

Annexe to the minutes dated 7th December 2021 - Notes on discussion on HIF application

Cllrs Daw and Atkinson reported back on a meeting with representatives from Culham, Burcot & Clifton Hampden, Nuneham Courtenay and Appleford (host) Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of working together as a loose coalition and pooling together resources to address concerns of each parish to the HIF1 proposals.

Appleford Parish Council has identified a consultant who had proposed a team of experts and estimated a cost of £15k to produce a report and present a response to the OCC Planning Committee.

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council has been asked to consider whether it wished to be a partner and the level of financial contribution it could commit.

Councillors felt that a joint response would carry more weight and also be better value for money for the parishioners. However, it was important that there was a clear brief to the consultants which sets out the delivery of key objectives. It was felt that a report without any upfront clear understanding of the best strategy to adopt might prove to be a waste of funds and hence the work should be staged.

It was resolved that there should be an initial strategic scoping study which would subsequently feed into the later stage of compiling the formal response to the planning application. The scoping study should clearly deliver:

- The likelihood of success of an outright objection
- Outline the scoping arguments for each parish's individual concerns and possible planning conditions and mitigation should OCC be minded to approve the application in its current form
- Identify areas of the planning application that have a better chance of being addressed satisfactorily by OCC and therefore should be the focus of the formal response going forward

The appointed Sutton Courtenay Parish Council representatives needed to ensure Sutton Courtenay's concerns are not overshadowed in any partnership as there is a risk the much bigger concerns of some other parishes will dominate the assessments.

There was an in-depth discussion regarding the level of financial contribution of funding experts who can help with a substantive joint-response and any legal advice. Currently, Appleford Parish Council had committed £5K, Culham £2K, Burcot & Clifton Hampden £2K and Nuneham Courtenay £500.