

Headington Committee for Development Action (HCDA)

Minutes for meeting on 30th May 2007, 19h00, Oxford Brookes, Gypsy Lane

Present

Heather Armitage
James Bloice-Smith
Jill Cummings
Mary Hope
Stephanie Jenkins
Tony Joyce
Audrey Mullender
David Rundle
Marie Vickers
Charles Young
Stella Welford

Apologies from

Angela Cristofoli
Rebecca Harty

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 25.04.07

Minutes approved and signed by James. Marie Vickers commented on the reference in minute 6 to the number of properties to be built in Quarry referred to in the Core Strategy document.

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

OX3 Guide - James had circulated the new questionnaire which will be going out in the near future. Mary said all those who had advertisements, with one exception, would be happy to do so again.

20 is Plenty - Tony said it would be useful to have the city's total response to the Streets for People day which would be useful in this connection.

London Road Study - James reported on the meeting held on 17th May and thought it had been helpful moving on from the previous study. There will be public consultation on 6th and 7th July taking account of the comments made, and commented that he felt the closure of the underpass would be acceptable if there was a good pedestrian crossing. David Rundle said he would not agree to this and Stella said the Friends of Old Headington were against the closure which, with another set of pedestrian lights, would cause more back up along London Road. Mary asked if consideration was given to the re-location of bus stops outside Iceland and the Post Office. James reported that there had been a request for half depth stops for local buses and separate full depth bays for coaches, but these were not in the plans presented. David said the intention is to direct mail everyone in the area about the consultations. Heather commented on the 2,400 bus journeys a day along High Street, and the possibilities of cross ticketing not currently available. James will write to Craig Rossington thanking him and stress the need for publicity.

Community led planning - By way of introduction James asked that we discuss what we see as our role. For instance, is it the right decision not to discuss phone masts? Heather put a case for discussing these because of health issues. We decided that there was a general desire to focus on building community, but some planning issues were significant for us, as with the public meeting we hosted about the London Road

Focusing on the Community Led Planning question, Marie was concerned about the vast amount of money put into the planning for east Oxford. David had sent an email urging HCDA to take forward the task of formulating a Community Led Plan. We are a broad based group ideal for such a task. It is not appropriate for the NEAC and other excellent local groups which have a more restricted scope. Mary said it is not necessary to be involved with planning except on overall development. Jill said each area should be aware of what is going on and Tony suggested we should be represented at the appeal for the Bury Knowle telecommunications mast. James said he would prefer to be pro-active and would not want to be involved with a protest group which focuses on what we don't want. James asked for suggestions to be submitted for agendas. David suggested the creation

of a small group to talk again with Kat and Brookes, and come back with a plan. He also said he could apply for money. James agreed to get a group together, and come back with a plan how to proceed. Mary said she would be involved, and Heather expressed an interest.

3. Headington Festival

Caroline Duffy came for this item and gave an update on arrangements which were going well and handed round advertising leaflets and a list of activities: new legislation is in force and public liability insurance more expensive, a lot of help from Environmental Health, two generators needed and to be checked by an electrician, on budget with £5,000 from the City Council and another £1,000 to come from stall holders. St. John's Ambulance will come. Mary said how lucky we are to have Caroline who has taken charge of arrangements in a very professional manner.

4. Farmers Market

Charles will report in July on developments. James reminded him there will be no meeting in August.

5. Streets for People

Tony will get in touch with residents' associations to find out about their events. Stephanie will add to the website.

6. Controlled Parking Zone

James has been contacted by Nick Fell from the group Residents Against Parking Charges. We agree that we are not a protest group and should not become formally involved.

7. Treasurer's Report

Charles reported that he had received £5,000 for the Festival.

8. AOB

Police: James reported that a Police representative would come to the next meeting and asked for questions to be raised with them in advance of the meeting.

Website: Stephanie said she is disappointed at the lack of information received. Mary suggested asking each month for items. Marie mentioned the Flower Festival in Quarry.

9. Headington Shops and the HBA

Jill gave a presentation on the current state of the shops in Headington and the lack of support from the HBA which is in abeyance with little interest by the shopkeepers. In reply to David's question why the footfall has decreased, Jill said that parking is a problem and the lack of buses from other areas such as Marston. He said the covered market in Oxford is also suffering from lack of customers and we should do all we can to support the HBA by drawing in members from the larger retail organizations, along with improvements to the Somerfield car park. James suggested inviting shopkeepers and landlords to a meeting. This all needs to be discussed at the next meeting. Jill was commended for being a loyal and regular member of the HCDA.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27th June 2007 at 7.00, Oxford Brookes, Gipsy Lane