mel Perry (Minutes), Helen Armour, Keith Armour, Diane Cox, Judith Foster, Caroline Heron, Jane Holliday, Jeremy Sampson (rep WPC).

Apologies for absence were accepted from John Southwood and Matthew Smethurst.

2. Communications:

2.1 Communications received

CL has chased a response from the secretary of Oving PC about their boundary decision, by tonight's meeting – none as yet.

2.2 Public Website

No change to this situation at present.

3. Updates from PC

CL said that JS had given our report to WPC. The PC had received the WNP update regarding the policy strategy, and that no formal comments had been made.

JS said that there was PC interest in what we are about to do with the Community Plan, and a discussion about S106 etc.

The Chairman of WPC had requested questionnaire response data, which CL had sent him as an anonymised Excel file.

4. Update on Boundary of the NP and Designated Area Application.

Regarding the boundary between Whitchurch and Oving, the secretary of OPC had asked for letters from the three property holders; two of whom were very keen to take part in our plan. The third one did not want to be in it.

Conversations between CL & OPC Clerk included a discussion of "The green gap" between Oving and Whitchurch which was intended to protect the boundary between the 2 villages. As part of the rationale for including the 3 Oving properties in the WNP it was noted by both CL & OPC Clerk that the Green Gap may become irrelevant if development occurs in Oving up towards the boundary with Whitchurch, including the land identified for the boundary extension.

We cannot go any further with the Neighbourhood Plan until a decision has been made by their council. Oving Community Plan is due to be done.

5. Community Plan – agree scope, course of action and timetable.

Those present were referred to HA's Community Plan examples (sent as an email by HA, dated 7 Feb, entitled "Reading for Tuesday") – with two exemplar plans – Oving's and East Northamptonshire's.

The document identified themes for developing a community plan, which were felt to be a good starting point. Theme number 16 as added during the meeting (see below).

It was agreed to share out the various themes on the list, between those present. Also it was stated that it is time to involve others who had previously expressed an interest in helping.

ACTION – CL – to write to those people who had offered to help in the Questionnaire

Additional points made were:

- Some activities are cross-plan and also differing elements with the plan that different people work on. It was agreed that some of the themes cross over and some do not, eg "Services" is very straight forward, whilst others are more abstract.
- You can ask what affects the quality of village life.
- we need to be realistic about what we want to achieve.
- we need a list of village organisations.
- doing a welcome booklet for new residents (update – Alice Miller is investigating setting up an "Eyes and Ears" community support group, and has raised the subject of producing welcome packs for new residents within that scheme).
- Local businesses were discussed - unless they are business that are registered with a Whitchurch address, then we would not need to count "Home Businesses". It was thought that there is no business activity in The Firs, now.
- It was agreed that the village website needs someone to take control and do it

ACTION ALL – Fact sheet on each of the themes then do a walk-about – physical assets.

All present took on themes from the list, tasked to produce a one page report within one month:

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|----------------|---|
| Housing | This will be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan so we don't need to look at that for the Community Plan. |
| ACTION BY: | |
| | Economic – businesses, together with Services – internet and broadband |
| MP | Transport and traffic (not pavements) |
| JS | Community safety – to include Neighbourhood Watch together with Health – doctors, and well-being. |
| CH and LT | Environmental and Sustainability and green issues |
| JS | Facilities – village halls, open spaces, recreation ground |
| KS | Organisations – clubs and groups, church |
| JF | Education – school and evening/adult classes together with 10. Youth – facilities, clubs and groups |
| | Quality of life/Village life |
| JF | Cultural heritage – listed buildings (much data on Eng.Heritage website) |
| JS | Volunteering issues |
| KA | Communication – Whitchurch news, website, facebook group – added this in as not covered. |

FUTURE ACTION: A physical asset list to be drawn up – bins, bus stops etc and activities - finding out how often was each used, why? etc. Some focus groups could be set up eg young people, families, older people. What would they like to happen? Also we should talk to businesses, the WI, school, churches etc. Ask people questions, dig a bit, get feedback on who uses what, when. Then looking at the plan, break it down: footpaths, bus stops, etc. Find the issues and benefits.

There was a general discussion of traffic patterns and travel options. It was noted that the ANPR camera at the northern end of the village, near the roundabout has been out of action for the last 6 months. (Update from MP – local PCSO since contacted and is investigating).

JS – should we do another questionnaire and tightly focused? It was suggested that another, tightly focussed questionnaire be sent to residents, but agreed that we wait a little, until after the next meeting with O’Neill Homer.

Bus issues – the school bus has gone, just a Red Rose or an Arriva. There was thought to be no bus from the village to Waddesdon School any more, although some Motts Coaches come into that school.

CH – Does transport need to be specific on everyone’s journeys – direction of travel?

KA – with new housing, it had been stated (BY O’NEILL HOMER???) that if people are travelling to eg MK then you would ideally want them to live on the north of the village. Also there is the new railway station being built in Winslow.

CH – stated that she regularly takes photos of dangerous scenarios with traffic all around this area.

ACTION – DC to email a down-sized map of our parish boundaries.

ACTION – ALL - the timeframe for these investigations is one month, bringing back notes on one page.

FUTURE ACTION – following this, focus groups to be set up; mindful of what we want to achieve.

6. Communication Plan

- a) All present read a draft letter that CL had provided; for residents of the southern edge of Bushmead Road, such that we are working to include the views of residents, informally.

ACTION – JS – willing to deliver the letters to those residents.

It was stated that most of the residents of the southern side of Bushmead Road, who were consulted many years ago, do not live there anymore; and that this should be stated in future talks, if need be.

7. Whitchurch News submission

The draft document, sent as an email by HA, dated 7 Feb, entitled “Reading for Tuesday”, was slightly amended, then approved.

Action CL – Sent the approved doc to Whitchurch News Editor

8. Any other business

There was no other business, but all present were encouraged that we had made a good start to the Community Plan.

9. Agree meeting schedule for next six months

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 10th March, 2020, at 8 pm.