

<p>PRESENT: Gillian Argyle, Clive Booth, Chris Church, Gillian Coates, Richard Dodd, Ian Green (Chair), Liz Grosvenor, Sarah Hendriks, Tony Joyce (AMJ), Penelope Lenon, Margaret Maden, Thelma Martin, Vernon Porter, Louise Thomas, Peter Thompson</p> <p>BY INVITATION: Hilary Bradley, Ian Salusbury</p>		
1.	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to what should be the last online meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Jim Girling</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON TUESDAY 1 June 2021</p> <p>The minutes were AGREED to be a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	<p>Action by</p>
4.1	<p>Membership recruitment - individual</p> <p>LG drew attention to the membership statistics over the past 16 years in the Progress Report. It was interesting to note that we had lost more members on changing banks than we had on raising subscriptions.</p> <p>38 members had still not responded to the numerous requests to adjust their payment to the new rate. Since they have effectively paid half a year's subscription, LG proposed that they should receive the July edition of <i>Visions</i> but be removed from the lists at the end of August.</p> <p>PL and GC agreed the time had come to draw a line. IG was unhappy about losing any members, but conceded that subscription income had been higher than budgeted so there was no financial constraint. HB and CC felt efforts should be directed at finding new members instead. In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more active and pro-active social media presence (on LinkedIn, FaceBook and NextDoor as well as Twitter) would boost visibility. Posts could link to press coverage and signpost forthcoming meetings. • While many people know and approve of what we do, this does not necessarily translate into their joining. We need to promote the 	

	<p>advantages of membership, including the social benefit of being connected to the wider Oxford community, as well as access to information and the ability to influence developments.</p> <p>It was AGREED that LG should proceed as proposed, and that the Communications Group should further discuss how to increase membership before bringing their ideas to the Executive.</p>	LG Comms Group
4.2	<p>Membership recruitment – corporates</p> <p>The financial contribution from corporate members was below target. IG has ideas for another initiative which he will share with the Communications Group</p>	IG/ Comms Group
5	PROGRESS REPORT	
5.1	<p>Oxfordshire 2050</p> <p>The 2050 plan will be released for discussion soon. We have, however, received (informally) copies of draft versions which will enable the Planning and Transport Groups to begin considering their response.</p>	
5.2	<p>OxClean</p> <p>MM congratulated the organisers on a successful event and wished the Committee's formal thanks to be recorded. CB had also been pleased to note that press coverage had linked OxClean with OCS.</p>	
6	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS	
6.1	Items concerning AIM 1: <i>Influence the development of Oxford as a city where people enjoy living, working and visiting</i>	
6.1.1	<p>"Broad Meadow"</p> <p>The partial pedestrianisation of Broad Street seemed successful, especially given the financial and time constraints. The area was lively and the seating well-used. The rural theme would not be appropriate for a permanent installation but was fine in a temporary setting. Similarly, the routes for pedestrians and cyclists were not well delineated, resulting in near collisions; this would presumably also be resolved if the arrangement becomes permanent.</p> <p>GC and her colleagues were congratulated on their successful input to the scheme. Their questionnaire would now be revised for circulation to the membership.</p>	GC

<p>6.1.2</p>	<p>New Humanities Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter</p> <p>The proposals for this important development will require detailed work by the Planning Group, for whom Jim Girling is preparing a discussion paper. Key considerations are the design of the building (which, given its purpose, ought to have due regard to cultural issues), the awkwardness of the site, and the University's exacting requirements. Some of those requirements, such as openness to the public, are to be welcomed. MM hoped the developers could be persuaded to make provision for an auditorium suitable for opera productions.</p> <p>Disquiet was expressed about the dilapidation of the former St Paul's church on the edge of the ROQ site: a listed building dating from 1834, it also boasts some important stained glass. The owner was understood to have asked too high a price when the Blavatnik Building was developed. CB wondered if the City Council might be persuaded to enforce repairs.</p>	<p>Planning Group</p>
<p>6.1.3</p>	<p>Transport Group priorities</p> <p>The paper (on which members were invited to submit comments to IG) had been prepared by the Transport Group with a view to clarifying priorities ahead of a recent meeting between Councillor Duncan Enright (Cabinet Member for Travel & Development Strategy in the new County administration), Jonathan Scheele, Peter Headicar and IG.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>6.1.4</p>	<p>The meeting with County Cllr Enright had been very positive; it seems that the new administration has submitted all current and proposed policies to review including discussion with community groups. Further meetings will follow, in which members of the Planning and Housing Groups will also be involved.</p>	
<p>6.1.5</p>	<p>City Centre West</p> <p>Plans for Oxpens are developing quickly. Tom Bridgman (City Council Executive Director of Development) is in the process of establishing a consultation group on the West End Area, which will include OCS. This is promising, especially as it is proving difficult to comment on emerging plans for Oxpens, the railway station and the West End without sight of the work being undertaken on the spatial framework of the West End.</p>	
<p>6.1.6</p>	<p>Oxford 2040 Local Plan</p> <p>It was unusual to start work on a new Local Plan so soon after the previous one, but there have been various important outside events to consider, and it may also be intended to coordinate with the County's 2050 Plan. Tom Bridgman has proposed regular meetings with IG, who will keep the technical groups informed.</p>	<p>IG</p>

	<p>AMJ observed that a great deal of consultation will be needed, and we may be able to exploit the opportunity to raise our profile with prospective members by providing information and encouraging involvement.</p> <p>IG wondered what OCS could do to help get the Urban Forum working properly, as the City Council does not have a proper inventory of civic groups and Residents' Associations. Such a list would also be useful for us – although it would need regular updating. This would be a task for the Communications Group and the Communities Group (see 6.3.2 below).</p> <p>GC knew of a recent recruit who might be interested in taking on the task and would approach her.</p>	<p>CLS and Comms Groups</p> <p>GC</p>
6.2	<p>Items concerning Aim 2: <i>Inform its members - and others - about Oxford; its key qualities, as well as its problems, with constructive and soundly-based proposals for its further improvement</i></p>	
6.2.1	<p>Delivery of talks post-COVID [Ian Salusbury joined the meeting at 11.15 for this item only]</p> <p>The Programme Group was thanked and congratulated for adapting so well during the pandemic, successfully delivering talks via Zoom, which had the added benefit that we could also then post YouTube versions on our website, thereby greatly increasing our audience.</p> <p>Physical venues have been booked for the four talks scheduled in the autumn, and we look forward to resuming the social interaction, not least for its value in recruiting members.</p> <p>But it seems important to consider how we might continue to provide an online version for people unwilling or unable to join in person. Hiring a professional film-maker is too expensive (some £700 per event). Rewley House can provide a camera to train on a speaker with his/her slides behind, but this does not produce a satisfactory result.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was AGREED that we would aim separately to capture the slides and record the commentary at the first talk in September with a view to seeking to marry them together afterwards.</p> <p>[LT left the meeting in the course of this item]</p>	<p>IS & Programme Group</p>
6.3	<p>Items concerning AIM 3: <i>Cooperate with Oxford's Residents' Associations and civic societies nationally to develop, and campaign for, community-led solutions to shared problems.</i></p>	
6.3.1	<p>Establishment of an OCS Communities* Group</p> <p>GC was thanked for drawing up the Terms of Reference for the new group. She stressed that it was a first draft, to be slimmed down and more tightly focused in discussion with MM, TM and LT next week. She also hopes to</p>	<p>GC & CLS Gp</p>

	<p>involve others, including Vice Presidents Venables and Hussain, in the group's work in due course.</p> <p>IG suggested that its establishment be announced in a press release. HB suggested that its first task might usefully be intelligence-gathering – establishing what community groups want and/or expect from OCS.</p> <p>* It was AGREED post-meeting that it be known as the Communities Group, short for Community-Led Solutions, and abbreviated to CLS Group to avoid confusion with the Communications (Comms) Group.</p>	PL
6.3.2	OxClean: See minute 5.2 above	
6.3.3	<p>City Council / Government community support initiative</p> <p>IG and GC met Adrian Green, a consultant to the City Council looking at ways to utilise the government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which replaces the EU's Structural Fund. A useful contact, he is looking for trends and would welcome project suggestions from OCS.</p>	
6.3.4	<p>Planning Bill</p> <p>This will provide further opportunities to work with other groups: CPRE is keen to collaborate: we would not share all their priorities, but should certainly cooperate.</p> <p>Given the importance for all manner of interest groups, IG agreed with CC that it was crucial for us to make our views known early so they are reflected in other people's thinking.</p>	
6.3.5	<p>Civic Voice</p> <p>CV have become very much more active of late. They have established a useful research link with Reading University and are seeking examples of controversial developments that have made it past the planning authorities. It was AGREED that we should propose the Roger Dudman Way flats.</p>	IG
6.4	Items concerning AIM 4: <i>Learn from other cities, in both the UK and abroad, where creative strategies might be helpful to Oxford</i>	
6.4.1	<p>Historic England research project</p> <p>IG gave a brief update on his research trips to Durham, Chester, Canterbury, Lichfield and Wells. Oxford will be hosting a reciprocal visit from Canterbury in August; CB, GC, PT and Jonathan Scheele will be assisting.</p>	

	<p>Part of the process is a questionnaire, which includes a SWOT analysis. IG proposes to tackle it by means of a brainstorming session in the week of 26 July; he will circulate a Doodle Poll so interested members can join.</p> <p>The Historic England research, including the OCS contribution, will be published, and the work done by OCS to feed into the research may lead to a separate OCS publication in due course. The project may also provide a blueprint for liaison with Oxford's twin cities.</p>	IG/ALL
7	OTHER BUSINESS	
7.1	<p>HB flagged that the next edition of Visions will be published slightly later than usual.</p> <p>She also noted that all walks and visits bookings must now be made through Eventbrite, and invited feedback on the process.</p>	
7.2	<p>PT is still liaising with the beneficiaries of the Keith Holly legacy. 17 possible locations for benches have been identified; a contribution to improving the Woodland Trail in Cutteslowe is also planned.</p>	
7.3	<p>CC noted that OxClean have already stepped forward to participate in the Great Big Green Week planned for 18-26 September (ahead of COP26 in November) and suggested OCS might also wish to be involved.</p>	
8.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 7.30pm in the North Oxford Community Centre. CB, CC and MM offered apologies in advance for absence.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.00 noon.</p>	