



**HEADINGTON ACTION**

[www.headingtonaction.org](http://www.headingtonaction.org)

**Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017 at 7.00pm  
 Room JHB 128, John Henry Brookes Building, London Road.**

**Present:**

<b>Heather Armitage</b>	Town Furze allotments
<b>Elsa Bell</b>	<b>HONORARY SECRETARY</b>
<b>Rosemary Belton</b>	Friends of Bury Knowle Park
<b>Patrick Coulter</b>	Headington Road Runners – <b>CHAIR &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
<b>Keith Frayn</b>	Ramblers – <b>VICE CHAIR &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
<b>Liz Grosvenor</b>	Admin Support
<b>Carolyn Gulliver</b>	London Court Residents'
<b>Cllr. Altaf Khan</b>	Oxford City (Headington)
<b>Maggie Maguire</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Margaret Simpson</b>	U3A Oxford
<b>Cllr. Dee Sinclair</b>	Oxford City (Quarry & Risinghurst)
<b>Howard Stanbury</b>	Friends of Old Headington
<b>Peter West</b>	St Anne's Residents' Area Association
<b>Lesley Williams</b>	Headington Schools Partnership

**Guests:**

<b>John Duncan</b>	Highfield Residents' Association (Planning Group)
<b>Lawrence Kelly</b>	Friends of Quarry (Planning Group)
<b>Charles Young</b>	Transport Group

**Apologies:**

Lisa Birch	Ruskin College
Richard Bradley	Friends of Quarry – <b>TREASURER &amp; TRUSTEE</b>
Ab Brightman	Oxford Brookes Hub
Chris Clifford	Planning Group Chair
Tanya Field	Headington Community Association
Jill Haas	Low Carbon Headington
Sheila Hurst	New Headington Residents' Association
Cllr. Pat Kennedy	Oxford City (Lye Valley)
Sonja Roffey	Mileway Gardens Residents' Association
Cllr. Roz Smith	Oxfordshire County (Headington & Quarry)
Cllr. Ruth Wilkinson	Oxford City (Headington)

<p><b>1. Apologies, welcome and introductions.</b>                  Apologies as above.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b>2. Local Plan Consultation</b>                  A presentation was made by Howard Stanbury on behalf of the Headington Planning Group (PG) on the Oxford Local Plan Preferred Options Document with a view to providing a basis for a response from Headington Action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current consultation ends on 25 August 2017. There will be further consultations in 2018 and 2019, but this session will have the most impact.</li> <li>• The whole document runs to 155 pages.</li> </ul>	

<p>Main questions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 96 looks at Headington shop frontages – this covers restaurants, culture and leisure, and states that A1 use cannot exceed 60%.</li> </ul> <p>There are many development sites that need to be assessed. Heather's paper along with other submitted comments will be referred to the special HPG/HA/RAs meeting for further consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each development site will be responded to.</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood Plan is not mentioned and its status will be checked on and queried.</li> <li>• There are protected employment sites, and the group will look at language schools, HMOs, student accommodation and building heights.</li> <li>• The role of the district centre of Headington will be assessed, (we want to encourage local businesses) as will the conservation areas.</li> </ul> <p>The Ramblers, Oxford Pedestrians, CPRE and the Civic Society are all scrutinising the Local Plan and will be submitting their responses in due course.</p> <p>Some comments:</p> <p>The housing issues and employment sites are of particular interest. We know that 50% of the Oxford workforce live outside the City and this affects the volume of traffic. Builders Merchants and car repair facilities once suitably placed in urban areas ought to be moved outside the area where traffic and parking is lighter.</p> <p>The balance of housing and employment needs to be shifted to make housing closer to employment a priority. CPRE are addressing this issue in their response and pointing out <b>that houses are more important than new jobs.</b></p> <p>Many of the projected new jobs have been filled well before the deadline of 2021 (?), so there is an argument <b>for taking the protection off employment sites and changing them to housing.</b></p> <p>Concern was raised about car-free developments at new houses being allowed to change to parking permits at a later stage.</p> <p>There is a concern about new HMOs being built rather than converting existing family housing, and also these being used for holiday lets. We understand that there is a lack of holiday accommodation and the City Council is setting up a company to provide this, as it generates income for the City.</p> <p><b>Where is the provision for the homeless in this plan?</b></p> <p>The group will investigate the sponsorship of student accommodation and the difference with non-sponsored. Legally there is no restriction on the number of student blocks, apparently, but there is a restriction on the number of HMOs – this is a grey area and will be investigated. We are told that sponsored speculative blocks can only be for Oxford Brookes and Oxford University use. The target level of 3,000 students on the community has been increased to 3,500 and this is exacerbating the problem in our area.</p> <p><b>It was recognised that this is all about balance given that Oxford is restricted by available space.</b></p> <p>Building heights were discussed – an example given was that in Barcelona density of housing is 4 times that of Oxford, thus making better use of available land space. <b>In Oxford this would obviate the use of Green Belt land.</b></p> <p>The development sites need to take account of the biodiversity, protection and water flow disruption i.e. water flow potential disruption from new builds could affect Lye Brook and in turn affect Cowley and</p>	<p>PG</p>
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<p>Florence Park.</p> <p>The % of affordable housing will be addressed. "Affordable" is 80% of market price.</p> <p>There is concern about corporate businesses buying up flats at inflated prices.</p> <p><b>ANOTHER SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS THIS DOCUMENT SO THAT A CONSIDERED RESPONSE MAY BE MADE FROM HEADINGTON ACTION. WE MAY INVITE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS TO A PLANNING GROUP MEETING TO ADD TO THE RESPONSE.</b></p> <p>Dee has agreed to ask the Council if they can extend the response deadline.</p> <p><i>Subsequent to the meeting written comments were received from Cllr Alex Hollingsworth. These will be forwarded to the planning group and reported in full at the next HA committee meeting.</i></p>	<p>PC/PG</p> <p>DS</p> <p>PC</p>
<p><b>3. Minutes of the last meeting</b> held on 31 May were agreed with the following proviso:</p> <p>It was pointed out that a discussion at the last meeting was not reflected in the Minutes. This concerned the hierarchy of residents, students and businesses where priorities of interest needed to be addressed. We responded that because we are an umbrella organisation reflecting all agents equally we should not define ourselves as prioritizing the interests of one group over another. However priorities might emerge on a case by case basis and would be reached after all views have been considered.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters Arising</b> not elsewhere on the Agenda (including Executive Minutes of 18 July).</p> <p>Item 6. Regarding succession planning: we need to look out for new people to recruit with a view to their eventually taking over the executive positions.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>5. Headington Market - update</b></p> <p>KF had circulated the Market report.</p> <p>We are pleased that the market has expanded and that revenues have exceeded our original business model. Our Facebook page has 5 star rating and the local businesses are happy that we bring in extra custom on Market Day.</p> <p>We are hoping to expand onto the north side of London Road and the planning application has been submitted.</p> <p>Tributes were paid to Charles Young who originally set up the market, and thanks are due to Charlie the Market Manager and to Keith for its current success.</p> <p>The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated on 30 September with a special market which will be opened by the Sherriff of Oxford, Cllr. Altaf Khan.</p> <p>A complimentary stall is still available weekly for local charities.</p>	
<p><b>6. Festival 2017 - review</b></p> <p>Final accounts are still being prepared but it looks as if we are "within a £ or so of our budget". Thanks are due to Elsa for managing it this year and to the hard work of her committee.</p> <p>A slight controversy has arisen regarding the non-sponsorship by the City Council this year in the light of the large and ongoing funds being given to the Cowley Road Carnival.. We have to pay for toilet cleaning and rubbish clearance, at a commercial rate rather than charity rate, together with a payment for the use of the Park, whereas the Cowley Festival gets free use of land.</p> <p>Elsa wrote to Bob Price querying this and his reply is appended <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p>Dee agreed to seek a meeting between Bob Price and HA to discuss the issues raised in Elsa's letter.</p> <p>We will respond to his reply in due course. The reply will include the fact that it was a multi-cultural event.</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>EB</p>

<p>Dee will check the pricing of cleaning and rubbish collection – because it was so high we employed our own toilet cleaners but managed to reduce the price with the Council for refuse collection.</p>	<p><b>DS</b></p>
<p><b>7. Christmas Lights - update</b></p> <p>Following a site survey we are recommending that we light, as an experiment this year, the tree outside Lloyds Bank and one outside Helen &amp; Douglas shop. These were chosen as we can run power from adjacent lampposts. The lights remain in the tree all year round.</p> <p><b>We are asking to provide up to £5,000 for the two trees, and this was sanctioned by the committee.</b></p>	
<p><b>8. Headington in Bloom - discussion</b></p> <p>Thames &amp; Chiltern in Bloom now judge the hanging baskets. They have suggested to us that we enter the RHS Britain in Bloom – this covers the whole community including environmental issues. There is a briefing meeting in October and we agreed that Elsa should attend to find out more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The White Hart, and Black Boy pubs are already adorned with lovely displays</li> <li>• We may get HMOs interested, with adjacent houses working together with private houses.</li> <li>• There are already some local gardens opened to the public at certain times</li> <li>• Rock Edge would play an important part.</li> <li>• We would need to publicise this well – it may well take 2 to 3 years to set up, and might need a project manager to organise it.</li> <li>• We should encourage developers to plant seeds in any new landscaping and will ask the County about this.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. Finance</b></p> <p>Two grant applications have been received:</p> <p>To white-line the car park bay for Co-Wheels in Quarry. Holy Trinity Church are contributing <b>and we have agreed to give £250 towards this.</b></p> <p>The Friends of Headington hill Park are wanting to re-instate a tree walk where there used to be an arboretum. They want to identify 30 key trees with labels, and provide a noticeboard. The budget is £1,700 and £1200 is still required. <b>We have agreed to give £500 providing that our logo is on the noticeboard and on the proposed website.</b></p>	
<p><b>10. Headington Neighbourhood Plan – update</b></p> <p>The plan has now been “made” and is a legal document.</p> <p>The next step is to initiate some of the community projects.</p>	
<p><b>11. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lye Valley has been given an award – this is on their website.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Lye Valley granted new protective status</i></b></p> <p><i>The Lye Valley's extraordinary hydrological and geomorphological features – its “Living Geology” – has been recognised by its new protective designation as Local Geology Site by the Oxfordshire Geology Trust</i></p> <p>The open day was very successful and a very enjoyable family event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Saints’ Church is holding a series of concerts on Wednesdays. <a href="http://www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk/special-events/summer-festival">http://www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk/special-events/summer-festival</a></li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older Peoples Day is being held in the Town Hall from 10 to 3 on 2 October. There will be stalls from various organisations and some activity events. (Not yet on the website)</li> <li>• We circulated a paper about the community activities being undertaken by Brookes hub and were very impressed.</li> <li>• It has been suggested that we look at a way of limiting foreign buyers of houses in our area.</li> </ul>	
<b>12. The meeting closed at 9pm.</b>	
<b>13. Next Meeting</b> The next meeting will be in <b>Room JHB 128 on Wednesday 27 September 2017.</b>	

LG 28/7/17

APPENDIX 1

**From:** Councillor PRICE Bob [<mailto:cllrprice@oxford.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2017 10:10 PM  
**To:** Elsa Bell  
**Cc:** BROOKE Ian; Councillor SINCLAIR Delia Mary; McQUITTY Peter  
**Subject:** Grant funding

Dear Elsa

You wrote to me about the criteria for decision-making about grants for the Carnival and the Headington Festival.

The Cowley Rd Carnival has a very different history and function to the Festival. It is a street based, and explicitly multi cultural event, drawing its participants and performers from all over the city and further afield. It has developed a range of offshoots into schools and community organisations which occur across the year. The 3year funding deal for the Carnival was to give a degree of core financial stability for the organisers ( Cowley Road Works) to enable them to organise more effectively on the professional scale that they were aiming for. That objective has been achieved in that the event is far better organised now than in the past.

As a street based event, the Carnival incurs substantial core costs for the road closures, parking restrictions and stewarding/ security that don't apply to park based events such as the Festival and the similar community events held in Florence Park, Blackbird Leys Park and West Oxford Rec.

The open bidding programme to which you submitted your bid was heavily oversubscribed and your request didn't make the 'cut' because the Festival has been successful in increasing its size and visitor numbers, and is financially sound without the need for Council funding. I understand from the officers who evaluate the bids to the annual open bidding programme, that you do receive support in kind from our Community Sports team led by Margaret Stevens.

Grant decisions are inevitably difficult when demand massively exceeds supply. The Council seeks to foster community based events and to work towards financial independence. Three annual events - Christmas Light Night, May Morning and the Carnival - are considered to be of citywide cultural significance and are core funded. The Carnival actually costs well over £100k to stage and the Council's core contribution helps to ensure that the organisers can leverage in the additional funding required from sponsors and other funding organisations.

Good wishes  
 Cllr Bob Price