

Minutes of the Drayton 2020 Steering Group Meeting held at 7pm on Friday 19th October 2012 in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton

Present: Andrew Bax (Chairman); Oenone Grant; Janet Manning; Daniel Scharf; Tom Shebbeare; Richard Williams

Not Present: Diane Dunsdon; Christine West; Richard Webber

In Attendance: David Perrow (Parish Clerk)

Minutes

2012/032 Working with VWHDC

Laura Howard, Planning Officer VWHDC, attended for this item and the Chairman welcomed her to the meeting. Responding to points on the Agenda and on the previous Minutes of 5th October, Laura made the following comments:

- (a) Local Plan.** The VWHDC's Local Plan was in two parts. Part 1 will be published for consultation in early 2013 and with the pre-submission draft submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of 2013 with independent examination early 2014. It was likely to be adopted in the latter half of 2014. Part 1 would look at strategic housing growth and policies. Strategic growth is classified as sites of over 200 houses. Part 2 of the Local Plan would be started in 2014 and would deal with smaller sites in villages and towns and development management policies. The Local Plan would be supplemented by Neighbourhood Plans, which would need to be in conformity with the VWHDC's Local Plan.
- (b) Housing targets.** Though the 'top down' South East area plan of the previous government was to be set aside, VWHDC had decided through the internal review process to keep with the housing targets set by this plan. This will need to be justified at examination.
- (c) Housing sites in villages.** The previous VWHDC Local Plan 2011 is still the development plan to be used when determining planning applications. However due to the fact that the VWHDC does not currently have a 5 year land supply in place the policies related to housing which includes the 15 house limit on development in villages now needs to be considered out of date. The test under the new national legislation (the National Planning Policy Framework/ NPPF) was whether a development was Sustainable. There was a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' which VWHDC had to apply to any planning applications. Each site would need to be assessed on its own merits. Sustainability covered things like transport; landscape; local amenities (school etc.). Section 106 contributions could be required to contribute to local planning gain to improve services and amenities.
- (d) Transport.** In response to a question Laura confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) , who are responsible for highways, had told VWHDC that traffic growth should be looked at 'cumulatively' across the villages of Drayton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay – that is, if a development in one village on a traffic route is already approved, the traffic impact of that scheme would count towards the traffic assessment in future housing schemes in villages on the same route.

Although OCC had indicated that "about 20 homes" would be acceptable in each village this was not a definite cap and development would need to be assessed on their own merits.

(e) VWHDC Advisory Services. Laura was happy to attend Drayton2020 Steering Group meetings on an occasional basis to advise on the Drayton2020 Neighbourhood Plan. VWHDC's legal role was to establish the boundary of the Drayton2020 plan (a 6 week consultation on this had just been launched); to work with Drayton2020 to ensure that the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan was not in conflict with the emerging VWHDC Local Plan; to appoint and supervise the independent examination of the Drayton2020 plan; and to run the referendum on the plan.

(f) Funding. The £30k government funding was in two parts: £5k which can be applied for after the boundary consultation (probably VWHDC will apply in March 2013 for this); £25k when the independent examination was completed - however Government has only confirmed funding for 2012/13. It is not yet known whether they will continue the funding in 2013/14 - an announcement is expected after Christmas. THE VWHDC Cabinet was currently considering what funding they could provide to Drayton and other neighbourhood plans, and this decision should be made before the end of 2012.

(g) Surveys etc. Laura advised Drayton2020 to approach ORCC for advice on how to organise its neighbourhood plan. Various professional studies would be required if Drayton2020 was to identify housing sites: landscape studies; archaeological surveys etc. Developers could then be expect to undertake more detailed work to support their individual site.

(h) Neighbourhood Plans. Faringdon was a 'front runner' council on neighbourhood plans. In the VWH Shrivenham and Wantage were both considering whether to develop neighbourhood plans. Drayton was so far the only village undertaking such a plan. Other routes, such as a Parish Plan, had been followed by other local councils, but these carried less weight than neighbourhood plans.

Laura was thanked for coming to the meeting and left at 8.10pm.

2012/033 Public Participation

Seven members of the public were present.

- (a) **A34 Slip road.** A number of neighbours in Steventon Road, south of the A34, attended the meeting to make representations against the re-opening of the slip road. One of the residents had undertaken a traffic survey which showed that 90% of the traffic goes towards Milton, and 10% only towards Drayton, so assertions that re-opening the slip road would alleviate Drayton traffic problems were misguided. 90% of the Drayton traffic turns right at the mini-roundabout to go to Sutton Courtenay. Re-opening the slip road would increase traffic flow on Steventon Road (south of the A34) as traffic coming from Steventon would then head towards the Drayton slip road, rather than going towards Milton. It was pointed out that the slip road was only ever a construction road, and that the A34 was now much busier than when it was operating. It was feared that if the slip road was re-opened, even only when the A34 was blocked, that traffic going towards Steventon would try a dangerous maneuver by turning right onto the A34, whereas the slip road was designed as a junction for traffic coming only from the other direction, from Steventon. Two of the Steventon Road residents agreed to join the Drayton2020 Transport Working Group. Daniel Scharf pointed out that those who work on the neighbourhood plan must serve the wider community interest and that 'single issue' local concerns may well need to be laid aside so that whole-community benefits can be achieved.

- (b) **VWHDC comments.** There was a general discussion about the VWHDC's comments. It was felt that communities such as Drayton were receiving mixed messages from central and local government. Central Government had already funded front-runner councils (such as Faringdon) to undertake neighbourhood plans, but VWHDC seemed to be suggesting that they would carry no weight until the Local Plan was in place, which Laura Howard had indicated would be 2014 or later.

2012/034 Apologies were received from Christine West and Richard Webber

2012/035 The Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5th October were **approved** without any amendments

2012/036 Matters Arising/Report Back on Actions

(a) **Maps.** Each Working Group now had a large scale map to work with.

(b) **Statement of Community Involvement.** The Clerk had produced a first draft and would add to this (police/OCC/other parishes etc.) and maintain it as a working document. It would be added to the Drayton2020 website.

ACTION: Clerk to update the Statement of Community Involvement.

(c) **Viability Report.** It was **agreed** that Daniel Scharf would approach a local firm to see if they would undertake this report.

ACTION: Daniel Scharf to ask a local firm whether they would undertake a Viability Report on Drayton.

2012/037 Housing

It was **decided** that some guidance on the village's wishes on housing should be in place by the end of 2012 so that the Parish Council's Planning Committee could have some criteria to hand to guide responses to any planning applications. Daniel Scharf agreed to draft an initial document.

ACTION: Daniel Scharf to draft initial guidance on criteria for dealing with major planning applications for new housing for consideration at the next meeting.

It was **agreed** that the Manor Farm development should be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting, with a view to approaching Earl of Plymouth Estates.

ACTION: Clerk to put Manor Farm development on the next meeting agenda.

2012/038 Working Groups

(a) **Work and Play** had met yesterday (Thurs 18th Oct). There were currently 4 people in the group: 3 were at the meeting. The group felt that old industrial sites in the village might be identified for new housing developments.

(b) **Look and Feel** had met once and a report of the meeting had been circulated and would be available on the website. The next meeting would be held on 1st November, 7.45pm.

(c) **Sustainability** would be holding its initial meeting on Wednesday 24th October at 6.30pm.

ACTION: Clerk to advertise this meeting to the email list

(d) **Transport** would hold its first meeting in early November

2012/039 Finance

- (a) **Income and expenditure to date.** No change from last meeting.
- (b) **Grants & Donations.** Tom Shebbeare volunteered to be the Drayton2020 Fundraising Officer. It was suggested that funding would be needed before any work on the 'Vision' for the village centre could be undertaken.

ACTION: Tom Shebbeare to seek funding for the 'Vision' for the village centre, and general funding for Drayton2020

2012/040 Publicity

- (a) **Email list.** The Clerk confirmed that there were now 230 email addresses on the mailing list.
- (b) **Website.** Drayton2020 now had a separate section on the village website, and each Working Group could have its own page.
- (c) **Publicity Officer.** No one had volunteered for this role as yet. The Clerk was asked to approach a specific person who is not currently a member of the Steering Group to see whether he would be interested in this role.

ACTION: Clerk to ask whether a particular person named at the meeting would become the Drayton2020 Publicity Officer

2012/041 Any Other Business

- (a) **ORCC.** It was agreed that Anton Nath should be invited to the next Steering Group meeting on 2nd November. ORCC would definitely be hired for some of its services. Discussion at the next meeting would determine which, and the cost of these as a package.
ACTION: Clerk to ask Anton Nath to the next Drayton2020 Steering Group meeting
- (b) **Deputy Clerk.** A Deputy Clerk (5 hours per week) was being recruited to assist the Clerk with Parish Council work so that the Clerk could devote 5 hours per week to Drayton2020 tasks.
- (c) **Apologies.** Andrew Bax gave his apologies for the next meeting. Tom Shebbeare (Vice Chairman) will chair this meeting.
- (d) **Length of Meetings.** It was agreed that a Standing Order should be established that Steering Group meetings should not normally exceed 2 hours in length
- (e) **Drayton Community Primary School.** It was agreed that Richard Williams would contact Rev'd Rebecca Peters (a School Governor) about keeping Drayton2020 in touch with parents at the school.
ACTION: Richard Williams to contact Rev'd Rebecca Peters about keeping Drayton2020 in touch with parents at Drayton School

2012/042 Date and Time of Next Meeting(s).

Future meetings agreed are:

Friday 2nd November/Friday 16th November/Friday 30th November

All at 7pm in the Caudwell Day Centre

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Signed:

Tom Shebbeare (Vice Chairman)

2nd November 2012

ACTION CHECKLIST- DRAYTON2020 MEETING – FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER 2012

Who	Action Point	Report back on Action
Daniel Scharf	Daniel Scharf to ask a local firm whether they would undertake a Viability Report on Drayton	
Daniel Scharf	Daniel Scharf to draft initial guidance on criteria for dealing with planning applications for new housing for consideration at the next meeting.	Done
Tom Shebbeare	Tom Shebbeare to seek funding for the 'Vision' for the village centre, and general funding for Drayton2020	
Richard Williams	Richard Williams to contact Rev'd Rebecca Peters about keeping Drayton2020 in touch with parents at Drayton School	Done
Parish Clerk	Clerk to update the Statement Of Community Involvement.	
Parish Clerk	Clerk to put Manor Farm development on the next meeting agenda.	Done
Parish Clerk	Clerk to advertise the Sustainability meeting to the email list	Done
Parish Clerk	Clerk to ask whether a particular person named at the meeting would become the Drayton2020 Publicity Officer	Done
Parish Clerk	Clerk to ask Anton Nath to the next Drayton2020 Steering Group meeting	Done