

# WNP Chairman's Report, 6 March 2017

To Wheatley and Holton Parish Councils

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## 1. 1.A WNP Milestone

The first version of the Draft Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan was accepted by the WNP Full Committee on 22 February. It was sent on 27 February to our SODC NP Adviser, Rachael Riach, for informal reading and recommendations for the wording of policies. A week later, on 6 March WNP representatives will discuss the emerging product with Rachel.

*Space for JF comments on this discussion to be held 10.30 -12.30, 6 March  
Rachel Riach, Roy Gordon, Simon Shew and John Fox due to be present*

## 2. Productive Delay

In my January Report I estimated we would have Version 1 of The Plan by the end of January. The double Community Survey – a) Housing Needs Survey and b) Community Opinion – was returned 21 October by Community First Oxfordshire. The analysis had to be absorbed and summarised. The first part of The Draft Plan (*Wheatley Today*) went through several versions. The double Community Survey was summarised and added to it. The consistency between that and other evidence for community views had to be duly noted. From November 2016 to February 2017, the eight members of the Project Team and 1-2 of the four Holton 'Ambassadors' conducted several 3 - 4 hour long Workshops to produce NP Policies, and Strategies. Underpinning these policies, we distilled from all the surveying and listening done in 2016 (and continuing) the community's view or Vision of itself, its wishes and needs (objectives) concerning new development and the betterment of the Neighbourhood. This required 7 workshops, amounting to 25 hours discussion, longer than planned. The last was held on 16 February. We believe it has been worth the extra time.

## 3. The Holton 'Ambassadors'

Holton Parish nominated four members of that Parish to speak for the Holton community in the Workshops: Doris Pridmore, Allan East, Polly Davidson and Clare Wright (who could not attend, but who corresponded) . The 'Ambassadors' (my term of warm appreciation ) have been an invaluable bridge between the two parishes at this point in the Neighbourhood Plan. We will miss their wisdom and humour !

**4.Presentation of Version 2 Draft NP to Parish Councillors.** The Chairman of Holton Parish Council has invited Chair and councillors from Wheatley and Holton, WNP Committee members and the Holton 'Ambassadors' to a private meeting, 6.30-7.30 p.m. on Monday 13 March where the current version of the Draft NP will be discussed. The venue will be Holton Village Hall. We plan to send an electronic copy to all concerned by 9 March.

**5. Next Step: Public Consultation for Six Weeks, prior to Final Submission to SODC and to Inspection.**

According to Regulation 16 governing the Neighbourhood Plan (see [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/uksi\\_20120637\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/uksi_20120637_en.pdf)) it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to organise a public consultation.

John Fox,  
Chairman,  
Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Committee,  
2 March 2017