HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

(headingtonplan.org.uk)

DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2017 – 2032

FOR OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

HNF Document Control Sheet	
Document Title	Headington Neighbourhood Forum – Draft Neighbourhood Plan
Draft Number	v.11
Task Group and Authors	Project Manager
Date of Version	8. June 2016
Status	Final Draft
Date of Public Issue	
Visibility	For Oxford City Council official Consultation
File Type	PDF
File Name	HNF – Neighbourhood Plan Revised Draft 08-06-16

CONTENTS   **Page No**

Annexes and Additional Information

Welcome to the Draft Headington Neighbourhood Plan

"What are the right things to do for Headington? Our quarter of Oxford is a busy place. It is home to thousands; a diverse community, many who've lived here all their lives but also a sizeable number who have moved here to retire, work or study. It is a place of work for thousands; in world-leading research institutes but also in a range of small and medium sized businesses. It is a place of education for thousands; the schools and universities in Headington are equipping people for life in the 21st century.

Because Headington is busy, many people have been concerned that the right balance hasn't always been struck. We think this is in part because the various strategies and plans of City and County don't focus on Headington or connect with those who live, work or study here. In proposing this plan, we are seeking to strike that balance - policies to make Headington a better place. We don't have a big single issue as a community; our work in preparing this plan has confirmed that. What we have is a range of issues. We have tried to tackle these in some depth, preparing policies in six areas, but they interlink. Some of our policies will impact on the way that planning of development happens, but many are designed to spark activities or to work with existing schemes.

The plan describes our processes, the ways that we have sought to find out what matters to people and to think about what we should do. What's clear is that none of this would have happened without the hard work of a range of people who've joined the Forum, thought about a policy area or helped on the steering committee. The process has been, and will continue to be, open to all those who want to help plan for the things that will make Headington a better place."

Mike Ratcliffe – Headington Neighbourhood Forum Chair

1. **Introduction to the Headington Neighbourhood Plan 2017 - 2032**

Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF) is the designated body for developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Headington (the Plan). It was designated by Oxford City Council in September 2014.

The aim of HNF is to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Headington which is intended to give the local community more of a say in the development of their local area.

The ability to create Neighbourhood Plans was created by the Localism Act 2011. They are used to decide the future of the places where people live and work, giving opportunities to:

- choose where people want new homes, shops and offices to be built;

- have a say on what new buildings should look like; and

- grant planning permission for the new buildings you want to see go ahead.

The Headington Neighbourhood Plan aims to provide this opportunity, and has been drafted to provide a framework for these opportunities from 2017, when it is hoped that it will be adopted by the Headington community, up to 2032.

Consulting on this Draft Plan is a statutory requirement of the neighbourhood planning process, and the consultation period must be open for at least 6 weeks. However, opportunities to make representations to HNF are open throughout the Plan preparation process.

2. **The Headington Neighbourhood Forum**

The Headington Neighbourhood Forum has been established as an organisation whose purpose is to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of Headington.

The Forum's membership represents a full cross-section of the local community including those who live and work in Headington. The Forum has in excess of 100 members including elected members of Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Councils.

All local groups operating in the area and owners of land within the area, but not resident or working in the area, have been invited to be represented. Presentations have been made to representative groups including Headington Action, Headington Forward and Oxford Brookes Students Union. Open meetings of the Forum have been publicised online and in the local media and membership sought through these means.

The process of developing the Plan, and of approving the Plan through a referendum, lies with HNF. However, it is important that HNF acts as a conduit for the views and expectations of the

wider Headington Community. This includes those who live, work or study in Headington, or travel through Headington. HNF also has a responsibility to be mindful of the impacts of the Headington Neighbourhood Plan on the neighbouring parishes, city areas, and other neighbourhood forums.

The Plan which HNF is producing is a spatial plan which has planning policies which affect how planning applications are determined, and community policies and projects which aim to help the community in Headington deliver the desired changes. Given that HNF is not the only statutory body responsible for spatial planning in Headington (Oxford City Council is the Local Planning Authority), the Plan must be in general conformity with Oxford City Council's strategic planning policies within its Local Plan.

It should be noted that this Plan should be read as a whole in relation to development proposals. This Plan does not provide a 'pick-and-mix' approach to development, but sets down a coherent framework of policies which, taken as a whole, seeks to deliver the Vision and Objectives of HNF.

3. The Headington Neighbourhood Plan Area

The map below indicates the area which is covered by the Plan. This area was designated as the Headington Neighbourhood Plan Area (HNPA) by Oxford City Council on the 23rd April 2014.
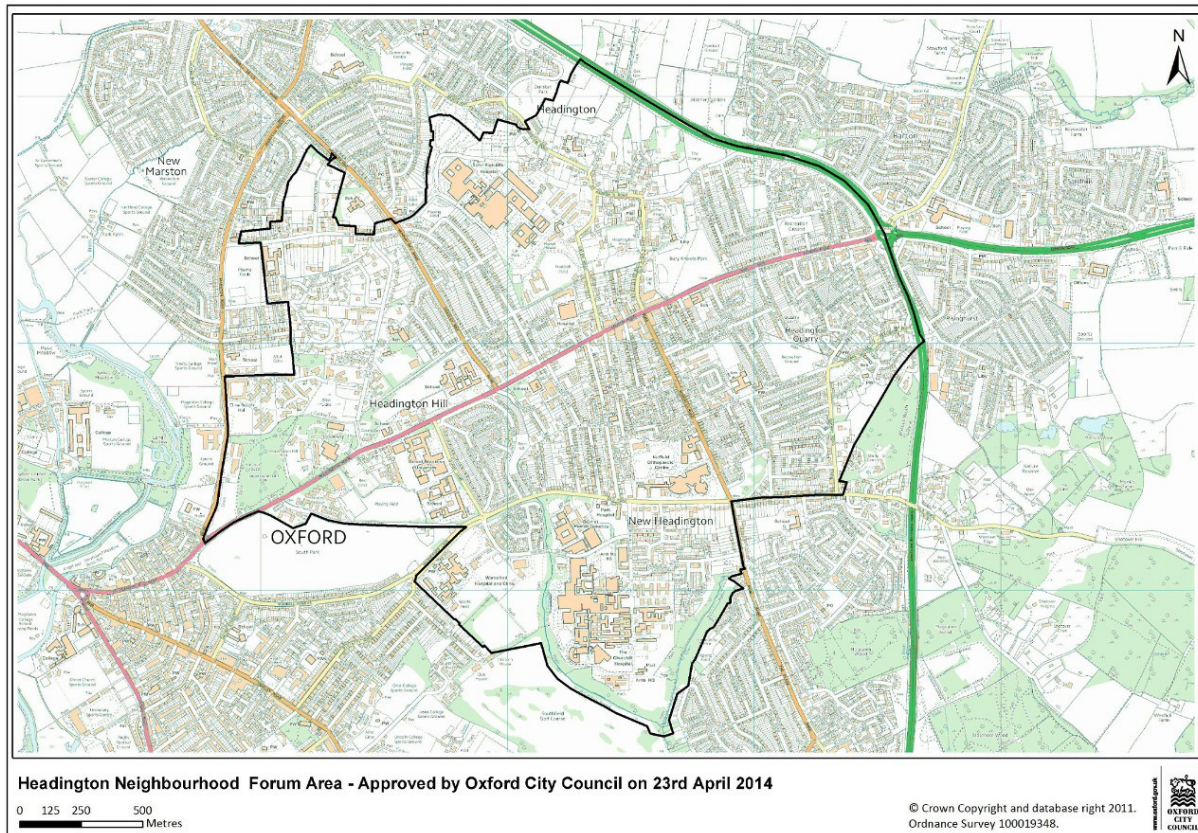
4. Why consult on a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area. This means that neighbourhood plans have to take into account the local council's assessment of housing and other development needs in the area.

However, it goes beyond traditional 'land-use' planning activity, which tends to focus on regulation and control of development. Neighbourhood planning allows greater scope for plan makers, acting with the community, relevant agencies and service providers to promote and manage change in an area.

As with all plan-making, the project requires leadership. Where Town and Parish Councils do not cover an area, the Localism Act (2011) has given that leadership role to Neighbourhood Forums. Neighbourhood Forums are community groups that are designated to take forward neighbourhood planning in areas without parishes. It is the role of the local planning authority to agree who should be the neighbourhood forum for the neighbourhood area.

This carries significant responsibility in terms of producing a plan that is representative of the community. The way in which the process is led and implemented will need to secure confidence from the community in the Headington area and those organisations and businesses that serve our needs. Confidence in the process and support for the outcomes will be more certain by starting this process in a demonstrably transparent way and continuing in that way through all stages of plan preparation. We will do this by:

- showing a willingness to openly encourage opinions and suggestions from all individuals and organisations within the community whether or not these present potentially conflicting, challenging or critical views of the Plan or the process;

- presenting a reasonable, realistic, evidence-based and cogently argued case to support the Plan at each stage of its preparation;

- making every effort to understand all views expressed from all individuals and groups and respond clearly on all matters raised in a timely manner; and

- demonstrating, in a form that is readily accessible and easily understood by the whole community, how the Plan reflects the views and opinions expressed during each stage of engagement and, where those views cannot legitimately be taken into account, explaining why that is the case.

5. The Consultation Process

The consultation phase of the project includes one informal and two formal legally required processes to **consult** the community, and an ongoing informal engagement and consultation process.

During the first informal process, which took place in September and October 2014, we produced a draft vision and aims of the Headington Neighbourhood Plan. We also identified, following on from the 'informing' process carried out through the policy groups, the issues and options in the HNPA. This document, the Issues and Options Consultation, which was delivered to around 6,500 households, helped us gather views about what should be included in the plan. Nearly 500 responses were received.

Following this consultation we have identified and evaluated all the available evidence in order to produce a Draft Headington Neighbourhood Plan. This Draft Plan was published for consultation on the 30th May 2015. The formal consultation period lasted for 6 weeks, and closed on the 16th July 2015. Over 200 submissions, many of them highly detailed, were received during this consultation period.

These additional comments and information provided by the community during this consultation has been used to finalise the Draft Plan. This has now been submitted to

Oxford City Council which is required to consult on it for a further 6 weeks. They will publicise the document, inviting comments on the content of the document.

Throughout this process, we will continue to informally **consult** the community using a range of appropriate techniques:

- **community profiling:** creating a shared picture with the community of the physical, human, social, economic and community characteristics, assets and issues found in an area.

- **organised discussion groups:** such as focus groups which allow small group discussions that give in-depth consideration to relevant local issues surrounding specific topics.

- **surveys:** such as resident opinion polls and questionnaire-based surveys where responses to questions about specific issues are gathered in writing. These can take the form of door-to-door or street interviews; postal questionnaires; web-based, electronic and social-media hosted surveys; and telephone interviews.

6. Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan for Headington?

In the past all statutory spatial plans have been prepared by the local planning authority, Oxford City Council. These plans are collectively known in legal terms as 'the Local Plan' and will remain in place. These plans were prepared *in consultation with* the local community, however they did not necessarily reflect the 'will' of the community. The Headington Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared **by** the community, **for** the community.

Through the Localism Act we now have the opportunity to actually prepare the plan that shapes how the Headington area looks. We can say what type of development we wish to encourage, how much development should take place (subject to generally conforming with higher level strategic plans), where and when that development should take place, and what we want to see protected in the long term.

We can do this by establishing what the community says it most expects the area to look like over the coming years. We can then look to establish how relevant delivery organisations in the private, public, community and voluntary sector are able to meet those expectations.

Provided certain steps are taken during the preparation of the Headington Neighbourhood Plan, it will have a clear legal status and be used to make decisions on all planning matters coming forward in Headington and its adjoining areas (in relation to development proposals that may have a potential impact upon the Headington area and its community).

Given the range of issues that the Headington community faces, having a Neighbourhood Plan provides a fantastic opportunity to try to resolve them through the planning system. HNF will also use the Plan to work with a range of community stakeholders to deliver local solutions and projects for Headington.

7. How the Plan was Prepared

This Draft Plan has been prepared by local residents from Headington. These local residents have organised themselves into a series of Policy Working Groups (PWGs) which report back to a main Steering Committee (SC), which reports regularly back to the Forum (see Annex 1).

The Forum sets out the Vision for the Plan. The SC sets out the Objectives and Aims of the Plan. The PWGs set out the Policies and Action Plans for the Plan. There is also a Community Engagement Working Group.

Each of the six PWGs concentrates on a particular policy area. These are:

- Amenities and Green Spaces
- Business and Retail
- Character and Identity
- Education
- Housing
- Transport

Throughout the whole Plan development process, the achievement of sustainable development has been embedded within policy formulation. At the heart of our Plan is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.

In December 2015, HNF requested a screening opinion regarding the need for the Plan to have a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). On the 10th February 2016 Oxford City Council confirmed that a SEA was not necessary. However, following representations from our statutory consultees, HNF has decided to conduct an 'Assessment of Sustainability' which will be carried out during the period where Oxford City Council is consulting on the draft Plan.

8. The Plan Process

The process which neighbourhood plans need to follow is set down in statute by the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012). These regulations specify a series of consultations and tests to ensure the validity and conformance of the neighbourhood plan. The process that HNF has followed in developing the Headington Neighbourhood Plan is set out in Annex 2.

As described above, HNF has held two formal consultations. HNF also has a duty to consult any consultation body whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan. Therefore, from December 7th 2015 to January 25th 2016 HNF formally consulted the full range of statutory consultees referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012).

9. Headington Neighbourhood Plan - Vision and Objectives

HNF has developed a vision for the Plan:

"Headington Neighbourhood Plan celebrates the diversity and identity of Headington. Working with our partners and neighbours, we plan to balance the opportunities in Headington in order to provide a healthy, positive and vibrant environment for people to live, work and study in."

The Steering Committee has developed three Objectives for the Plan:

"The Plan has three overarching objectives which guide policy making throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process. These are:

- *Improving the quality of life for residents, workers and students.*

- *Establishing and promoting an identity which embraces the diverse nature of Headington.*

- *Fostering beneficial development."*

HNF has considered each of the proposed Spatial Planning Policies set out in section 12 below against these objectives, and these are presented in Table 1 below.

Policy	Plan Objectives		
	Improve quality of life	Establish and promote identity	Foster beneficial development
GSP 1	X		X
GSP 2	X		X
GSP 3	X		
GSP 4	X		
GSP 5	X	X	
GSP 6	X		
AMP 1	X		X
CIP1		X	X
CIP2	X	X	
CIP3		X	
CIP4		X	
CIP5		X	
EDP1	X		X
TRP1	X		
TRP2	X		
TRP3	X		
TRP4	X		
TRP5	X		
TRP6	X		

Table 1. Headington Neighbourhood Plan Policy Delivery against Objectives

10. Delivering the Vision – Headington 2031

The planning and community policies and associated projects set out in the Plan seek to deliver the Vision and Aims. Each policy is designed to deliver at least one of the aims. They will be implemented over the coming ten years. **What will Headington look like then, in 2031 as a consequence of the Plan?**

A greener place - It will be a greener with the existing parks and smaller green spaces enhanced and more green spaces created within new developments. The green setting both within and around Headington will be protected and enhanced. Biodiversity within Headington will thrive through increased protection and more imaginative planting and stronger green corridors.

Better amenities - There will be an improved range of amenities reflecting the diverse character of Headington. This will be through increased public access to private facilities and the protection and improvement of existing facilities.

A thriving centre - Headington centre will be a thriving and prosperous shopping and leisure area supported by a strong business community. There will be a diverse range of shops and cafes responsive to the changing patterns of demand.

Strong identity with a diverse character - Headington will have a strong identity based on clearly defined boundaries and a diverse range of neighbourhood areas each with their own individual character. Innovative design will be encouraged so that the built environment is continually refreshed and updated.

More key worker housing - There will be more housing for key workers in essential services, reducing the level of commuting into Headington. There will also be stronger community control over planning applications.

Improved school provision - Education facilities for school age children will be improved.

Better for pedestrians and cyclists - It will be a better place for pedestrians and cyclists with improved networks of paths and better facilities for people with disabilities. There will be less traffic congestion as more people shift to non-car modes of transport and to car sharing.

A plan that will work for Headington - The implementation of the Plan policies and projects to deliver this new Headington will be managed by a successor body to the Neighbourhood Forum (see Policy FC 1 in Section 12) . This body will work with the local Councils, stakeholders and local people. The Plan is a living document and will be open to change and improvement through the development and incorporation of new community projects throughout the plan period. These projects will accord with the vision and aims of the Plan.

11. Delivering the Plan

Delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan will take place through two distinct elements:

Firstly, the Spatial Planning Policies (highlighted in grey), as set out in section 12 below, if approved at Referendum, will become part of the Statutory Local Planning documents which determine planning applications in the HNPA. These policies specifically impact on proposed planning applications, and can be implemented directly through the planning system.

Secondly, HNF has also identified a number of Community Policies and Projects, which are also set out in section 12 below. These Policies and Projects cannot be delivered through development (i.e. when planning applications are made) and therefore will need to be delivered directly by HNF, or by HNF working with partners/stakeholders. HNF will seek to deliver these through working with external organizations, or accessing funding.

12. Headington Neighbourhood Plan Draft Policies

The Policies which HNF has developed have been labelled according to the Policy Area (i.e. TR for Transport, HG for Housing, etc.) Those policies that relate to the control of development (Spatial Planning Policies) have also been labelled as 'P' (i.e. TRP is a Transport Spatial Planning Policy). Those policies which relate to the delivery of change within Headington (Community) have been labelled as 'C' (i.e. HGC is a Housing Community Policy).

A. Green Spaces (GS) and Amenity (AM)

The aim is the greening of Headington through policies designed to protect and enhance green space and biodiversity. These policies provide for the protection and extension of green spaces including parks, trees and allotments, the protection and enhancement of the green setting including verges and non-designated public access green space and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and conservation sites.

GREEN SPACES (GS) AND AMENITY (AM) SPATIAL (P) POLICIES

GSP1: Conserving and enhancing Public Access Green Space[1]

1. All existing public access green space in the HNPA will be conserved and enhanced unless currently allocated as a development site in the Oxford City Council Local Plan (2011).

2. Development proposals that safeguard, and/or provide opportunities to improve the quality and quantity of public access to green space through appropriate restoration, extension, expansion or diversification in a scale and setting compatible with their location will be welcomed.

3. Development will be supported where it does not result in the loss of public access green space unless it can be demonstrated that there is an imperative reason of overriding public interest[2] for development on that green space and:

- **a public access green space(s) of an equivalent size and amenity in an identified area(s) of need in the HNPA is provided; or**

- **access to the public of existing private green space(s) of an equivalent size and amenity in the HNPA is provided.[3]**

This policy both enhances the quality of life for all those who live and/or work in the HNPA and for visitors to Headington. This is in accordance with the principles of sustainability and the Oxford City Core Strategy which aims to improve the quality of the public realm for both visitors and residents. It accords with Core Strategy Policy CS21 which seeks to maintain the existing level of green space provision within any area of Oxford City and with Core Strategy Policy CS17 which seeks opportunities to provide new green spaces on or near development sites.

---

[1] Public access green space is green space in Headington which is available to the public, regardless of landowner, for recreation. It comprises: parks – city, neighbourhood and local, playgrounds, sports grounds, square/garden and civic spaces, ecological sites, green corridors, greens and commons, churchyards and cemeteries. (Green Spaces Strategy Appendix 2)
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/82647/habitats-directive-iropi-draft-guidance-20120807.pdf
[3] A detailed list of green spaces in Headington is included in Appendix A

> **GSP2: Provision of Green Space within Developments**
>
> *In order to increase and enhance green space within the HNPA:*
>
> *1. Development proposals which increase public access green space and enhance biodiversity within the HNPA will be welcomed, including incorporation of biodiversity in and around developments.*
>
> *2. Significant residential developments (those consisting of twenty or more residential units) and significant non-residential developments[4] will provide at least 15% of the total site area as public access green space.*
>
> *3. Significant developments will provide Biodiversity Enhancement Plans which include the provision of measures to increase the biodiversity of the site and provide arrangements for their maintenance.[5]*
>
> *4. The Plan favours the provision of public access green space on site. However, where it can be demonstrated that public access green space cannot be provided on site as part of significant developments, then alternative public access green space must be provided within the HNPA. This can be in the form of an extension or enhancement of existing public access green space within the HNPA.*

This policy is essential to maintain the urban village environment of Headington and to make provision for future increases in population in the HNPA. It supports the Green Spaces Strategy[6] (GSS) Objective 1 which is to seek opportunities to increase the provision of green space in Oxford. It also supports GSS Objective 21 which is protect and enhance biodiversity in Oxford by identifying areas in which to create new biodiversity habitats. GSS Objective 1 seeks to maintain the quantity of existing green space in Oxford and to seek opportunities to increase this, in part by ensuring that new development contributes to the provision of high quality multifunctional green space. GSS Objective 4 sets standards for local access to green space.[7] Headington falls well short of these standards (GSS Appendix 4). The Oxford Local Plan Sites and Housing Plan require residential developments of 20 or more dwellings to provide at least 10% of total site area for public access green space. In view of the current shortfall in meeting these standards this policy sets a higher standard for development. The provision of biodiversity enhancement plans will assist delivery of the GSS objective 21 to protect and enhance biodiversity. The Oxford Local Plan requires larger developments to provide on-site green space

---

[4] Significant non-residential developments are those whose scale and impact equates to a residential development of twenty or more units, and could therefore equate to 5,000m² overall floor space.

[5] A template for Biodiversity Enhancement Plans is included in Appendix B.

[6] http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Policies%20and%20Plans/Green%20Spaces%20Strategy%202013-27.pdf

[7] Our aspiration is that people do not have to walk more than 1900m to their nearest large park, not more than 750m to their nearest medium park and not more than 400m to their nearest small park. This standard will be applied to all new developments as well as existing residential developments.

where this will enhance the range of green space already available in the area or to make a financial contribution. This Plan favours the provision of on-site public access green space rather than a financial contribution as this is considered to be more appropriate to deal with the current shortfall in meeting the GSS standards for public access green space.

> **GSP3 Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity**
>
> 1. *Development proposals that seek to conserve and enhance land which has a significant wildlife or ecological value will be welcomed.*
>
> 2. *Development proposals which may result in significant harm to local wildlife or ecology of a significant value[8] will not be permitted, unless the developer can demonstrate that the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss, and this can be mitigated against and compensated for elsewhere within the HNPA by providing a replacement habitat on a like-for-like basis.*

The Core Strategy Policy CS12 is focussed on the protection of designated sites. GSP3 seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity on both designated and non-designated sites in Headington in accordance with the Green Strategy Objective 21 which seeks the "protection of important and prosaic species in all sites." The more prosaic species may have particular value if they are rare in this area. In accordance with the NPPF Guidance (109) this policy seeks to minimise the impacts of development on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible. This accords with Policy CS 12 which encourages developments which enhance Oxford's biodiversity.

> **GSP4: Protecting Tree Cover**
>
> *All mature trees will be conserved unless it can be demonstrated that there is an imperative reason of overriding public interest (including disease management, health and safety and structural safety) in their removal. In such instances, the developer will provide a plan to demonstrate how removal of the mature tree(s) can be compensated for (a Tree and Sustainability Statement). It is recommended that where mature trees are removed, four times this number of appropriate varieties is successfully planted at designated site(s) within the HNPA[9], as identified by HNF or a successor body.*

Headington's trees are of immense environmental and aesthetic value. They play a key role in defining the landscape and provide a vital habitat to wildlife. GSP4 accords with the GSS (5.13)

---

[8] "Significant value" includes wildlife or ecology which is/ rare in the HNPA although more abundant in other areas.
[9] Designated sites are those identified as public access green spaces in the Inventory of Green Spaces (Appendix A)

which seeks to preserve healthy trees and encourage the planting of new trees within the HNPA. As tree coverage by mature trees is greater than that of saplings and the loss of mature trees should not be allowed to harm the setting of Headington, this policy recommends that the loss is offset by the planting of four times the number of lost mature trees. [10]

GSP5: Protection of the Green Setting

1. *The green setting of Headington will be conserved and enhanced.*

2. *Developers will need to demonstrate that proposals for development either within Headington or its surrounding area takes account of any impacts on the green setting of the HNPA. This should also take account of any negative impacts on green space which provides a valuable visual green resource to the community.*

Headington is defined as an urban village (GSS Appendix 4) and as such its green setting is of particular significance.[11] The GSS (3.2/3.3) emphasises that care must be taken to protect the distinctive and sensitive character and environments of Oxford in the light of the demands of a growing population. In accordance with policy CS18 of the Oxford City Local Plan, proposals for development either within Headington or its surrounding area will need to take account of any impacts on the green setting of the HNPA. This will include views into and out of the area.

GSP6 Provision of Allotment Land

Existing and designated allotment land will be retained. Proposals that seek to increase the number of allotments in the HNPA or extend existing allotment sites will be encouraged.

The provision of allotments provides many of the benefits that the six aims of the GSS is seeking to achieve, including physical and mental health and well-being, sustainability and biodiversity, community cohesion and involvement, and retaining and preserving the cultural heritage of an area. GSP6 accords with GSS Objective 3: to retain the existing number of designated allotment sites. As approximately 50% of Headington lies outside the Strategy's access standard this policy seeks to increase the number of sites in Headington and extend existing sites to accommodate the demands of an increasing population.[12] This also accords with the Asset

---

[10] http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/aug/15/treeconomics-street-trees-cities-sheffield-itree

[11] Dept of Environment Feb 1997 PPG 1 para 12: An urban village is characterised by medium density housing; mixed use zoning; good public transport; **emphasis on green space** and pedestrianisation. It is an alternative to urban sprawl and to city scale. The aim is to reduce car reliance; provide high level of self containment; facilitate strong community institutions and interactions

[12] Green Spaces Strategy Appendix 3 sets a standard of 750m walking distance to allotments.

Management Plan which "supports the wider social economic contribution of allotments to Oxford and the ongoing commitment to provide 1 plot per 125 head of population.[13]

<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px;">

AMP1: Protecting and Enhancing Sports, Leisure and Community Facilities

In order to increase accessibility to a wide range of sports and leisure facilities and to make Headington a more sustainable place in which to live and work:

1. Existing sports, leisure and community facilities will be protected and opportunities for enhancement will be sought.

2. Planning permission will only be granted for development resulting in the loss of existing sports and leisure facilities if alternative facilities can be provided and if no deficiency is created in the area. Alternative facilities will be required to be provided within the HNPA and as near to the existing facilities as possible.

</div>

Policy AMP1 (1) accords with Oxford City's Core Strategy Policy CS 20 Cultural and community development which states that "The City Council will seek to protect and enhance existing cultural and community facilities. Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of such facilities unless equivalent new or improved facilities, where foreseeable need justifies this, can be provided at a location equally or more accessible by walking, cycling and public transport." Policy AMP1 (2) accords with Core Strategy Policy C S 21 which states that "planning permission will only be granted for development resulting in the loss of existing sports and leisure facilities if alternative facilities can be provided and if no deficiency is created in the area."

---

[13] citycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/s20196/Appendix 1_ Draft Asset Management Plan Refresh 15102014 City Executive Board pdf

GREEN SPACES (GS) AND AMENITY (AM) COMMUNITY (C) POLICIES

GSC1: Protecting Green Spaces

In order to conserve and enhance Headington's green spaces:

1. Where appropriate green spaces will be designated to the highest possible level of statutory protection to ensure their long term protection.

2. Headington's Parks will be managed appropriately to conserve and enhance their individual character, wildlife, biodiversity and historic or cultural significance.

3. Opportunities to improve health and well-being and to provide a diverse range of facilities will be encouraged.

4. The major institutions in Headington will be encouraged to increase the level of public access to their green spaces and to make land available for allotments for the benefit of their staff and of Headington residents.

5. Community stewardship of green spaces in Headington will be encouraged.

6. A set of projects identified below, to enhance green spaces and biodiversity will be implemented after wider consultation to determine residents' wishes and priorities.

Idea	Description
Allotments	Bring Ingle Close allotments back into use as allotments are good for biodiversity, especially of bees.
Lye Valley 1	Funding for on-going tree and scrub work in Lye valley LNR/SSSI alkaline fen areas to restore habitat in conjunction with FoLV volunteers. Will also support group's aim of wetland flowery 'B-line' up and down valley alongside Lye Brook corridor.
Lye Valley 2	Support the 'Vision for the Valley' which aims to join up the North and south fens to reunite isolated populations.
Lye Valley 3	Encourage the relevant authorities to pipe the open surface water drain for the length of the Lye Brook to the junction with Boundary Brook to reduce erosion.
Limestone habitats	Support the project of FoLV- 'Bringing back limestone-loving wild flowers to Headington'.
Nature Reserves	Increasing the floristic biodiversity of the Doris Field Trust Nature Reserve. Use seed for hay meadow area from Milham Ford Nature Park down the road.
Church Land	Encourage biodiversity in various God's acres i.e. cemeteries, graveyards of churches and chapels etc. Consider turning plain grass areas to Bee Friendly Mown Grass (BFMG) area seed mix which allows a short flowering nectar rich sward, maintained by neat close mowing to keep site tidy. Sunny Walls/fences may be suitable for solitary bee nest tins.
Public Spaces	Encourage some 'bee-friendly mown-grass' in areas of mown grass. Increase areas of local wild flower hay meadow, especially in parks and around the perimeter of recreation grounds. Increase the number of pollinator-friendly bushes and herbaceous border perennials in formal areas in local parks & other public spaces.
Warren Meadow	Enhance the biodiversity of Warren Meadow by sowing wild flowers around the perimeter and leaving these areas uncut so as to allow flowering – nectar and pollen for

	the rare invertebrates of the Lye valley fen.
Bee Nests	Construction of Solitary Bee nest Walls with suitable nectar-rich planting.
Churchill Field	Increase biodiversity of Churchill field.
Wildlife corridors	Enlarge and join together wildlife corridors to provide a continuous corridor from Shotover via the Churchill/golf course and Warneford Meadow to South Park.
Footpaths	Encourage green linkage between green spaces for habitat and recreational purposes.
Windmill Road	Reinstate the green space (and benches) at the junction of Windmill Road and Latimer Road
Landlord-owned properties	Landlords would be encouraged to plant pollinator-friendly low-maintenance shrubs, hedges & groundcover. Tenants would be encouraged to plant pollinator-friendly flowers/shrubs/trees in tubs and take them along when they move.
Private gardens	Encourage water-infiltration areas & pollinator-friendly plants including on paved areas.
Wildflower Meadows	More wildflower hay meadow areas to Headington Parks. Some areas may be more suitable for Bee-friendly Mown Grass (BFMG) than hay meadow as this implies reduced on-going maintenance costs. Possible areas include, for example Margaret Road Rec, the playing field near the JR, Valentia Road.

AMC1: Enhancing Accessibility to Sports, Leisure and Community Facilities

In order to improve access to sports, leisure and community facilities in Headington the major commercial, health, educational and religious institutions will be encouraged to provide public access to their on-site sports, leisure and community facilities.

Policy AMC1 builds on Core Strategy para 6.4.4 which confirms that there is "a deficiency in community-accessible fitness provision, although there is considerable provision in the private sector." This policy seeks to redress this imbalance in fitness/sports facilities through sharing and seeks to extend this approach to cover all leisure and community facilities.

B. Business and Retail (BR)

The Business and Retail Group has been meeting since February 2014 and has carried out a number of engagement exercises with local businesses as part of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan preparation process.

The Group has not produced any specific spatial planning policies, but, through consultation with local businesses, has identified a number of policies to help meet the vision and objectives of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

BUSINESS AND RETAIL (BR) COMMMUNITY (C) POLICIES

The Business and Retail PWG supports the improvement of traffic flow in Headington to enhance the experience of potential customers in the area's main shopping and business area on London Road and Windmill Road. To this end it proposes that:

> **BRC1: Changes to Car Parking Charges**
>
> *At off-peak times only, the car parks on St Leonard's Road and Old High Street should provide free parking for 30 minutes followed by stepped parking charges.*

Parking was identified as the most important issue when the Business and Retail PWG met with representatives of the Headington business and retail community. By contrast a poll of Forum members, who are not personally engaged in retail business in Headington, showed that the top three aspects of the Headington retail offer that they wished to see promoted were:

1. Retention of key local services, e.g. post office, dry cleaners, trades

2. Diversity of shops and businesses

3. Establishment of small business units

Of these, the first two were by far the most popular. Forum members were also asked to mention a personal issue. None was the same, but there were several suggestions for specific types of retail outlet that the respondents wanted to see in Headington.

BRC2: Creating a Headington Business Association

Support the aspiration of members of the Headington retail and business community to create an association to act as a forum for:
1. improving communications between members over issues such as security;

2. managing a website which would showcase the retail and business offer in Headington as well as acting as an information point for events, promotions etc. in Headington;

3. discussing and acting on issues of common interest;

4. developing a code of business practice to apply to Headington businesses and retailers; and

5. joint actions to promote and enhance Headington's potential as a place to do business.

Having a local business organisation was also identified by the representatives of the Headington business and retail community as an important element of improving Headington. It was noted that previous attempts to have a retail association had failed, but that such an organization would be a positive step for the area's business community.

BRC3: Revise Policies on Retail Hierarchy

In accordance with Headington's status as part of Oxford's second tier in the retail hierarchy of the Local Plan, the Forum, or the Headington Business Association if one is formed, will work with Oxford City Council to revise policies on retail hierarchy and shopping frontages in the Headington District Centre. It will achieve this by consulting widely with those who live, study, work and shop in the District Centre to determine their wishes and priorities.

C. Character and Identity (CI)

The Character and Identity Group has been working to develop policies which aim to ensure that development protects, enhances and promotes the special qualities, character and local distinctiveness of Headington in order to help maintain its identity and sense of place.

In developing the Draft Neighbourhood Plan Policies set out below, a Character Assessment (see headingtonplan.org.uk) was undertaken by local residents who divided the plan area into 20 distinct character areas *(See map of character areas – headingtonplan.org.uk.).*

The Character Assessment has built an understanding of the whole area and, within each of the Character Studies, how the character varies from place to place. This has included identifying significant features that make the greatest positive contribution towards its special quality.

These descriptions of local character and design guidance have provided a high level of detail for each of the areas concerned. Reference should be made to each of these statements to inform the preparation or assessment of proposals for change that would have an impact on local character and distinctiveness. Omission of a building, feature or space from these character assessments should not be taken to imply it is of no interest.

By many standards Headington is fortunate, but the preparation of the individual Character Assessments brought to light several interlinked matters of concern that are shared throughout the area.

Whilst Headington residents are proud of the area's world-class hospitals and educational institutions, the economic and social benefits of even the most prestigious institutions inevitably have their downside. Development in recent decades has brought increased traffic to the area: many feel that saturation point is at hand and that this is having an adverse effect on Headington's residential character. However, proposals to alleviate traffic flow are themselves a cause of concern, as verges and other valued landscape features may be jeopardised. (See the 'Access to Headington' proposals released by the County Council in July 2015, and the revised version released in February 2016).

Workers commuting into Headington add to the area's parking problems, as do patients and visitors to the hospitals. Shopkeepers need more customers, but those coming into the area by car add to the congestion. Despite efforts to regulate parking permissions, the sub-division of houses into flats and HMOs has added to the tally of residents' cars. Converting front gardens to parking-spaces, with a consequent loss of old walls, hedges and vegetation is not only unsightly but a threat to effective drainage and water management.

Many of the area's concerns about increasing HMOs relate to poor exterior and garden maintenance. Improperly stowed wheelie bins and litter are another issue in most parts of the

suburb. Yet without the conversion of single-family dwellings, commuting and its problems would only grow to cope with rising employment levels.

It is important to remember that the Character Assessments are primarily concerned with visual character, and the issues identified during the process relate primarily to the built environment. What has been confirmed is how highly local people value the pleasures of their streets and how determined they are to conserve them.

CHARACTER AND IDENTITY (CI) PLANNING (P) POLICIES

CIP1: Development to respect existing local character

New developments (including additions, alterations, change of use and extensions) will only be permitted where they respond to and enhance the distinctive local character as identified in the Character Assessments. This may include consideration of aspects such as materials, scale, siting use, layout, form, design and intensity of activity within the built environment and setting of the HNPA. All development proposals must submit a character statement to demonstrate how the development proposed will respond to local character.

Design should respond to and enhance the local character of each area. Existing elements such as trees, hedges and walls should be retained, particularly where they are important features in the streetscape or characteristic of the area. Planting and landscaping schemes, boundary treatments and surfacing should all be taken into consideration in design of development. The layout and design of new streets and associated infrastructure should also respond to local character and scale, and proportion of historic street patterns.

CIP2: Protecting locally important views

1. Development will seek to conserve and enhance landmarks and local points of interest in the area, and important views within Headington itself, both into and out of the HNPA.

2. Development proposals will also have regard to, and be appropriate in terms of, the visual impact on the immediate and wider setting.

Headington is set within a range of views which are valued and cherished by local residents. It is therefore important that HNF seek to protect these views wherever possible. New development, where possible, should maximise opportunities to create new views. Many views are identified in the Character Assessments.

> **CIP3: Innovative design**
>
> *High quality development proposals, which are of an innovative and/or contemporary design will be permitted where they:*
>
> - *accord with policies in the Local Plan*
> - *respect and take account of local heritage; and*
> - *enhance the distinctive identity, character and setting in terms of scale, layout, density, orientation and massing.*

The Plan encourages high quality development proposals, and we recognise that these types of proposals are important in improving the general character of many areas within Headington. We therefore are encouraging developers to consider the factors outlined above when considering new development within the HNPA.

> **CIP4: Protecting important assets**
>
> *Where an asset, as identified in the Oxford Heritage Asset Register, is part of a development proposal, that development proposal must address the conservation and enhancement of the character, setting and any special architectural or historic features of significance the asset may possess.*

As part of the Character Assessments a list of important assets was compiled. It is considered appropriate that some of these assets will be included in the Oxford Heritage Asset Register in due course. Development proposals must address any impact on these assets. The loss or harm of important assets identified in this register, their setting or any features important to their character would not be expected to be permitted.

CHARACTER AND IDENTITY (CI) COMMUNITY (C) POLICIES

CIC1: Reinforce the Identity of Headington

A set of projects to reinforce the identity of Headington (examples below) will be identified and implemented after wider consultation to determine residents' wishes and priorities.

Idea	Description
Parish status	The government is encouraging urban areas to have parish status. This would provide a political structure to support and develop Headington. It might provide continuity for the Neighbourhood Forum.
Area committee	The city council used to have an area committee for the north east of oxford. These were discontinued a few years ago and replaced with informal area forums. Is there a case for a forum covering Headington, with some formal powers?
Shark symbol	The shark has become a powerful symbol of Headington. Should this symbolism be extended and strengthened?
Signage style	Should a distinctive style for Headington signs (e.g. street name signs) be introduced?
Trails	There are a few walking trails around Headington. Should we have more, and with better publicity? Is Boundary Brook a candidate?
Cultivated land	Some urban areas are making use of small areas of public land to grow vegetables and flowers, for public consumption. This idea could be developed in Headington.
Leaflets	Would a leaflet (or several) covering features of Headington be of use, to promote the area and its facilities?
Photographic display of character	A video or a photo montage of characteristics of Headington, as documented in the character assessments, may help to reinforce the character and identity of Headington.
Plaques	The Blue Plaque system is well known and respected. Should we have a similar local system?
Community asset list	Headington, like anywhere else, has a number of buildings and spaces which are treasured for heritage, ecological or community value. A list of such assets might help preserve and promote them.
Community centre and library	The existing community centre is outside the centre. And the library is not central either. Would it be better to have a central location, if one can be found?
Art work based on health research education	The centre of Headington could become a location for displaying works of art and culture, with themes of health and education (thus linking to our institutional strengths). Plinths, murals, ….
Cinema	A cinema can strengthen the identity of a place. There used to be one in Headington. Could one survive now?
Signage to facilities	Signage to locations, businesses and facilities might help develop the central area (rather like the objectives of the Wayfinding system in central Oxford).
Shop façades	Can the shop façades be developed to help promote central Headington as a vibrant area?
Seating	Is there a need for more seating? Would more seating help develop the area as a community location?
Planting	Would planting schemes make the area more attractive and welcoming?
Strong visual impact - central Headington	The cross roads Windmill Road, London Road, Old High Street define the centre of Headington. This could be made into a point of high visual impact.

D. Education (ED)

The aim of the Education Group is to allow the expansion or addition of new facilities within the general context of local education provision. Changes will be allowed, but the policy only encourages provision aimed at education for which at least some part is intended for local children.

EDUCATION (ED) PLANNING (P) POLICIES

EDP1: New Education Provision

Proposals for change of use of non-residential premises to educational premises (D1 Non-residential institutions) for early-years or 5-19 education provision, for those who live or work in the HNPA, will be supported, subject to other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

This policy encourages provision of education for local children through welcoming changes to expand or add new provision to educational facilities within the HNPA. That's not to say that international schools, residential schools or education for those over 18 should not be offered, or their premises expanded or changed in use in other ways, just that this policy is silent on them.

It should be noted that subject to a number of conditions and restrictions, classes S, T and U of the 2015 General Permitted Development Order permits the change of use of agricultural, B1 (business), C1 (hotel), C2 (residential institution), C2A (secure residential institution) and D2 (assembly and leisure) uses to use as a state-funded school or a registered nursery, and back again (class U) in the case of all but agricultural use.

E. Housing (HG)

An aim of the Forum is to improve the supply of affordable rented housing in Headington for key workers[14], and also to reduce commuting into Headington of these key workers, such as clinical, education, police, fire service and local authority staff.

While much of the current Oxford City Housing policy adequately addresses housing-related concerns raised during the consultation processes, there is an urgent need to review the development of housing for key workers.

The very high rents in Oxford make it extremely difficult for key workers to both work in Oxford and live near their work. A large number of low-paid key workers are employed within Headington, predominantly by the NHS, schools and universities. Also, providing accommodation for key workers near their places of work would decrease their need to commute into Oxford (see Transport policies).

Under the existing Oxford City Council Housing Policy HP 3 larger development sites[15] must generally include a minimum of 50% affordable homes of which 80% (of the 50%) must be social rented and the remaining 20% intermediate housing. It therefore follows that key worker accommodation could only be provided in larger developments within the open market element. Of course, developers may include key worker homes within the open market element and the City Council encourages developers to take this approach[16]. However, the viability of a development is likely to depend on the inclusion of open market dwellings, leaving little or no scope for new key worker housing.

After considerable discussion and consultation, the Headington Neighbourhood Forum wished to propose a policy that would put a greater emphasis on the development of key worker housing by allowing the replacement of some part of the affordable housing element with key worker housing. However, in discussions with the City Planning Department it became clear that they would reject any such policy since, in their words, it would "not conform with the strategic policies in Oxford's Local Plan".

Therefore, reluctantly, the proposed policy is presented below as an aspiration. It is hoped that in the development of the next Local Plan the Forum's views will be manifested in an acceptance of the need for key worker housing and a realistic policy to reflect that need.

Note: Local authority and neighbourhood forum housing policies are likely to have to be revisited as a consequence of the Housing Bill now proceeding through Parliament.

---

[14] Definition of "key worker" – Sites and Housing Plan 2011-2026, §A2.30
[15] Definition of "Large Sites" – – Sites and Housing Plan 2011-2026, Oxford City Housing Policy HP3
[16] Key worker homes – – Sites and Housing Plan 2011-2026, §A2.28-31

HOUSING (HG) COMMUNITY (C) POLICIES

HGC1: Key Worker Housing

Encourage Oxford City Council to develop key worker housing polices in a future Local Plan.

For example, a policy to allow the affordable element in larger developments on Allocation Sites[17] SP 8, SP 23 and SP 59 to be replaced by key worker housing. These sites are the three major hospital sites in Headington.

HGC2: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Watch System

Develop a watch system for reporting suspected unlicensed HMOs.

Unlicensed HMOs was an area of concern identified by residents during the Issues and Options Consultation.

HGC3: Planning Watch System

Develop a planning application watch system, based on the City Council's notification system.

Concern that planning applications were being submitted and determined without knowledge and consultation with the local community were expressed during the Issues and Options Consultation.

HGC4: Community Land Trust

Encourage Oxford Community Land Trust to become active in Headington.

A community land trust is a nonprofit corporation that develops and stewards affordable housing, community gardens, civic buildings, commercial spaces and other community assets on behalf of a community. Encouraging such an organisation within the HNPA could bring potential benefits to residents.

HGC5: Empty and Derelict Properties

Identify empty or derelict dwellings or commercial properties which have been empty for more than six months for possible housing development.

Bringing derelict and empty homes back into use will help to deal with the local housing shortage. The Forum would not want to see the loss of shops or related spaces from being available for retail and business purposes, however where these facilities are considered as no

---

[17] Sites and Housing Plan 2011-2026, Part B: Site Allocation Policies

longer being necessary through a viability assessment, they should be considered for residential development.

F. Transport (TR)

The aim of the policies produced by the Transport Group is to reduce traffic congestion and its associated adverse consequences of air and noise pollution and constraint of economic activity, by actively encouraging journeys on foot, by bicycle, public transport or shared car scheme vehicle.

TRANSPORT (TR) PLANNING (P) POLICIES

> **TRP1: Parking Provision at major employment sites**
>
> *Proposals for any additional car parking spaces at major[18] employment sites in Headington will only be supported if they can demonstrate strong evidence that Headington's road network has adequate unused capacity at peak times.*

Combating congestion requires that employees should reach their workplaces by sustainable transport methods – buses, walking or cycling. Headington's road network is operating at or beyond its capacity: the report commissioned by the County Council from WYG showed that in 2012 the ratio of **average** annual weekday traffic (AAWT) to congestion reference flow (CRF) was 104% in Old Road and 92% in London Road. Adequate unused capacity will be deemed to exist if there are no through roads where the ratio of AAWT to CRF exceeds 85%.

It should be noted that the Forum does not seek to place undue obstacles in the way of the important work undertaken at Headington's main employment sites, and provides for the restrictions to be lifted if and when the transport infrastructure can be shown to be adequate.

> **TRP2: Parking at Multi-Unit Developments**
>
> *Proposed developments of more than 10 residential units must reserve at least one parking space for a car share vehicle through a subscription or membership to a recognised car-sharing group (e.g. a car club such as Co-Wheels). Exceptions can be made if there is already access to a shared car within 50 metres of the development.*

Shared cars reduce the number of parked cars clogging up residential streets, and their incorporation into multi-unit developments frees up more space for accommodating people rather than cars.

---

[18] An employment site is considered major if it occupies more than 1 hectare.

Each shared car replaces multiple private cars (some recent estimates of this relationship are given in the footnote[19]). Developments in information technology have removed many of the obstacles to car-sharing. The use of shared cars, as well as uncluttering streets, freeing up space for dwellings and saving money for users, also inhibits car use (because the user pays the average cost of each trip, while the car owner only pays the marginal cost – but is saddled with large fixed costs of depreciation, insurance and maintenance).

TRP3: Connectedness

All new developments outside the central Headington area should be connected to the central area and to the Headington hospitals, university campuses and other major institutions by easy, direct routes for both walking and cycling. Proposed developments should consider provision of connecting alleyways or other pedestrian and cycle routes with adjacent streets or other sites. These routes should be made Public Rights of Way where practicable in accordance with the Oxford Local Plan.

Headington has a network of alleyways and connecting paths that enable walking routes to be planned that may be shorter than routes on road, and are quieter and safe from traffic. New developments, whether inside or adjacent to the Headington area, should be connected to this network, and the network should be extended whenever possible, to encourage active, sustainable transport. The County Council has produced a map of walking routes in Headington to encourage this, and Oxford Pedestrians Association is currently working with Oxford Brookes University to extend this map to the whole City, and to enable it to be updated as new connections are made.

---

[19]Footnote: Some recent estimates of the number of private cars removed by each shared car:

       5.8 (Carplus annual survey, London, 2013/14)

       8.6 (Carplus annual survey, London 2014/15)

       6-10 (Carsharing: Evolution, Challenges and Opportunities, report commissioned by European Car Manufacturers' Association from Imperial College, London, Sept 2014)

       9-13 (Impact of carsharing on Household Vehicle Ownership, Martin and Shaheen, USA 2008)

       13 (City of Sydney, Benefit-Cost Analysis of Car-share, 2012)

> **TRP4: Travel Plans**
>
> **1. All new business developments, and all new multi-unit developments[20] must develop and periodically update travel plans or travel plan statements[21] showing how employees and/or residents may minimise car usage.**
>
> **2. All single-unit development should state, in the design and access statement, whether car-free alternatives have been considered and, if parking provision is to be made, why the car-free alternative has been rejected.**

It is well recognised that travel habits are established early. This Policy aims to ensure that people are made aware of options for (and benefits of) 'active transport' as soon as they locate to new premises as residents or employees. Travel plans should be provided for both small and large developments along with information on the health benefits of alternative transport to encourage people to adopt healthy (and sustainable) transport habits. HNF, or its successor body, will monitor whether these travel plans are appropriately updated.

> **TRP5: Provision for people with disabilities to use active forms of transport**
>
> **All new developments should include active transport provision for people with disabilities[22], to make journeys easy by active means.**

It is important that there should be no barriers to people with disabilities using active forms (such as wheelchairs and mobility scooters) of transport; otherwise car use can become the norm. Solutions could involve level access within the site (as already required under the Local Plan), but also good, level connections to routes that enable employees or residents to reach central Headington, the Headington hospitals, and other major institutions.

> **TRP6: Promotion of Cycling and Walking**
>
> **In employment developments, the quantity of cycle spaces should be based on the travel plan, with an allowance for a doubling of the mode share of cycling.**

The Headington Neighbourhood Plan recognizes that active steps need to be taken to encourage alternative, non-congesting and non-polluting ways of traveling. Policy TRP6 aims to ensure that any new employment development plays its part in this objective, and that through

---

[20]Single-unit dwellings are attached/detached units on individual freehold titles, where as multi-unit dwellings are subject to leasehold titles.

[21]The cut-off between developments requiring travel plans and those requiring travel plan statements is as defined in OCC's document "Transport for New Developments: Transport Assessments and Travel Plans."

[22]Including wheelchair users and those with other forms of disability.

continuous improvements in conditions for pedestrians and cyclists a network of safe and pleasant walking and cycling routes can be created.

Any planning application should identify the route(s) which employees and visitors choosing to walk or cycle can be expected to use to connect with the nearest designated cycle route or public transport, and priority shall be given to using any funds which can be made available through CIL or otherwise to bring such routes up to best-practice standard (for example, but not exclusively, by removal of barriers, removal or relocation of street furniture, segregation of cycle and pedestrian paths, levelling and regrading of paths, etc.)

TRANSPORT (TR) COMMUNITY (C) POLICIES

'Connecting Oxfordshire' is Oxfordshire County Council's new Local Transport Plan (LTP4). This Plan sets out the Council's policy and strategy for developing the transport system in Oxfordshire to 2031.

The Transport PWG supports the overarching transport goals as set out in 'Connecting Oxfordshire'. The Forum will seek to deliver the proposed actions as set out within TRC1 below with support from Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council as appropriate.

Most of these proposed actions have been raised by the Headington community as important issues during both the Issues and Options Consultation (2014) and the Draft Plan Consultation (2015).

In 2016 Oxfordshire County Council published a revised 'Access to Headington' which sets out plans to reshape transport across the Headington area. We heartily endorse the principles underlying the Local Transport Plan, and in particular its view that "the location, layout and design of new developments should minimise the need for travel", as well as its focus on walking and cycling. However, we note with come concern that the introduction to the 'Access to Headington' proposals has a first objective to "support jobs growth in health, innovation and education" without taking note of the imbalance between employment and residence in Headington which underlies the high volumes of commuter traffic. Reducing the need for travel requires concerted action by both responsible councils to address this imbalance, and particularly by promoting key worker housing.

> **TRC1: Promoting Safety and Active Transport**
>
> **A set of projects to promote safety and active transport in Headington (examples below) will be identified and implemented after wider consultation to determine residents' wishes and priorities.**

Idea	Description
Car Sharing	Vehicles which are part of a car club sharing scheme will be exempt from all car parking charges.
Cycle Lanes	Cycle lanes should be upgraded to mandatory where possible, and improvements should be made to continuity, the clarity of signage, (especially when they meet bus-stops and side roads), and their maintenance and demarcation.
Active Transport	Information on options for active transport, and on the health benefits of walking and cycling should be provided by employers, developers and landlords, as well as through schools, libraries and GP practices.
Speed Limits	A universal 20 mph speed limit throughout Headington should be introduced.
Road Maintenance	Timely and thorough road and pavement maintenance, particularly on through routes should be carried out to improve their quality.
Pavements and Drainage	Pavements should be maintained to ensure that they are even, level and unobstructed. The drainage of roads should be improved so that pedestrians are not soaked by passing vehicles.
Bus Connections	Better orbital bus connectivity between Headington and other parts of Oxford such as Summertown and Cowley should be developed.
Rapid Transit Buses	As and when new rapid transit buses are introduced, they should not add to the total amount of vehicle traffic along the London Road.
Congestion Charge	Full consideration should be given to the costs and benefits of a congestion charge for Oxford as a whole.
School Transport	Schools and parents to be encouraged to try alternatives to car transport on the 'school run'.
Employer Parking	Where employers provide parking, they should be encouraged to charge on a per-use basis, rather than through subscription fees payable whether or not the parking space is used.
Improving Air Quality	We will seek to support projects to reduce air pollution, specifically focusing on NOx and particulates.

G. The Future (F)

FUTURE (F) COMMUNITY (C) POLICIES

> **FC1 Successor Body**
>
> **The Neighbourhood Forum will plan and implement arrangements to create a successor body to oversee the implementation of the plan throughout the plan period.**

The vision and aims of the Plan will be achieved through a range of policies and projects. To secure the effective implementation of policies and projects following the Referendum will require that a successor body to the Forum is put in place at that stage. Such a body would monitor the implementation of the planning policies. It would also initiate and manage the implementation of the community policies and projects by working with the local authorities and other stakeholders and the Headington community.

As the Plan is a living document there will be the need to regularly consult local people on implementation issues such as the development of new projects. There is a range of options for the form of the successor body, for example a charitable body such as a community trust, or a statutory body such as a community council similar to a parish council.

HNF has agreed to set up a working group to research and progress the development of a successor body.

```
┌─────────────────┐              ┌─────────────────────┐
│  NEIGHBOURHOOD  │              │                     │
│     FORUM       │              │       VISION        │
└────────┬────────┘              └──────────┬──────────┘
         │                                  │
         ▼                                  ▼
┌─────────────────┐              ┌─────────────────────┐
│    STEERING     │─────────────▶│                     │
│   COMMITTEE     │              │   AIMS/OBJECTIVES   │
└────────┬────────┘              └──────────┬──────────┘
         │                                  │
         ▼                                  ▼
┌─────────────────┐              ┌─────────────────────┐
│ POLICY WORKING  │─────────────▶│                     │
│    GROUPS       │              │      POLICIES       │
└─────────────────┘              └──────────┬──────────┘
                                            │
                                            ▼
                                 ┌─────────────────────┐
                                 │    ACTION PLANS     │
                                 │                     │
                                 │     (PROJECTS)      │
                                 └─────────────────────┘
```

CREATION OF INTERIM FORUM (2013)

DESIGNATION OF AREA AND FORUM (2014)

ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION (2014)

PUBLICATION OF DRAFT PLAN (2015)

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PLAN (2016)

PLANNING INSPECTOR REVIEW (2016)

REFERENDUM ON FINAL PLAN (2017)

PUBLICATION OF FINAL PLAN (2017)
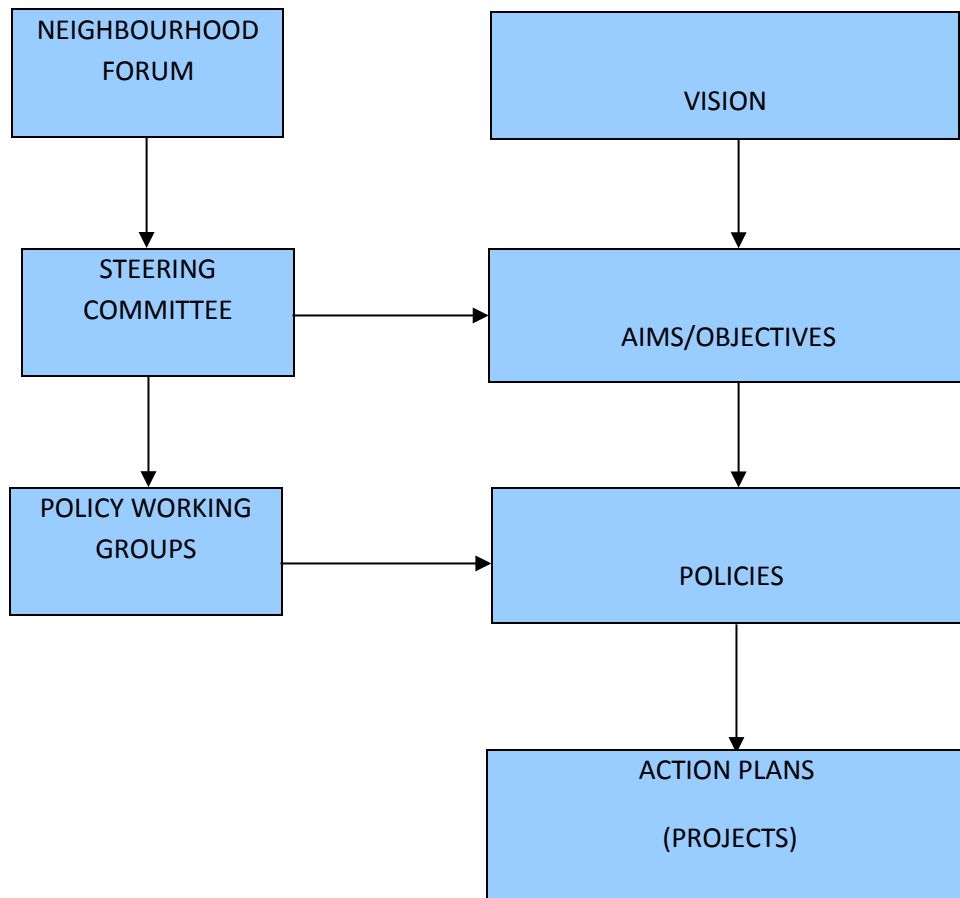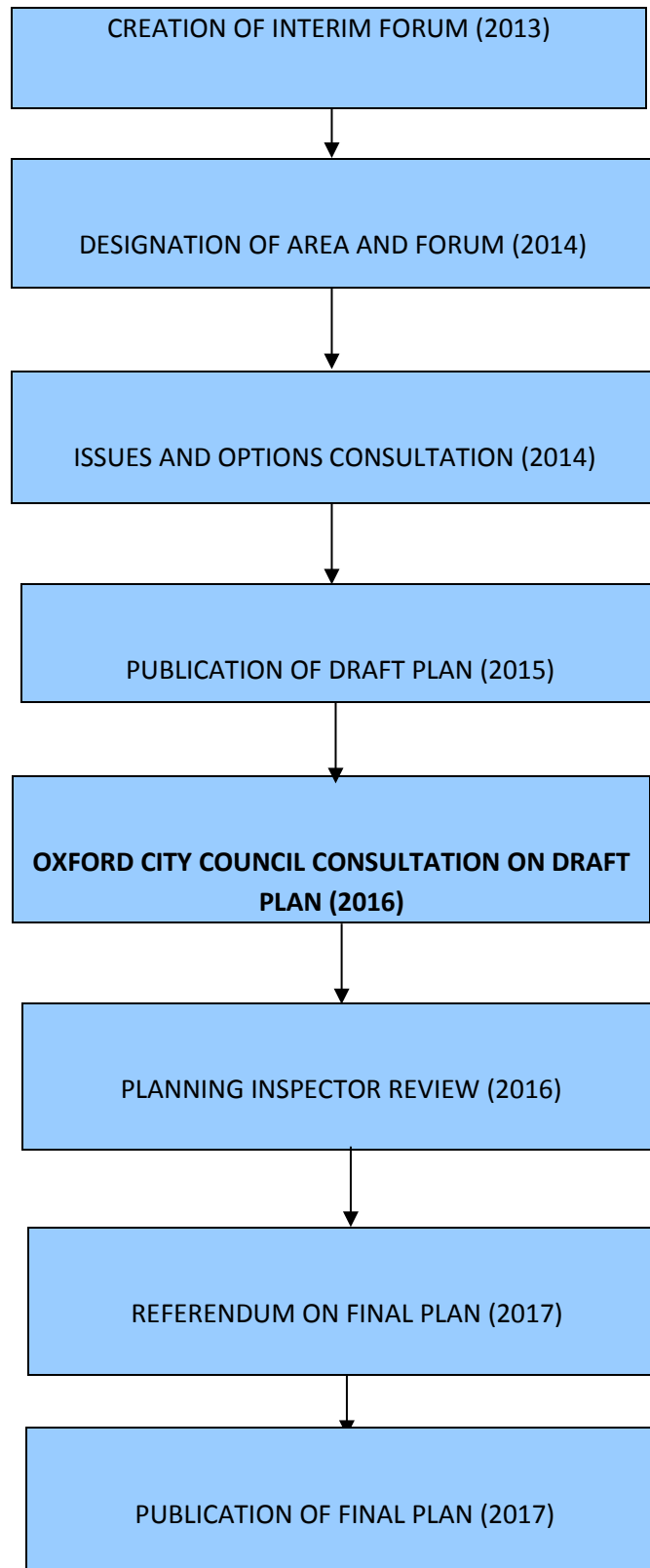
APPENDIX A
HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – INVENTORY OF GREEN SPACES v4

CATEGORY	SITE	GRID REF[1]	PUBLIC ACCESS[2]
Public Parks	Bury Knowle	SP 547 073	✔
	Headington Hill	SP 530 064	✔
Playing Fields	Barton Road	SP 551 074	✔
	Margaret Road	SP 551 069	✔
	Sandfield Road	SP 536 075	✔
	Valentia Road	SP 540 065	✔
Play Areas	Girdlestone Road Junction	SP 5490 0612	✔
	Girdlestone Road North	SP 5473 0615	✔
	Margaret Road	SP 5525 0691	✔
	Quarry Hollow	SP 5535 0689	✔
	Valentia Road	SP 540 065	✔
Town Greens	Warneford Meadow	SP 540 058	✔
	Warneford Orchard	SP 539 059	✔
Allotments	Eden Drive (part of)	SP 5369 0772	✔
	Ingle Close	SP 5392 0787	✔
	Pullens Lane	SP 532 067	✔
	Ramsay Road	SP 552 070	✔
	Town Furze	SP 5485 0608	✔
Green Spaces	Girdlestone Road South	SP 5469 0606	✔
	Holy Trinity Church Glebe	SP 554 068	
	Mattock Close	SP 5464 0661	✔
	Ruskin Fields	SP 544 0800	
	The Grange, Barton Lane	SP 547 077	
	Warren Meadow	SP 548 059	✔
	Field next to Magdalen Quarry	SP 551 071	✔
	Woods east of John Garne Way allotments	SP 5319 0693	
Green Footpaths (examples)	Cuckoo Lane	SP 5378 0697 - SP 5287 0669	✔
	Holy Trinity Church Path	SP 5531 0677 - SP 5539 0683	✔
	Stoke Place	SP 5438 0784 - SP 5447 0801	✔

[1] 6 digit reference used for larger sites. 8 digit reference used for smaller sites. Two references given where site is a path or similar.
[2] Accessible to the public as of 23/05/2016

Educational Institutions' Open Spaces	Brookes Headington Hill Campus	SP 532 066	
	Brookes Gipsy Lane Campus	SP 5370 0659	
	Cheney School	SP 535 061	
	EF	SP 535 069	
	Headington School Junior	SP 540 068	
	Headington School Senior	SP 536 068	
	London Road Reservoir	SP 533 064	
	Osler (or Manor) House	SP 5420 0739	
	Rye St Antony	SP 5355 0700	
	St Andrews School	SP 5480 0712	
	Windmill School	SP 548 069	
Wildlife Sites	Doris Field Memorial Park	SP 531 076	✔
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Lye Valley	SP 547 058	✔
	Magdalen Quarry	SP 552 070	✔
	Rock Edge	SP 550 064	✔
Local Wildlife Sites and Nature Reserves	Boundary Brook	SP 5411 0637 - SP 5462 0544	✔
	Churchill Meadow	SP 545 055	✔
	Lye Valley	SP 5494 0608 - SP 5462 0544	✔
	Magdalen Quarry Reserve	SP 552 070	✔
	Rock Edge	SP 550 064	✔
Wildlife Corridors	Boundary Brook	SP 5411 0637 - SP 5462 0544	✔
	Old Road South	SP 5391 0628 - SP 5433 0636	✔
Churches, Graveyards, Cemeteries	All Saints' Church	SP 5442 0669	✔
	Cornerstone Church	SP 5534 0696	✔
	Headington Cemetery	SP 539 078	✔
	Holy Trinity Church	SP 5545 0686	✔
	St Andrew's Church	SP 5446 0763	✔
Hospitals	Churchill Hospital Green Space	SP 544 058	
	John Radcliffe Hospital Playing Field	SP 542 073	
	John Radcliffe Hospital Green Spaces (many)	SP 5408 0723 SP 5413 0724 et al	
	Warneford Hospital	SP 539 060	

160

	Playing Fields		
On Street Trees (examples)	Headley Way	SP 5354 0748 - SP 5394 0682	✔
	London Road	SP 5540 0741 - SP 5395 0681	✔
	St. Anne's Road	SP 5493 0665	✔
	Green Road (west)	SP 5575 0758	✔
	Gathorne Road	SP 5488 0660	✔
	Stapleton Road	SP 5435 0652	✔
	Woodlands Road	SP 5392 0706	✔
	Stephen Road	SP 5444 0719	✔
	Bickerton Road	SP 5427 0652	✔
	Massey Close	SP 5456 0608	✔
	Osler Road	SP 5429 0739	✔
	Warneford Lane	SP 5362 0606 - SP 5390 0629	✔
Grass Verges (examples)	Barton Lane	SP 547 076	✔
	Old Road	SP 5489 0635 - SP 5449 0635	✔
	Massey Close	SP 5456 0608	✔
	Green Road (west)	SP 5575 0758	✔
	Woodlands Road	SP 5392 0706	✔
	Headley Way	SP 5354 0748 - SP 5394 0682	✔
	Osler Road	SP 5429 0739	✔
	Warneford Lane	SP 5362 0606 - SP 5390 0629	✔
Miscellaneous Small Green Spaces	Quarry Hollow	SP 5535 0689	✔
	Norton Close	SP 5460 0681	✔
	Warneford Lane/Morrell Ave. Roundabout	SP 5362 0606	✔
	London Road/Valentia Road	SP 5382 0673	✔
	Old Headington Chapel	SP 5447 0751	✔
	The Croft/Old High Street	SP 5453 0738	✔
	Wooded lane joining Staunton & Sandfield roads	SP 5386 0731	✔
	Stonor Place/ Cardwell Crescent (x2)	SP 5396 0659 SP 5395 0657	✔
	Cardwell Crescent	SP 5393 0659	✔
	Girdlestone Road/ Flexney Place	SP 5462 0618	✔
	Girdlestone Road/ Everard Close	SP 5456 0617	✔
	Churchill Drive/ Everard Close	SP 5451 0618	✔

	Goslyn Close/ Churchill Drive	SP 5451 0613	✓
	Goslyn Close/ Girdlestone Road (hedge)	SP 5433 0624	✓
	Barton Lane/Northern By-Pass (x2)	SP 5507 0773 SP 5490 0777	✓
	Osler Road/St Andrew's Road	SP 5437 0758	✓

162

HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN   **APPENDIX B**

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan Template

Aims

The aim of the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP) is to mitigate the impact of the development on the biodiversity of the site and to achieve an overall enhancement of the biodiversity of the site when the development has been completed.

What is in a BEP

The BEP will set out:

1. An assessment of the biodiversity of the site and the immediate surroundings.

2. Having regard to the assessment, measures to:

(a) Protect and retain existing features which contribute to the biodiversity of the site
(b) Enhance biodiversity through appropriate planting and other means.

3. Arrangements to monitor maintain and where necessary renew and replace the measures in 2(a) and 2(b) above in the medium and long term.

Planting and other measures (2b above)

Planting schemes[1] should be bee- and pollinator-friendly, selection made on the basis of plants' pollen, nectar and/or berries for birds. Trees, shrubs and flowering plants including climbers, ornamental hedges, ground cover plants and contents of tubs/planters should all be chosen with this in mind.
Other options to enhance biodiversity include water infiltration rain gardens, bee-friendly grassland and Solitary Bee nest walls.
Green roofs are encouraged.
Efforts to maximize ground porosity and rainwater infiltration will be encouraged.
Bat and bird boxes are not acceptable

---

[1] Many websites advise including:
http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Habitat%20Management%20and%20Creation%20For%20Pollinators.pdf

Specific simple help sheets available from:
 http://judithwebb.weebly.com/pollinators.html .   Especially relevant are: border perennials, ornamental climbers, border shrubs, ground cover plants, trees and tubs and planters.

This page is intentionally left blank