

Headington Committee for Development Action (HCDA)

Minutes for meeting on 31st May, 19h00, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane

Present

James Bloice-Smith
Angela Cristofoli
Jill Cummings
Marion Fiddes
Mary Hope
Janet Isaac
Stephanie Jenkins
Tony Joyce
Peter Mann
Audrey Mullender
Diana Townsend
Marie Vickers

Apologies from

David Rundle
Stella Welford
Charles Young

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 26.04.06.

Minutes approved subject to changes:

7. AOB – need to identify what the acronym COIN means. It stands for Climate Outreach and Information Network.

2. Notification of any other business

- Car free day – David/Angela
- Oxford Inspires – Mary
- OX3 Guide
- Celebration of 35 years of Friends of Quarry - Marie
- Certificate of Honour for Tony – Mary

3. Transport Planning - Controlled Parking Zones

Peter Mann, Assistant Head of Transport, Oxfordshire County Council was welcomed to the meeting. Peter initially explained more about the strategic approach to transport planning which is detailed in the Local Transport Plan 2006-11. The five key priorities are:

- Congestion
- Accessibility
- Air Quality
- Road Safety
- Street Environment improvements

Congestion is the highest priority across the County and also any improvements would influence the other key priorities of air quality and accessibility. Car ownership within the City has increased significantly and continues to rise. It is difficult to influence car ownership, so the focus has to be on reducing car usage by promoting alternative means of transport e.g. buses. Parking also needs to be addressed with a key objective being to manage away parking within Oxford e.g. by having CPZ's. So there is strategic importance to implementing CPZ's and protect residential environments from parking by commuters.

The County Council are working closely with the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust on the move of the Radcliffe up to the Headington site. The move is due to be completed in seven months time. Tony Joyce asked for clarification on when the bus gate is due to open. Peter confirmed that it will be open in October with the CPZ being implemented in November. However the main influx of staff is not due to move up until January.

Currently the County Council are concentrating on:

- implementing the CPZ's: Girdlestone Road is due to be implemented in July; Quarry – August; NE Headington – September
- consultation on CPZ's is currently happening in the Lakes area and Northway with consultation due to start on Marston South in July

Tony Joyce asked whether the County are working with the City Council in looking at the policy on car free developments. Peter responded that he thought County's advice would be to promote where it's deliverable but be realistic on what is achievable. Jill Cummings and James Bloice-Smith both asked about access issues and how restrictive parking can impede access to businesses and community facilities which can adversely affect community life. The idea of shorter term parking restrictions within a CPZ scheme was discussed. Peter responded that there needs to be a balance and there are limitations on what is achievable as it is more difficult to monitor short-term restriction. Already there are some differences in CPZs as Headington West operates from 9-5 whereas Central Headington is 24 hours. All CPZs will be reviewed in due course and views from residents will be sought. Within the newer CPZ areas there will be a trial on having a scheme with signs at the beginning of each street but without yellow lines etc. The restrictions will be the same but it will be cheaper and easier to implement, however the legal enforcement issues need to be monitored as part of the trial.

Other questions raised included:

- charging for residents parking permits – consultation due to take place
- London Road study – more consultation due. However it was agreed that it could be helpful for HCDA to write to the bus companies to urge them to bring in pre-ticketing machines which would help to speed up boarding on bus use.

James thanked Peter for coming to the meeting and providing a useful update on many of the local transport/traffic issues.

4. Headington Festival

The festival group had finalized all the details for the event and publicity was going well. All local schoolchildren had received fliers about the competitions and there was also publicity via the radio as well. The festival costs appeared to be within the specified budget.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes (26th April)

5.1 Storybook tree – benches to be installed on Thursday. The City Council are to make and install some additional benches at a later date. Charles had written to the relevant publishers and film company to seek sponsorship but was told that there were no funds available.

5.2 New HCDA contacts: Mary to follow up on Barton Community Association contact; Angela to pursue County Council contact and also Oxford Brookes.

5.3 OX3 Guides – mostly delivered. A few areas to be finished – Barton, Marston and part of Wood Farm.

5.4 Library – Mary had received a response from Cllr Keith Mitchell which stated that County Councillor Don Searle will be contacting HCDA in the near future as libraries fall within his Portfolio.

5.4 Noticeboards – most noticeboards had been installed. There will be some guidelines issued about the types of notices that can be displayed – Angela to follow up.

6. Treasurer's update

Mary reported that a draft annual statement had been completed. Also both of the main HCDA projects this year, the OX3 Guide and the festival, were in budget.

7. Future liaison with key stakeholders

Agreed for Mary to approach Sue Baker on behalf of the Headington Schools Partnership to talk at a future HCDA meeting about schools/young people. James had been invited to a one day workshop about extended schools and would report back on the outcomes.

Also agreed for Mary/Angela to approach Barton Community Association to address a future HCDA meeting.

8. HCDA website

Stephanie asked for members comments on the HCDA website (hcda.org.uk) as very little information is sent to her to put on the website. Members felt that Stephanie did a wonderful job in keeping it upto date but also acknowledged that it needed all HCDA members to actively provide information for the site. All agreed to look at the website and think how they could add to it and discuss at next meeting.

9. AOB

9.1 Oxford Inspires – Mary circulated details of a Forum due to take place soon

9.2 Quarry conservation area – Marie notified the meeting that there would be a celebration for 35 years of Quarry conservation area on Sunday 2nd July. They are looking for memorabilia and have contacted the Oxford Times and Mail. Please contact Marie Vickers for further information.

9.3 Car free day – Angela raised this on behalf of David Rundle. It is to be held on Sept 22nd and the organisers are looking for any local activities that support not using a car on this day. The group agreed that the walk which Stephanie created should be included although it needs other trained walk leaders to support it.

9.4 Area Plans – James asked about the outcomes of the area planning workshops. Angela to circulate details, although awaiting final outcome from additional consultation.

9.5 New Headington Residents' Association – Bill Heine will be the guest speaker at a meeting to be held on 19th October at All Saints Church Hall, New High Street at 8.00. All welcome.

9.6 Constitution – Mary raised issue of associate membership. Angela agreed to try and update constitution for comment at June meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 28th June 2006 at 7.00, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane site.