

Minutes of the Planning Committee of Old Marston Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th October 2018 at 7:00pm in the Roy Garner Pavilion.

Present:

Michael Cadd (MC) - Chairman Michael Bates (MB) Mary James (MJ)
Tim Cann (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 13

No Councillors declared any prejudicial interests and no one intended to record the proceedings of the meeting.

PLAN18/10/01 Requests to record the meeting: NONE

PLAN18/10/02 Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor Pat Hall – On Holiday. No apologies were received from Parish Councillor Angie Tiwari.

PLAN18/10/03 Public Participation: These will be taken later in the meeting.

PLAN18/10/04 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th August 2018.

PLAN18/10/05 Matters arising omitting those for which an agenda heading follows: NONE

PLAN18/10/06 Planning Applications to be considered:

18/01173/FUL – The Harlow Centre - Demolition of existing buildings on the site and their replacement with a new two-storey education facility, associated parking and external play areas for Meadowbrook College. Erection of a new secondary school in the form mix of one and three-storey buildings together with provision of a new access from Marston Ferry Road, associated car and cycle parking along with formal and informal play and sport provision. Erection of a multi-use games area (MUGA) and eco-shelter for St Nicholas Primary School. (Amended description) (Amended plans and additional information) (Amended plans and additional information)(**Further amendments received 25.09.2018**)

The chairman asked for comments from the public:-

A member of the public stated that they were against application as they believed it would be in the wrong location and on Green Belt land.

Another member of the public said that the arrangements to dropping off pupils is unworkable as it states the gates would only be open for 20 minutes and with the number of vehicles expected was just a none viable.

Simon Banks from the Cherwell Travel Action Group spoke about a cycle underpass which has always been refused to be included and had done count of traffic through the village and 81% were rat running.

Charlotte Vinnicombe from the Oxford Road & Elsfield Residents Association stated that the travel plan is completely inadequate and the access now gives priority to cars over cycles.

Oxford City Councillor Mary Clarkson said that some of the changes to the application are welcome, however, she was still not convinced it is enough to make it work. The entrance will be patrolled by

Signed by the Chairman.

teachers who will not have the authority to manage vehicles. The evenings when the access is not managed will be the most dangerous time with teachers leaving, people arriving for after school events etc. She has been advised that the amendments to the application are not enough to make it a fresh plan. The County Council has said that a CPZ system will be operational throughout the parish within 2 years so hopefully this will be operating before the school becomes fully utilized if goes ahead.

After further discussion the Planning Committee RESOLVED that:

Old Marston Parish Council is mindful of parishioners with children who cannot get into their chosen school. The Council has looked at this and concludes that the need is further afield than just Old Marston.

The Council, therefore, remains strongly opposed to this application on the following grounds:-

OVERDEVELOPMENT OF SITE: The Council has said from the outset that this is the wrong location for a development of this size. To date nothing has been tabled to change this opinion.

ACCESS: The access point onto and from the Marston Ferry Road does not address the volume of cyclists already using the cycle track, let alone the additional amount this application will generate. Then to introduce vehicles using the same entrance point and crossing the cycle track is unworkable. The proposed management of all this is inadequate.

ENTRANCE: The design for cyclists, pedestrians and car drivers merging is an accident waiting to happen.

TRAFFIC: Traffic congestion is already severe at peak times and any addition to this will make the situation impossible. Pollution levels will increase, with a harmful effect on local communities and school children. This is in total contrast to the Oxford City Council's aims and policies to reduce air pollution. The revised travel plan is found to be inadequate.

PARKING: The revised plan reduces the number of onsite parking facilities for staff which will make things even worse. This will result in cars being parked on the surrounding streets. The developer's 'park & stride' policy will only encourage this. There is already a problem with commuter parking where people park their cars and travel to the JR Hospital, Brookes University or Oxford.

DRAINAGE: It is proposed for surface water to drain into the already existing brook, which is part owned by the residents of Arlington Drive, therefore giving serious concern for potential flooding of these properties and the proposed school.

PLAN18/10/07 Information Sharing: NONE.

PLAN18/10/08 Anything of an urgent nature which has come to the Clerk's attention since setting the agenda: NONE.

PLAN18/10/09 Information Sharing: NONE

Meeting ended: 7:50pm

Date of Next Meeting: TBA

Signed by the Chairman.