

# Oakham and Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Plan

## Oakham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting, 17.00, 17<sup>th</sup>. April, 2018, held at OTC

**Present:** Christopher Clark (CC) (chair), Peter Goodwin (PG), Paul Dowse (PD), David Salkeld (DS), Michael Haley (MHa), Colin Dunigan (CD), Nick Taylor (NT) and Michael Hinman (MHi) (minutes).

**Apologies:** John Nowell (JN).

1. **Minutes** of the meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup>. February, 2018 were approved.

2. **Actions Arising.**

Janet Hughes had joined the Activity Planning Group. The Oakham Town Centre Revitalisation Group (known as the Task and Finish Group) had been appointed with PD as the Steering Group's representative.

3. **Review of Barleythorpe Exercise.**

The theoretical preparation work undertaken on a map at OTC had been necessary to gain an overview of the area. However, it was also thought that going round the hamlet and a small part of "Oakham Heights" as a group had been a very useful exercise because people noticed and experienced the terrain in a deeper way than could be achieved for instance by studying a Google map. Members had contributed local knowledge, and it had been interesting to converse with residents whom we met.

Nonetheless, Barleythorpe was atypical of the whole area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the morning had been in the nature of a training exercise. When going round districts in Oakham, if the exercise was to consume half a day in each case there should be less time spent on the preparation in order to allow for residents' comments and perhaps slower walking pace.

4. **Future Exercises.**

The areas actually covered would be smaller and time would have to be allowed for discussions en route. Ideally, the preparatory session should take place in a venue within the district concerned.

The exercises should be consistent with each other. Since the Group was employing Open Plan as consultants, it needed to know better what was required of them and of the Group and how much of their contracted time had been used already, hence a representative should attend the next meeting and for instance clarify which party did what mapping.

Group members would pair off to lead preparation-sessions and walkabouts as follows:

- > North East Oakham – DS and PD.
- > South East Oakham – CC and MHi.
- > South West Oakham – MHa and CD.
- > "Oakham Heights" – PG and JN(?).
- > Industrial Area and Oakham School – NT.
- > Town Centre/Conservation Area – PD with Task & Finish Group.

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Other Group members could join in on a different walkabout as well as that to which they had been assigned.

MHa stressed the importance of using the skills and knowledge of the consultants, Open Plan, in this work and said that their support at future meetings of the Steering Group would be invaluable.

## 5. **Work of Rutland County Council Task & Finish Group.**

PD wanted Task & Finish Group members to be clear that the Neighbourhood Plan is driven by all the residents of Oakham and that the final decisions will be taken by the County Council. There had been a call by one of the County Councillors for the word 'centre' to be removed from Task & Finish Group's Terms of Reference (ToR). PD commented on a potential problem of extending the ToR from the town centre to the whole of Oakham. He said that the difference between the Task & Finish Group, which was for a limited duration, and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should be maintained.

The Task & Finish Group's next meeting would be at 19.00 at Catmose on 25<sup>th</sup> April. CC reminded the group that this was a public meeting and encouraged members to attend.

## 6. **Items for the Local Press**

CC asked the team for any comments / points that they would like to see included in an article for 'Your Paper – Your Views' section of the Rutland Times about the Neighbourhood Plan's progress and the walkabouts. Please let CC have any comments by Monday (23 April) and he will then circulate the article to the team for review that week. The purpose of the article is to encourage residents of Oakham / Barleythorpe to become more involved with the next stage of the Plan.

## 7. **Any Other Business**

(i) NT would try to obtain details from RCC about how many dwellings had already been built under the terms of the local plan which expired in 2036.

(ii) CC reminded members that they should send him their skills-set forms as requested in February. A copy of the form will be circulated with these notes.

## 8. **Date of Next Meeting** would be fixed via Doodle.

Signed:

chairman