

## **Discussion with 'Sustainable Wheatley' 27 June 2016 at 17 Kelly's Road, Wheatley**

David Mancey (DM) and John Fox(JF) of WNP attended a meeting of this village group to find out their thinking on Sustainability within the Wheatley Community, when more housing could occur.

DM and JF and briefly summarised what the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan had been doing, to date. They wished to listen to the ideas from Sustainable Wheatley tonight.

Questions were raised about the Brookes site. It was one of many sites being considered. A Housing Needs Survey would inform on the type of any future housing within the WNP envelope (including Brookes). Any selected sites would need infrastructure support, as dictated by legal requirements.

The group felt housing for key workers was important. Equally, housing standards for new houses was important – it was pointed out that we must follow government standards. There was a need, they said, for more affordable housing, and rented properties through bodies such as SOHA. Young families have a special need for affordable housing.

Community energy projects were raised; discussion included low carbon hubs, solar panels, insulation and energy efficiency.

The group felt the government should continue in the spirit of the EU Habitats Directive, and locally there should be green corridors for wildlife and the creation of more footpaths to encourage walking around the village (including to ASDA). One idea was a new footpath over the A40 to the Brookes site.

Roger Bettess discussed sustainable drainage systems with the Group; recent events had shown the need to hold back water flow with sluices, and possibly with tree planting. Locally, the water may have raised nitrogen and phosphate levels, and that had implications for water consumption, and for wildlife. Roger would produce a draft of a Biodiversity pattern, aimed at improving wetland sites for wildlife.

The Group discussed their varied activities for sustainable living – including swop shops (ie. recycling), apple juicing, tree planting, shared transport and energy efficient houses.

Transport was raised; the need to control traffic flows on main highways, and to encourage public transport usage.

John Fox mentioned the SODC 13 July consultation in the Merry Bells, when questions on sites for new housing would be answered.

The Group were keen to keep Wheatley as a village, with a distinctive character.

The Group were directed to our website for more information. John and David were willing to attend a future meeting of the Sustainable Wheatley Group.

