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The Oulton Society Newsletter

March 2018

OULTON & WOODLESFORD  NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Our draft Neighbourhood Development Plan is finished!

After a gestation period of five years, we have finally finished drafting the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Oulton and Woodlesford. When finally adopted this will be an important document, with policies pertaining to many aspects of planning, the local economy and the environment. The draft Plan opened for consultation in March and all residents should have received a Newsletter summarising the Plan and a questionnaire. I hope you have found time to complete the questionnaire, as it is very important that we have a large number of responses. I have spare copies of the questionnaire and they are also available at the Aberford Road post office (officially designated the Woodlesford Post Office, even though it is Oulton), so please do it now! All the documents relating to the Plan, including the full Plan itself, are available on the Forum's website (www.oawnf.org) where you can also complete the questionnaire, if you prefer.

The Forum has also been considering priorities for the spending of 'Section 106' monies. This is the money developers have to provide when they build new houses, some of which goes to enhancing the green environment outside their estate. The Forum's Steering Committee identified three possible schemes.

The first was to provide some form of children's play facilities in the area of Water Haigh Park between Eshald Lane and the back of houses in Aberford Road. Unfortunately, this area of the Park appears to be unsuitable as it is too secluded – new play areas should be overlooked by housing. However, we are in discussion with Leeds Parks and Gardens as to whether improvements can be made to Water Haigh Park to make it much more 'user friendly'. It is a large area, extending across the river with two large woods. These are likely to be opened up soon by Leeds Forestry management.

Our second scheme was to improve the original gateway to Oulton Hall (opposite the Toby Carvery). I have had a very fruitful meeting with the Head Gardener of Oulton Hall and he hopes to be able to tidy up the ivy and the saplings that have overgrown the gateway. Oulton in Bloom plan to locate some half barrels on the grass in front of the gateway, to prevent parking and so protect the grass.

Finally, we wished to explore the possibility of improving cycle ways within Oulton and Woodlesford. It turns out that this is not an appropriate use of Section 106 monies as cycle ways are dealt with by Highways. We are now communicating with Highways about this.

David Cove

(Chair, Oulton and Woodlesford Neighbourhood Forum)

Tel: 0113 2824499



Leeds Local Development Framework and Site Allocation Plan update:



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Three years ago, the Council adopted their Core Strategy, which underpins all decisions as to where development will take place; subsequently the Site Allocation Plan was publicised which indicated the sites the Council wanted to develop. Last year we reported this would have serious implications for the area as large sections of Green Belt were proposed for development including a large area between Methley Lane and Fleet Lane. The proposal here is to build 322 homes and a two-form entry primary school to accommodate the new influx of children across Oulton.



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In the autumn of 2017 the Council was due to have their Site Allocation Plan publically examined by Government Inspectors; however on 14th September 2017 the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued new consultation proposals 'Planning for the right homes in the right places'. In light of this, the Council announced that their proposals for housing needed reviewing. Originally, the Council had agreed a target of 70,000 homes, which needed to be built by 2028; new evidence now suggests this could be revised down to around 44,000 homes. This appears to be good news as many Green Belt sites have been set aside and may not be developed; however, all the Green Belt sites in Oulton are still under threat and are still part of the plans.

The Inspectors agreed to a postponement of the housing proposals and suggested reconvening in the spring of 2018 after a period of consultation. There are no new dates and it may well be the Examination does not take place until the summer.

The Society will continue to work closely with the Oulton & Woodlesford Neighbourhood Forum and will be arguing forcibly at the Public Examination against the proposed Green Belt releases in our area.



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PLANNING ISSUES

The Society carefully considers all planning applications in the area and generally we do not comment on the majority of them. This year there have been several minor applications, which we have been concerned about and have objected to; however, the ones below are giving us the most cause for concern.



sharmanshaw
Sharman Shaw Exhibitions Ltd
Gildersome Spur, Morley
Leeds LS27 7JZ
Tel: 0113 289 7733
www.sharmanshaw.co.uk

Demolition of existing dwellings and construction of 71 dwellings and associated infrastructure | Sugar Hill Close, Oulton Drive, Wordsworth Drive Oulton

This application has caused a great deal of social unrest with the affected residents; if the new development is approved, most people will be made homeless and will probably have to leave the area. The Society has met with the developers and has objected to the poor design, the lack of small homes and affordable housing. We have also made clear our real concern regarding the social impact these proposals will have on the community. The Ward Councillors and the Council are doing everything within their powers and within the planning legislation to resolve a very difficult situation. This application may not be determined for some time and we trust pressure can be brought to bear on the developer to withdraw the scheme and provide better alternatives for the local community.

Creation of a development platform using imported construction and demolition waste, storage of imported inert waste plus engineering operations associated with remediation of the site | Fleet Lane Oulton Leeds

For several months, the Ashcourt Group has been clearing and carrying out de-contamination works at the old Bayford's Oil Terminal down Fleet Lane. This has not required planning permission but it has necessitated many lorry movements, which local residents are now resenting as they do not know the ultimate aim of the works. Ashcourt has not revealed to the Council what their eventual plans for the site are despite repeated requests from Ward Councillors and the Planning Dept. Another application may well be submitted which will reveal the developers aims; it is at this point that further objections can be submitted as there will be further disruption from even more vehicle movements to create a development platform.



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Butchers
109 Aberford Rd.
Woodlesford
LS26 8LO



The Home Bakery
118, Aberford Road,
Woodlesford, Leeds.
LS26 8LG

HS2 still a major blight on Oulton and Woodlesford

HS2 remains a major concern for the area and although works will not start for a number of years the impact on the area will be substantial and should not be underestimated. The action group SOWHAT are still campaigning and lobbying hard to get the best outcome for our Oulton and Woodlesford; we recommend you visit their website @ www.sowhat.org.uk to update yourself with the latest news.

St John the Evangelist Church, Oulton with Woodlesford

The article below is an update from Rev. Sarah Hancox about the ongoing problems facing the local Parish Church. Since this was written, the Church has suffered further losses when thieves cut through the porch gates and removed all the paving slabs from inside the porch. They also caused damage to the Churchyards.

'Since the devastating lead theft from the roofs in November 2014 we've faced a difficult road for St John's. It's been encouraging how the community have rallied around, and St John's is committed to ensuring that if St John's can be repaired and re-opened that it becomes a multi-purpose space for both worship and community use.

At the end of 2015 we were awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund Grants for Places of Worship Scheme, and through this we appointed an architect for the project, conducted all necessary surveys, and finally last year repairs began to the roof. These have now been completed and the church is now almost watertight again and has a brand new roof alarm and security cameras. We say it is almost watertight because there is sadly still a small leak in one side roof that was not covered by this grant. Thanks to the generosity of the community, we have funds to do a temporary fix and keep the water out, but we are now trying to make plans for "what next" for St John's.

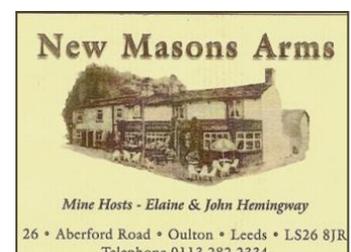
We do need at least £1.5 million in total for internal repairs and side roof repairs. This is such a huge amount of money but could be well worth it if St John's can become the beautiful shared space we dream of. Want to get involved? Contact Revd Sarah Hancox at hancoxsa@gmail.com or 01977 515686 for more information about the Friends of St John's.'

Website

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website oultonsociety.org. We appreciate it has been a long time coming but hope you will find it interesting and useful. It contains information about the Society and its work, pictures of the local area and helpful links to the Leeds City Council website. We plan to extend the content to include more photos new and old. We would also like to add further information that would be of interest to our members.

Committee Help

For the past few years, the Society's Chair and Secretary positions have been vacant; the work has been shared among the committee members. The job of Treasurer, in the coming weeks, will also become vacant. We need to strengthen our committee and would welcome anyone who would like to get involved. The committee meets about 10 times a year usually on Wednesday evening for about two hours to discuss local issues. If you are interested in helping please do get in touch.





ELECTIONS AND ORGANISATION

We have one vacancy on the Committee alongside the vacant Chair and Secretary. If you are interested in joining please contact us prior to or at the AGM.

Officers and Committee

Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Mr. M Healey
Committee	Mr. M Ball, Ms. L Boot, Prof. D Cove, Mr. J Crapper, Mr. A Drewell, Mrs. L Guppy, Mr. M Holt, Mr. R F Howie

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due and will be collected either at the start or at the end of the AGM. Otherwise please return your subscription to any of the committee members listed on the renewal slip. The tax rebate to the Society for the last year under the Gift Aid scheme amounted to £203

Family	£10
Single member	£ 5
Senior Citizen	£ 3
Corporate membership	£25-£50 at your discretion

EVERY YEAR WE SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME COLLECTING UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THEM BEING PAID EARLY TO AVOID THIS ANNUAL DIFFICULTY.



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25a Marsh Street
Rothwell
Leeds LS26 0AG
Tel: 0113 2821571
Fax: 0113 2824720

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OULTON SOCIETY 46th AGM

Wednesday 18th April at 7.30pm

At the Oulton Institute
Quarry Hill, Oulton

Subscriptions will be collected from
7pm onwards

After the formal AGM business there will be an
open forum to discuss local issues with the
Committee and Ward Councillors.

Light refreshments will then be available

CORPORATE MEMBERS

We have a strong Corporate Membership whose support and contributions are very much appreciated. If you would like to become a Corporate Member we will advertise your membership wherever possible in newsletters and at Society events. The subscription is a charitable donation and is a tax deductible expense.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership now stands at 142 but we are always keen to recruit new members; so if you know a friend, neighbour or family member who you think would like to join please encourage them to do so.

THANKS

Once again, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the Oulton Society, in particular Councillors Golton, Bruce and Nagle, Leeds City Council and the Rothwell Record. Special thanks must go to the committee for all their hard work during the last year.

Thanks also to John Hawkrige for printing the newsletter.

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