

**NORTH HINKSEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
**Notes on meeting 1 July 2014, Seacourt Hall**

Present:

Richard Holmes (Co-op) ralsholmes@aol.com  
Sue Holmes (Brookes University) sholmes@brookes.ac.uk  
David Kay (NHPC) davidnkay  
Kevin Minns (Minns) kevin.minns@minns.co.uk  
Andrew Pritchard (NHPC) 3andrew3@tiscali.co.uk  
Alan Reeve (parishioner, town planner) arreeve@brookes.ac.uk  
Jon Rowland (parishioner, architect) jonrowland@jrud.co.uk  
Philip Stevens (parishioner, ex-SODC planner) Philip@valeriestevens.plus.net  
David Wyatt (parishioner, Harcourt Hill Residents Association) wyatt.dj@btinternet.com

Apologies:

David Mason (North Hinksey C of E) davidmason@oxford.anglian.org  
Ruth Swift (Age Concern) ruthswift@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

After introductions, there was an open discussion of whether and how a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) should be set up.

**Points made were:**

NPs had to be guided by the Local Plan (LP), but if the Local Plan was in disarray (e.g. Aylesbury), this doesn't stop the NP (e.g. Winslow) going ahead. Winslow had been able to take control of the location of 400 homes that were to be built.

A North Hinksey NP needed to take account of the relationship of Botley to Oxford, with links to Botley Road, the A34 etc rather than Abingdon.

The advice previously given by Anton Nath (ORCC) about the questionable value of a NP for North Hinksey was almost certainly misguided; if we had been well on the way to a NP, this would help to counter the Doric/Mace proposals. If the area had been designated in 2013, we might have been able to complete the NP in 2014.

In Yorkshire, where they were 2-3 years ahead of us, the LP had supported some NP initiatives, but those initiatives had to have local support.

NPs represented constraints on the free-for-all enjoyed by developers under the current legislation, and they were fighting NPs all over the country.

NPs were cumbersome, and there might be other ways to influence development, such as through the emerging Local Plan.

There was huge local opposition to West Way, but any counter moves needed to be positive.

Winslow had spent £25K on consultants, who were an effective way to ensure that all the basic criteria for a NP had been met; the process nevertheless took 2-3 years.

The Vale were being secretive about the West Way development and hiding behind “confidentiality”; Highways had a holding objection.

KM offered to invite the Chair of the Winslow NP to tell us of Winslow’s experiences. They had had 10/10 engagement, but it was essential to have enough resources to do the job.

Could we bypass the Local Authority? Other Local Authorities appeared not to insist on a scoping process before the area of the NP was agreed.

We might look at the 2009 Parish Plan as a start, and at what people had been saying since. Workshops were a good way of involving people. Topics could include Amenities, Housing, Transport etc.

Should we attempt to do a joint Plan with Cumnor – there were similarities along the Eynsham Road, but Cumnor Village was different. Cumnor was much more at risk from Green Belt capture?

We need to get the local MP on side.

The question of a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Steering Group would be left until after we had heard from the Chair of Winslow NP. AP offered to produce a summary of the proceedings.

#### **Actions**

KM to ask the Chair of Winslow NP to come to talk to us. **This is the next step**

RH to find out if we had to follow the Vale’s process before designating an area.

DK to talk to Nicola Blackwood

AP to find out when Seacourt Hall might be available

AP to get in touch with Summertown and Wolvercote about their NPs (?via OCS)

AP/PS to find a .pdf of the (whole) parish

AP to circulate the Parish Plan 2009 for information

Andrew Pritchard

2 July 2014