**Report to Ashbury Parish Council (APC) from Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) for period March 14th – May 16th 2022**

***Internal Activity***

1. **Ashbury NP rated Amber at risk status**

Very briefly: This is to formally record the exposed status of our NP because of the following situation which applies to different degrees of risk in all Oxfordshire Districts and County Council. It is a national requirement for all District/County Councils, as per NPPF21, to provide a 5 year land supply figure for house build + buffer room. When this supply is less than 5 years, the local plan and all associated NP’s become void and invalid, so that developers and build can proceed, in sites not listed in the Local plan or NP or with increased build for sites already available and planned, with no planning obstruction.

* Until last year the Oxfordshire Growth Board provided cushioning support so that Oxfordshire Districts and County only needed to provide a 3 year supply calculation
* In 2021, South Oxfordshire (SODC) and VWHDC used 1 team between them to provide the calculation figures, for SODC this was 5.33 years and VWHDC 5.04 years
* In 2022 in SODC, so far, 3 separate Appeals Planning Inspectors and Developers have challenged the calculation (to be significantly less than 5 years) and supply and won their appeals. It is expected the same will happen in the Vale. Their supply figure is lower/less
* Some Parishes in SODC are in the process of revising their NP (requires External Examiner and referendum) to secure their previously agreed sites and numbers for build

Our NP is at risk until we receive verification from VWHDC, currently reviewing their supply figure calculation, that either the risk remains or the risk status can be removed.

* We are rated by VWHDC in their LPP1 as a small village and have no agreed sites or build numbers. However our Policy 4 allows for ‘limited infill’ build/development in Ashbury settlement under stated circumstances. The term ‘limited’ has not been tested. At the time of writing the report, there is no new land registered by developer or land owner for build.
* As part of ‘on alert’ actions PS has asked E Ware to seek clarification on the Vale land supply figure

1. **No of planning application responses completed** x 2 since March meeting
2. **Recruitment of a new member and ongoing recruitment activity**

We recruited and welcomed a new member to our NPG at the end of March. We are in the process of recruiting for a further 2 core members as well as adding to an affiliated, and or expert panel or support member numbers/list

1. **NPG meeting held at the end of April 2022** to discuss and agree a range of issues related to the implementation, monitoring and review functions, with work plan agreed for May 2022 - 2023 (as laid out in the submitted 2021 – 22 Annual Report)
* **Resource pack for orientation to the activity of NPG**: the circulated draft was approved and will be drawn from by any new members to the NPG and to be circulated to the APC Councillors as reference resource material. To note that ONPA members and the ONPA Exec team had requested a copy of this resource pack for member circulation at the April 2022 meeting. NPG members agreed to forwarding the resource pack to this group.
1. **Ongoing monitoring of Ashbury Parish connectivity piece of work with Graham Turner (**implementation of the OCC digital infrastructure Strategy as it applies to Ashbury parish) Graham Turner the lead, will be providing an update on this piece of work at the meeting.
2. **Britchcombe Farm build plans by Lovat Parks**

The latest update from Uffington PC re this site was circulated by PS to APC after their April PC meeting. No planning application submitted to date.

***NPG and Vale activity***

1. 2nd meeting March 16th 2022 PS, CP, EW with Emily Hamerton Vale and South Development Manager Planning, to continue discussions re issues and concerns and mistakes raised in meeting 1. The intention of NPG input to register the issues for best use of ANP/NP’s in and for the planning application process. However organisational culture, practice, workload, workforce and reduced capacity to address demand, lead us to conclude core change at VWHDC unlikely.

***ONPA***

1. meeting 9th April 2022

31 members from Parish Councils/NPG attended including PS. Some very interesting, disturbing, problematic shared concerns discussed and ways forward outlined.

Pauline Smith as Chair Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group May 2022