

Ashbury Parish
Neighbourhood Plan Group

Yearly Report to: Ashbury Parish Council AGM May 2022
From: Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group
Action required: Content to note and for uploading to the parish website for resident access

Introduction

This piece provides a yearly summary for the time period April 2021 – end of April 2022 of the key activities and issues addressed by the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG). We also outline a plan of continuing action for this next year May 2022 – May 2023.

It is the first year that an annual report has been submitted to the Ashbury Parish Council (APC) from the NPG. An annual report is a stated requirement in the monitoring and review section of our Ashbury NP.

The overall aim of our NPG activity has been to ensure maximum benefit for the use of our Ashbury neighbourhood plan (NP).

As a reminder, our NP was adopted and made ‘live’ by our District Council, Vale of White Horse (VWHDC) in July 2019. To make the shift from plan development to plan implementation, monitoring and review functions, the development steering group function ended as of July 2019 after the parish referendum. The NPG with the above functions was formed in July 2019. More on the group membership later.

It has certainly been a year marked by a number of changes to the planning and build policies at a range of levels. Our monitoring and review functions have ensured we are keeping abreast of and in touch with these, as well as anticipating or addressing any impacts on or consequences for the use of our plan.

Our implementation, monitoring and review activities have 2 main elements, which we have reported on here

1. Internal to the Parish: how we, the NPG, are using our NP for:

- responding to all planning applications for any planning application from any source for any new build (change of use category *see below), repairs or infrastructure installations in our parish
- what policies are we using and what other data/evidence in the plan
- how effective is the use of the policies
- do the policies as written, continue to be the most appropriate
- how well does the VWDC use/include our NP in the planning application process

Our plan is made best use of in the planning application process with our responses being as expansive and descriptive as possible, both in relation to the use of our Policies and in the use of our supporting data/evidence/report material in the plan.

1.1 Recorded Activity

- For this year we have provided responses to **21 planning applications**

Of these 2 were ‘change of use’* for Agricultural barn or building and 1 with associated Agricultural land.

*To note: ‘change of use’ is a planning category that applies to Agricultural Barns/Buildings or Agricultural Land whereby National policies allow ‘permitted development rights’ with no

Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group

planning application should the ‘change of use’ development meet a range of specified criteria and requires one if not.

- We have used the policies the following number of times: (responses often include more than 1 policy and may any include several subsections of that policy).
 - Policy 1: x 9 Some application responses have used several of this policy’ 6 sub sections, so 1.1 x 6, 1.2 x 4, 1.3 x 6, 1.4 x 3, 1.5 x 5, 1.6 x 3
 - Policy 2: x 3, Policy 3: x 0, Policy 4: x 1, Policy 5: x 5, Policy 6: x 1, Policy 7: x 1
 - We also used Character assessment material x 1, views and vistas x 1, aspects of Impact of an ageing population in and for Ashbury x 1
 - 3 of the applications, at the time of this report are still in the application decision making stage of the process
- For the remaining 18, 17 planning applications were agreed supporting our NP input and 1 response was overridden by VWDC/national policies
- CIL funding was sourced from 1 planning application for the 9th barn at the ‘Black Barns’ Kingstone Farms site (because of the content of our responses to the application highlighting the concerns of the ‘track’ road at this site). – *25% of the amount has been received by the APC to be used for parish projects and 75%, in this instance to be used for Highways work on the track road outside the current barn renovations in Kingstone Winslow*
- Our summary review of the use of the plan for this year, would suggest the need for:
 - further expansion of policy 1 to say more about the ‘change of use’ category for applications, expansion of policy 5 to include other aspects of the travel and parking agendas, more specific wording of ‘limited infill within the continuous built up areas of the settlement’ for policy 4 and for such to be tested

See the Appendix document attachment for the policy statements

2. External, all other levels: including at National, Oxfordshire County and District
In terms of NPG activity this has included the following:

- **Oxfordshire 2050 Plan for Consultation:** *This draft plan, with the focus on planning and aspects of the climate change agenda, is signed up to by all Oxfordshire District and City Councils. We provided a parish wide response to this consultation and we included the School, as the children both are clear of the agendas and whatever is agreed will be their future*
- **Oxford County Council (OCC) Digital Infrastructure strategy – implementation phase.** *This county wide strategy involved ensuring Broadband coverage for rural areas and Kingstone Winslow was one of the strategy funded areas for installation (via Airband contract) as well as setting out requirements for installations of 5G masts alongside the national policies and guidance on this matter.*
 - *NPG has set up a ‘connectivity’ piece of subgroup work led by Graham Taylor so as to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation on the Airband contract and feedback to OCC. This because the infrastructure installed by the*

Ashbury Parish
Neighbourhood Plan Group

service connections not so easy in this contracted piece of work. 2 other strands to this work include update re any mast planning applications and the removal of landline facility by BT at some point

- **Climate change:** Now increasingly recognised to apply to all development/house build so VWHDC and SODC working together + Oxfordshire 2050 plan to develop policies for their next local plans
 - **NPG has developed a brief for a subgroup piece of work, awaiting set up to address climate change build requirements for current house owners (fuel, heating and transport) as well as to prepare for policies for our NP to be included in any NP review/revision process**

- **VWDC use of NP:** *NPG Chair, Chair PC and District Councillor have met x2 with Emily Hamerton Team Development Manager to address a significant number of errors, issues and concerns re the use of our NP by VWDC planning case managers in planning applications – across the whole planning application pathway from pre-application to delegated report and after. We have been heard. Organisational practice and issues means no expectation of change*

- **Amber risk rating for our NP**

This risk status has been applied for the following reason and relates to National requirements (NPPF21) for District Councils to produce 5 year + buffer land availability for house build supply: *until this year the Oxford Growth Board had been protecting all Oxfordshire Councils with a requirement to develop 3-year availability plans. The SODC calculation for 5 years and buffer has been challenged by 3 developers and 3 appeal planning Inspectors. (These won appeals to build) so far, and challenges to VWDC likely to follow as the calculations were developed by the same team as for SODC. There are other national directives also challenging delivery which will affect VWHDC land availability and house build calculation*

 - ***The issue here is that without the 5 year + buffer land availability the Local plan is put at risk, made invalid and ALL associated NP***

- **Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Alliance (ONPA):** *We are members and have attended via zoom 3 meetings during this year, providing very valuable input re shared NP concerns, information, advice and support*

Current details of the NPG and actions specific to the workings of the group

The NPG is a subgroup of the APC and reports to them

In October 2021 the NPG elected a new chair Pauline Smith to replace the previous chair, (in place since 2020 and who has now moved out of the country). There are currently 4 other group members: Christopher Prentice also Chair of APC, Peter Cowx, also APC Parish Councillor, Jonathon Loose (for the climate change agenda only) and new member Dominick Donald. 2 previous NPG members are now NP support members

- Since October 2021, the following have been developed to ensure group members can fulfil the functions/activities required:

Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group

- NPG Terms of reference
- Planning application route
- NPG procedures for the planning application response processes – those that involve the group and those where residents of the parish as a collective are to be involved
- Resource pack for orientation to NPG activities.
 - To note this has been requested for wider sharing by ONPA Executive Team and members of ONPA
- Monitoring and Reviewing methods and documentation
- Reports produced to APC for each 2 monthly APC meeting + AGM
- Recruitment activity and plan
- Plan for period October 2021 – May 2022 and yearly plan for May 2022-2023
- Active member of ONPA
- Recording and reporting to APC status of our NP recorded as **Amber** Risk assessed against requirements made by National planning policy (NPPF21) for District Councils – in this instance 5-year land availability and house supply calculation by VWHDC, where not met this means invalid local plans and all their adopted NP

In summary

The NPG has been active in developing and putting in place a number of actions that ensure the implementation, monitoring and review functions of the group are addressed and best use is made of the NP as is.

We leave the year though with the NP placed on **Amber** risk status, to register our exposure to a possible invalid plan. This risk rating will remain in place until we have evidence and assurance from VWHDC that their land supply calculations are sufficient to meet NPPF21 requirements and other national policy requirements and thus ongoing validity of their own local plan.

Year plan for May 2022- May 2023

- **To continue with any NP at risk mitigation actions.** Some actions will depend on and be aligned to decisions and actions to be taken by VWHDC to ensure the validity of the Local Plans. Other local actions agreed at the April 2022 NPG meeting
- **To commence the development of criteria to inform decisions to review the NP at the end of 2023 for 2024.** The Neighbourhood plan is due for a review in 2024. Changes to the plan, if any, can be major or minor and either require a range of resources to be in place to achieve these changes.
- **To take part in the monthly VWHDC review sessions/meetings for NPG/PC re the use of NP in and for planning applications.** These sessions will commence later this year and will be accessed by NPG/PC via a booked appointment and will require input against evidence related to specific planning applications
- **To recruit more members to NPG and provide briefing of the NP planning application process to members of APC.** There is a need to recruit at least 2 further members to the group. Equally the need to address succession planning both to the role of

Ashbury Parish
Neighbourhood Plan Group

Chair of NPG and so that there is a continued knowledge of and expertise in use of our NP at Parish Council level

- **To continue with the ‘Connectivity piece of work’ as required by monitoring and review actions**
- **To reassign chair role for the Planning and Climate change piece of work and get started with the brief (already in place)**
- **To set up a Transport, parish routes, B4000 piece of work**



policiesshortversion1.
docx