

WNP Committee Report to WPC/HPC December 2018 – January 2019

This is the WNP formal written report to the Parish Councils for January 2019. WNP will also file it on WNP website: -

[\[www.wheatleyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk\]](http://www.wheatleyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)

On 03 January 2019, Doug Lamont [WPC] and John Fox [WNP] will attend a District Council Briefing on the Draft Local Plan 2034. This will be the topic for our combined oral report to WPC/HPC and any discussion which arises, WPC meeting, Monday 07 January 2019.

Thanks from WNP Committee and the community must go our Volunteers, Councillors, Street Reps, Speakers, and 'crowd messengers' who have helped bring 2018 to a positive close. You were patient with our 'Big Halt' for sixteen months, August 2017 – Dec. 2018, when behind the scenes we negotiated, risk-assessed, turned over SODC advice, and questioned it. Some of you must have thought we had fled ! In the gaps, we were also building up statutory (x 4) and advisory (x 5) documents required or considered important to what is officially 'a complex Plan'.

This paper-chase has involved liaison with outside contractors, when we need their expertise. One company needed nine months to complete a document (*Environmental Analysis*) required of us by law. Others took less time, but Committee members have also taken on statutory documents – the Draft Final WNP itself, and the Statutory Consultation Statement. We have covered many miles between here and SODC (wherever it is – Didcot or Crowmarsh !) And at last on 11 December 2018, WNP Committee voted to begin Final Public Consultation in late January 2019, which will allow us to submit our Draft NP to WPC [Validating Body] and SODC [Planning Body] and finally to the Examiner for scrutiny. He will pronounce, we will take note (a last, hopefully up-beat Public Consultation) the Electoral Commission with SODC will hold a Referendum of the two Parishes. [approx. 5000] This last 'Say' will also be extended to our new community members at *Mill Green* and *The Sidings*.

WNP Public Consultation from late January 2019 will overlap the last weeks of SODC's own Public Consultation (07 Jan. - 18 February). That will allow everyone a side-by-side view of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Hopefully blind spots and memory lapses will be avoided. One Plan is embedded within the other Plan, and WNP has a supportive Local Plan setting. We have also taken delivery of brand-new bespoke maps for better public display and clarity – thanks to our own Wheatley company, Anderson Orr.

Please remember, Brookes Campus is a Strategic Site at Brookes campus (where our voice is limited, but has been listened to and acted upon) and Wheatley village up for voluntary 'enhancement' [improvement] with SODC support and a

positive community response from WNP 2017 Public Consultation. Here we have a greater say. In January-February 2019 our last major Public Consultation will be about a more polished, but essentially unchanged Neighbourhood Plan from 2017. The difference is that it can be discussed more clearly, with more detail and with better understanding than in 2017. This is *real* Consultation – which grows, and is never just a one-off.

In 2018, WNP, the two Parish Councils, the many respondents to the Brookes Campus agent's [GVA] Outline Planning Proposals made a case to SODC officers and councillors to limit the OBU site to 300 houses, and to delete suspect phrases like 'at least 300'. WNP pressed for this since figures were first aired in June 2016 amid controversy. We also pressed for that number limit to be kept within the present 'built-form' and on 13 December SODC Planning supported our case.

It was good to see over 40 local people at SODC Planning Committee, 28 November, when '500 homes' was voted out by 8 councillors' votes against (one abstained). A Holton resident with long Planning experience sobered everyone by challenging OBU to align its proposals for the Holton site with the respected planning ideals taught in its own Planning education. WNP Committee members had also worked closely with that university Department, 2016-17.

The new Draft SODC Local Plan [LP] 2034 goes to 6 weeks Public Consultation on 7 January 2019. It proposes to take the Brookes Campus site out of Green Belt status, presumably to reduce it to Open / Local Green Space. Explanation for this surely needs filling out at the briefing on 03 January. This latest proposal drew an angry response from 70 members of the public present. WNP had objected in writing and have been encouraged to do so in the LP 2034 Consultation. WPC and HPC leaders addressed the above meeting as they had addressed Planning on 28 November. Everyone will be able to respond during the SODC Draft LP 2034 Public Consultation when SODC will hold a Wheatley/Holton Public Open Day.

Huge credit goes to WPC and HPC who have attended several recent WNP Committee meetings and have addressed SODC meetings on behalf of our villages. I've long felt proud to be working with our WNP Committee of 17 over three hectic years. When everyone else rises instinctively behind them to work as a team for our community, 'proud' stops being an adequate word for it.

DATES: 03 January, SODC briefs all PCs and NPs in entry-limited meeting.
07 January, SODC launches Draft Local Plan [LP] 2034, Pub. Consultation
11 January, SODC Adviser, Ricardo Rios, meets WNP reps. reference
pre-Submission-to-Examiner Public Consultation

Greetings for New Year to all Parish Councillors and Clerks
John Fox, WNP Chairman

