



Headington neighbourhood plan

FORUM MEETING

Report of the Forum Meeting held at Oxford Brookes University,
Board Rooms 1&2 on Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 7.30pm

Email – HeadingtonPlan@gmail.com Web - HeadingtonPlan.org.uk/

Facebook – [HeadingtonPlan](https://www.facebook.com/HeadingtonPlan) Twitter - [@HeadingtonPlan](https://twitter.com/HeadingtonPlan)

Steering Committee present (ISG) 9

Mike Ratcliffe (**Chair**), Adam Symons (Project Manager), Patrick Coulter (Vice Chair), Liz Grosvenor (Secretary), Veronica Hurst, Fiona McKenzie, John Nealon, Nicholas Rollin, Cllr Roz Smith

Forum members present: 11

Richard Bradley, Jan Clark, Paul Cross, Chris Furness, Chris Glover, Marian Halliwell, Lesley Mallinder, Tony Elliot-Smith, Marie Vickers, Charles Young, Wiltrud Young

Interested parties present: 8


John Bleach (Wolvercote NP), Violet Bradley, Angie Goff (Wolvercote NP), Lynda Hayward, Mary Hope, Stephanie Jenkins, Cllr Dee Sinclair, Andrea Siret ,

Total: 28

Apologies: 10

Dag Bergman, Tony Joyce, James Kelly, Cllr Althaf Khan, Richard Reeves, Caroline Pinder, Glynis Phillips, Paul Rogers, Ruth Wilkinson, Ian Wilson

1.	Confirmation of membership and Apologies	Action
	MR introduced himself, welcomed participants to the AGM, and apologies were read.	
2.	The Minutes of the last meeting held on 1 October - were confirmed.	
3.	Matters Arising – none	
4.	Report of Chair MR announced that the Forum now has a Bank Account. Various meetings have been taking place with stakeholders, and with the City Council regarding the statutory procedures that we have to follow to produce a neighbourhood Plan. New legislation regarding this is being scrutinised. We are liaising with the County Council, particularly on the subject of transport and a joint meeting with the local institutions (under the auspices of Headington Forward) and the County is scheduled for Monday 16 February to discuss the difficulties being encountered in Headington.	

<p>5.</p>	<p>Results of the Consultation</p> <p>The Issues and Options Consultation leaflet was delivered to c.6,500 households in Headington. The results of this consultation can be found online at http://headingtonplan.org.uk/index.php/plan/consultation-2014/</p> <p>We also carried out a survey of Businesses and spoke to Residents' Groups and Special Interest Groups, and as a result of these consultations our Policy Working Groups were set up to address the issues that emerged.</p> <p>We have carried out workshops that have enabled the Groups to discuss cross-cutting issues like transport, housing and education.</p> <p>A community cohesion group has also been set up, and a planning/infrastructure group will follow.</p> <p>Most of the chairs of the Working Groups are on the Steering Committee and they will steer the policies towards the Final Plan.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Policy Areas: determining directions</p> <p>Further Details of the Policy Groups suggested "Issues"</p> <p>If you would like more details of the 18 "issues" on the leaflet, then click here.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>HNP 10th Feb 2015 Forum.ppt</p> </div> <p>And look at</p> <p>Questions were invited at the end of each presentation.</p> <p>Patrick Coulter gave the first presentation on: Amenities and Green Spaces and introduced the concept of the "Urban Village"</p> <p>Q. Are green spaces public or include private gardens? A. Public spaces including parks, sports fields and verges</p> <p>Q. The 20% quoted is of what area? A. This is 20% of the whole development site.</p> <p>Q. Will the closure of the Wheatley Campus have an effect on Headington Hill? A. It would not be built on, but we would encourage institutions to share the green spaces with us.</p> <p>Q. Is the JR site included? A. It is one of the major green spaces and we have no control of any future development.</p> <p>See the slides.</p> <p>Nicholas Rollin</p> <p>Retail and Business</p> <p>The biggest problem we have is the lack of a Business Association in Headington and so we organised a meeting of some of our local businesses.</p> <p>The most important issue was parking.</p> <p>One of the problems that Headington businesses have is shoplifting- shops in Headington have had to employ security guards where their sister shops in Summertown do not have to.</p>	

See the slides.

Q. Did the issue of retail mix come up?

A. It was an issue with residents and with businesses who anticipate a larger footfall if there was a greater variety. However, any new business does need to be viable to succeed.

A. The Plan cannot specify the type of shop, but we can specify the size.

Q. The half hour free parking suggested would not be enough for some types of shopping or visits.

A. The businesses were realistic enough not to seek a longer free period because the City Council would not entertain losing even more revenue.

Q. Why is it difficult to set up a Business association?

A. There is a certain apathy but having a meeting after a heavy day's work is not popular. Maybe developing a different model for meetings would work.

A. The old Association was rather negative in its approach, whereas we would want to see positive ideas coming forward.

A. These days liaison can be carried out by email.

See the slides.

Richard Bradley

Character and Identity

The idea is to reinforce the identity.

There are 19 sub areas of Headington that are being documented in this character assessment exercise.

Training has been undertaken to carry out these assessments, and we will be testing the results. The mechanism for going to consultation will be an important aspect.

Q. Are you consulting the Residents' Associations in these areas.

A. Yes, where they exist.

See the slides.

Mike Ratcliffe

Education

Our area only contains 2 primary schools – all the others are just outside our map area.

The pressure is on the primary school capacity which will, of course, develop into secondary provision in due course.

Q. Do you have data on children living in Headington having to go out of the area for schooling?

A. Yes the County hold these statistics.

Q. Is there sufficient provision for early years?

A. No.

Q. Will the Plan be influential for early years?

A. The Old Road Campus plans to convert an existing building into a 100 space nursery which we will support, and we will encourage the development of on-site nurseries for working parents which will reduce traffic too.

See the slides.

John Nealon

Housing

There has been a massive increase in the numbers of people working in Headington since the last census – 10,500 to 15,000 – but the housing availability has not kept up. It has been calculated that 1400 houses are needed per year to 2031 in Oxfordshire. City policy dictates that certain key employment sites cannot be converted into housing. Hence we have a shortage of housing in the area, and what is available is unaffordable. Because workers have to live in a less expensive area outside Oxford they contribute to the traffic problems to get to work.

Q. How can the Plan prevent the buying-up of a number of houses to develop into flats?

A. It could happen but any new development generates CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money which can be put towards social housing. We cannot prevent the buy-outs.

See the slides.

Charles Young

Transport

As mentioned above there has been a massive increase in employment, but not in housing, resulting in more commuting.

The development of the Knowledge Spine in Oxford exacerbates this too.

On the plus side there has been an increase in the number of people cycling and walking to work.

Q. What can we do about the “hotchpotch” of cycle lanes with a mix of surfaces and lack of markings?

A. This is currently being addressed in the County Council transport plan.

Q. Why can't we have input into the strategic plan for traffic in Headington rather than tinkering at the edges?

A. We cannot alter the statutory Transport Policies of the County Council. We might think that making changes to, say, cycle lanes might be a good idea, but this would have a knock-on effect on the position of bus stops and bus lanes.

Q. Why can't we get improvements in bus routes (round the ring road, a link to North Oxford)?

A. The Neighbourhood Plan addresses Planning Applications, not the bus companies' choice of routes. Altering bus routes would be on our wish list. The current transport plan consultation is considering rapid transit systems.

Q. What can we do about the lack of CPZ in some areas? People park here and then bike into work, using it as a car park.

A. The local areas decide whether to have parking zones. Quarry, for example, decided not to and they experience these problems.

A. There are policies in place where for new developments there is no allocation for parking in CPZ areas allowed.

See the slides.

7.	<p>Conclusion and AOB</p> <p>The Forum is the sounding board for all the policies we come up with. We will develop a draft policy document which will go out to consultation for community engagement. We need to know your thoughts about the issues we have covered and be happy with the draft. Community engagement will probably come up with some wish lists. We plan to take over a vacant shop for a couple of days so that it acts as a drop-in centre to discuss the draft plan. We have already had a presence at the Farmers' Market, and our website keeps everyone informed, see http://headingtonplan.org.uk/index.php/contact/ if you want to contact us.</p> <p>Q. Is there a place in the Plan to cater for the elderly? A. There used to be Good Neighbour Schemes, but Oxford Brookes are involved with elderly networking.</p>	
8.	The meeting ended at 9.45pm	

Liz Grosvenor 11 Feb 2015