

# Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council At The Village Hall

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.30pm  
Minutes

**Present:** Cllrs C Prentice (Chair), J Greenham and M Westen, District Cllr K Foxhall, P Smith (Chair of NPG), five members of the public

- 1. All Members to receive and sign 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form and Register of Members Interest following Election** – The Declaration of Acceptance of Office were signed by those Cllr's present. The meeting agreed to allow Cllr Crowley to sign the declaration at a later date due to being absent from the meeting. The meeting noted that Cllr H Owen signed the declaration in the presence of the Clerk prior to the meeting.
- 2. To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllr V Patel, Cllr H Owen and Cllr D Crowley.
- 3. To receive any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting** - None
- 4. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
- 5. To address matters arising from the previous meeting**

**CIL Funding** – Continuing action due to new Council. Highways Officer should activate the CIL fund available from completed build planning application P21/V2915/FUL.

**Action: For D. Crowley, in consultation with J. Ruggiero and the Clerk, to activate this CIL fund.**

**Ashbury Hill speed warning indicator** – Continuing action- The flashing sign on the descent of Ashbury Hill not working.

**Action: Cllr Crowley to find out who installed the sign (probably OCC Highways) and report to them that it is not working.**

**Dog Waste Bins** - Continuing action - Two locations have been identified for the bins; one on the Village Green and one by the Church. Formally request Vale to empty these bins and quotes to be obtained for the cost of the bins. District Cllr K Foxhall will take this forward with Vale if the PC struggles to get the bins emptied.

**Action: Clerk to consult J. Ruggiero (former Councillor) and forward most recent communication on this issue to Cllr. Prentice.**

**Community Speed Watch** – Cllr J Greenham put round a call for volunteers who wish to take part in CSW. Eight residents were keen to get involved. Cllr C Prentice recalled that the main message on CSW schemes shared at the January OALC Chair's session was that they involved a considerable sustained effort by the volunteers; so not to be entered into lightly. Cllr D

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Crowley had shown an interest in reducing speeding through the village. The meeting invited Cllr D Crowley to take the eventual lead on this project.

**Action: Cllr J Greenham to find out more information on CSW and arrange a meeting in the next month with those residents who were keen to be able to get confirmation that they wish to continue. Cllr D Crowley to lead thereafter.**

**6. County & District Councillors-** To receive reports from County and District Councillors (5 minute time slot)

District Cllr K Foxhall gave a brief update on the priorities for herself and Cllr V Patel.

Infrastructure provision is an important issue along with ensuring S106/CIL monies are allocated to those Parishes who are due.

District Cllr K Foxhall and District Cllr V Patel to forward their details to the Clerk so all relevant publications and the website can be updated.

**7. Chairs Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**

No update provided due to the Chair's Annual report covering any items.

**8. Clerks Verbal Update (3 minute time slot)**

No update provided

**9. Sub Committee Reports-** To receive reports from Sub-committees (6 minute time slot)

- Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) -Report is submitted prior to the meeting- The Annual NPG Report, NPG Objectives for 2023-24 and the May report from NPG are attached to the minutes in appendix 1, 2 and 3

The NPG pack has been circulated to all new Cllr's.

The meeting accepted and approved the revised mandate for G Turner as APC Connectivity Infrastructure Lead.

APC approved and agreed the NPG objectives for 2023-24 as laid out in the report provided.

- Requirement for Improved Document Exchange, Management and Storage – G Turner explained that due to the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan joint access for drafting of documents would be needed but comes at a cost of c. £150 per year. Cllr C Prentice proposed APC pay the annual cost. Cllr M Westen seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with G Turner on setting up the system required.**

- Website Update – Cllr M Westen expressed an interest in the website and agreed to lead on the future development of the Website. The Council agreed to take up the offer of advice during the summer vacation from a tech.- savvy relative of an Ashbury resident.

**Action: Cllr. Westen to engage with the volunteer tech expert and make recommendations in due course on changes to the Website and our broader communications strategy.**

- Connectivity Update – Cllr. Westen agreed to liaise with G Turner on behalf of the Council on the Connectivity Agenda and the development of a plan to communicate with parish residents about the wide range of issues which were brewing and would affect their lives. One idea was to offer adhoc meetings in the Village Shop for residents to be able to come and discuss any Connectivity concerns or issues they may have.

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**Action: P Smith and G Turner to arrange a meeting to develop a communication strategy. Cllr M Westen to attend on behalf of APC. Other Councillors to attend, if possible.**

G Turner explained that Idstone had been identified as being an area of very poor broadband services. Idstone currently fell under the OCC Service Obligation. It was agreed that OCC should be formally notified that they were not meeting their Service Obligation to Idstone residents.

**Action: G Turner to draft a letter regarding the Service Obligation. Cllr C Prentice to send on behalf of APC.**

APC formally thanked G Turner for his continued work on all these issues.

### 10. Financial Matters

Finance report attached to the minutes in appendix 4

- a) Bank Reconciliation – signed by the Clerk and Chair
- b) Receive and note Annual Internal Audit Report – Received and noted
- c) Approve Annual Governance Statement – Approved and signed
- d) Approve Annual Accounting Statements – Approved and signed
- e) Approve Certificate of Exemption – Approved and signed
- f) Approve Exercise of Public Rights dates - 5 June - 14 July - Approved
- g) To approve request for a budget line to support the work on the Planning / Connectivity Agenda. This would be for eg printing costs. The meeting agreed a budget line to support this work in the amount of £100, to be reviewed, if necessary.

Further to P Smith contacting Airband, the Village Hall have received a generous offer from Airband to install FTTP broadband free of charge. The Chair of the Village Hall asked whether APC could make a contribution towards the internal work (not covered by the Airband offer) needed to maximise the benefit to the hall and their users. These improvements to the facilities offered by the Village Hall would be a benefit to the whole parish. The (heavily discounted) quotation received for this additional work was for c. £1,300. Cllr C Prentice proposed that the APC should contribute a third of this cost. Cllr J Greenham seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr. Prentice to liaise with the Village Hall Committee over delivery of this contribution.**

### 11. Planning Matters

#### Applications;

- P23/V1027/DIS-The Old Dairy Kingstone Winslow Swindon- The application is for: Discharge of conditions 4 (surface water), condition 5 (Remediation Method Statement), 6 (boundaries), 7 (access), 8 (external materials) and 9 (bats and owls) on planning application P19/V3225/FUL Conversion of redundant dairy building to habitable accommodation, removal of steel framed barns.
- S/OUT/23/0456- Land East Of Wanborough Road (Green Land), New Eastern Villages Wanborough - Outline planning permission for up to 275 dwellings (use class C3) including the provision of affordable homes, together with pedestrian and cycle connections, landscaping, surface water drainage, open space to include play areas, allotments and other supporting infrastructure (including utilities) and engineering works including groundworks; removal of structures and demolition; with all matters

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reserved except for the formation of accesses from the Southern Connector Road and Wanborough Road.

### Decisions:

- P23/V0377/FUL- Barn at College Farm, Station Road (B4000) Ashbury, Swindon- The application is for: Change of use of agricultural barn to single dwellinghouse (use class C3) and associated building operations – Approved.

### 12. Public Forum- To take comments , representation or queries on agenda items (15 minute time slot)

A resident in attendance brought to the Council's attention how much work residents of the Village do to keep it looking lovely and suggested that this could be acknowledged. Cllr J Greenham said that he regularly thanked all those whose volunteer work he co-ordinated but this did not cover all that was done across the parish. The Council agreed to record their deep gratitude to all who those who "do their bit" to keep the village looking lovely.

### 13. Individual Topics (12 minutes allocated)

- Preliminary discussion on priorities for the Council and associated roles;  
Cllr J Greenham – Volunteers lead and Asset Register  
Cllr M Westen – Website and Connectivity Agenda  
Cllr D Crowley- Highways  
Cllr H Owen – Responsible Financial Officer; Ground Maintenance Contract  
Cllr C Prentice – to continue representing APC on the Village Hall Committee and to continue to be the APC representative on the NPG.
- Webinar for fighting Climate Change – The meeting agreed to P Cowx attending the Climate Change Webinar on behalf of APC and to cover the necessary small enrolment fee.
- Flagpole – The Church Wardens had given their approval, subject to certain conditions, for a flagpole to be placed on the Church Tower. N Morgan had written to APC agreeing to be responsible for the installation of the flagpole and for the next two years for the flag flying on set occasions through the year. The Flagpole would be purchased using the County Council's Priority Fund, as previously discussed, and a generous donation that will be made by a resident. The meeting agreed to proceed with the purchase of the flagpole subject to the Church Wardens' approval (through Roger Baker) of the technical plan for its erection; and to accept N Morgan's offer to lead on this and on the flag flying for the first two years.  
**Action: Clerk to inform N. Morgan of this outcome and request that he consult Roger Baker about the erection of the flagpole; and, if that is approved, that he purchase a suitable flagpole using the designated funds; and have it erected on the Church Tower.**
- Playpark- Cllr J Greenham proposed proceeding with previous Cllr A Reynolds' recommendation to accept Playdale's tender to provide new playground equipment (a toddler swing and a springy ride) and upgrade the surfaces. Cllr C Prentice seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.  
**Action: Clerk to bring this to Cllr H Owen's attention (not present at the meeting).**

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**Action: Cllr H Owen to proceed with the ordering of the new play equipment and oversee its installation, keeping the parish informed of key steps in the process through the Facebook page and website.**

**14. Agenda Diary**

No agenda diary items for May

**15. Correspondence**

The meeting noted that no correspondence had been received.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

- **NPG**
- **Website**
- **Connectivity**
- **Dog Waste Bin**
- **CIL Funding**

The meeting closed at 9:06pm

Signed.....Date.....

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## **Actions Arising**

### **A. Cllr C. Prentice**

#### **Connectivity- Idstone**

Action: G Turner to draft a letter regarding the Service Obligation. Cllr Prentice to send on behalf of APC.

#### **Village Hall – FTTP Broadband**

Action: Clerk and Cllr Prentice to liaise with the Village Hall Committee over delivery of this contribution.

### **B. Cllr J. Greenham**

#### **Community Speed Watch**

Action: Cllr J Greenham to find out more information on CSW and arrange a meeting in the next month with those residents who were keen to be to get confirmation that they wish to contribute. Cllr D Crowley to lead thereafter.

### **C. Cllr M.Westen**

#### **Website**

Action: Cllr Westen to engage with the volunteer tech expert and make recommendations in due course on changes to the Website and our broader communications strategy

#### **Connectivity**

Action: P Smith and G Turner to arrange a meeting to develop a communication strategy. Cllr M Westen to attend on behalf of APC.

### **D. Cllr D. Crowley**

#### **CIL Funding**

Action: For D. Crowley, in consultation with J. Ruggiero and the Clerk, to activate this CIL fund.

#### **Ashbury Hill Speed Warning Indicator**

Action: Cllr Crowley to find out who installed the sign (probably OCC Highways) and report to them that it is not working.

### **E. Cllr H. Owen**

#### **Playpark**

Action: Cllr H Owen to proceed with the ordering of the new play equipment and oversee its installation, keeping the parish informed of the key steps in the process through Facebook page and website.

### **F. Clerk**

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### **Dog Waste Bins**

Action: Clerk to consult with J. Ruggiero (former Councillor) and forward most recent communication on this issue.

### **Requirement for Improved Document Exchange, Management and Store**

Action: Clerk to liaise with G Turner on setting up the system required.

### **Village Hall – FTTP Broadband**

Action: Clerk and Cllr Prentice to liaise with the Village Hall Committee over delivery of this contribution.

### **Flagpole**

Action: Clerk to inform N. Morgan of the outcome which is to purchase the flagpole and request he consult Roger Baker about the erection of the flagpole; and, if that is approved, that he purchase a suitable flagpole using the designated funds; and have it erected on the Church Tower.

### **Playpark**

Action: Clerk to bring the agreement to purchase the equipment to Cllr H Owens attention.

## **G. Chair of Neighbourhood Planning Group, P Smith**

### **Connectivity**

Action: P Smith and G Turner to arrange a meeting to develop a communication strategy. Cllr M Westen to attend on behalf of APC. Other Councillors to attend, if possible.

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Appendix 1

**Yearly NPG Report to:** Ashbury Parish Council May 2023

**From:** Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group: members Pauline Smith as Chair (PS), Dominick Donald (DD), Richard Meek (RM) Christopher Prentice as Chair of APC and representative of APC (CP)

**Action required:** Content to note and agree and for uploading to the parish website for resident access

## Introduction

This is the yearly report provided by the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) for the time period April 2022 to end of April 2023. The main content in the body of this report, as required by our NP Monitoring remit, is to provide both the data and analysis for the use of our Neighbourhood Plan in the planning applications process.

The remainder of our activity is either recorded here or is found reported in sources identified below:

- in the NPG reports submitted to Ashbury Parish Council for their meeting every 2 months. These NPG reports are found attached to the minutes of the APC meetings available on the Ashbury Parish website.
- in the report on the outcomes of our NPG objectives and projects agreed for May 2022 - 2023

We have, as in previous years, formulated our NPG objectives and projects for this coming year May 2023-24. These include the need for continuing activity from some of our 2022-23 objectives and project activity. The remainder are for focussed attention on current issues.

- Both these documents are provided as supplementary documents to this yearly report.

We note the most important and productive activity of and reported from the NPG this year has been raising the need for and addressing the Connectivity and Digital Infrastructure agenda. The actions we have taken align to the specific needs of Ashbury Parish as drawn from the subject areas and agendas in the Implementation plan of the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Digital infrastructure Strategy\*.

It will be seen that overall our NPG activity for this year continued to be lively and creative in both addressing and achieving our required outcomes. Where possible we produced several updates or pieces of information related to our NP activity. These we circulated to our parish residents. We did this as one way to keep any connection by residents to their NP alive, especially important as the NP moves towards the ending of its 5-year adopted/made status from July 2019 – July 2024.

\*It is now a requirement of VWHDC and SODC Planning and Policy Neighbourhood planning team for NP to include policies and or actions that address the Connectivity and OCC Digital Infrastructure strategy as part of meeting the settlement, place and sustainability agendas. This requirement also includes the OCC Transport strategy.

**Report on overall aim of our NPG activity: Implementation, monitoring and review of our NP and use of its policies**



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The overall aim of our NPG activity continues to ensure maximum benefit for the use of our Ashbury neighbourhood plan (NP). For this activity we raise, become more aware of and record planning circumstances that illustrate strengths, limitations and gaps in the policies in the NP when addressing our remit.

### **Criteria used to monitor the use Ashbury NP and Policies - the planning application**

**process:** The plan is used to respond to all planning applications for any new build or conversion (change of use category \*see below), repairs or infrastructure installations in our parish. We monitor their use against the following criteria:

- what policies and sub sections of the policies are we using and what other data/evidence from the plan
- how effective is the use of the policy for those planning applications
- do the policies as written, continue to be the most appropriate for the type of applications received and what are any policy gaps
- 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.

### **Recorded Monitoring Activity for the year May 2022-2023**

For this year we have provided responses to 9 planning applications. 2 of these applicants then submitted Amendments. 5 further planning applications provided detail of meeting conditions (Discharge of Conditions submissions) at the time the planning application was agreed. 1 planning application was withdrawn and 1 was for a request for a Certificate of Lawful Development for a single storey extension, just refused and so to be resubmitted as a full planning application.

We were forwarded 1 planning application for comment from Swindon Borough Council, re a development in Wanborough

2 of the planning applications received were for conversion ‘change of use’\* either using Class Q variation of conditions or as a FUL (notation = more detailed application) for Agricultural barn or building to become residential dwellings, and 1 with associated Agricultural land. Further details of the separate National Permitted Development rights which govern these conversion applications can be found in the NPG paper circulated across the parish on this subject during April 2023.

### **Use of the NP policies**

- We have used the Ashbury NP 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 6 with 1.1 x 2, 1.2 x 1, 1.3 x 3, 1.4 x1, *Policy 2:* x 1, *Policy 3:* x 1, *Policy 4:* x 1 with 4.1 x 1, *Policy 5:* x 4, with 5.1 x 1, 5.2 x 3, *Policy 6:* x 1, *Policy 7:* x 1 *Policy 8* x 1
  - We also used just 1 of the NP supplementary papers ‘Impact of an ageing population in and for Ashbury’ x 1

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**Analysis of the data and Review:** there is continuing evidence of the same points made below in 2021-22 report applying this year.

- 2021-2022 summary analysis: 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

### **For this year we would add:**

- **The NP policies relate only to new build** and not any \*conversion or change of use activity – which relies on different sets of planning policies – both national and at LDP level.
- **Policy 8 infrastructure:** This policy does not include infrastructure and the build required for 21<sup>st</sup> Century living, the sustainability agenda and that of the whole of the connectivity and digital infrastructure agenda
- **Policy 5 Transport and Accessibility:** this policy requires substantial elaboration and to be better aligned with the OCC Transport strategy
- **Policy 4 Spatial plan:** It has become clear over this year that our Policy 4 with use of the word ‘limited infill’ would be very unlikely to stand up to any speculative developer planning application for land that becomes available. An Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Alliance (ONPA) workshop in March 2023 on NP policy writing provided guidance on how to write unambiguous policies. The word ‘limited infill’ is ambiguous! One of the workshops at this event covered Infill Housing and PS was the group facilitator for this subject. Wording of a such a policy requires much more detail and there will be a number of supporting policies including density policy statements, different settlement policies, for example that will be required to replace or revise elements our policy 4.

### **Use of our NP by VWHDC Planning Team**

The use of our NP as equal weight in the planning application decision making process has been more evident and positive this year as evidenced by the content in the decision notices and delegated reports provided by the Planning Team. Our feedback input to the Team in 2022 has contributed to the changes required.

We recommend findings from our analysis of this data to be addressed as a part of the agenda for any upcoming revision to our Neighbourhood plan.

**In summary** we have achieved a great deal this year. Our NPG NP agenda was well articulated and well laid out.

In this next year in order to achieve and deliver many of the outcomes we hope for, some of our continuing activity will be of an influencing nature to external parties. This because elements of the Connectivity Infrastructure actions required are not fully in our control to deliver.

Pauline Smith Chair Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group May 2023

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Appendix 2

## **NPG Objective and projects Year plan: May 2023 – 2024**

### **1. Addressing safety dimension for vehicles, cyclists and walkers use of the Triangle of land B4507 as you leave Kingston Winslow (KW) Led by Dominick D with APC Highways Lead**

#### **Project background:**

- Previously recorded by NPG, this site has poor visibility
- There will be 17 + parking spaces on the barn site, + 3 car for the Bog End barn and 3 for the Old Dairy = 23 extra cars/traffic exit and entering from this triangle + those further down from the Farmhouse and Lower Mill and the road down to and into KW Green as regular users
- There is also a bike shed on the Black Barns site, though it is unclear which route cyclists will take from this site:

#### **Project outline**

To capture the experiences of this increase in traffic by collecting data over time. This data once analysed will be used to make the case to Highways for alteration of this junction triangle of land

- For DD and new APC highways lead to work together on this piece of activity
- Set out project plan, monitoring and review of plan including
  - To put together a data collecting sheet to be used by each of the residents as above using this entry and exit route for them to record the experience of using this junction – include dates and other, As the sheet fills to collect, replace

### **2. Input and actions for the Connectivity and infrastructure agenda aligned to OCC Digital Infrastructure Implementation Plan specific to Ashbury Parish**

For NPG, with planning input, to work alongside/with any APC Connectivity Lead and Graham Turner as the APC/NPG Technology Connectivity lead for this agenda to address the aspects of the agenda listed below:

- *The Broadband, Fibre optic cable Broadband for fibre to premises (FTTP) or gigabit or any superceding service*
  - for any further Ashbury FTTP infrastructure in conservation areas/other re pole sitings and any planning permissions required for the poles
  - to keep in touch with the progress for any contract secured via the national Project Gigabit for provision of a high speed Gigabit Broadband service to our Hamlet Idstone
    - to connect and work with the named service provider once the contract has been agreed for the implementation and installation activity
    - if no contract is secured, to trigger other option actions to secure a Broadband service in Idstone
- OCC Digital Infrastructure Team Giga Hub project

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- 5G masts and 5G service for the parish taking account of the changed permitted development rights for the height of masts before planning applications for any installation required
- Landline changes

Achieving much of this agenda, now on the table, will be a joint effort that will require connection in some form to a number of external parties. It is likely then that where direct action towards achieving outcomes is not possible, APC/NPG actions will also include influencing actions or making requests for more information, gaps in information, collective direction of travel, timelines to other organisations and personnel. These personnel may include County Councillor, OCC Digital Infrastructure Team Director Lead or any identified national Lead or service provider.

### **3. Briefing of and support to APC re setting up an APC NP Steering Group for revision of NP (the revision will not be led by the current NPG group with its focus on use of the NP by implementation monitoring and review activity of and for the current Nplan)**

The actions will include:

- Provision of the monitoring and review pack from use of current NP and policies
- Production of pack to include a range of NP policy resources from a number of sources:
- Feedback/updates on South and Vale LDP consultation documents and plan for 2025 adoption
- Guidance from and link into the VWHDC/SODC Planning and Policy Neighbourhood Plan team members – what to focus on for any revision and context = *whats important for the Ashbury Parish setting, tightening of current and needed policies*
  - Requirements to develop a Design Code
  - To ensure the OCC Transport and Digital Infrastructure strategies inform the content of the policies for the Sustainability agenda at local levels
  - The criteria used for assessing ‘settlements’
- Providing ongoing information about the progress or use and implications for revision of Nplan re the Govt Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill – Planning requirements and any revised NPPF

### **4. Addressing possible provision of Primary Health Care needs for Ashbury parish residents registered with GP practices inside and outside of Oxfordshire NHS service provision via NP planning input to:**

- a. exploring any service provision opportunities virtual or otherwise in the Ashbury Village Hall as a GigaHub --- Lambourn surgery, Elm Tree Surgery, Wanborough surgery
- b. contributing to any planning activity for resiting of Elm Tree Surgery Shrivenham (with Shrivenham NP and Uffington NP)

### **5. Updating and Revision of the NPG Resource pack**

This pack needs significant updating and revision

### **6. Revision of the Terms of reference for NPG**

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There are some gaps in the current terms of reference made evident by the work of the group over the last year

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Appendix 3

## Report to Ashbury Parish Council (APC) from Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) Pauline Smith as Chair NPG, for period 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Internal Activity

#### **1. Submission of our NPG annual report for agreement by APC**

This includes our report on the progress of outcomes for NPG year plan objectives for 2022-23. And the NPG year plan objectives/projects for 2023 -24

#### **2. Planning applications x 3**

- Certificate of Lawful Development request for a single storey extension under Permitted Development rights. *This was refused and the applicant has been requested to submit a full planning application*
- FUL planning application submitted for Barn at College Farm B4000 *Agreed*
- Provision of dropped kerb, associated works to land front of house and Highways verge *Decision expected 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023*

#### **3. Update on previous recommendations made to APC at March 2023 meeting + 2 requested resubmissions for decisions to proceed or not**

##### **3.1 Recommendations/Request 2:**

RE APC Communications plan and website activity: Dominick Donald, member of NPG offered the services of his daughters very tech savvy input over the summer for any Ashbury Parish website work

See [www.dominickdonald.com](http://www.dominickdonald.com) and Uffington Parish website powered sustainably and puts out weekly newsletter, + for posting on their parish website (a communication plan)

##### **3.2 Recommendation/Request 5:**

for APC to consider holding an APC/NPG Connectivity meeting in the months between the APC meetings or as a one off, purely focused on Connectivity agenda and actions. This is a huge agenda and requires active understanding and involvement of APC as key 21<sup>st</sup> century agenda issue.

A meeting this June (date to be agreed) would include: (Graham Turner and PS have proposed the following) these separate subjects require a connecting thread:

- 5G mast and service: agreeing message and methods to publish for/to residents about need for a 5G service, proposal re a possible parish siting for a mast, clarify position of any OCC Digital Infrastructure Implementation plans for rural areas re this service and 5G masts (at present the plan is for Oxford City Centre)
- Update and discussion re Idstone and Project Gigabit
- Land line changes: to propose plan and method for working directly with residents to talk through concerns and issues already being raised by these changes (several identified already) – use shop for groups of 2 or 3 households at a time
  - To discuss and agree some core messages and information sources to provide consistent information – drawing on the new nationally produced information

#### **Update on progress from the other 5 recommendations**

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**Recommendation/Request 1:** Paper on Planning permissions and processes for Disused Agricultural barns and buildings to be converted to a residential dwelling/property in Ashbury Parish: updated and circulated via parish email and Ashbury facebook page

**Recommendation/Request 3:** for the brief for APC Connectivity agenda Graham Turner to be widened and to include keeping attention focussed on any emerging new technologies re connectivity as neither FTTP or wireless solution maybe the Idstone answer. PS and GT to action for revision of brief

Brief updated and circulated as part of the APC new Councillors orientation pack

**Recommendation/Request 4:** Following APC march meeting for: APC Chair NPG Chair, APC Connectivity Lead, County and District Councillors to meet to discuss OCC response to APC/NPG report.

Progress recorded in NPG Objectives and Projects report for 2022-23

**Recommendation/Request 6:** For James R as APC Highways Lead to activate this CIL for Highways action -- to clarify if this has been progressed

**Recommendation/Request 7:** To address safety dimension of triangle of land for vehicles and walkers at the top of KW and which leads onto the B4507 towards Wantage.

This activity now forms a project in the NPG 2023-4 year plan

**RE: ASSETS PS also agreed to take on the update of the documentation required re the APC owned or responsibility for maintenance of Assets**

Completed and forwarded to Finance, Clerk and Chair

#### **4. Request for APC to consider Review of NP and type of review**

Neighbourhood planning and the development of N plans is governed by a national process, defined methodology and order of actions. NPG will provide a host of information, resources and support to any reconvened steering group as stated in our 2023-24 NPG objectives year plan

**Option 1:** to agree to a major review with a plan to gain adoption by July 2024 (a minor review would likely be refused by VWHDC given policy amendments and additions required)

Immediate Factors to take account of:

- Timing: the current NP is valid from July 2019 until July 2024
- The monitoring and review of the current plan would suggest there is a need for a major review.
  - This would involve an External Examination (EE) process. Setting this up and responding to any changes requires a 6 month time allowance
- Setting up a new NP development Steering Group
  - The previous terms of reference would be a useful resource
  - Consider 3 members, to include an Admin role for keeping track of all content requirements for a revised NP, possibly a Finance role and a number of support roles who may contribute just parts to the process – such as the community engagement process

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- Financial support for a review is £10,000. The sourcing of the fund for this financial year has ended, but is likely to be available next January and needs to be spent in financial year – use for resources such as Parish Plan and or for any technical support

NPG would recommend if the decision is to proceed, to start the set-up activity as soon as possible. This so Steering group members can spend time becoming familiar with the nature of the work and content, to set out the time plan and to commence any redrafting to feed the first sets of consultations with the parish residents

**Option 2:** To agree to a major review with a time schedule for adoption in 2025-26. This would leave a year or more of ‘at risk’ status.

This risk status matters only if land becomes available in the parish where speculative development would take advantage of the current Nplan being invalid and with policies that don’t cover the full settlement agenda. We have no land for build at present

**Option 3:** to decide that no review will take place with the ‘hope’ that any changes to the NPPF for development of nationally set planning policies and where the revised joint south and vale2041 LDP is less growth orientated, will provide sufficient protection for build individual or larger in any part of the parish for 5 years

The risks here would be related to more agricultural barns becoming available for conversion, change of use, or for agricultural land to become available to sell to developers. These may choose to be unhampered by use of Class Q and submit planning applications for build on the site beyond the conversion builds (already happening in parts of Oxfordshire where Developers see gaps in NP policies).

If Choosing Option 2 or 3 (with more information than provided above) it would be good practice to consult the residents on such a plan of action

### **External Activity and actions**

- **ONPA and NPG Chair:**
  - Workshop: NP policy writing and facilitated group work for 4 policies (I facilitated the one on Infill)
  - Circulation of Paper on **How can Neighbourhood Plans (NP) address the issue of Primary Health Care provision in their areas? As of April 2023**
  - Meeting with South and Vale Planning Policy Neighbourhood Planning Lead – update on planning agendas, LDP update and discussions re NP aligned to current requirement and for when proposed updated NPPF is agreed

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**Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council  
At The Village Hall**

Appendix 4

**FINANCE REPORT TO 30 APRIL 2023**

1. The Parish precept for 2023/2024 is £15,263.
2. The first tranche of the precept (£7,631) was received during April.
3. There were no other significant areas of financial activity during April. The details can be found in the attached report.
4. At 30 April 2023, total reserves stood at £58,135 (compared to £50,647 at 31 March 2023) of which £33,190 related to earmarked reserves. Again, the details can be found in the attached report.