

Oakham Neighbourhood Plan

14/01/16

Present: Alf Dewis, Michael Haley, Maureen Burns-Jones, Frank Payne, Peter Jones, Michael Hinman, Paul Dowse, David Salkeld, Liz Sanders, Oliver Bird and Ann Lewis.

Apologies: John Nowell, Christopher Clark.

Michael Haley opened the initial meeting of the Steering Group by proposing that the role of Hon Sec should be Ann Lewis. This was seconded by Alf Dewis and unanimously agreed (Liz arrived after this).

Michael asked if members were happy to have their names in the public domain and to have their details circulated within the group. All were in agreement.

At Peter Jones' suggestion, each member gave a brief summary of his/her role, experiences and interests by way of introduction to the others.

In establishing protocol, it was agreed that:

- respect for others and openness in our meetings and dealings with others are essential
- the Chair, to be elected at a later date, should not be an Oakham Town councillor
- a good relationship between the Steering Group and Oakham Town Council is vital
- any publicity or press releases should reflect the group's views, not those of an individual

In discussing times and frequency of meetings, all agreed we should meet weekly as the Steering Group's Boundary recommendation needs to be on OTC's Meeting Agenda 10 February 2016 with Plan submission to RCC by 15 February 2016. Liz suggested a daytime meeting within the next week to decide boundary options. This will take place on Monday, 18th January at 10.00 in the Town Council Office.

Members were urged to look at RCC website and the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan to glean ideas and information, to familiarise themselves with other plans and to think about key issues. Oliver advised members to consider the long-term, holistic view and reminded us that future commercial development must be allowed for. Reading material was also circulated.

The main focus of discussion was whether or not Barleythorpe should come within Oakham's boundary. Maps of the area were distributed, proving helpful in showing where the boundary might usefully be drawn. It was generally felt that it is in Barleythorpe's interests to be within the boundary but this is a sensitive issue. Barleythorpe, which is seeking Parish Council status, may not want to come within the town's boundary. The Steering Group agreed that it must establish a good working relationship with Barleythorpe and heed the views and representations of its residents. Michael Haley pointed out that the area boundaries, once drawn up, may be amended in the early stages, allowing for Barleythorpe either to be included or excluded as it chooses. It could fall within the town's plan and retain its Parish Council status.

The meeting ended at 20.30.