

GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to be held at the Parish Council Offices, Old Jubilee Fire Station, Red Cross Road, Goring RG8 9HG on Monday 14th March 2016 at 8.00 pm
Public and press are invited to attend

Members are respectfully reminded of the obligation to declare any interest relevant to business to be conducted at this meeting and of the convention as to withdrawal from the meeting for the relevant item unless the interest is not one that debars the member from speaking thereon.

AGENDA – ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Please note that the public and the media have a right to make audio and visual recordings of council meetings. It would be helpful if those wishing to record could contact the Steering Group before the meeting so that we can ensure the necessary facilities are in place. The Chair of the meeting will advise the public that the meeting is being recorded. A request to record a meeting shall only be refused if the Chair of the meeting believes recording would disrupt the meeting. There are no restrictions on anyone at a council meeting using Twitter, blogs, Facebook or similar social media provided that the Chair does not consider their actions are disrupting the proceedings of the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest
3. Public forum: *An opportunity for the public to address the council. With the permission of the chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise.*
4. Minutes from previous meeting (available at www.goringplan.co.uk)
5. Matters arising
6. To receive Chairman's report
7. Reports on Working Group Activity from Jan 25th to Village Consultation March 5th
8. Timetable for actions from March 5th
9. Village Consultation April 16th
10. Finance
11. AOB

Date of next meeting: May 9th 2016 20.00 Council Offices

Colin Ratcliff, Clerk to the Council
pp Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

7 March 2016

APPENDIX A

MEETING OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE OF GORING PARISH COUNCIL March 14th 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Steering Committee (SG) has held working sessions on five occasions since the first formal meeting on January 25th. Individual members of the SG have also joined working sessions of the Working Groups (WGs). The SG has been concerned principally with the outcomes of the first consultation, with the work in progress of the WGs and with the planning of the second consultation. A meeting was also held with Luke Brown, SODC Planning Officer. The work of the WGs is reported separately in Appendix B. A number of other issues of note have arisen in these sessions and elsewhere during the period covered by this report.

1. SODC is not likely to produce a draft of its new Core Strategy until May 2016. Until then we should be planning for a minimum of 86 new dwellings.
2. There is flexibility where the SODC requirements for 25 dwellings per hectare and 40% affordable housing are concerned. These figures can be revisited when the plan has assessed housing needs.
3. All developments should attract CIL and S106 levies.
4. The planning application for the site on Manor Road was rejected by SODC. It has subsequently been submitted as a proposal within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.
5. The invitation to land owners and developers to submit sites for consideration is being re-advertised in The Henley Standard and on the SODC website. The deadline remains March 31st.
6. Reports on discussion regarding the Medical Centre and the School are posted on the NP website. Further discussion in relation to the school is deferred until there is clearer data on housing needs.
7. Lesley Best has agreed to administer the NP budget, accounts and associated procedures. Together with Alan Jones she is preparing an application to SODC for the grants available to meet the expenditure involved in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
8. An insurance policy has been taken out with Zurich Insurance to cover possible liabilities arising from the activities of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee and its Working Groups.
9. A letter appeared in the February edition of the Goring Gap News which questioned the integrity of the Steering Committee and the transparency of the processes being followed. A letter responding to this will appear in the March edition of the GGN.

Finally, we have provided and are continuing to provide as much information as we can on the NP website in order to ensure that the public is fully informed and can judge the transparency of the processes we are following. Information regarding the sites so far submitted for possible construction, minutes and notes from meetings held, copies of questionnaires and reports to date from the Working Groups are among the documents available for scrutiny. We urge the public to make full use of this source of information.

David Wilkins

Chairman January 1st to March 31st 2016

Goring Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

GORING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION 5th March 2016, SUMMARY REPORT

Event management and attendance

Attendance

All attendees who had not been at the 16th January meeting were asked for name (1 per couple or family) and e-mail address on arrival, and this information was entered on the website. The vast majority were happy to give this information. Total attendance on the day was 301 people. Total registrations on the website (with e-mail) are now above 400.

Ron Bridle took numerous photos of the event as evidence of participation, publicity, and the content of the materials. Comms group has a copy of these in digital format.

Comments

Comments were invited as people left. Most people simply said that the event was either 'good', 'really good', or 'excellent'. One individual asked what company all the volunteers worked for! There was particular praise for the Living in the Village stand, and the use of the monopoly dollars to encourage active participation.

There were two negative comments about the consultation, as follows:

1. A resident of Streatley was upset that residents thereof could not play an active role, given that whatever housing would be built in Goring might have a visual impact for Streatley.
2. One individual said that all of the presentation boards should be redone as none was geared towards the younger residents of Goring.

Sustainability

The sustainability group presented the analysis of the data gathered at the 16 Jan Consultation. This was very well received with comments for example of "Excellent presentation, clear ... understandable"

Other comments made were

1. "We do not need addition employment. There is a railway station to allow people to commute."

2. "North Wessex Downs (AONB) should be consulted"
3. "Need for affordable housing.....build flats, terraced housing or townhouses (they cannot be extended), therefore keeping them affordable.....they take up less land..."
4. "We need smaller affordable housing for the young and elderly..."

Living in the Village

The Living in the Village stand featured three elements

1. Reported backing the results of the first public consultation, and results from the household survey to the questions "What do you value most about living in the village", "What do you least like" and "What would you improve".
2. A "Money in the Pots" exercise. This asked members of the public to prioritise potential improvements that could be supported by the developer levy that will come to the village as a result of a neighbourhood plan being produced (note the level of this is currently unknown but may be in the £50,000 to £100,000 range) by allocating "Goring £500" on one or more potential improvements to the village. This approach was enthusiastically received and had a very high participation.
 - a. At the end of the six hours "Improve Traffic Management in/through the High Street was a clear winner.
 - b. This was closely followed by "Protect/Improve bus services to Wallingford", and
 - c. "Improved pedestrian safety in the High Street".
3. Developing the vision for Goring. The stand had a poster with four ideas on it. People could write their thoughts on a post-it, or tell a member of the team which of the suggested visions they preferred.
4. The stand was extremely well attended. People were very positive about the event, engaged with the topic, and appreciative of the information available, with a lot of interest in sharing out the Goring Pounds.

Housing Need & Design

The Housing Need and Design workgroup presented the analysis and comments from the recent survey

1. There was very positive feedback regarding the survey and many questions and comments on the published results.
2. Comments were specifically received regarding “affordable” housing and what exactly that could mean for Goring:
 - a. Would there be any way to ensure it stays affordable for villagers?
 - b. Should the village consider some form of shared ownership
 - c. The criteria previously used, pushed some villagers out of eligibility and therefore excluded them, but non-villagers were given houses
3. Other comments were from younger villagers, stressing they do want to live here and stressed the need for smaller houses for first time buyers/couples to purchase
4. Many villagers commented that they wanted to see good design and not ‘cheap boxes’ being built, also to ensure there was adequate green space and parking. The next steps were explained that we plan to have some design elements on view at the consultation on the 16th April.
5. Several commented that the numbers of villagers wishing to downsize was almost the same as those wanting to upsize and could we do something to enable some sort of house swapping initiative. The Steering Group will consider what actions are possible within the remit of the NP charter.
6. One villager who lives in Queen’s Court (Gatehampton Road) mentioned she did not receive the survey and neither did her neighbours. We will take this into account when reviewing our process for future surveys.
7. One villager commented she thought the survey too intrusive so did not complete it for that reason and knew others who felt the same. The anonymity and confidentiality of the survey was re-iterated and will be specifically emphasized in future surveys.

Site Identification

At the time of the last public meeting (25th January 2016) the Group had sent out three blank Submission Forms and had received in response one completed Submission Form.

In the six weeks from then until 5th March 2016 seven further Forms have been sent out (making a total of 10) and all were followed by formal submissions. In addition to these 10, one submission was withdrawn as being too small (perhaps large enough to provide one house).

These sites were drawn on a large scale map and presented to the village at the 5th March consultation.

There were several comments about the numbering of the sites and others about these sites being preferred sites. It was re-iterated that

1. The numbering purely represented the order on which the sites had been submitted by the landowners.
2. These are just the sites put forward, they have not been selected and are not preferred sites.
3. The selection of recommended sites will take place later in the process in an objective and transparent evidence based process.

No landowners came forward at the 5th March Open Day and no requests were received for Submission Forms.

Site Selection Criteria

The site selection criteria working group has been renamed the site selection priorities working group. This to make it clear that other working groups will also identify criteria for site selection and that the criteria group is focussing on identifying the village's priorities for site selection.

1. Recent activity has been on finalising a questionnaire, which will be sent to all people on the electoral register in the Parish of Goring.
2. The draft questionnaire was originally presented to the village at the first consultation event.
3. Feedback from that indicated that all the areas detailed in the draft questionnaire were important.
4. As a result of the feedback from the first consultation a few additional questions were added and some questions were clarified or simplified.
5. The revised questionnaire was presented to the village on the 5th March and received largely favourable comments.
6. One written comment was provided on 5th March which will be discussed by the working group and may lead to an amendment.
7. Other groups have been asked if they would like to add any additional questions and once these have been received the questionnaire will be finalised and then distributed on the 18th March.