

Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan

REPORT No 1

to

Wheatley PC & Holton PC, 7 March 2016

Outline Introduction

Since 2011 (*Localism Act*) communities like **Wheatley and Holton have the right to a voice** in the **Local Plan** for South Oxfordshire District. S.O.D.C is the Planning Authority. The majority opinion expressed in that voice is the **Neighbourhood Plan**. Once drafted, inspected and approved by a majority vote in a Referendum, it will be included in the S.O.D.C. Local Plan. It will also be kept updated. In December 2015, Wheatley Civil Parish and part of Holton Civil Parish [the built-on part of Holton Brookes campus] were formally designated and mapped as the **Neighbourhood**.

The Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan project is **NOT a campaign, nor pressure group, nor has its Committee any policy decision-making power**. It is a process of **Consulting and Listening** to people of this Neighbourhood on the locating of new housing here: – the need for it; how sustainable it is in our present social and physical environment; the types of housing required.

S.O.D.C. is expected to allocate draft housing quotas late this summer.

Report on Progress to Wheatley Parish Council

1. **Committee:** Wheatley P.C. with Holton P.C. held public meetings in November / December 2015. Two were attended by Neighbourhood Plan adviser, Charlotte Colver. Volunteers signed either for the steering Committee, or for anything else, or simply asked to be kept informed. At a meeting of the **19 volunteering** for the Committee, **19 January 2016**, Wheatley PC formally handed them the project and the first Committee meeting was held immediately afterwards. John Fox was elected Chairman and Roy Gordon Vice Chairman of the **Neighbourhood Plan Committee**. A list of Committee members is attached to the report. It is large because all those who volunteered for it are members, in the interests of openness. Its size, in fact, brings a wide range of experience to enrich it. Two additional members have since been co-opted, again from the Volunteer list, as Team Leader *Admin and Planning* and co-Leader *Housing*. All Committee members and Team advisors are required to sign a Register of Interests. (We have adopted the format used by S.O.D.C.).
2. **Committee Meetings** were again convened **27 January, 16 February** and **2 March**. Documentation essential for reference and later formal Inspection has been drawn up. These had to include *Terms of Reference, Road Map, Templates for Agendas and Minutes, and Register of Interests*. A data base of inhabitants of the Neighbourhood is nearly complete. Five focus Teams (*Admin & Plan, Communications & PR, Housing and Land Dev't, Infrastructure, Community & Business*) have been formed. They have elected leaders, co-opted advisers from the Volunteer list, taken on their share of responsibilities and have twice fed back reports to the Committee (16 February and 2

March). They have worked hard between Committee meetings on listing and prioritising tasks. These include:-

- a) Identifying potential housing sites,
 - b) Planning to monitor traffic, drainage, and sewerage 'hot spots'
 - c) Storage of documents. Compliance checks.
 - d) Planning/timing of leafleting, the consultation Questionnaire, and workshops
 - e) Capacity of electricity, gas and broadband networks,
 - f) Pedestrian safety. Schools and other provision for young people
 - g) Consulting businesses and a range of community groups .
3. **Volunteers (163)** were sent an email update by the Chairman, **3 February**. A **Budget Officer**, **Legal Compliance Officer** and **Architect** have also been co-opted to Teams for their expertise. These too have been chosen largely from the list of Volunteers.
4. At the **meeting of 2 March** the 5 Team leaders (all Committee members) and Committee management prioritised the next steps in Consulting the community. We are making this first Report to the two Parish Councils and placing articles in respective Newsletters. The Chairman recently addressed the AGM of the Wheatley Society. A WNP website is being constructed. A *Logo* is being designed. We hope to leaflet every house and business in the Neighbourhood at the beginning of April. We are looking to issuing the Questionnaire early in May. Research is also being done on the number of new houses built in Wheatley c.1980-2016 and how far these match Census housing figures 1981-2011.
5. I am reporting on progress across a mere month and a half. 8/21 Committee members are at work during the week and those who are retired also have commitments. We have no secretariat although we appreciate the Parish Clerk's help with photocopying and advice. In the realm of IT, some of us are what Mike Vaughton calls 'graduates of the *Olivetti Lettera 32*', but we learn quickly. Specialist language sometimes takes some unpicking. We have creative disagreements. Morale, however, seems good on a Committee whose members met round the table, many for the first time, just six weeks ago. The feeling that we are trying to do something worthwhile for everyone does help.

John Fox, Chairman WNP Committee, 7 March 2016.

Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan

Committee Members (21)

Rebecca Beadman

Mark Davies (Team leader, *Communications and PR*)

Tim Davies (WPC councillor; Team leader *Infrastructure*)

Roger Farrow (Holton PC councillor)

John Fox (*Chairman*)

Ellie Freeman

Roy Gordon (*Vice Chairman*)

Chris Hallsworth (Team leader, *Admin and Plan*)

David Harverson

Kevin Heritage

Andrew Johnson

Doug Lamont

David Mancey (Team leader, *Community and Business*)

Rachel Newman

Toby Newman (SODC councillor & WPC councillor)

Cyril Newton

Audrey Parsons

Simon Shew (Team co-leader, *Housing*)

Lucy Thomas

Michael Vaughton (Team leader, *Housing*)

Paul Willmott(WPC councillor)

Associates

Tim Blightman (*Budget Officer*)

Chris Helsby (*Architecture*)

Allan Hicks (*Legal Compliance*)

SODC Designated Adviser

Charlotte Colver