

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.00pm Monday 21 November 2016**

Members Present:

Chairman	David Wilkins
Members	Mike Stares
	Stephanie Bridle
	Nigel Gilson
	Enid Worsley
	Tom Rothwell

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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22 members of the public and press.

16/01 To receive apologies for absence
None

16/02 To receive any declarations of interests
None.

16/03 Public Forum

- 1** The Chairman introduced the public forum session by drawing attention to the letters at Item 10 containing advice requested from the Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) which had been available on the website as an important indicator of some of the conditions under which the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) are drafting the plan. A useful summary of the current situation was recently published in Goring Gap News.
- 2** Kerry Hughes, School Parent Governor, read out a statement on behalf of Goring CE Primary School regarding the school's importance and concern that the plan's focus is on house building. The school buildings are near the end of their life and pupils within the catchment area are being turned away. They ask the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) to consider a new school on GNP6 which could be funded through the development.
- 3** Derek James, Croft Road, mentioned a historic petition signed by 140 regarding no development on GNP3. He raised questions about site selection criteria and how the Bramhill Report fitted with two recent Appeal Inspector's reports. The Chairman referred to the SODC letter at Item 10 which he believed answered the point. He also commented that the site selection criteria including Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), issues, are supported by statutory regulation and the AONB scored very highly in the survey of the village. The NP is obliged to respect the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and conditions in SODC's Core Strategy, also pointing out that the Plan, once drafted, will be subject to a number of separate public consultations.
- 4** Peter Watson, Manor Road, Asked what evidence there is that the Bramhill Report reflects the wishes of villagers. The Chairman and others pointed out that it is a completely independent report.
- 5** Jack Calder, Little Croft Road commented that the village survey preferred smaller sites for development and that the NPPF sets higher barriers to larger developments, stating therefore that any minor development is preferable to any larger development. The Chairman noted that statement was incomplete as it did not include any other criteria which must be applied.

Mr Calder also asked whether the NP would take advice from the Environment Agency and that a sequential test would be applied regarding flood risk. The Chairman confirmed a sequential test will be applied where required, Mike Stares noted that the top criteria include a requirement to consult with Utilities and other agencies, including the Environment Agency and Thames Water, which has been done. Tom Rothwell also clarified consultations undertaken about mitigation.

- 6 Charles Cranshaw, Long Meadow, stated there was no reference to traffic and similar infrastructure in the Plan. Mike Stares pointed out there are three criteria regarding traffic and congestion points, the issues are understood and all sites will be assessed against those criteria.
- 7 Richard McNeil, Wallingford Road, asked about GNP6 – whether only a mitigated development would be allowed and that he had concern over traffic access. The Chairman stated the site selection process has not yet been done but that it will include assessment against the Bramhill Report. Tom Rothwell stated the visual impact of a road had been referred back to Bramhill for comment.
- 8 David Brooker, Cleeve Road, Asked whether the NPSG were considering a cap on development similar to that in Henley. The Chairman stated all sites were being considered, all are in the AONB and there is a strong desire to minimise impact of any development if within their power. The Plan will look at which sites can provide development, mitigated if necessary and expect the numbers will follow from that. Sites less likely to accept mitigation are less likely to be proposed. Stephanie Bridle noted that although SODC have shortfalls in housing allocation and despite losing some appeals they have not lost any in an AONB and are still prepared to defend it.
- 9 Sarah Morton, Wallingford Road, thanked the group for all the hours they had put in and asked why they were going back to Bramhill. Tom Rothwell replied that having had feedback from developers Bramhill have been asked to consider their comments and also those received from villagers. Dr Morton also asked whether streetlights that may appear over the hill would be considered. Mike Stares stated light pollution is included in the criteria.
- 10 Paul Airey, Wallingford Road asked whether any Bramhill report amendments would be made public. The Chairman stated that had not yet been considered but will be by the NPSG.
- 11 Jack Calder asked whether the application of sequential checks will be made public. The Chairman said the intention is that hopefully everything will be available to the public.

16/04 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2016.
Resolved: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

16/05 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda
None.

16/06 To receive Chairman's Report and Announcements
The Chairman stated little had changed since the report last week to the full Parish Council. The NPSG have been intensively reviewing the criteria and measures / evaluation in order to get the draft document produced and are now assessing evidence for 14 sites against 25 criteria, the results being graded which will then, after the Bramhill review, be at the point of selection and hope to complete that within the next two-three weeks.
Two other major documents need to be published: The Basic Conditions, to demonstrate what has been done to comply with regulations and policies and a Sustainability Assessment to deal with legislated sustainability requirements.

The timetable is under pressure and the NPSG hope to have the initial site selection assessments ready for a public exhibition on 10 December.

- 16/07 To receive Bramhill Landscape Capacity Report**
Resolved: Received without further comment
- 16/08 To receive Site Selection Objectives, Criteria and Measures Document**
Resolved: Received without further comment
- 16/09 Report on change of membership of Steering Committee**
The Chairman reported that Andy Best withdrew 2 weeks ago and that the Parish Council had approved inviting Enid Worsley as a replacement. She has been an extremely active member of the workgroups and has a deep knowledge of the Plan so far.
- 16/10 Note advice received from SODC in letter from leader of SODC**
This had been previously mentioned as a very important document for the NPSG and recommended reading. Noted.
- 16/11 Finance**
The additional consultancy from Bramhill and unplanned exhibition mean that the budget requires review and potentially to request an additional budget. An application for £1,000 further grant from Loyalty is being drafted.
- 16/12 Timetable**
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| Drafting of Plan | November 7th to 30th 2016 |
| Public Report and Exhibition Village Hall | December 10th 2016 |
| Submission of Plan to GPC | December 17th 2016 |
| Goring Parish Council Consultation (6 weeks) | December – January 2017 |
| SODC Consultation (6 weeks) | February – March 2017 |
| Plan Examination | March – April 2017 |
| Referendum | May 2017 |
- The revised timetable still aims for a referendum in May 2017
- 16/13 Any Other Business**
None

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2001 hrs.

Proposed date of next meeting – 16 January 2017 1930 hrs at the Council Offices