

Vale and South Oxfordshire Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on 17th February 2022 at 6:15pm

Present: Charlie Hopkins (CHp - Consultant), Greg O'Broin (Appleford PC), Chris Neill (Burcot & Clifton Hampden PC), John (Nuneham Courtenay PC), Rita Atkinson (Sutton Courtenay PC), Jacob Shepherd (Appleford PC Working Group).

Chris Church (FoE) joined the meeting briefly (15 mins).

Apologies: Chris Hancock (Appleford PC Working Group), Mandy Rigault (Nuneham Courtenay PC), Robin Draper (SCA), Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Culham PC), Andrew Steele (Culham PC) Vicky Shepherd (Appleford PC).

1. Status: Traffic Modelling Assessment by Andrew Dorrain (AD)

AD's view was that AECOM had done a good job of the traffic assessment. The issue is more to do with the scope of the assessment as defined by OxonCC (i.e., a limited brief).

It was unlikely that OxonCC would release a copy of the scoping brief for the traffic modelling citing commercial sensitivity.

The questions posed by the five parishes reflected the shortcomings in the brief, have been summarized by AD and the draft iterated by members of the NPC-JC and incorporated into a letter CHp is sending to OxonCC on behalf of the NPC-JC which includes the Parish Councils' objections pending further information (traffic & other info). CHp confirmed the 5xPCs can circulate and publish the letter to OxonCC.

Work on this strand on hold pending further information. Further work will form part of Phase 2.

Discussion also took place regarding impact on Abingdon and the Town Council response.

Action: All to confirm that draft letter emailed by Greg on 17/2/22 at 18.34 is final and ready to send. [*Confirmed subsequently*]

Action: Rita to contact Abingdon Town Council to find out position.

2. Status: Acoustics

Greg has identified three possible experts – Sharp Acoustics; Dragonfly; Bikerdike Alan (CH contact). Others contacted declined or

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were very expensive. No work undertaken to date as key input is correct traffic information which is awaited from OxonCC.

Initial assessment is estimated at £1000 +VAT (Sharpe Acoustics). Phase 1 is now spent up so this will have to be absorbed in Phase 2. Appointment of Acoustician deferred to end of Feb.

Charlie mentioned that UK Health and Security has asked for a Dust Management Plan as part of the application upfront and not as a condition to any planning approval.

The uncertainty around future housing and employment data that will result in traffic generation was discussed.

Mention of Radcot Green vision document with proposed housing plan not included in the modelling assessment. Likely OxonCC will claim it has not yet been submitted for planning [*Copy of Radcot Green doc sent to CHp after meeting*].

Action: Greg to request Geoffrey Ferres to write to both SODC and VWHDC asking for data being used in the 2041 joint local plan for likely development sites over the next 10 years with data on housing and employment including land area and types of uses.

3. Status – other Phase-1 Reports

- a) Report Landscape/Green Belt – Alan James – waiting on OxonCC to respond to outstanding queries before Phase 2 can commence. However, a site visit of the landscape/Green Belt along the HIF1 route can be undertaken now (est. outlay £200) to identify all the likely receptors effected by the scheme, in preparation for the Phase 2 work. Alan James accompanied by Charlie will undertake this visit 1st and 2nd March.

Action: Charlie/Greg to divide visit into sections with a parish representative to join the relevant leg of the visit for local input.

- b) Traffic Assessment – Sustainability – Prof. JW (Housing #s) – queries went to OxonCC 11th January without any response. On hold till responses received. However, housing data to be pursued through district councils – see action under Section 1.
- c) Report Hydrology – Dr George Reeves produced short draft report which stated further work required. However, further assessment by the consultant will be complicated and very expensive. Charlie

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recommended to leave Phase 2 and that best strategy is wait for the Environment Agency's responses to the planning application and then critique that.

4. General

Charlie had been looking at other consultation responses that could feed into the letter of objection for Phase 2.

5. Fee Commitments/Work in Progress

Three invoices raised or to be raised for £500 each for John Whitelegg, George Reeves, and Alan James with £3,000 for Charlie's time of 20 hours up to date.

Charlie stated that he probably spent more time but is aware there is a fixed budget and will stay within it.

Total approved to date is £4,500 which is what was agreed for Phase 1. However, it was noted that no work had been done on acoustics and air quality/pollution which had been included in the Phase 1 limit. Also noted that AD's work was pro bono and Charlie believes it now makes sense to conduct acoustic work in one go.

Action: Members of each PC to recommend to their Parish Clerk to approve bill payment once invoices received from Geoffrey.

Thanks were extended to Geoffrey Ferres for agreeing to provide the administrative and clerical support to the joint committee.

6. Friends of The Earth (FoE)

Chris Church joined the meeting – and explained the campaign/publicity work that could be undertaken in raising the profile of the case against HIF1. FoE had successfully fought off the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. FoE plans include

- a) Launching a petition on the HIF1 development.
- b) Set up an action collective (network) of groups – works with CPRE, BBOWT, POETS etc. built-up links with supportive councillors. FoE can provide information to councillors on planning committee to help them understand how the application undermines their manifesto pledges on environment, local connectivity, and transport etc.
- c) Provide posters for display through the villages and suggested giant bike ride along the HIF1 route to raise profile.

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Action: Greg to explore extent to which NPC-JC & PCs we can engage communities and coordinate with FoE to work on the campaign side.

7. Next Actions/Meeting

Not decided (likely early March after site visit).

8. Any Other Business

- a) Terms of Ref – RA requested that there should be a Terms of Reference for the NPC-JC. These should be an entirely separate document from the one previously drafted by GOB which was a Terms of Engagement for contractors. The ToR should confirm how the committee is to work AND how finances are to be dealt with (including the financial details) and clauses on what to do if there is disagreement.

Action: Not allocated (but GOB will prepare a draft for GF).

- b) Compulsory Purchase Orders – Charlie asks that we find out as much information as we could about the status of the work being undertaken by OxonCC. He also asked that if we knew any landowners who are minded to refuse the CPO which will force the CPO process to go to public inquiry and give us a chance to present our case.

Action: Representatives of each parish to make enquiries & make contact with known landowners & clarify status re OxonCC. (All)

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