

## PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP (PIWG)

**Summary:** To review the progress of the Planning and Infrastructure Working Group

**Recommendation:** That the Executive Committee notes the report

**Report by:** John Mills, Planning and Landscape Lead

### MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

- Liz Hodges (Chair), Parish Council Board Member
- Graham Hopkins, Secretary of State (SoS) Board Member
- Cate Le Grice Mack, SoS Board Member
- John Swanton, SoS Board Member
- Steve Bucknell, Local Authority Board Member (Wiltshire Council)
- Caroline Mumford, Cotswold Voluntary Warden
- Officers:
  - John Mills, Planning and Landscape Lead
  - Simon Joyce, Planning Officer
  - Mandy Pressland, Office Manager (providing admin support)

### MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The most recent meeting (at the time of writing this report) took place on 4 October 2021.
2. Key points of discussion:
  - the PIWG Terms of Reference, taking account of relevant issues including the Board's new Vision, the Glover Review proposals and the climate and ecological emergencies;
  - how the group can best contribute to – and maximise the beneficial impact of - the planning-related work of the Board.

### OTHER ACTIVITY

3. Other planning-related activity since the last PIWG report for the Executive Committee meeting on 14 September 2021, some of which has involved PIWG, includes:
  - **Recruitment of Planning Officer:** We have successfully recruited Simon Joyce, who started as our Planning Officer on 1 November 2021. Simon has really 'hit the ground running' in this new role, using his wealth of knowledge and experience to lead on the Board's responses to development management consultations.

- **A417 Missing Link Development Consent application:** John has provided technical input into our submissions on the A417 development consent application, including:
  - assessing the overall balance of adverse and beneficial effects of the proposed scheme in relation to the Board's two statutory purposes and in relation to the 'landscape led' vision, design principles and objectives of the scheme;
  - assessing if the scheme demonstrates the exceptional circumstances that would be required in order for a nationally significant infrastructure scheme, such as this, to be permitted in an AONB.
- **Oakley Farm planning appeal inquiry:** Since early September 2021, John has represented the Board as a main party in this inquiry, which relates to the proposed development of 250 dwellings on the Cotswold escarpment, within the Cotswolds National Landscape, on the eastern edge of Cheltenham. The inquiry was originally scheduled to run for 8 days but has so far run for 16 days, with a further four days anticipated in February 2022 (i.e. 20 days in total). John's role in the inquiry has included presenting the Board's opening statement, presenting the Board's 'evidence-in-chief', being cross-examined by the appellant's QC and cross-examining the appellant's expert witnesses. The topics that John has covered in these sessions include landscape, heritage, transport, housing need and planning. John will be presenting the Board's closing statement in the February sessions.
- **Local Plan consultation responses:**
  - Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan Partial Update consultation.
  - Tewkesbury Borough Plan Main Modifications consultation.
- **Development management consultation responses:**
  - S.20/2667/FUL (Stroud DC) - 35 dwellings, Minchinhampton: objected.
  - 20/04673/FUL (Cotswold DC) - Truck stop, Stratton: objected.
  - 21/0050/CWS73M (Gloucestershire CC) – Variation to planning conditions at Oathill Quarry, including doubling output from 50,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 100,000tpa: objected.
  - 21/03159/FUL (West Oxfordshire DC) – Café / restaurant at Diddly Squat Farm Shop, Chadlington: comments only.

## DECISIONS REQUIRED

4. No decisions required.

**NEXT STEPS**

5. The next meeting will take place on 18 January 2022. This will include reviewing the Board's draft Climate Change Strategy. Over the next few months, PIWG will be involved in reviewing and updating our Renewable Energy and Neighbourhood Plans Position Statements.

**SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- No supporting papers

JANUARY 2022