

**MINUTES of the
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 7.30pm
 At the North Oxford Community Centre**

PRESENT:		
Gillian Coates (GC), Richard Dodd (RD), Ian Green (IG) (Chairman), Liz Grosvenor (LG), Margaret Maden (MM), Thelma Martin (TM), Vernon Porter (VP).		
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Clive Booth, Hilary Bradley, Chris Church, Jim Girling, Sarah Hendriks, Tony Joyce, Penelope Lenon, Ian Salusbury, Louise Thomas	
2.	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, noting that a combination of holidays and COVID had reduced the numbers to barely a quorum of Trustees	
3.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 MAY 2022 – agreed.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES	Action by
	MM reiterated that we are not in the public eye as often as we should be. VP argued that although we have a lot to say, it is often the case that what we have to say is nuanced and not good newspaper copy. IG agreed and added that some public planning issues are now emerging on which we have unequivocal things to say.	IG
4.1	Membership	
	LG reported that recruitment was very slow with no new members in May and two, to date in June. IG is continuing to chase corporates and colleges. GC noted that we have been asked to make pre-application comments on housing schemes of Reuben, Kellogg and Hertford colleges. IG confirmed that none of these are corporate members and that we should suggest corporate membership to them.	GC
5.	PROGRESS REPORT	
	All items on the agenda.	
5.1	Additionally, it was reported that Natasha has stepped down from leading OxClean but will continue to supervise the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Rosanne Bostock and Ingrid Lunt have agreed to take over the reins on a temporary basis.	

	In a post-resignation meeting with GC and IG, Natasha had suggested that we need to promote the reuse, recycle aspect of OxClean, and make more use of our councillors to promote OxClean including via social media.	
6.	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS	
6.1	Aim 1: <i>Influence the development of Oxford as a city where people enjoy living, working and visiting</i>	
6.1.1	<p>Strategic Planning</p> <p>As reported in previous Executive Committee meetings there are very many strategies, plans and studies for the development of Oxfordshire which are being prepared currently.</p> <p>IG has now prepared a report which describes the Vision for Oxfordshire to 2050 which has been agreed by the district, city and county councils through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.</p> <p>The report goes on to describe the main problems which are common to all the strategies, plans and studies which are in preparation: there is still no agreement on the level or pace of growth, even though options for the distribution of growth are already being discussed (the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment is described in detail in this section, including its technical weaknesses); there is as yet no common approach to climate change; although some infrastructure costing is included in the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (Stage 1, to 2040), there is no financing plan (how the expenditure will be funded).</p> <p>The report then describes in some detail the existing plans (the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy and the district and city local plans) and the key strategies, plans and studies in preparation (the Oxfordshire 2050 Spatial Plan, the County Council Transport and Connectivity Plan and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (Stage 1 and Stage 2). Other relevant strategies are described briefly).</p> <p>Finally, the report identifies key points which need to be considered as these various strategies, plans and studies draw to a close. Not surprisingly the main point is that the various strategies, plans and studies need to be complementary and fully integrated with each other.</p> <p>IG explained that the report had been written at this time to press the point of integration because it was expected that the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan would be finalised this autumn 2022. IG went on to explain that it is now likely that the Plan will be in preparation for at least another year. This is good news if the point of integration is accepted by decision-makers and stakeholders.</p> <p>The aim is that OCS further summarises the report and makes it available widely to district, city and county councillors, stakeholders and OCS members.</p>	IG / HB

	<p>IG was thanked for his work on producing this paper which originally ran to over 60 pages, and has now been condensed into 35.</p>	
<p>6.1.2</p>	<p>Local Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oxford Economic Strategy is about to be approved. OCS had responded to consultations by arguing that the economy of Oxford extends into neighbouring districts and that it was a mistake for the strategy to just look within the city boundaries. The OCS suggestion that it should be a joint strategy has not been accepted. • Connecting Oxford has concluded a series of consultation meetings with civic groups, including OCS. CB has produced a summary of the meeting he attended and Peter Headicar has added to this. In summary, the meetings highlighted the amount of detail and complexity yet to be addressed in formulating the overall scheme. IG explained that Peter Headicar has also suggested that a phased approach (ZEZ implemented first and traffic filters alter, if needed) would have the political and practical merit of lessening complexity and the challenge of winning public support. IG agrees and recommends that OCS asks that its impacts are explored and compared alongside those of the full core package. • Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Oxford’s West End - the area includes Oxpens, the station, Osney Mead, the island site and extends to St Aldates. The draft SPD will be considered by the city Council Cabinet on June 15th and will probably approve it for consultation. Although it is 400 pages long, OCS will need to comment during the anticipated 6-week consultation period. A copy of the draft SPD is on the agenda of the City Council Cabinet meeting and can be accessed. • The City Centre Strategy Action Plan is mainly concerned with COVID recovery, and OCS has been involved in its preparation and is hoping to be involved in the implementation of the Action Plan and in future city centre management arrangements which are currently being considered. • A Waterways Report has been prepared which is very disappointing. OCS had tried hard to gain support for a high-level stakeholder’s group to take forward the Waterways Vision prepared two years ago, but this report concludes that such a group is not necessary. 	
<p>6.2</p>	<p>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>	
<p>6.2.1</p>	<p>Communications Group meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TM gave a summary of the meeting that took place this morning. We were unable to pursue a number of items as SP was absent and we have subsequently asked for an update. • We need to refresh the shop window and to promote the re-wilding film. <i>LG has contacted IS to get a clearer poster to encourage some more bookings.</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will contribute to the new "What's on in Oxford" section in the local press. GC reported on the various meetings she has attended. TM suggested that we ought to make contact with the various outreach programmes in the city and it was suggested that contacting Sarah Fernandez at the Oxford Hub would be a good place to start. 	
6.2.2	<p>Rewilding film</p> <p>IS was unable to attend but sent this report</p> <p><i>Estelle Bailey has been added to the panel for the Riverwoods screening and that we're up to 15 bookings. We will need to work out how we manage things on the night - we'll just need a couple of people to check tickets. I will arrange a visit to the UPP with Paul Jepson shortly to discuss technical aspects of the screening. You might want to remind the Board that entry is by ticket only, so hopefully some of them will be buying one soon.</i></p>	ALL
6.2.3	<p>Debates</p> <p>IG reported that we are still planning to have a tourism debate and four further debates on growth in the city region. But to undertake these we will need volunteers to organize them.</p>	ALL
6.3	<p>Aim 3: <i>Cooperate with Oxford's Residents' Associations and civic societies nationally to develop, and campaign for, community-led solutions to shared problems, and to engage with diverse and hard-to-reach groups.</i></p>	
6.3.1	<p>Circular to councillor and civic organisations</p> <p>The dissemination of our report on strategic plans (above) will address this.</p>	
6.3.2	<p>Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership</p> <p>As in 6.3.1</p>	
6.4	<p>Aim 4: <i>Learn from other cities, in both the UK and abroad, where creative strategies might be helpful to Oxford</i></p>	
6.4.1	<p>Heritage and Climate Change</p> <p>OPT, the City Council, Oxford University Sustainability department are all involved with the Open University in order to identify the effect of climate change on heritage buildings. We suggested that looking at our twinned cities to see how they approach this might be beneficial.</p>	

7.	OTHER BUSINESS	
7.1	IG reported that the new Oxford Historic Atlas is very impressive (IG brought a copy to the meeting to show Committee members, but was unable to do so because we had no tables at the meeting!	
7.2	RD reported that we have been asked to provide Trustee details with regard to our funds with CCLA and money laundering measures. He is liaising with VP on the paperwork. The committee agreed that we will provide these details.	
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC reported that our inclusivity survey will be in the next newsletter of the Community Action Group for Oxford and Oxfordshire. • We are aware that OPT have an Open Day at the Rose Hill Community Centre and this is something that we would like to emulate. • A Council initiative on Thriving Communities will be looked at. 	
7.5	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42	
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 10.30am on Wednesday 6 July 2022 online by Zoom. Apologies from Gillian Coates and Thelma Martin.	