



Headington neighbourhood plan

FORUM MEETING

Report of the Forum Meeting held at Headington Baptist Church Hall
on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 7.30pm

Email - HeadingtonPlan@gmail.com Web - <http://headingtonplan.org.uk/>
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Interim Steering Group present (ISG) 10

Adam Symons (**Project Manager**) AS, Mike Ratcliffe (**Chair**) MR, Patrick Coulter, Liz Grosvenor (Admin. Support), Veronica Hurst, Fiona Mckenzie, John Nealon, Nicholas Rollin, Christopher Taylor, Ruth Wilkinson

Apologies:

Paul Goffin, Richard Reeves, Dee Sinclair

Forum members present: 17

Seb Blake, Richard Bradley, Jan Clark, Paul Cross, Jill Cummings, Chris Furness, Cicely Havelly, Jill James, James Kelly, Lesley Mallinder, Jennifer Pegg, Glynis Phillips, Paul Rogers, Alastair Smith, Susan Smith, Marie Vickers, Charles Young

Interested parties present: 6

Vi Bradley, Mary Hope, Sheila Hurst, Elaine Hyams, Derek Sherwood, Cllr Roz Smith,

Total 32

1.	<p>Welcome to new members and guests</p> <p>MR introduced himself and welcomed the attendees and said that he hoped it would be a productive and interactive meeting.</p>	Action
2.	<p>Headington Neighbourhood Plan – current progress</p> <p>Adam Symons – Project Manager Headington Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>He explained that the Forum is a result of community action which will lead to a neighbourhood plan to enable us to shape the area we live in. The plan will overlay the planning policies of the City Council and will develop planning policies for Headington. The whole process is framed in legislation culminating in a referendum where the community as a whole will be able to vote on its findings.</p> <p>The Area has been officially designated, and the Forum itself we hope to be designated on the 10th September.</p> <p>We will then be a legally set-up Forum to produce the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>We have already accessed funding of c.£7,000, and are working with the city Council to work out a timetable that meets their requirements to examine and ratify the plan and manage the referendum.</p> <p>We will be going out to the community to talk and find out the issues that concern them, This gives everyone an opportunity to influence the plan,</p> <p>Because what happens in Oxford impacts on Headington we have asked Robert Hetherington to explain the City Deal to see where Oxford is going.</p>	PWGs

3. **Oxford's City Deal – what does it mean for Headington**
Presentation by Robert Hetherington – Economic Development Manager at Oxford City Council

- Robert gave a comprehensive slide-show presentation under the heading of **A Strategic Approach to Economic Growth in the City** – including the **City Deal**, the **Strategic Economic Plan** and the **European Investment Strategy**.
- See [City Deal Presentation](#) (in PowerPoint)

Our area is seen as a national economic asset with a diverse economy that includes the universities, BMW, and many small businesses. 1/3 of the county's jobs are in the city. The City had to bid for the funds for specific purposes – one element that did not get funding was for affordable housing.

Underpinning the aim to achieve potential through innovation were these 4 elements:



The City is aware of the poor standard of secondary school education in Oxfordshire, although we have some of the most successful private schools in the country. This, together with the traffic problems are barriers to growth in our region. We also need superfast broadband.

Social inclusion funds can be applied for but need to be matched by local fundraising. The Green belt review next year could have an impact on the Grenoble Road housing plans.

Here are the items that relate to Headington:

- **new innovation and incubation centres** include **The Oxford BioEscalator: focused on the life sciences sector** – this will be on the Old Road Campus site. The aim is to
 - Translate science into business
 - Launch pad for sustainable new companies
 - Centre for industrial collaboration
 - Located on university / hospital site
 - Advice and support as well as facilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Discovery, MedTech, Diagnostics, TeleHealth, Data Analyses ++ • Oxfordshire Growth Deal will provide Headington Eastern Arc transport improvements. That is • Delivering a form of high quality “rapid transit” public transport (which could be high quality conventional bus, light rail or guided trolleybus), serving park and ride sites and major employment and housing areas in the Eastern Arc; • Working with employers to develop travel plans and reduce the availability of car parking for staff; • Improving the reliability of local bus services, and improving cycling links, to encourage mode switch away from car travel for shorter journeys; • Investigating how bus interchange can be improved • Tackling congestion at key junctions on the ring road. 	
4.	<p>Some of the queries and comments that emerged from the floor during the presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no consultation on the City Deal or the Strategic Housing and Market assessment for Oxford. • Q. Is there a time limit on using the City Deal money and can any leftover be used elsewhere? A. Yes there is a time limit, but the money needs to be used up for the project in hand. • The £1.4 million allocated for innovation, means it is for new businesses. It needs to demonstrate a recognition of place, people, connectivity and enterprise. • The Bioescalator development (2,000 sq.m) is for incubating small businesses run by independent companies, the universities or the health trust. There will be 1,000 new jobs when it is fully developed which could take 10 years. • The calculation for net employment space is roughly 1 job to 30sq.m. • The numbers of new employees cannot be policed, but a travel plan is mandatory and it will be enforceable. The plan will inform new bus routes, cycling initiatives etc. and any breach of the travel plan rules will be deemed to be a breach of planning permission. • There needs to be pressure put on the County to reduce parking charges at P & R. It costs £2 to park and £2.40 on the bus. Hospital staff cannot afford to park there anymore. • Q. Has anyone measured the lost productivity which results from traffic problems and congestion? A. There has been no research. • The infrastructure on new developments seems to be an afterthought and is added piecemeal – it needs to be dealt with first. The four provisos for growth need to be addressed - recognition of place, people, connectivity and enterprise. • It is short-sighted not to be building houses on the Churchill site which would be near the place of employment, likewise in Cowley. • There is already congestion in the Old Road area – it can only get worse. • Q. What are the plans for affordable housing? A. Any new development must have 50% affordable housing, but the definition is open to interpretation. • Q. How do we deal with an ageing population? A. The City Deal is about growth and therefore does not address this issue. • The demographics of the area therefore lead to more people commuting in to the area. • Q. The current plans for the ORC have only one way in and one way out – this will inevitably lead to congestion. A. This will be addressed in the planning process. • Q. Where does the NP stand with respect to the Local Plan? A. The NP can lead the way in how the LP can be formed and influence its decisions. We await the result of 	

	<p>a High Court challenge in Tattenhall to see to what extent it has teeth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low Carbon Headington</i> wish to raise their own policy group. Because their issues relate to all the existing policy groups it was felt that introducing their specific expertise to each of the groups would be more productive. 	
5.	<p>Policy Group Progress – Join a Group</p> <p>The chairs of the Policy Working Groups gave a summary of their progress to date.</p> <p>Transport – Charles Young</p> <p>A draft report has already been prepared. From the latest 2011 census they have discovered that there are an extra 5,000 jobs since 2001 in Headington, and they are concerned about the traffic issues on the ORC site. They also discovered that more people walk, use buses and cycle than 10 years ago.</p> <p>Housing – John Nealon</p> <p>They are looking to ensure the protection of the housing stock we already have, and would want to control any large developments, but there are no large areas of Headington where this could be an issue. The Churchill site does need to be used for housing (as brought up in the above section). Headington has a diverse housing set-up – there are 3 conservation areas (Quarry, Old Headington and Headington Hill), there is the council area of Town Furze, and then Central Headington. There is a shortage of housing and more social and affordable is required. 10% of the housing for the whole of Oxford is in Headington, but only 5% of the stock is HMOs. From the census it transpires that 50% of all housing is rented. The cost of housing is twice the price of housing in Swindon.</p> <p>Business & Jobs – Nicholas Rollin</p> <p>Response to a questionnaire sent to all business has been very poor. We want to ensure that we have a vibrant shopping area in Headington.</p> <p>Amenities & Public spaces – Patrick Coulter</p> <p>Currently building a “rich picture” of Headington and talking with Community Groups, Churches etc. Looking at the weaknesses in green space provision and the protection policies in place for the spaces we do have. This includes playing fields, sports facilities. They will contact special interest groups like Friends of Bury Knowle Park to get their views. They need more volunteers.</p> <p>Character & Identity - Veronica Hurst</p> <p>Considering that the Character & Identity of Headington is. They are stuck with identity as there is no single one. In fact diversity may well be the identity. They want to ensure that Headington has a character of its own and is not just a thoroughfare into Oxford.</p> <p>Education – Mike Ratcliffe</p> <p>Looking at attainment and provision in the light of the increase of families in Headington – higher economic growth = higher birth-rate. Liaising with existing education partnership. ORC nursery plans would be welcomed. Need another primary school.</p>	
6.	<p>There followed Refreshments and Discussion which gave the participants of the meeting an opportunity to ask for further information and offer their services to the Policy Working Groups.</p>	
7.	<p>The meeting ended at 9pm</p>	

Liz Grosvenor 15.7.14