

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Refresh Working Party
on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 1.30pm
in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.

Present.

Kathy Davies, Leani Haim (ONH), Charlotte Morris (ONH), Dianne Rees, Chris Westcott (CPC), Fiona Newton, and Tina Brock, Clerk.

01/24 Neighbourhood Plan Scoping meeting with ONH

1 Appointments.

Council appointed ONH at its November meeting. It was expected that no other consultants would need to be commissioned. Leani to send the Terms and Conditions.

Leani gave a brief refresher of the ways to make modifications to a Neighbourhood Plan. Council had agreed to make material modifications that do not change the nature of the Neighbourhood Plan. Although this would not trigger a referendum it would trigger a consultation process and would go to the Planning Inspector for a decision on whether modifications did not change the nature of the Neighbourhood Plan. If the Planning Inspector disagreed the draft plan could be withdrawn; the Planning Inspectors report is binding.

2 Project Finances.

Grant funding can be applied for of up to £18,000, Basic Grant funding of £10,000 and additional grant funding of £8,000 if including design codes in the plan. The Clerk would apply for the first grant of £9,826. *(Clerk's note; the application had been approved.)* It was expected that a Technical Support grant would not be needed.

Council had approved ONH proposed invoicing schedule.

3 Project Administration.

Council had approved the project governance arrangement.

Chris Westcott would be the project leader and Tina Brock as Clerk.

Document management would be via email.

External communication would be via Cumnor Parish News, social media, focused workshops, etc.

Project plan and milestones would be sent to the Clerk for approval by Council at its meeting in January 2025.

4 Project Background.

The refreshing of the Neighbourhood Plan is a permanent item on the Council's agenda, and it has been reported in the Cumnor Parish News and on social media that Council would be refreshing the plan. Roadshows to inform residents of the Councils Strategy Plan and refreshing the Neighbourhood Plan have taken place and there was one more event scheduled this week.

IN addition to refreshing the Neighbourhood Plan, and working closely with it, Council is also building a Parish wide strategy. To help inform the strategy and any community actions in the Neighbourhood Plan Refresh Council was working on producing a Cumnor Parish Residents Survey. This would be sent to all households in the parish for residents to share their views on the future of Cumnor Parish, to be returned by the end of February 2025.

National and Local Policies were discussed and the impact that they may have. Questions were raised concerning:

- 'Grey Belt' and how to mitigate against developers seeking to overinterpret it.
- the Solar Farm map in the LPA 2041 draft plan and policies map which states that the parish is unsuitable for the scale of solar power station proposals that the parish is currently facing.
- new Neighbourhood Plan policies to increase bio diversity.

- Elevating salience of existing Neighbourhood Plan flood risk policy. Clarity needed as VWHDC seem to have not referenced Flood Risk Policies written in Neighbourhood Plans in the draft 2041 Plan. Leani to find out when this took place and why?
- Longevity of the refreshed Neighbourhood Plan: would it go to 2041? This would need to be discussed with VWHDC.

5 Project Scoping/Review Session.

Existing policies reviewed.

1 Local Green Spaces LGS – not tested, no additions.

2. Design and Character DBC

DBC1 Vale Planning Officers choosing to misinterpret backland development by claiming that, amongst other claims, that existing backland development prior to the Neighbourhood Plan sets precedent. Issue with Lower Cumnor Hill/Third Acre Rise (Policy DBC5) being included in Botley Service area. Wording needs to be sharpened. Chris to send ONH examples of Vale Planning Officers reports that highlight these issues.

DBC2 and 3 no amendments.

DBC4 examples of applications refused in Green Belt to be sent to ONH.

DBC6 Kathy had a few additions.

DBC7 policy not tested yet but will come under pressure when the expected Red House Farm Solar Farm application is submitted to VWHDC.

Objective would be to condense into a design code which would carry full weight of a policy.

Examples of planning applications that have tested the Neighbourhood Plan would be sent to ONH.

3 Rural and Natural Environment RNE.

RNE1 Fine but sometimes ignored by the new BNG calculations/planning statements.

RNE2 Flood Risk, Policy never referred to by VWHDC even if the application is refused due to flooding issues. Need to understand why the policy is being ignored.

CW to write to consultants who authored Flood Risk Assessment to request digital copies of maps.

4 Residential Development RES,
RES1 and 2 fine.

5 Employment, Business and Community Facilities.

EBC1 fine.

EBC2 local nature reserves to be updated. To describe benefits to wildlife. Would be tested when solar power station and National Grid proposals are submitted.

EBC3 may need updating.

6 Transport and Infrastructure Policies

TI1 and TI2 fine.

TI3 would be tested when the solar power station and National Grid proposals are submitted.

TI3 fine.

TI4 free Wi-Fi hot spot, community project?

Identity of possible new policy areas.

A Renewable Policy through the design code related to built development to encourage retro fitting of renewable energy.

Use CIL for noise mitigation along the A420.

02/24 Next meeting.

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Signed.....Date.....2025