

# South Oxfordshire Partnership board meeting



**MINUTES: 7 DECEMBER 2011**

Meeting held at The Picnic Hamper Café, Monument Park, Chalgrove

## **Members present**

Bishop Colin Fletcher, (Chairman), Oxfordshire Churches Together

Ian Money, Chief Inspector, Thames Valley Police (TVP)

Maureen Adams, SOHA Housing

Jackie Silver, Community Places Project Worker, SOHA Housing

Mike Jennings, Jennings of Garsington

Meryl Smith, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC)

Mike Jennings, Jennings of Garsington

Ken Hall, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC)

Steve Russell, Sovereign Housing

Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Oxfordshire County Council

## **In attendance**

Clare Kingston, Shared Head of Corporate Strategy (SODC)

Sally Truman, Shared Policy and Partnerships Manager (SODC)

Anne Hall, Shared Corporate Projects Officer (SODC)

1.	<b>Apologies, introductions and announcements</b>  1.1. Apologies had been received from Councillor Ann Ducker (SODC), Di Batchelor (Abingdon & Witney College), Susan Robertson, The Head Partnership Solicitors LLP, Robert Povey (TVP), Richard Peacock (SOHA Housing).  1.2. Mike Jennings thanked members for coming to the Picnic Hamper Café, a new service to tenants of the Monument Business Park and as a meeting place for the local community which launched in November with Home workers hub Leader	
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	<p>funding. There are plans to use the venue for seminars and meetings (eg banking, social media and marketing). Clare Kingston will publicise availability to council teams in case they had a use for this.</p> <p>1.3. There were brief introductions for Jackie Silver who is the new Community Places Project Worker working with the Berinsfield Action Group and South Abingdon Residents Plan group, employed through SOHA Housing; Maureen Adams who attended on behalf of Richard Peacock from SOHA Housing; and Ian Money who attended the meeting on behalf of Robert Povey from TVP.</p>	Action: CK
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b></p> <p>3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>3.1. Any matters arising from the previous minutes are on the meeting agenda</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Economy report</b></p> <p>4.1 It was suggested that showing trends to illustrate changes over time would be more interesting to the members. Sally Truman will seek to include this in future Economy reports. An executive summary will also be included in future reports.</p> <p>4.2 Comments from the members included the view from Mike Jennings that general tenant business is picking up and staff are being taken on, long term investment in the local economy is increasing and despite worries with the Euro risks are worth taking</p> <p>4.3 Steve asked if apprenticeships are being offered for young people through any of the board members. Maureen Adams confirmed that SOHA are currently offering them. Sally Truman said that the district council are looking at offering them and</p>	Action: ST

	<p>asked if any members had any opportunities to offer apprenticeships to young people to let her know. The latest information on young people in Education, Employment and Training from the southern area NEET action planning group will be included on future agendas.</p> <p>4.4 Lorraine Lindsay-Gale mentioned the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which is targeting initiatives to increase skills for young people through the county council and other key stakeholders.</p>	<p>Action: ALL</p> <p>Action: ST</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Great Western Park (GWP) / Didcot</b></p> <p>5.1 The report from Toby Warren of SODC mentioned that support from the Community Places Project (CPP) worker is not currently needed at this stage of the site development.</p> <p>5.2 Meryl Smith who sits on the CPP steering group says that project worker support is important early on in this project, based on experiences on other sites such as the Madley Park development in Witney. The Young Report 'Design for Social Sustainability' is a useful document with an international perspective and can be viewed on the Young Foundation website:  <a href="http://www.youngfoundation.org/publications/paper/design-social-sustainability-a-framework-creating-thriving-communities">http://www.youngfoundation.org/publications/paper/design-social-sustainability-a-framework-creating-thriving-communities</a></p> <p>5.3 Steve Russell says there are already people on site without transport so community support is needed for this group.</p> <p>5.4 Colin Fletcher commented that Madley Park benefited from early and sustained input from a community worker and this could be applied to GWP.</p> <p>5.5 Ian Money believes that the early placement of a community development worker will form the basis of crime reduction in this new area.</p> <p>5.6 A copy of these minutes will be sent to Toby Warren so that he</p>	<p>Action: AH</p>

	is aware of the feedback from partnership members.	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Community Places Project progress report</b></p> <p>6.1 Jackie Silver summarised the Berinsfield Advisory Group progress report that she had prepared for the meeting.</p> <p>6.2 Three top priorities for village improvement were highlighted: litter (rubbish and fly tipping), traffic/parking and improvement to the area of the 'bottom' shops.</p> <p>6.3 Ian Money suggested that reusable tabards are worn when collecting litter as this is good for team building, safety and gives positive impression to others in the community</p> <p>6.4 Clare Kingston mentioned that Biffa might be able to loan out litter picking tabards</p> <p>6.5 Meryl Smith suggested giving a certificate out to those who participate in active community improvement work.</p> <p>6.6 Mike Jennings has business connections in Berinsfield and would like to be involved in the upcoming business consultation.</p> <p>6.7 Need to coordinate dates for bin collection with the district council. Note: provision across the district is being reviewed.</p> <p>6.8 An action plan is being developed and will be shared with the group when this is available.</p> <p>6.9 Suggestions for capital project spending will be reviewed and approved by the Community Places Project steering group (representatives from SODC, VOWHDC, SOHA and ORCC)</p> <p>6.10 It is hoped that revenue from the production of the first two newsletters will be used for further issues.</p> <p>6.11 The second phase of community consultation will help to identify the best ways to communicate with residents, including looking at using the mapping information available through the district council.</p> <p>6.12 Berinsfield parish council has agreed to provide a new youth club shelter, based on advice from young people in the village. The group was asked if they are aware of any funding</p>	<p>Action: CK</p> <p>Action: JS and MJ</p> <p>Action: AH and JS</p> <p>Action: JS</p> <p>Action: JS</p> <p>Action: JS</p> <p>Action: KH and JS</p>

	<p>to help meet the £2k shortfall to let Ken Hall know.</p> <p>6.13 Lorraine Lindsay-Gale mentioned that Berinsfield is part of a county-wide pilot project to rationalise assets and by mid 2012 it is hoped that plans for the future use of OCC buildings will be drafted. Lorraine will share the results of the facilities consultation when it's available along with contact details.</p>	<p>Action: LL-G</p> <p>Action: LL-G</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Community-led planning update</b></p> <p>7.1 The Baldons Parish Plan has been published and is available online at: <a href="http://www.clp-se.org.uk/">http://www.clp-se.org.uk/</a></p> <p>7.2 Long Wittenham's Parish Plan been published and is available online at: <a href="http://www.clp-se.org.uk/">http://www.clp-se.org.uk/</a></p> <p>7.3 South Oxfordshire currently has 47 parishes with plans at various stages of the CLP process including some that are interested in getting started and those that are implementing their action plans. The council is continuing to offer limited support on consultation work.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Community Places project 1 year on – plans for publication</b></p> <p>8.1 The Community Places project steering committee has updated this report based on recommendations at the last meeting and it is now ready for publication.</p> <p>8.2 Maureen Adams, who is on the steering committee, will send the report to SARP (South Abingdon Residents Plan) and to BAG (Berinsfield Advisory Group) for their comment. Maureen has offered for SOHA Housing to arrange for the printing of the report, which will include hard and online versions.</p>	<p>Action: MA</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Update on the Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA) funding bid</b></p> <p>9.1 Meryl Smith updated the group on the 'one stop shop' portal</p>	

	<p>for shared county services that is being proposed and is expecting to hear by the end of January 2012 whether the ORCC and OCVA bid has been successful.</p> <p>9.2 If the funding bid is accepted the two organisations will begin the process of sharing back office services and will bring together other business functions such as branding, marketing and client management.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Update on the Core Strategy</b></p> <p>10.1 Sally Truman updated the group on the Core Strategy, which is a framework for development in South Oxfordshire to 2027 to meet housing need through planned growth and deliver economic growth and investment in infrastructure.</p> <p>10.2 Core Strategy submitted in 2011 to the Secretary of State in March with an exploratory meeting in May and after some alterations an Examination took place in July and November.</p> <p>10.3 Taking account of the Inspector's views from the July Examination the council has proposed some changes regarding windfalls and the Green Belt</p> <p>10.4 We are hoping to seek approval from cabinet and council to adopt the Core Strategy in mid 2012</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>The Localism Bill – implications for Community-led planning/LSPs</b></p> <p>11.1 The Localism Act was passed in November and provides guidance on Neighbourhood Plans (NP).</p> <p>11.2 Community led planning will continue to be promoted and supported as some communities will benefit from a broadly-based CLP while other communities may benefit from NP where there are planning-related issues in an area. A document entitled</p>	



	<p>recent changes.</p> <p>13.2 South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Councils (jointly) are one of six English councils to be short listed for Council of the Year in recognition on the shared councils' continued provision of some of the best services in local government.</p> <p>13.3 'Churches Together in Oxfordshire - Colin Fletcher reported on some examples in the SODC area of church-owned buildings being adapted for greater Community Use. In Whitchurch he had just opened a new Parish Room for smaller meetings in the former Rectory's stable block. The need for such a space had been identified in the NP. In Stoke Row the Church has just been converted for dual use as the School's hall. In Stadhampton work is continuing to find a way to convert part of the Church to become a village hall. He asked for members to be alert to the much greater flexibility that now exists for churches to be adapted for community use.</p>	Action: ALL
14.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>14.1 As Steve Russell is retiring from Sovereign Vale this is his last SOP board meeting. Colin Fletcher, on behalf of the board members, thanked him for his participation over the years and expressed gratitude for Steve's expertise and his dedication to the partnership and wished him well for the future.</p>	
	<p><b>Dates of next SOP meetings</b> 5.30pm, South Oxfordshire District Council</p> <p><b>Tuesday 20 March 2012</b> <b>Wednesday 30 May 2012</b></p>	