



VIRGINIA WATER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

MINUTES OF THE 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 07th August 2023

Present: John Pyle, Chairman
Carol Manduca, Treasurer
James Periton, Secretary
Andrew Tyley
Robert Bates
Nicola Bates
Cllr Jonathan Hulley
Forum Members

Apologies: John Tenconi

- [Welcome](#)

Welcome and apologies given on behalf of the Core Group.

- [Chairman's Report](#)

Chairman gave the Core Groups update, which covered the following;

O'Neill Homer – Planning Consultants

Previous Planning Consultant, Jon Dowty retired back in March 2023 and Neil Homer is now assisting VWNP to finalise the pre-submission draft Plan. The Chair has been advised this is the final year O'Neill Homer will be supporting the work of Neighbourhood Plans, and this may mean a further Planning Consultant is sought to lead VWNP through to the final stages with the Inspector and through to the Referendum.

Policies of the Plan

11 Policies have been created and which feature within the Plan, these being;

Environment | Design | Village Protection | Core Area including the railway station | Trumps Green Retail Parade | Traffic (two elements within the Plan) and Zero Carbon towards the building of new houses.

There is no allocation of new housing or potential sites for new housing within the Plan, however it is hoped that by creating positive new designs and concepts for the central core area, station and Trumps Green that the Plan will direct landowners and the Council at looking towards possible infill development opportunities in the future.

One of the main areas of concern from residents who completed the VWNP survey in 2020 and which the VWNP have identified as an important Policy is the Local Gaps and Corridors study which focusses on retaining the green areas between the settlements of Virginia Water, Englefield Green and Egham which gives important definition and protects us as a village.

12 Month Progress Update

Members of the Core Group have attended a number of residential open sessions, village fetes and included to represent the Forum on the Council's Community Panel meetings, giving an opportunity to bring the Council up to date on the progress of all Neighbourhood Plan's throughout the borough, as well as the Council giving their updates on the progress of the new Local Plan which is expected in 2025/26. These meetings are crucial in involving the communities and the awareness of its fundamental criteria.

VWNP has a total of 7 neighbourhoods which have been defined within the Plan, each one of these neighbourhoods has to get something out of this Plan to ensure all efforts are rewarded for everyone village wide.

Focus has also been given on the central area, as the 'heart of the village', which is regularly used by everyone and it is important for it to continue to function not only as the commercial hub but also this area to be heavily used by the local community, and with the new designs received from PJA Consultants, this area is recommended for closing one of the roads into Station Approach giving a larger area for community use. Improved use of car parking and the railway station facilities will also significantly enhance and encourage better usage from pedestrians and cyclists.

Expectation from now is the Plan in its draft format is close to being concluded, and will then be submitted to the Council towards the later part of the year for their review which will take 8 – 12 weeks then it will be sent to the Inspector by written submission. The Inspector will raise any queries/questions in which the VWNP forum will need to respond to. The referendum being the final stage of this process, and it is hoped by this time next year we will be close to having an approved Plan in place.

Once the Plan is passed in its entirety, this will allow VWNP to receive CIL funding from developers and further grant aid, and in working closely with the Council will allow VWNP to start achieving some of the Plans aims and objectives.

Vote of Thanks

The Chairman, John Pyle, wished to thank all Directors, Core Group, Admin and Councillors for their continued support, time and dedication throughout the year and to all Forum members who have given up their valuable time to support and steer the Plan in which this is gratefully received.

- Financial Report

Treasurer detailed the Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ending 30 June 2023 as shown below.

VIRGINIA WATER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN C.I.C.						
Statement of Income and Expenditure						
For Year Ending 30 June 2023						
DATE	INCOME	CHEQUE NUMBER	FUNDING DONATIONS			BALANCE
01/07/2022	Account Opening Balance					8,742.22
	Funds Held in Bank					£8,742.22
	Total Credit Funds Available					£8,742.22
DATE	EXPENDITURE	CHEQUE NUMBER	FUNDING DONATIONS			BALANCE
						£8,742.22
29/07/2022	Phil Jones Associates Ltd Inv 012008	100040		£456.00		£8,286.22
02/02/2023	Planning Consultant, O'Neill Homer Inv 1137	100041		£1,980.00		£6,306.22
24/05/2023	Planning Consultant, O'Neill Homer Inv 1285	100042		£1,320.00		£4,986.22
	TOTAL			£3,756.00		£4,986.22
	Current Funds Held in Bank					£4,986.22

The main expenditure expected to conclude the draft Plan is to O'Neill Homer, Planning Consultants, and to appoint a landscape architect to complete a gap study report.

Very pleased to announce the generous donation agreed with Wentworth Estate Roads Committee of £15,000 to cover these budgeted expenses.

- Election of Committee

CONSTITUTION – OFFICERS

No new committee members to report. All current officers have agreed to stand for a further 12 months.

Chairman	John Pyle	Proposer	Carol Manduca	Seconded	James Periton
Treasurer	Carol Manduca	Proposer	John Pyle	Seconded	Andrew Tyley
Secretary	James Periton	Proposer	John Pyle	Seconded	Carol Manduca

- AOB

Public Consultation

Q. What is the procedure when the draft Plan is submitted to the council?

A. The council will ensure all required data and information is included and will then publish and request the public to ask questions or to make comment.

Q. What has been, or expected to be the final costs to complete the Plan and how does this compare to other local Plans?

A. The expected total cost is c. £50,000 due to significant costs involved with commissioning PJA to undertake focused surveys on the core area, cycling and pathways and traffic mitigation reports. It is understood Windlesham's Neighbourhood Plan some 4 years ago was in the total cost region of £28,000.

Trumps Green Retail Parade

Trumps Green retail parade suggested improvements were shared with the meeting (attached) and explained these improvements and ideas are to add better amenities where possible and adding safety and quality of access that is not currently present by providing additional parking bays, disabled parking and safer pathway connections between the shops and the school.

Positive feedback was received regarding the woodland area and the narrow pathways giving better and safer walkways, however concern was felt at having to reverse in the path of on coming traffic flows. Cllr Hulley explained there is a draft speed policy which is due to go before the Highways Agency in October with the intention to explore a default 20mph speed limited on all designated urban and town centre roads.

Stroude Valley Cycleways and Walking Infrastructure

Residents of Stroude Valley would like to see safer cycleways within Stroude, unfortunately Neighbourhood Plans do not have the ability to acquire land and the current landscape does not allow for these additional cycleways to be created. The pathways and roads from St Ann's school towards the Rose and Crown Pub and down the hill towards Stroude, again are not suitable to add safe cycleways. The Forum is keen to continue to look at any realistic opportunities which can be identified for this use.

Attached is a plan for the proposed future walking / cycling route.

It was agreed to highlight the need for accessibility between two areas within the neighbourhood, and if viable options/suggestions were made, the VWNP would be in support.