

Hanborough Action Group (HAG) Interim Committee

Minutes of the AGM held on the Monday 13 July 2015 (Hanborough Pavilion)

Present: John Evans (JE), Stuart Brooks (SB), Annie Thompson-Lynch (ATL), Andrew Elphick (AE), Lucy Tritton (LT), David Rischmiller (DM), Penny Marcus (PM), Steve Page (SP). Graham Nixey (GN),

Apologies: Rod Fraser (RF), Andrew Bonnie (AB), Chair of the Hanborough Parish Council Mike Baggaley, District Councillor Colin Dingwall.

In attendance – over **75** members of the public.

1. Meeting Opened – LT welcomed attendees and offered tea and coffee.

2. Opening Summary – LT gave a brief overview of the setting and organization up of Hanborough Action Group (HAG) Interim Committee as follows:

- a. HAG was suggested as a way forward on **16 July 2014** at the end of a packed meeting at the Recreation Hall where residents raised concerns about Pye Homes Property Developers on behalf of Blenheim Estates submitting an application for 362 houses to built on fields either side of the A4095 on the western side of the village and Savills on behalf of Corpus Christi College seeking planning permission to build 68 houses between Church Hanborough and Long Hanborough. Neither of these proposals was acceptable to Long or Church Hanborough residents so it was suggested that a group be convened to respond and where relevant present objections to both proposals.
- b. An inaugural meeting of the action group (to be known as HAG) was held on **23 July 2014**. The initial HAG Interim Committee comprised: Rachel Hemmingway, John Evans, Stuart Brooks, Annie Thompson Lynch, Lucy Tritton, Andrew Elphick, Andrew Bonnie, Jason Davis, Ian Coleman, Penny Marcus, Steve Page, David Rischmiller, Rod Fraser, Graham Nixey, Ken Field (Hanborough Playing Fields Association). *Resigned during the course of the year:* Jason Davis, Ian Coleman, Rachel Hemmingway and Ken Field.
- c. In the meantime and independently of HAG, the **Protect Hanborough** Facebook page was set up, it currently has **488 members**. AB set up a webpage **Hands off Hanborough**.
- d. HAG membership comprises residents from Church Hanborough, Main road, Hurdeswell, Millwood End and Millwood Vale. HAG also regularly seeks Committee membership and assistance from all areas of the village/villages.
- e. HAG has no appointed leader. In the interests of continuity the same person usually chairs the meetings and produces the minutes.
- f. HAG has no mandate and no constitution - a constitution is in planning. It does however, seek the views of the whole community and to represent those views in a fair, balanced and rational way.
- g. HAG has a bank account and has sought donations to fund printing, reports, signs, etc
- h. An email groups (hag-discuss@googlegroups.com) has been set up for residents, via which the HAG committee disseminates key information and enables discussion. This currently has 150 members. HAG has met regularly throughout the year, sometimes weekly.
- i. Throughout HAG has liaised with the Parish Council (HPC) and Hanborough Playing Fields Association (HPA) to ensure, where appropriate, that common argument and approaches are presented. The key areas of concern for any development in Hanborough are the A4095, the impact on school and the surgery services and the integrity of the Hanborough community and environs. There has been close discussions with the MAT (Multi Academy Trust). Eynsham Medical Group and other relevant institutions and organisations throughout the year.
- j. Brief summary of HAG activities in addition to those indicated above:
 - x 4 (20-25 of each) signs and banners during the year sited at all key locations in and around Hanborough
 - Stall at the Hanborough Show (this included a survey) – 13 September 2014
 - Letter writing workshop in the Recreation Hall – 22 October 2014
 - Stall at the Hanborough fireworks – 7 November 2014

- Survey at the station to find out where people are travelling from to use the train and where they are going to – 19 November 2014
 - x4 leaflets (approx 1000 in total) circulated to the whole village
 - Special edition updates for Hanborough Surgery and Station
 - Monthly Update reports in Hanborough Herald
 - Collation of the letters submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) and compiling a data base with reasons for and against the proposed developments – 29 December 2015
- k. The HAG campaign had resulted in 150 individual letters being written to WODC re the Corpus Christi College application and 500+ re. The Pye with Blenheim's application. LT thanked residents for their support in achieving this commendable outcome.
- l. LT closed this part of the meeting by thanking all those residents that had supported the campaign and the HAG Interim Committee members who have given so much of their time, energy and expertise to make HAG an action group that has been widely acknowledged to be professional, balanced and tireless in its approach.
- 3. Publications** – ATL gave a summary of the HAG documentation that has been produced during the year. As noted by LT (2.i this doc) ATL reiterated that HAG has sought to achieve a balanced analysis of the issues and a fair and accurate representation of residents' views. This has been achieved by liaising with the HPC, HPA and a wide range of other relevant organisations, groups and individuals The position HAG adopts is not one of anti development our documents seek to describe the issues and impacts for Hanborough and to reference all views from residents. They are underpinned by reference to and careful analysis of planning policy frameworks and other relevant documents both locally and nationally. A particular focus has been to challenge the insufficient detail and many inaccuracies offered by the developers. At the Uplands Planning Committee 2 March 2015 HAG's documents were noted to be the best campaign group publications the Committee had seen in 30 years. Publications to date include:
- **A Response** (55 pages) to Outline Planning Application **No. 14/1102/P/OP** Savills for Corpus Christi College
 - **A Final Representation** (7 pages) to WODC re. Savills for Corpus Christi College Outline Planning Application **No. 14/1102/P/OP**
 - **A Response** (57 pages) to Outline Planning Application **No.14/1234/P/OP** Pye Homes Property Developers with Blenheim Palace Estates
 - **A Final Representation** (11 pages) to WODC re. Pye Homes Property Developers with Blenheim Palace Estates Outline Planning Application **No. 14/1234/P/OP**
 - **Pre-submission comments WODC Local Plan 2031** (12 pages)
 - Letters and press releases
- 4. Planning Processes and verbal presentations to Uplands Planning Committee** – SB outlined the stages and complexity of planning processes and reported the comments he had made on behalf of HAG in the 3 minute slot allocated at Planning Committees when **Application No. 14/1102/P/OP** and **No. 14/1234/P/OP** were debated.
- 5. Communications and Press** – AE. HAG documents are always distributed in hard copy and delivered by hand to Councillors individually prior to meetings. AE has liaised with the Press to build a consistent and reasoned profile of Hanborough's concerns and Hands off Hanborough campaign. This has included producing press releases and undertaking interviews (Oxford Times/Mail, BBC Local Radio, BBC South today). HAG has also developed lines of communications with Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally (ROAR) and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).
- 6. Finances** – GN. Read and Approved
- 7. Planning Current Position** – LT
- Outline Planning Application No. 14/1102/P/OP Savills for Corpus Christi College – granted for 50 houses in a field adjacent to Church Road.

- Outline Planning Application Outline Planning Application No.14/1234/P/OP Pye Homes Property Developers with Blenheim Palace Estates – unanimously refused. Pye are expected to submit an Appeal regarding this decision.
- Myrtle Farm Development (9 homes) has commenced.
- Pye Homes Property Developers with Blenheim Palace Estates application for 1500 homes and industrial development at Woodstock has been resubmitted with a reduction to 1200 homes and industrial development.
- Commercial Estates Group is proposing to submit an application for 150 home and 400 car parking spaces on land adjacent to Hanborough Station. Though debated at the meeting lack of detail regarding the proposal prevented any actions being identified. These will be forthcoming when the position is clearer.
- Gladman Developments Ltd. is submitting an application to build 76 homes in North Leigh.
- It was noted that a yellow notice had appeared regarding a field, previously of interest to developers, in Freeland – no details were available but it suggested that an application for housing development is forthcoming.
- A development for 800 homes at West Witney has been approved.

7. Support from Hanborough's District Councillors – It was noted that there has been no contact, despite many requests for this, or any support from Hanborough's County Councillor representative, Louise Chapman, regarding Hanborough's concerns about proposed property developments in the village. It was also reported that Hanborough's District Councillor, Toby Morris, acted against the wishes of both the HPC and HAG regarding the Savills with Corpus Christi College proposal. We believe that as a result, Hanborough received a poorer outcome to the Church Road planning application than anticipated when it was determined at the Uplands Planning Committee of 27 April 2015.

8. Discussion opened to the floor – a wide ranging discussion took place with many concerns being expressed about the impact of rampant and overwhelming development in the village. Hanborough feels under siege from developers and concerns focussed on traffic congestion, pollution, impact on health and education services, the integrity of the community, the impact on the rural character and environment of the village, the boundaries and spaces between the villages in the locality, the impact of large volume commutes from towns and villages to extended station car parks. This included concerns about the impact of Water Eaton (Oxford Parkway) drawing traffic through the village. All these points were framed by current experience of the existing pressure on the village, its services and the A4095.

9. Elections to HAG – Standing for the HAG Committee now is: John Evans, Stuart Brooks, Annie Thompson Lynch, Lucy Tritton, Andrew Elphick, Penny Marcus, Steve Page, David Rischmiller, Rod Fraser, and Graham Nixey. Proposed by Kathryn Robson and seconded by Phil Ershaw all members listed were duly elected unanimously.

10.HAG will no longer be an Interim Committee. It is now Hanborough Action Group (HAG) Committee

11. Closure of meeting – LT closed the meeting and thanked all those present for attending.