



HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM steering committee meeting
Meeting held at All Saints' Church Hall on 14 November 2025 at 7pm

Present:

Patrick Coulter PC Chair HNF (Headington Neighbourhood Forum),

Liz Grosvenor Admin Support HA/HNF

Sumukh Kaul SK (HNF)

John Nealon JN Press/Communications Officer HNF

Cllr Roz Smith RS (HNF)

Cllr Chris Smowton CS (HNF)

Peter West PW (HNF)

Apologies:

Mike Ratcliffe (HNF)

1.	<p>Chair's welcome.</p> <p>Aims and Agenda</p> <p>PC welcomed all to the meeting, convened to plan for the future of the Plan bearing in mind the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some outstanding work • Audit the current plan to see what impact it's had/has on planning and development in Headington • Monitor planning applications in accordance with policy HGC 3 Planning Watch System • Identify empty properties for housing development HG 5 • Encourage Community Land Trust to be active in Headington HGC 4 • Encourage institutions to make facilities available to the public AMC 1 • Create a Headington Business Association BRC 3 • Identify and implement projects to reinforce the identity of Headington CIC 1 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a Community or Parish Council for Headington FC 1 project • A successor body to oversee the Plan and its implementation • Identity projects as set out in Table 3 CIC 1 • Promoting Safety and Active Transport TRC 1 projects including Active Transport and Road Maintenance 	
2.	<p>HNF update</p> <p>Since the last meeting PC has been in touch with Cllr Susan Brown to remind her of the existence of the HNP policy to seek a Community Council for Headington whilst deliberations are taking place over the local government reorganisation.</p> <p>He has also met with the developers of the proposed housebuilding on Ruskin Fields, and has represented HNF at the Headington Action joint meeting to discuss future cooperation HA/HNF.</p>	
2.	<p>HNF Forward Plan</p> <p>Options for future – Revise Plan, Parish Plan, Implement Current Plan</p> <p>Audit the Plan</p> <p>Town centre Improvement</p> <p>Parish/Community Council for Headington</p> <p>Monitor Planning Applications</p> <p>As spelled out in our previous meeting in July, we are hampered by the lack of human resources to revise the plan. Our thinking would be to develop it into a Parish Plan which is not so bureaucratic.</p> <p>Our plan, therefore, is firstly to each review the existing Plan to identify areas for improvement and updating and gaps in the Plan with volunteers as follows:</p> <p>CS will look at the priorities and end goals</p> <p>PW will look at the business element</p> <p>RS will look at green spaces and education</p> <p>SK will look at character</p> <p>PC will look at housing and transport</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>PW</p> <p>RS</p> <p>SK</p> <p>PC</p>

	<p>A meeting will then be arranged in December to discuss the findings and agree areas of the Plan which would most benefit from review.</p> <p>The next step is to meet the Planning Officers for a general discussion, possibly Richard Wyatt the Planning Policy Officer. CS will identify which officers are appropriate. We will then decide how to take the Review or Update forward.</p> <p>The third step would be to re-visit the last HNF database to ask if people are still on board to take our plans forward and perhaps join the steering committee. Our thinking is to review the community projects rather than the planning policies. It will be important to consider evidence-based policies, but not lose sight of what we want to achieve. The Headington Centre Improvement Plan must be considered a priority.</p> <p>We might also consider buying in help and will investigate whether CIL money might be available. CS has agreed to obtain a definitive answer to what CIL monies may be used for.</p> <p>PC emphasised that SC members must be prepared to make a commitment to oversee the management of review or update before moving to the third step above.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>
4.	<p>Next steps - Working Groups, Capacity and resources, Forum general meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be necessary to set up working groups to tackle the separate issues. • JN will look at the mail drop survey results to inform us of the approach to the database. • PC will update Headington Action at the next HA meeting on 26 November. 	<p>JN</p> <p>PC</p>
5.	<p>CIL update</p> <p>The City Council is holding c.£100K on our behalf. We now understand that there may be a time-limit of 5 years, from the funds becoming available, for accessing these. CS will clarify this with officers.</p>	<p>CS/PC</p>

6.	AOB – the website needs updating – please all look at it and make suggestions. PC will do a “When Available” poll to plan the next meeting.	ALL PC
7.	The meeting closed at 8.00pm	

LG 15/11/25