

**Minutes of Sustainability meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012**  
**First meeting of the Sustainability Group**

**Minutes of the Drayton 2020 Sustainability Group**

**Venue – Cheers House, 66 High Street, Drayton (just into Cheers Drive)**

**Time – 18:30 Wednesday 24 October 2012**

**Present:-**

Diane Dunsdon – Convener Sustainability  
Daniel Scharf – Parish Council / Steering Group Rep  
Paul Mayhew-Archer  
Matthew Lowy  
Chris Bone

**Working Groups Profiles:-**

**Diane Dunsdon**

Lived in Drayton for 20 years, likes living in Drayton, due to its proximity to Oxford & Abingdon. I worked for RM Education for 18 years, I am now self-employed working with new entrepreneurs' and new start business investors.

**Daniel Scharf**

Lived in Drayton since 1975, it's a good place to live. Heads up Parish Council and would like to bring the village closer together, especially west side of the village which houses  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of the population.

**Paul Mayhew-Archer**

Lived in Drayton for 4.5 years, he is a comedy writer and scripter. His wife is a Councilor for the Liberal Dem's. He has one son who lives in London. He is interested in Sustainability, hence signing up to the group.

**Matthew Lowy**

Works in IT contracted into Oil Industry, lives in Drayton with his wife whom works at the NHS and their 3 children who attend local schools. Attended Curry night launch, did the walk and is interested in the sustainability of the village.

**Chris Bone**

Works an Operation Director, for IT Company. He has lived in Drayton with his family for 18 months. Very interested in the village and has attended the Parish Council meetings, Curry night launch, and is keen to join in one of the working groups.

**David Mercer**

David is a freelance consultant specialising in product development and web design and he has a personal interest in green technology and the natural environment.

## **Overview of Drayton 2020 – discussed by the group**

- 4 groups whom form the steering of the Local Plan.
- Vale of the White Horse – putting together the Strategic Plan for Abingdon, Didcot, Wantage & Grove – to be adopted in 2014.
- 2015 – VWHDC to start on Local Plan on rest of District before which NDP Independent Inspection cannot be held.
- NPPF – encourages the production and adoption of NDP's.
- IHSP – The Vales housing policy was discontinued as illegal. The Vale does not believe that it has a housing policy compliant with the NPPF (i.e. demonstrating a 5 year housing supply and believes speculative housing applications might be difficult to resist.
- DRS believe that emerging NDPs plans will be given weight and has that view confirmed by the DCLG.
- Inspectors choose on the evidence to support in making planning decisions. This can be different for every case and Drayton 2020 is an opportunity to provide credible evidence of the village views.
- Laura Howard is being allowed to help us through the process of the NDP.
- Drayton needs robust evidence from the community.
- The job of Drayton 2020 and this group is to explore ways to get more public opinion on the future of the village.
- Need to look at how we can get Matthew Barbour (leader of the Vale) on side to give weight to emerging plans.
- A Sustainability Appraisal will need to be completed as part of the plan.
- Allocated land will need to go through all of the examination process to assess suitability and sustainability.

**This was the first meeting of the group and there was a general discussion as to how 'sustainability' could contribute to the other aspects of the NDP.**

### **Housing**

- Housing needs to be prioritized – due to the likelihood of developers putting in planning applications in a policy vacuum.
- Earl of Plymouth Estate's central location in the village possible opportunity to make a village centre. The current permission is for mostly executive style homes. Any new scheme could have a better mix including affordable homes.
- People needing to have smaller houses to downsize too, this would free up larger homes for growing families and people wanting to move into the village.
- Shared community schemes – less private space to share facilities such as communal areas.
- The need for affordable houses for the younger generations and people looking to downsize – 1 & 2 bedroomed properties (see the Housing Needs Survey).

- Self-building – affordable community builds to be part of developments.
- Demand for Self building and the sharing of skills, which will enable people in their 30's to get onto the housing ladder.
- Speak to any potential developers re-funding projects in the village.

### **Inclusion of the whole village into the plan**

- Gain the interest of the younger generation, need to engage with the younger people – Damascus.
- Interest of the school – Governing body and the parents.
- School – children have the rights to go to their local school, this will need to be developed or improved with the Drayton 2020 plan.
- Set up a forum for sustainability at the school.
- Bring the School and the Village Hall into the Centre of the Village as a Village Institute Hub to enable shared resources – this is demonstrated in areas of Cambridgeshire.

### **Transport**

- Traffic into Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay – very busy.
- Drayton a through road from Abingdon to Milton Park, Didcot and Harwell.
- Problems on the A34 snarl up the village as the traffic drives through Drayton.
- Housing proposed South of Abingdon would increase traffic – 170 houses would add to commuter traffic.
- New housing could have a car sharing scheme – aiming zero traffic growth as a part of any housing development.
- Better cycle routes through Drayton to Steventon, Milton Park and Sutton Courtenay, people would then use these. (Dangerous at the moment and disappear in Abingdon) – There also needs to be better footpaths which are safe to use.
- Would Steventon and Sutton Courtenay Parish Councils – commit to funding along with local enterprise.
- Better bus Service – X2 is not operating a route which works with working times in Abingdon, Oxford, Milton Park, Didcot, school start and finish times and Didcot Parkway.
- To be sustainable the service needs to increase to every 15 minutes.
- Could Sustrans help with funding to provide local links to the National Cycle Network?
- Possible funding from Milton Park, Didcot Parkway & local enterprise.
- Promotions of car sharing schemes at Milton Park, Culham etc.
- Need to speak to ORCC – regarding their level of support on transport in the village and the surrounding areas.

## **Services and Facilities**

- The provision of more allotments for the villagers.
- Self-containment – a hub as part of the community an incubator in the Village Hall, which people could use for Internet Access, working, and extended learning. Place for older children to meet, films & entertainment.
- Buying Group – Set up a group in the village to mass purchase facilities to be more cost effective such as:-
- Electricity, Gas, other fuel – energy consumption, Broadband access, telephone, solar-panels, community wind turbine.
- Group need to find out what grants maybe available for the buying group.
- Better provision of shops – Little Milton has a village run shop as part of the village hall.
- Better more modern village hall – which could be used to raise money for the community.
- Better play facilities for the children, especially the older children – Steventon, Harwell have better facilities and Blewbury has a Skate Park – A wooden play extended play area could be situated on the Millennium Green.
- Better club house and facilities for the football and sports club.
- More football pitches are needed.
- Play and natural areas to be included in new developments.

## **Employment**

- Shops, PO, hardware store and pubs.
- Centre to good areas of employment – Milton Park, Oxford, Abingdon, Harwell and Culham.
- Central to major transport routes – A34, M4, M40, mainline station.
- More hours for village caretaker (as Steventon does) to clear footpaths, cut Millennium Green.

## **Look & Feel (in line with Sustainability)**

- Trees – Biodiversity – Farmers and land owners in the village to fund / apply for grants to plant areas of trees.
- Sutton Courtney – Are growing Maize on the old land full areas for bio fuels and are going through test stages.
- Steventon – Part of the area which should have been the resevoir has been granted planning permission for a solar farm taking up a lot of land, would this be more sustainable on existing and new house roofs which are south facing.
- Fundraising in village to put together a trust – Community for Villagers outside of the plan.

- Avoid over development of areas, numbers of houses should respect settings.

**Actions:-**

- **To decide whether to join the group.**
- **To consider how to collect opinions on 'sustainability'.**
- **To consider how to put these ideas into other working groups and the NDP.**

**Next meeting:-**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Long Meadow  
208 Steventon Road  
Drayton**