

# GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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**Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to be held in the Old Jubilee Fire Station, Red Cross Road, Goring  
On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00 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 interests
3. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2017. (Appendix A)
4. Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda
5. 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.*
6. To receive Chairman's report. (Appendix B)
7. Decisions since last meeting.
8. Matters for future discussion.

Colin Ratcliff, Clerk to the Council

20 April 2017

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP  
GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL  
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.00pm Monday 30 January 2017**

**Members Present:**

Chairman	Mike Stares
Members	David Wilkins
	Stephanie Bridle
	Nigel Gilson
	Tom Rothwell
	Kevin Bulmer (GPC)

**Officers Present:**

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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15 members of the public and press.

**16/14 To receive apologies for absence**  
Enid Worsley.

**16/15 To receive any declarations of interests**  
None.

**16/16 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2016.**  
**Resolved:** After minor correction from the first draft circulated, that the amended minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**16/17 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**  
Item 10, The Chairman reiterated that the second Bramhill report with all relevant documents including the terms of reference would be published at the earliest opportunity. The report had just been received that afternoon.

**16/18 Public Forum**

- 1** Derek James, Croft Road, asked that more notice be given of the meetings. The Clerk explained the current notice system (7 days) and that subscribers to the Council's website receive regular emails including all meeting dates.  
Mr James commented that a letter had been sent today to the Chairman detailing issues to be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) following legal advice they had received.  
The Chairman noted the letter had been received and that the NPSG was committed to taking it into account as with all other submissions made to them.  
Tom Rothwell, commenting on one aspect of the letter, stated that he had spoken to the Chairman of the NP at East Bergholt: The circumstances there were specifically related to District Council policies; however the NPSG are aware and researching the case further.
- 2** Helen Scurr, Chairman of Governors, Goring Primary School, read from a prepared note reiterating their concerns about the Plan being narrow but that a meeting had been arranged with the NPSG for the following week.  
The Chairman explained some of the reasons for the current position and looked forward to working together with the Governors.
- 3** Andy Best, Wallingford Road, commented on GNP6, raising questions about visibility, changes from first to second Bramhill reports, that development proposals had been accepted without the NPSG or Site Selection Management Group (SSMG) having seen reports and that it appeared to have been assessed differently to other sites (design aspects). The Chairman stated that this was incorrect, that the SSMG had been fully involved throughout and that the approved methodology was being followed and applied consistently, including the approval of the independent SSOG. He reiterated that the SG

Dated:

has demonstrably and rigidly implemented a policy throughout this project of being open and transparent and that in line with this the Bramhill Supplementary report, the Terms of Reference provided to Bramhill and the Developer Documentation provided to Bramhill will be openly published on the NP web site. Some design aspects were submitted for a number of sites, not just GNP6 and all of these are addressed in the supplementary report.

- 4 Tom Rothwell and The Chairman reminded that all assessments are still interim and remain so until all reports and associated appraisals have been reviewed by the SSMG and the NPSG. Also that adherence to the predefined methodology has to be approved by the independent Site Selection Overview Group (SSOG). Kevin Bulmer commented the final decision on the Plan will not be until the village has voted in a referendum. Tom Rothwell outlined the whole consultation process again.
- 5 Richard McNeill asked for the second Bramhill report to be released immediately. The Chairman commented that it would be like having just a few chapters of a book – the intention is to publish it as soon as practicable, as part of a pack, to include all the relevant information.

Sarah Morton, Wallingford Road, asked if it was worth including the few additional houses on this triangle of land. The Chairman stated the aim of the NPSG has been to work to objective measures as prioritised by villagers during wide consultation and avoiding individual judgement.

**16/19 To receive Chairman's Report**

Since 21 November the exhibition had taken place on 10 December, which had over 350 attendees and mainly positive feedback. The NPSG had some time off over Christmas and New Year. The interim stage of the SSMG process has been completed. Two key meetings had taken place with SODC and John Howell MP.

SODC had clarified the process for releasing the NP to the Parish Council (GPC) to decide if it should go for consultation. The pack will include a Sustainability Appraisal, Statement of Basic Conditions, Consultation Appraisal and Flood Sequential Test. Following GPC consultation any amendments to the NP need to be made prior to submission to SODC. There is no further opportunity for amendment once the Plan goes for SODC consultation and before subsequent Examination. It is now likely to be late March before submission to GPC with an aim to work to a referendum as soon as practicable.

Tom Rothwell reported on the meetings with John Cotton and John Howell. Key points being about SODC's lack of a 5 year land supply and a Neighbourhood Plan White Paper.

**16/20 Matters for future discussion**

None

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1946 hrs.

## GPC Report April 2017 – Goring Neighbourhood Plan

### **Introduction**

The volunteers have all worked incredibly hard right through the year showing huge commitment to the future of the village. Much of 2016 was spent collecting and analysing information through extensive consultation with Goring residents, services and businesses, SODC and OCC, other key Agencies such as EA, Thames Water, CCB and with professional bodies such as Bramhill and TVERC.

### **Consultations**

(Consisting of presentations, consultation events, surveys, engagement and consultation with regulatory authorities including SODC and OCC, public meetings, updates at GPC public meetings, correspondence, meetings with developers/landowners)

In March 2016, a Sustainability Scoping Report was issued to SODC, OCC (education, transport), Thames Water (sewerage, drainage, water supply), Chiltern Conservation Board (AONB management policies), North Wessex Downs AONB Management Board, National Rail, Police (safety, security), Environmental Agency (flooding, environmental), British Gas, National Grid and British Telecom.

Two separate questionnaires were distributed to Goring residents in early 2016:

- Housing Needs and Living in the Village – 1450 distributed to every household in Goring, returned by 37%
- Site Selection Criteria – 2739 distributed to all Electoral Register people, returned by 31%

The feedback was analysed, documented and the results published on the GNP web site and made available in the village Library and at the Council offices. This document is key and thoroughly quantifies the views of the community.

Four major open days were held at Goring Village Hall in 2016:

- January 2016 – to explain the NP process, present initial ideas from each Workgroup, obtain and record opinions, concerns and preferences. 301 people attended this initial Consultation
- March 2016 – to present the results of the initial consultation and initial Sustainability Objectives and to seek further ideas and opinions. 330 people attended.
- May 2016 – to present the analysis of feedback from questionnaires, update residents on the available development sites, seek further input and opinions. 340 people attended.
- December 2016 – an Exhibition to present the SSMG assessments, provisional site selection results and issues, the timetable and process prior to Referendum and to present supporting technical material on Sustainability considerations. 350 people attended this Exhibition.

During 2016, several meetings were held with the School Governors, the Medical Practice and local businesses and Estate Agents to understand the issues regarding growth in housing in Goring and to ensure that the Plan could take account of their feedback and issues.

## Site Selection

The Site Selection Management Group (SSMG, TOR approved by GPC) was formed, consisting of the SG and Workgroup Leaders. Declarations of Interests were produced. A Site Selection Methodology was developed and published on the GNP Website. GPC formed an independent Site Selection Overview Group (SSOG) to confirm that the Methodology was followed with integrity.

A set of Site Selection Objectives, Criteria and Measures were developed from all available information and published on the GNP Website in October 2016. The SSMG met weekly in the evening between October and December 2016, rigorously reviewing available evidence and systematically assessing and recording all 15 sites against 14 Objectives, 25 Criteria and 100 Measures. All suitable sites were provisionally identified based on this analysis.

As part of the Site Selection process, meetings were held in November with all available Landowners and Developers to discuss outstanding questions, to explain the initial Site Assessments and to discuss next steps. Sites were then reassessed by the SSMG prior to the Exhibition in December.

## Evidence Base Overview

The analysis, objectives, policies and proposals which underpin the Neighbourhood Plan have drawn on a variety of sources:

- population, demographics, employment, health, housing, deprivation, education, car ownership was obtained from the Office of National Statistics and other HMG sources
- the housing need for Goring, developed from local information and the latest national trends and statistics. The SODC SHMA, Local Plan 2027 and Local Plan 2032 (Consultation version) were taken into account
- all local views were obtained from the numerous consultations, questionnaires and meetings outlined above
- because of the importance of the AONB and river setting to the values, culture and sustainability of Goring, a specialist and independent Landscape and Visual Impact report was commissioned from Bramhill Consultancy to supplement SODC's own report from Terra Firma as part of the 2012 Local Plan preparation
- flooding and analysis of flood risk from the EA and OCC
- school facilities and planning for growth in capacity from OCC and SODC
- management policies in the Chilterns AONB from the Chilterns Conservation Board

## Next Steps

Provisional Plan Objectives and Policies have been drafted and reviewed with SODC. The Plan is now being drafted. Supporting documentation such as the Sustainability Appraisal and Basic Conditions Statement will be initiated shortly.

SODC have released their Local Plan 2033 for consultation along with supporting documentation. This seeks an additional 251 houses in Goring but recognises that the AONB will constrain the allocations, subject to robust evidence.

Subject to any further unforeseen local distractions, the SG hopes to have the Plan pack ready for GPC approval/consultation in May.