

SCNPSG Meeting on 9 September 2020 at 2.30pm Minutes

Present:

Geoff Armstrong (GA), Rita Atkinson (RA), Catriona Brodribb (CB), Sarah Eccles(SE), David Hignell (DH), Mike Jenkins (MJ), Jo O'Callaghan (JO'C), Kathy Whittaker (KW)

1. Welcome to Steering Group (SG) members and any non – members:

Richard Webber (RW)

RW gave updates:

a) *RW is awaiting feed back from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) as regards South Oxfordshire District Council's (SODC) Local Plan, as this will have a huge impact on our area and will affect many villages ie Appleford, Drayton, Kingston Bagpuize, Marcham, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay.*

It is expected that they will consult with all the affected Parish Councils (PCs); NB the consultation work has been delayed due to covid restrictions.

The proposed new link road from Didcot & allied Thames bridge connection to the A415 is of major importance to both Sutton Courtenay and Appleford residents. The distance from each of the villages and its scale need to be sensitively handled to avoid excessive damage to the environment and to living conditions.

It would also increase the volume of traffic through Sutton Courtenay from the Drayton and the Culham directions, in effect making Drayton Rd, Church St and Appleford Rd a "South Abingdon Bypass",

Despite the obvious limitations of capacity and unmovable pinch points that would lead to major traffic jams, particularly at peak times.

b) *As money is made available for the road and the bridge, there will inevitably be even more pressure for further large-scale housing development in surrounding areas, in addition to that already taking place. These could conflict with clearly expressed preference of residents to maintain green spaces and countryside buffers between the villages and Didcot and Abingdon.*

c) *The new planning white paper 'Planning for the Future' will generate a new algorithm to predict housing need, which is likely to call for even more housing in the area, without necessarily resulting in more affordable homes and without regard to the actual needs of the people employed, or likely to be employed in the future.*

NB the call for sites is standard practice and the Vale (VWHDC) is legally obliged to do this.

d) *Radcot Green: the old FCC site /contract is due to end in 2030.*

It is a valuable piece of land, and although it should to be returned to agriculture, it is likely to become housing. It is not a good site in terms of traffic.

It is possible it could become an 'open space' as was on the original Didcot Garden Town proposal.

PC to communicate with Didcot Town planning/planners officially as regards their view of future development/vision of Radcot Green

2. Apologies: Simon Lazare and Anne Morgan Smith
3. Minutes of meeting on 12 August 2020 (were agreed), no matters arising
4. Consultant update:

SCNPSG Meeting on 9 September 2020 at 2.30pm Minutes

we have had the Bluestone quote, about 4.5 k, RA has written to the PC about this. We cannot register the application until we have been guaranteed the money. Novell Tullitt (NT) were to invoice us for final percentage of work (3K): RA has asked for clarification of the work and allied costs. Check that there has not been a doubling up of which consultant is doing what (Eastern side, Kellart's Field) (RA & JO'C to discuss/clarify after meeting and to liaise with Jane Fowles of NT. NB Sharon of Bluestone wanted more on key views. (RA & JO'C to resolve this). This area (Eastern side) needs to separate us from Didcot, it needs to be retained as a separator/green gap (space between settlements).

5. Grant application update: *nothing more to add*

6. Green space designation: *nothing to add*

7. Parish Council (PC) feedback: *none yet*

8. AOB:

a) *DH is progressing well with his work on community consultation.*

b) *New cycle-path work (at southern end of village connecting to Milton Park) beginning 7th September, the PC has not been notified*

9) Date of next meeting Monday 19th October, 2.30 pm

Actions:

PC to write to OCC re modelling enquiry.

PC to communicate with Didcot Town planning/planners officially as regards their view of future development/vision of Radcot Green

All PC communications to go via Helen Savery

SCPC can send an PC member to board meetings of Didcot Garden Town Planning committee (?)