

Oakham Neighbourhood Plan

Town Council Office Monday, January 18th, 10.00am

Notes of Meeting of Steering Group

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

Absent: Christopher Clark (unable to contact him)

Apologies: Maureen Burns-Jones.

The purpose of this meeting was to establish the boundary of the Oakham Neighbourhood Plan. There was, once more, much discussion about whether or not Barleythorpe should be included. Maps showing the area were looked at and options considered. Inevitably, in looking closely at the maps, many issues were raised: the railway crossings and their possible closure; the bypass, including what would be new and necessary access roads to the west of Oakham; the town's current strained services and new infrastructure for increasing numbers of residents; the retention and protection of surrounding rural areas; and siting of future commercial development.

Regarding future commercial development sites, the Oakham Retail and Business Park is a possibility but it falls within Ashwell Parish. Consultation with Ashwell Parish is required before any proposal is made about this site.

Members were urged to give their views regarding the NP boundary and unanimously opted for the inclusion of Barleythorpe in Oakham's NP and for the existing boundaries of Oakham Parish and Barleythorpe to be used. This included a small part of Egleton on the eastern bypass where the boundary would follow its course.

In planning our next meeting, it was decided that three members, Michael Haley, Frank and Liz, would arrange a **meeting with representatives from Barleythorpe** to discuss our decision to include Barleythorpe in the NP. This was thought to be a proactive and proper way to proceed in engaging with Barleythorpe. Provisionally, this will be on **Wednesday, 20th January at 3.00pm in the Town Council Office.**

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on Friday, 22nd January at 4.00pm in the Town Council Office.

The focus of the next meeting is on the rationale of our boundary decisions and terms of reference. The report to be drawn up to accompany the boundary outline must be finalised by 1st February and the report completed by 3rd February **for submission to OTC to allow time for inclusion in the agenda of the Council meeting 10 February 2016.**