

Didcot Garden Town



Meeting of Advisory Board Members

23 October 2020, 10:30am to 12:30pm
Microsoft Teams

Advisory Board Members

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, Chair
Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Emily Smith, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr David Rouane, South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Judy Roberts, Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Mocky Khan, Leader of Didcot Town Council
Rita Atkinson, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Nigel Tipple, OxLEP (Local Enterprise Partnership)
Catherine Turner, Homes England

AGENDA

1. Introductions and apologies
2. Declarations and conflicts of interest
3. Public comment on items on the agenda
4. Notes of previous meeting and matters arising (but not on the agenda)
 - a. 24 January 2020 amended minutes
 - b. 13 July 2020 draft minutes
 - c. 13 July action - Public Engagement 2020 timeline
 - d. 13 July action - Public comment responses
5. Transport update – Oxfordshire County Council
 - a. HIF transport improvements and stakeholder engagement
6. Project updates
7. Sounding Boards
 - a. Parish Councils sounding board held 22 September
 - b. Upcoming Business sounding board meeting
 - c. Residents sounding board meeting
8. AOB
9. Dates of future meetings: 25 January 2021 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
 - a. Monday, 26 April or Friday, 30 April 2021
 - b. Monday, 26 July or Friday, 30 July 2021
 - c. Friday, 24 October or Monday, 27 October 2021
 - d. Friday, 28 January 2022 or Monday, 31 January 2022

Didcot Garden Town (DGT) – Advisory Board

24 January 2020, 1 p.m. – Meeting Room 6/7, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park

Attendance:

Nominated Board Members

Chair: Cllr Ian Hudspeth (IH), Leader, Oxfordshire County Council
 Cllr David Rouane (DR), South Oxfordshire District Council
 Cllr Judy Roberts (JR), Cabinet member for Vale of White Horse District Council
 Cllr Mocky Khan (MK), Didcot Town Council
 Cllr Emily Smith (ES), Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council
 Cllr Sue Cooper (SC), Leader, South Oxfordshire District Council

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils (South and Vale) Officers in attendance

Marybeth Harasz (MbH), Didcot Garden Town Project Manager, South and Vale
 Susan Halliwell (SH), Director of Planning and Place, OCC
 Emma East (EE), Senior Communications Officer, South and Vale
 Nicky Wyer (NW) Project Officer, South and Vale
 Aron Wisdom (AW), OCC
 Sarah Coates (SC), Administrator, South and Vale

	Minutes	Action
1.	Apologies Catherine Turner, Head of Public Sector Land, South West, Homes England Nigel Tipple, CEO, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Andrew Down, Head of Partnership and Insight, South and Vale Mark Stone, Chief Executive, South and Vale	
2.	Declarations and conflicts of interest None	
3.	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising Notes of previous meeting held on 17 June 2019 were reviewed and agreed by nominated members.	
4.	Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting papers discussion Recommendations made by the Joint Scrutiny Committee at their meeting held 16 January 2020 were discussed. <i>'RESOLVED: to recommend the South and Vale Cabinets that they:</i> <i>(a) approve the operating guidelines, terms of reference and revised governance for the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board and sounding</i>	

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 4a

	<p><i>boards, as set out in appendix 2 to the head of partnership and insight's report to the Joint Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2020, with the following changes:</i></p> <p><i>(i) the parish council representative on the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board be chosen from the five parish councils within the Didcot Garden Town boundary;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) recommend that the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board considers adding a voting member to increase its environmental representation;</i></p> <p><i>(b) agree to name the nominated Didcot Garden Town Board as the 'Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board';</i></p> <p><i>(c) agree the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan project priorities; and</i></p> <p><i>(d) delegate authority to the relevant head of service to apply for future funding opportunities that directly align with the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan as appropriate.'</i></p> <p>Discussion included the number of parish council seats to add, one for each of the five or one seat to represent all. The process for nomination and whether Didcot Town Council should have an additional seat to balance the structure of the Advisory Board was discussed.</p> <p>There is a benefit to having one parish council representative attend board meetings rather than a rotating the representative among the five parish councils. This would allow the representative to get very familiar with the programme in order to be able to provide the best advice and provide consistency.</p> <p>The Parish Council Representative will need to represent all five parish councils in the Didcot Garden Town. All meetings are open to the public and all parish councils can attend and make public comment on items on the agenda.</p> <p>The addition of an environmental representative to the Advisory Board was discussed. This is a good recommendation once the type of environmental focus could be established. The Advisory Board should operate for one year and within that time, consider what benefit and focus might be most appropriate.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board should support the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations <u>to have a parish council representative for the five parish councils located partially within the Didcot Garden Town Boundary</u>. Didcot Garden Town staff will convey this to the South and Vale Cabinets at their upcoming meetings on 30 January and 3 February 2020.</p>	MbH
5.	<p>Homes England programme review</p> <p>A Programme Review with Homes England was held on Monday, 20 January 2020. In addition, DGT has received news of a funding award of £100,000 from Homes England as part of the 2019-2020 garden communities funding round.</p>	

	<p>Homes England would like DGT to drive transformation and positive messaging through quick wins such as pop-up and meanwhile uses. They would like to see immediate impact with a town-wide transformation alongside longer term project outcomes. The themes of cycling, gardens, and innovation/tech are good ways to make a visual difference town-wide. Interactive engagement techniques used previously were successful. Short term impact and is important for DGT to secure funding in the future. The underspend of previously awarded funding was a factor in the award for 2019-2020.</p> <p>More than 260 people have signed up to receive information on DGT. As part of the sign-up, people have participated in a survey and top priorities are: Roads, transport, cycling and walking, open space community space, housing and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Advisory Board members discussed the DGT programme. Regeneration of the Broadway area is needed and work should be done that would prepare for future funding opportunities.</p> <p>The project list in the Delivery Plan needs to be looked at again. For projects that are not moving forward, such as closing Cow Lane and moving the railway station, consider getting Cabinet approval to take them off the project list. Clarify the scope of each project on the list and confirm which are short and which are long term timelines for implementation.</p>	
6.	<p>Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Update</p> <p>AW talked through the four transport improvement projects: A4130 widening, Science Bridge, Thames river crossing and Clifton Hampden bypass. OCC is progressing the projects in advance of having a fully executed agreement with Homes England for HIF. Current work includes final alignments, land acquisition and preliminary engineering. Some of the transport corridors will pass through old landfill or mineral quarries. Some alignments fall in areas of clay soils and will need to be supported on piles down to solid ground. Some compulsory purchase work is needed to acquire land.</p> <p>The County Council is working at risk and has put aside enough funding to last until 31 January. Work cannot continue beyond that date without a signed HIF agreement.</p> <p>The target date to finish the HIF improvements is 2024.</p>	
7.	<p>Meeting and project work plan for 2020</p> <p>Meeting dates were discussed for the next four meeting up to January 2021. Staff will send around final dates to the Advisory Board.</p>	NW
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Press release has been sent this week in draft form. EE will possibly change the wording and send it out.</p>	EE

Meeting closed 2.55 p.m.

Minutes

Didcot Garden Town (DGT) Advisory Board

13 July 2020, 10:30am – via Microsoft Teams.

Attendance:

Nominated Board Members

Chair: Cllr Yvonne Constance (YC) Oxfordshire County Council, sub for Cllr Hudspeth
Cllr Sue Cooper (SC), Leader, South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Emily Smith (ES), Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr David Rouane (DR), South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Judy Roberts (JR), Cabinet member for Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Mocky Khan (MK), Didcot Town Council
Cllr Rita Atkinson (RA), Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Nigel Tipple (NT), OxLEP (Local Enterprise Partnership)
Catherine Turner (CT), Homes England

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council (South and Vale) Officers

Suzanne Malcom (SM), Acting Deputy Chief Executive - Place, South and Vale
Susan Halliwell (SH), Director of Planning and Place, OCC
Marybeth Harasz (MbH), Garden Communities Manager, South and Vale
Nicky Wyer (NW), Didcot Garden Town Project Officer, South and Vale
Kevin Jacob (KJ), Democratic Services Officer, South and Vale
Emma East (EE), Senior Communications Officer, South and Vale
Abigail Brown (AB), Arts Development Officer, South and Vale
Katie Embling (KE), Development Projects Officer, South and Vale

External

Catherine Turner (CT), Head of Public Sector Land, South West, Homes England
Nigel Tipple (NT), Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

	Minutes	Action
1.	Introductions and apologies Cllr Ian Hudspeth (IH), Leader, Oxfordshire County Council Yvonne Rees (YR), Chief Executive, OCC Mark Stone (MS), Chief Executive, South and Vale	
2.	Declarations and conflicts of interest Some land ownership – Homes England (CT)	
3.	Public comment on items on the agenda (MbH) Please refer to agenda item 4d within the board package circulated for DGTAB on Friday 23 October. This includes all public comments received and the responses directly emailed to every individual.	MbH/ NW
4.	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising	

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 4b

	It was requested that a minor edit to Section 4 of the meeting minutes of 24 January be made so that the vote and decision on the parish council representation are on the record.		
5.	Transport Update (SH)		
	A	<p>HIF1</p> <p>The grant agreement is now signed with Homes England; amount confirmed as £218m to be invested in the four HIF1 schemes. Due to delay, the delivery deadline is now November 2024.</p> <p>CT – Acknowledged and thanked officers for all their hard work.</p> <p>The transport network management team will look at the impact on the network and make sure that is still running and functional. That has been a critical part of the whole programme.</p> <p>There will be numerous engagement and consultation exercises with the Town and Parish Councils. OCC will work with the Didcot Garden Town (DGT) team, so that a timetable can be actively communicated.</p> <p>No additional funding is being applied for at the moment. HIF2 programme is for the A40 smart corridor.</p> <p>Inflation due to Covid19 has been flagged as a potential risk but would not reduce quality. Cycle and pathways would not be at risk as they are integral to the programme.</p>	
	B	<p>Northern Perimeter Road</p> <p>NPR3 was on hold briefly. A traffic model is now available but still at the feasibility stage. Will need to look at all the schemes and how delivery is being managed. Although developers have been frustrated this is being addressed now.</p> <p>No timescale yet for the Jubilee Way roundabout but it is being looked at as part of a wider programme of improvements to the town centre called the Didcot Central Corridor programme.</p>	
	C	<p>Cycling Network (Science Vale Cycle Network and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)</p> <p>£5.6m to invest in various schemes they will deliver around 6 miles of cycle track and improvements to be completed by March 2021 most are scheduled to be complete by October 2020.</p> <p>In addition, OCC have committed to developing 3 local cycling and walking infrastructure plans. One has gone through cabinet for Oxford and one is scheduled for Bicester. Didcot Garden Town will be next.</p>	
	D	COVID Recovery/Active Travel	

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 4b

	<p>Government announced active travel funding, with the first tranche to be spent within 4-8 weeks. OCC received just under £300k and have matched that with an additional £300k.</p> <p>This is to support communities across Oxfordshire and help with the initial stages of enabling social distancing. They are reprioritising existing maintenance and changing signalling timings.</p> <p>Tranche 2 funding is to support active travel and will map into a much broader programme. No clarity yet when this will be received, initial bid to be submitted in the first week of August. OCC have a call with Department for Transport (DfT) this week to ensure they are aligned with the criteria.</p> <p>Comments/Questions - Why did OCC only get 50% of the available funding? This is believed to be because additional funding criteria was applied. Greater clarity is being obtained from DfT.</p> <p>Plea for more cycle ways to enable cyclists to take short journeys along the Broadway and to complete Wantage Road.</p> <p>It was requested that OCC liaise and communicate with the Town Council so they can be prepared when residents come to them.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the design for the roundabout on the B4493 associated with Valley Park. OCC confirmed this is being looked at.</p> <p>Shared/two-way cycle paths have issues for social distancing. Lack of dropped kerbs and lots of vegetation around them. Problem with Route 6A by the Power Station and Route 3C in Sutton Courtenay has a break in the cycle path at the junction between High Street, Church Street and Brook Street.</p> <p>As part of the process for the tranche 1 COVID Recovery/Active Travel funding, OCC was thinking of routes to accelerate. Cow Lane and Basil Hill were considered. SH confirmed that Cow Lane closure was included in DGT masterplan and the initial the consultation phase for this. However, after consideration it was recognised with reference to Cow Lane, far more modelling work and emergency planning was needed. Cow Lane will not be considered for tranche 1, and it is likely not to be put forward for tranche 2 funding due to the 3-week turnaround to submit business cases. Basil Hill will be continued to be looked at for tranche 2 and consultation with the local community will happen. Liaison with DfT will continue.</p>	
--	--	--

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 4b

6.	<p>Garden Communities Programme Update – Homes England</p> <p>The programme is about developing high quality, innovative and sustainable places with providing much needed homes. National government does remain committed to this programme. Homes England works closely with partners that have garden community status, to tailor interventions to support investment in the schemes.</p> <p>Homes England interventions can include unlocking public land, infrastructure investment and improving construction productivity. Most importantly with the garden communities programme it is the longer-term nature of the plans and capacity funding support.</p> <p>An announcement of Homes England’s annual capacity funding for garden communities will follow shortly.</p>	
7.	<p>Leisure Provision – SODC</p> <p>Development of a new leisure strategy will be commenced by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils. Prompted by how COVID-19 has affected the sector and how provisions may change in the future. This will be progressed by an Active Communities Strategy for the two districts. Primarily, the strategy will look at how our communities take part in leisure activities, how they use our existing leisure facilities and to understand what other types of leisure they participate in. This will help inform the direction of travel on what future provisions may look like.</p> <p>The proposed leisure centre that was planned for the development at North East Didcot has been brought to a close and will not go forward. The decision was made in 2019, for the budget for that specific site to be removed. It is emphasised by the earlier point, that future provisions within the districts are being looking at, including existing provisions. The councils want to ensure investment going forward will be future-proofed.</p>	
8.	<p>Gateway Development – Homes England/SODC</p> <p>The outline application and consultation for this development is being led by Homes England. However, to note South Oxfordshire District Council is also a landowner of part of the site.</p> <p>The garden town principles are embedded throughout the proposed design and the project is a good example of partnership working.</p> <p>DR emphasised how important this site is to the garden town, being the first impression of Didcot as people exit the train station. The design should be welcoming.</p> <p>SC welcomed the improved plans for this site and echoed DR comments. Concern was made regarding parking and the transitional arrangements for the change of use of the existing land.</p>	

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 4b

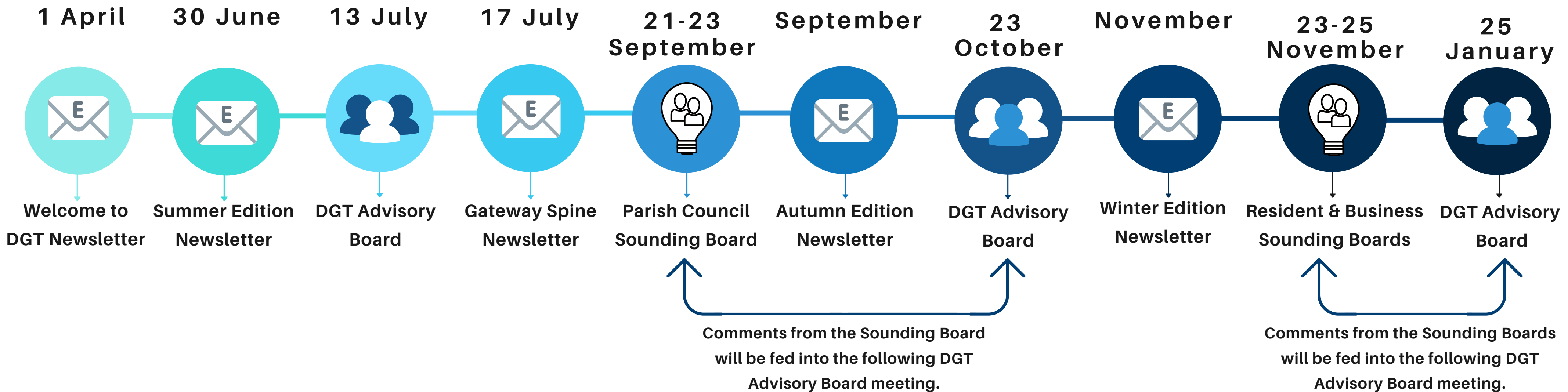
	<p>RA suggested that we ensure youth engagement in the consultation is completed and made accessible.</p> <p>NT confirmed that the original design of the Didcot Parkway station carpark at 1800 spaces, was to proactively provide additional car parking capacity and to encourage active travel into the station.</p>	
9.	<p>Delivery Team Update – Didcot Garden Town</p> <p>Cllr Rita Atkinson from Sutton Courtney Parish Council has now joined the DGT Advisory Board and will represent the 5 parish councils within the DGT boundary. MbH thanked her for her interest in applying for the Parish Council representative seat.</p> <p>The sounding boards will be run virtually due to COVID-19, and a schedule is referenced in the board package. The Parish Council sounding board will be held in September, with the resident and business sounding boards following in November. The aim of this is to allow time to feedback to quarterly Advisory Board meetings on the progress.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have now formally accepted the £100,000 of capacity funding from Homes England for the 2019/20 bid.</p> <p>Two newsletters in April and July were circulated to interested parties to support community engagement. There are currently 350 people signed up to receive updates about Didcot Garden Town.</p> <p>Participation by the DGT team on the MultiCAV consortium is continuing. More information in the board package. This is the connected and autonomous vehicles (AV) project, which is scheduled to trial an AV shuttle bus between Milton Park and Didcot Parkway station in spring 2021.</p>	
	<p>Date of future meetings – 23 October 2020 and 25 January 2021</p> <p>YC recommends that progression on leisure provisions should be a scheduled item for the next meeting.</p> <p>MK recommends that the DGT team include all platforms of engagement on their public engagement plan, not just formal meetings. This should include such things as the scheduled newsletters, webinars or press releases to ensure there is a two-way communication.</p>	<p>MbH/ NW</p> <p>NW/EE</p>

Meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Didcot Garden Town

Public Engagement 2020-21

23 October 2020
Agenda Item 4c



Public Comment – DGT Advisory Board

Ref.	Name	Response to public questions
1	Penny Dakin-Kiley	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>1) Our plans are to hold each Sounding Board twice a year and to ask local residents, businesses and parish councils for their ideas on one or two projects at each meeting. We look forward to hearing local knowledge and insight into how we can develop the garden town. We hope to hold an online meeting later this year and will send you an invitation to join us for a meeting as soon as a date has been set.</p> <p>If you are interested in joining, please use the contact details below to submit your expression of interest. A member of the Delivery Team will be able to provide more information of the proposed schedule and how you will be able to participate.</p> <p>Email us on didcotgardentown@southandvale.gov.uk or give us a call on 01235 422473.</p> <p>2) The new Gateway proposals from Homes England are intended to bring forward permanent development and regeneration of the vacant and derelict areas of the site at the earliest opportunity. Garden town principles have been embedded within the proposals, which incorporate a range of new public spaces, gardens, planting and public art opportunities to enhance the arrival into Didcot and promote it as a garden town.</p> <p>There is interest in the Gateway site for meanwhile and pop-up uses that would give a positive image of Didcot as a “garden town” through planting. Public art is also being considered. Homes England and Didcot Garden Town officers will work together to identify opportunities and involve residents in identifying quick wins later this year.</p>

	<p>Homes England will demolish buildings at the eastern end of the Gateway site as early as late summer/autumn 2020. This includes the former Labour Club site.</p> <p>3) Homes England are inviting feedback on new proposals to create a high-quality residential-led development at Didcot Gateway, located immediately to the south of Didcot Parkway train station. Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, an exhibition that allows residents to interact with representatives will not be planned.</p> <p>Leaflets were mailed to residents within radius of the Gateway site with an option to respond by post. It may be that there are residents that did not receive a leaflet would like to have access to information and respond by post. Those residents should write to Barton Willmore at the address below with a request for information that is not digital. Residents should include their name, address and phone number in their request along with a statement that says they agree to be contacted by Barton Willmore on this matter.</p> <p>The Didcot Gateway proposals include up to 265 new homes and opportunities for new office, café and retail space. Development will create a high-quality new gateway into Didcot, providing a mix of one to three-bedroom homes and opportunities for commercial uses as well as new open space and improved connectivity from Didcot Parkway train station to Didcot town centre.</p> <p>Proposals are available to view at www.didcotgateway.co.uk from 1st July - 29th July 2020.</p> <p>To learn more about the project and have your say: Visit: www.didcotgateway.co.uk Email: planning@bartonwillmore.co.uk Address: Barton Willmore, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE</p>
--	---

2	Andy Wells	<p>Thank you for your question. Didcot Garden Town shares your interest in making sure that garden town principles are embedded in new development and retrofitted into the existing fabric of the town and surrounding villages. Your email was read out at the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting on 13 July 2020 and you can now watch the meeting here. Your questions is discussed from about 15:07 into the video.</p> <p>The Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board asked that I respond to you with how South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse councils are ensuring these principles are upheld. Cllr David Rouane responded to your question with his own concerns.</p> <p>There are several council policies which officers use to support embedding garden town principles in new development. These policies support development application reviews. Links to a few of these documents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan• Principles are being incorporated in the Local Plans of both South and Vale• Design Guidelines are approved for both South and Vale• Climate emergency work being done supports policy work, including development of the corporate policy for South and Vale <p>We implement the above policies during planning application reviews in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didcot Garden Town is a consultee and reviews most major development applications located within the boundary.• The South and Vale Planning team carefully assess planning applications for quality, using all relevant policy documents. In many cases officers engage in extensive negotiations with developers to push for quality outcomes.• Officers liaise with other stakeholders and agencies to ensure their comments and best practice design is implemented wherever possible.• Sustainability issues and the reliance on motorised vehicles, and the scope to use other modes of transport, is assessed in connection with all major development.
---	------------	---

		<p>Didcot Garden Town recently prepared a summary of sustainability efforts which is attached for reference.</p> <p>If you have any specific examples of projects that have not been considered in line with our policies, please contact us so that we can evaluate them and discuss them with officers who may be able to use them to improve our processes in the future.</p>
3	Paul and Shirley Smout	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>The Didcot Gateway proposals, you are referring to is part of a pre-application consultation which precedes the outline application. The consultation is currently being led by Homes England, and we would encourage any member of the public to respond on aspects of the information in the materials provided.</p> <p>We would advise you to submit your comments and concerns to the consultation they are currently running. This will ensure your points of concerns are included as part of the consultation record, to which the Homes England will be consider as part of the pre application process.</p> <p>You can do this by reviewing the proposals at www.didcotgateway.co.uk from 1 - 29 July 2020. Alternatively, you can:</p> <p>Email: planning@bartonwillmore.co.uk Or write to: Barton Willmore, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE</p> <p>Didcot Garden Town is a consultee for planning applications within the garden town boundary and will submit a response once an application has been filed. We are not able to accept public comments on behalf of the planning department but welcome your thoughts so that we can better understand how residents feel about the proposals.</p>

		<p>If you have any specific examples of projects that have not been considered in line with our policies, please contact us so that we can evaluate them and discuss them with officers who may be able to use them to improve our processes in the future.</p>
4	Luke Pearce	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>We are aware of a small neighbourhood police team office being located in our new District Community Centre in Great Western Park. Once we have more information on the centre and its opening, we will communicate this with you.</p> <p>For other crime and speeding related concerns, we have contacted Thames Valley Police and will forward the easiest way to contact them on these matters.</p>
5	Cllr Victoria Haval	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the Garden Town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>Our plans are to hold each Sounding Board twice a year and to ask local residents, businesses and parish councils for their ideas on one or two projects at each meeting. We look forward to hearing local knowledge and insight into how we can develop the garden town. We hope to hold an online meeting later this year and will send you an invitation to join us for a meeting as soon as a date has been set.</p> <p>If you know of anyone that is interest in joining the Sounding Boards, please ask them to contact us using the details below to submit their expression of interest. A member of the Delivery Team will be able to provide more information of the proposed schedule and how they will be able to participate.</p> <p>Email us on didcotgardentown@southandvale.gov.uk or give us a call on 01235 422473.</p>

6	Tom Denegan	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>Q1: The Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan includes work to study public transport and the idea of having autonomous vehicles run along the Garden Line. These are longer term visions, but transport is very much at the heart of the plan. Please see the attached pdf file, which is an extract from the Plan. The Didcot Garden Town team is now working with a consortium to trial autonomous vehicles that link Didcot Parkway to Milton Park.</p> <p>Earlier this year at Milton Park, one of three key employment sites in the Didcot Garden Town area, launched a new app called Mi-Link. The Mi-Link platform gives its users a full range of transport mode information including walking, cycle hire, e-bikes and all public transport details, as well as advising on traffic congestion. Over the coming months, the app will be expanded to include details of autonomous electric vehicles, which will provide public transport services around the park in 2021. This will offer even more opportunity for people to complete their journeys from door-to-door without the need of their private vehicle. You can find more information at www.miltonpark.co.uk/mi-link.</p> <p>The e-bike data from Milton Park shows that their bikes have continued to be very popular despite the recent COVID-19 outbreak, and many key workers, who have been reluctant to use public transport, have really appreciated the free bike service between Didcot Parkway and the business park. There is evidence that these bikes have been used to travel as far as Oxford.</p> <p>One example of an effort to accelerate active travel is Oxfordshire County Council's work to quickly add cycling provision as part of the COVID recovery action plan. Please visit the county council's website at https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/OxfordshireActiveTransport/consultationHome</p> <p>These projects require the support of the public to be successfully implemented.</p>
---	-------------	---

	<p>Q2: Oxfordshire County Council will develop a traffic management plan as part of the planned transport improvements. Please contact them at: HIF1project@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Q3: The Delivery Plan highlights the importance of brownfield sites and several sites in Didcot Garden Town have planning applications in process. Brownfield sites have more complexity than greenfield sites. They often require land remediation and carry higher costs to make ready for building.</p> <p>A consultation for the Gateway site across from the Didcot Parkway railway station is currently being led by Homes England, and we would encourage residents and interested parties to respond. You can review proposals at www.didcotgateway.co.uk from 1 - 29 July 2020.</p> <p>Q4: The Delivery Plan puts forward strategies for energy and water saving for new buildings in Didcot Garden Town. Didcot Garden Town is a consultee for planning applications within the garden town boundary and typically puts in the request for applicants to embed these features in their projects. The current energy-related building regulation, however, currently sits with central government.</p> <p>Q5: Ideas about the demand for different experiences other than retail on the “high street” has been discussed widely for some time. We are looking at adding empty shops and retail spaces to our list of places to consider for meanwhile and temporary pop-up uses.</p> <p>Q6: There is an active project to study the feasibility of Civil Parking Enforcement, which would help with enforcing parking violations locally. We are working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and a decision is expected in Autumn 2020. This work is an important part of the parking strategy for Didcot Garden Town.</p> <p>Thank you for your wishes of good luck. We feel that our first meeting went well and hope that we can hold more interactive public meetings soon. The full potential of Didcot Garden Town will be a long-term project and as you point out, we need near-term positive change as well. We cannot be successful without the</p>
--	--

		help of residents to understand what is working and what could be done better. Please continue to stay in touch.
7	Carolyn Machin	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>All adopted roads, footpaths and cycle paths are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. The quickest way to submit your concerns is to use their online reporting web page https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ or email highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p>
8	Angela Harding	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>Didcot Garden Town is a consultee for planning applications within the garden town boundary and will submit a response once an application has been filed.</p> <p>The Didcot Gateway proposals, you are referring to is part of a pre-application consultation which precedes the outline application. The consultation is currently being led by Homes England, and we would encourage any member of the public to respond on aspects of the information in the materials provided.</p>

		<p>We would advise you to submit your comments and concerns to the consultation they are currently running. This will ensure your points of concerns are included as part of the consultation record, to which the Homes England will be consider as part of the pre application process.</p> <p>You can do this by reviewing the proposals at www.didcotgateway.co.uk from 1 - 29 July 2020. Alternatively, you can:</p> <p>Email: planning@bartonwillmore.co.uk Or write to: Barton Willmore, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE</p>
9	Cllr Phil Davies	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the Garden Town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>Didcot Garden Town is a consultee for planning applications within the garden town boundary and will submit a response once an application has been filed. We are not able to accept public comments on behalf of the planning department but welcome your thoughts so that we can better understand how residents feel about the proposals.</p> <p>The Didcot Gateway proposals, you are referring to is part of a pre-application consultation which precedes the outline application. The consultation is currently being led by Homes England, and we would encourage any member of the public to respond on aspects of the information in the materials provided.</p> <p>We would advise you to submit your comments and concerns to the consultation they are currently running. This will ensure your points of concerns are included as part of the consultation record, to which the Homes England will be consider as part of the pre application process.</p>

		<p>You can do this by reviewing the proposals at www.didcotgateway.co.uk from 1 - 29 July 2020. Alternatively, you can:</p> <p>Email: planning@bartonwillmore.co.uk Or write to: Barton Willmore, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE</p> <p>With regards to your second question - Homes England have provided the following information to us about the North East corner. They will demolish buildings at the eastern end of the Gateway site as early as late summer/autumn 2020. This includes the former Labour Club site. Again, if you want to find out more about the plans, we suggest you contact Barton Willmore on the above contact details for more in-depth insight on their proposals.</p>
10	Adam Lydiate	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the Garden Town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>We note your interest in new open spaces and improvements, especially within the town centre. We are currently working with our Public Arts Development Officer to develop a creative plan to identify areas where public improvements could be implemented. The new spaces could potentially be in the form of public art and structures but also an opportunity to create a temporary pop-up uses and events.</p> <p>With your interest in these projects, we would encourage you to join our Resident or Business Sounding Boards that should be up and running towards the end of the year.</p> <p>Our plans are to hold each Sounding Board twice a year and to ask local residents, businesses and parish councils for their ideas on one or two projects at each meeting. We look forward to hearing local knowledge and insight into how we can develop the garden town. We hope to hold an online meeting later this year and will send you an invitation to join us for a meeting as soon as a date has been set.</p>

		<p>If you are interested in joining, please use the contact details below to submit your expression of interest. A member of the Delivery Team will be able to provide more information of the proposed schedule and how you will be able to participate.</p> <p>Email us on didcotgardentown@southandvale.gov.uk or give us a call on 01235 422473.</p>
--	--	--

Ref.	Name	Comment
11	Sabine Furlong	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>We are aware that Oxfordshire County Council is currently consulting on measures to temporarily close this road, among others in the county, to help people to stay safe while walking and cycling. This is in line with the Department of Transport's current active travel initiative to promote cycling and walking during the COVID-19 Recovery phase. We understand the temporary closure of Cow Lane is not being pursued going forward, however Basil Hill Road in Didcot is still being considered.</p> <p>You can still provide your views on the proposed temporary closure of Cow Lane and Basil Hill Road via the county council's website at: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/OxfordshireActiveTransport/consultationHome</p>
12	Mike McNicol	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p>

		<p>1) Following the COVID-19 outbreak and the introduction of social distancing rules in March, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils cancelled all their official meetings and acted quickly to focus their efforts on supporting local communities and vulnerable individuals.</p> <p>Thankfully, we are now able to conduct council committee meetings online via video conferencing and, although the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting is not statutory meeting, the advisory board members have chosen to make it available online to residents also. Councillors and officers use Microsoft Teams to take part in meetings. Residents can submit a statement or question prior to the meeting, which will be read out and answered online, time permitting. Once we are confident that the meeting can be viewed live online, we will look to introduce public participation.</p> <p>2) We are aware that Oxfordshire County Council is currently consulting on measures to temporarily close this road, among others in the county, to help people to stay safe while walking and cycling. This is in line with the Department of Transport's current active travel initiative to promote cycling and walking during the COVID-19 Recovery phase. We understand the temporary closure of Cow Lane is not being pursued going forward, however Basil Hill Road in Didcot is still being considered.</p> <p>You can still provide your views on the proposed temporary closure of Cow Lane and Basil Hill Road via the county council's website at: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/OxfordshireActiveTransport/consultationHome</p>
13	Angela Andrews	<p>We are aware that Oxfordshire County Council is currently consulting on measures to temporarily close this road, among others in the county, to help people to stay safe while walking and cycling. This is in line with the Department of Transport's current active travel initiative to promote cycling and walking during the COVID-19 Recovery phase. We understand the temporary closure of Cow Lane is not being pursued going forward, however Basil Hill Road in Didcot is still being considered.</p>

		<p>You can still provide your views on the proposed temporary closure of Cow Lane and Basil Hill Road via the county council's website at: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/OxfordshireActiveTransport/consultationHome</p>
14	Adam Warwick	<p>Thank you for getting in contact. We always encourage interested parties to get in touch, as it helps us understand how residents feel about projects in the garden town. You can now watch the first public Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board meeting here. We hope the following points help answer your enquiries.</p> <p>The Didcot Gateway proposals, you are referring to is part of a pre-application consultation which precedes the outline application. The consultation is currently being led by Homes England, and we would encourage any member of the public to respond on aspects of the information in the materials provided.</p> <p>We would advise you to submit your comments and concerns to the consultation they are currently running. This will ensure your points of concerns are included as part of the consultation record, to which the Homes England will be consider as part of the pre application process.</p> <p>You can do this by reviewing the proposals at www.didcotgateway.co.uk from 1 - 29 July 2020. Alternatively, you can:</p> <p>Email: planning@bartonwillmore.co.uk Or write to: Barton Willmore, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE</p> <p>Didcot Garden Town is a consultee for planning applications within the garden town boundary and will submit a response once an application has been filed. We are not able to accept public comments on behalf of the planning department but welcome your thoughts so that we can better understand how residents feel about the proposals.</p>

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 4d

		If you have any specific examples of projects that have not been considered in line with our policies, please contact us so that we can evaluate them and discuss them with officers who may be able to use them to improve our processes in the future.
--	--	--

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 6

Delivery Team Update

23 October 2020
Advisory Board Meeting

Governance

1. Sounding boards
 - a. The Parish Councils Sounding Board was held 22 September 2020
 - b. Business Sounding Board target is November 2020
 - c. Residents Sounding Board target is November 2020 or January 2021

Funding

1. Funding bid submitted to Homes England for 2020-21 garden communities programme round

Community Engagement

1. Newsletter issued
2. Virtual public art campaign – Make A Leaf – tell us your wish for DGT has had 30 responses

Housing Projects

1. Active projects: Didcot A (former power station), Former Amey Works, Gateway, Ladygrove East (250 units), NE Didcot reserved matters, Valley Park
2. Two denials for housing on Brasenose Road and 176 houses to the east of NE Didcot along with an appeal case for Sandringham Way project
3. Communication on West Valley Park site (“Milton Fields”) is ongoing

Other Projects

1. Gateway site
2. 116-120 Broadway site
3. Surgery site
4. Great Western Park community centres complete
5. Leisure study
6. Public open space at Great Western Park

Virtual Public Art engagement – Make a Leaf 30 leaf submissions and 29 wishes.

In five years' time, I wish...

- Didcot would have more outdoor spaces for the community to enjoy.
- Didcot will have more trees and more green areas.
- Didcot would have a Children's Secret Garden with hidden pathways, secret swings and slides.
- Didcot will have trees lining the roads and paths to help us breathe and show new life through the seasons. They will make Didcot greener and give pleasure all year round and create a garden town.
- Didcot good health, a beer festival at the Cornerstone and a climbing wall.
- Didcot is for both existing and new communities to come together in a connected way to create a sustainable and prosperous Garden Town.
- Didcot would have a youth centre, that children can visit for fun, or for help and someone to talk to.
- Didcot would have a community where everyone has fun, feels safe and is respected.
- Didcot could be a lovely town with lots of beautiful flowers.
- Didcot is for there to be improved access and facilities for wheelchair users.
- Didcot: a sense of calm.
- My wish for didcot a primark!
- Didcot would have a dog park.
- Didcot would have a bowling alley.
- Didcot would have an animal farm to visit.
- Didcot would have a water fountain to make wishes in.
- Didcot would have more trees and more green spaces accessible to all.
- Didcot would have an outdoor swimming pool.
- I want trees all over the garden town.
- Help the homeless.
- Didcot will have an end to Covid-19, people will continue to help one and other, spend time with their families, and continue to appreciate their surroundings and nature.
- Didcot would have: A bubble gum factory.
- Didcot would have: A dedicated bicycle only highway linking to Oxford, nearby

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 6

towns and business parks

- Didcot would have an ice rink.
- Didcot in five years would be to enjoy the green spaces that we have.
- I wish for happy times and togetherness.
- Didcot would have support for all ages, particularly Teenagers, providing them all with opportunities to develop, achieve and feel valued in their community.
- That Didcot continues to develop in a sustainable way.
- Didcot would have lots of shops.



Welcome to our special edition newsletter on the Gateway Spine.

Didcot Gateway Proposals

Homes England are inviting feedback on their new proposal to create a high-quality residential-led development at Didcot Gateway, located opposite Didcot Parkway train station.

The Didcot Gateway proposal includes up to 265 new homes and opportunities for new offices, a café and some retail space. The development will create a high-quality new gateway into Didcot, providing a mix of one to three bedroom homes, opportunities for commercial uses, new open spaces and improved connectivity from the railway station to the town centre.

The emerging proposal is being shared with the local community, by Homes England, and they would like your feedback on what is proposed. You can view and comment on the proposals until 29 July 2020.

To learn more about the project and have your say:

Visit: www.didcotgateway.co.uk

Email: planning@bartonwillmore.co.uk

Or write to: Barton Willmore, The Blade, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE

[Alternatively, you can view the consultation leaflet here.](#)



Didcot Parkway Improvements - New Cycle Hub!

If you've recently passed Didcot Parkway Station, you may have noticed some work taking place at the arrival space next on Station Road.

Great Western Railway are building a new exciting cycle hub project - made possible by the Department for Transport (DfT) cycle-rail funding and a contribution from the railway industry.

Good quality cycle parking is essential to encourage residents to travel by bike to Didcot Parkway Station and the project also complements Oxfordshire County Council's current improvements to the garden town and Science Vale cycle networks.

There are currently around 220 cycle parking spaces at Didcot Parkway, and these are already operating at capacity. The DfT predicts that there will be an increasing number of people travelling by bike to the station in the next few years too, so the cycle hub project will be able to cater for future demand.

The project will deliver: -

- A cycle hub for an additional 600 bicycles at Didcot Parkway Station
- Bicycle repair facilities
- The hub will cater for 'non-standard' bikes, such as recumbents
- The hub will be fully covered by CCTV and the design has been developed with British Transport Police

The artist's impressions below are visuals of what the arrival space may look like.



Active travel and COVID-19 Recovery



Oxfordshire County Council are currently consulting on measures to help people to stay safe while walking and cycling and is in line with the Department of Transport's current active travel initiative to promote cycling and walking during the COVID-19 recovery phase.

We understand that the county council are not going to pursue the temporary closure of Cow Lane to motorised vehicles but are still looking into temporarily closing Basil Hill Road in Didcot - this is among many other roads in the county.

To provide your views on the proposed closures, please visit the [county council's website here](#).

Why did you receive this email?

You have signed up to receive updates about the Didcot Garden Town project.

If you would like to know more about how we use and store your data, please visit the [South Oxfordshire](#) and [Vale of White Horse](#) District Councils websites.

If you would like to find out what data we hold about you or would like to be removed from our records, please contact us on [01235 422473](tel:01235422473) or by email on didcotgardentown@southandvale.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you've received or viewed our newsletter through other platforms, you can now register to receive updates [here](#).

July 2020

REPORT TO DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD – 23 October 2020

Public open space at Great Western Park

Purpose of report

To update the DGT Advisory Board on progress of the Great Western Park (GWP) development and seek views on public open space management that reflects garden town principles by involving local stewardship and sustainability.

Background

1. In August at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Cabinet Briefings and at a meeting for GWP Ward Members, officers updated Members on progress of the GWP development.
2. The original planning application for the site, granted in 2008 was for 3,300 homes, two primary schools, one secondary school, a health centre, play areas, allotments, sports facilities and other associated facilities.

General public open space

3. Under the terms of the s106 Agreement (July 2008), the current owner, Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, is to transfer public open spaces to the relevant district council, once they are in a satisfactory condition, following completion.
4. GWP has more than 70 land parcels, covering 70.23 hectares, at various stages of completion that include public open space, public urban space, outdoor recreation, play areas, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), wildlife areas and allotments. The general disposition of public open space is shown on the plan in Appendix One, taken from Taylor Wimpey's Open Space Strategy, which was approved as part of the planning process.
5. In autumn 2016, ownership of the Boundary Park Pavilion transferred to Vale of White Horse District Council and the associated sports pitches, which lie across the district boundary, transferred to both councils. The councils now lease the pavilion and sports pitches to the Boundary Park Sports Association (BPSA)
6. The Northern Neighbourhood Community Centre on Dan Reade Parade and the centre's enclosed garden space also transferred to South Oxfordshire District Council in early 2016 and is operated by the council.
7. Officers are currently looking at all options for the future sustainable management of the GWP public open space and, with Taylor Wimpey, have had some discussions with [The Land Trust](#). The Land Trust is a charitable organisation that is committed to the long term sustainable management of open space for community benefit. It is a national organisation developed out of the former English Partnerships and is responsible for the care of environments across the country from north to south. They are in dialogue with Taylor Wimpey about the financial viability of The Land Trust taking over GWP's open space management. However, this is not the preferred option for both district council

Cabinets and officers have been asked to explore other options including more involvement by the town council, parish council and GWP residents.

Allotments

8. There are three allotment sites at GWP, and officers would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in operating them.

GWP Health Centre – possible ‘meanwhile uses’

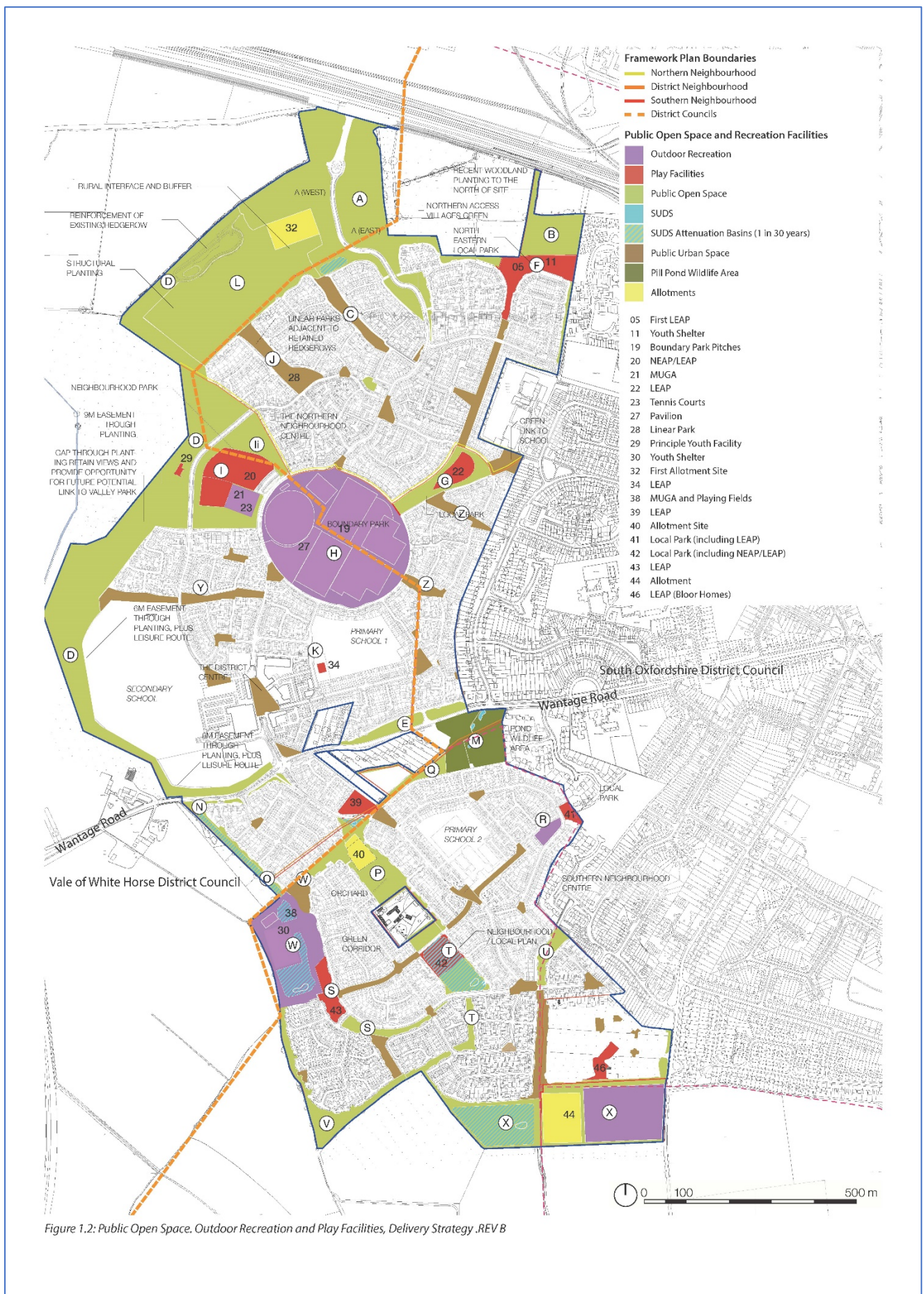
9. A plot of land is earmarked for a new health provision at GWP. A working group of officers from the council, Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group and a local GP practice is discussing how this will be brought forward. The land will shortly transfer to the Vale and any suggestions for meanwhile uses on the site would be welcome.

Community Centres

10. Two additional community centres have just been transferred to the councils and works are underway to fit them out and to meet Covid-19 government guidance for community centres to ensure they are as safe as possible.

GWP Public Open Space Plan appended below:

Appendix one – general disposition of GWP public open space



FEEDBACK FROM THE PARISH COUNCILS SOUNDING BOARD

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 7

KEY THEMES



HOUSING

- Need higher quality
- Reduce high density
- Not enough parking
- Garages are too small

GREEN BUFFER

- Buffers to remain between town and AONB
- Green gaps to be maintained
- Parish wards to strengthen and protect their identity



TRANSPORT

- Better connectivity of cycling routes to surrounding parishes
- Improvements and integration of mix-modal routes throughout town centre
- Traffic modelling to be more transparent
- Didcot is becoming grid locked

INFRASTRUCTURE

- How will rail travel support the overall infrastructure plans for the garden town?
- Better maintenance to footpaths and bridleways
- More parking needed in town



Didcot Garden Town



Parish Council Sounding Board Feedback – 22 September 2020

Themes	Parish Council Feedback	Follow Up - Supplementary Information
Active Transport and Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better connectivity needed of cycling routes to surrounding parishes to join the town up 2. Some cycle routes sited on the Science Vale Cycle Network (SVCN) have not been developed out (Route 8). 3. Some of cycle paths do not meet the Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards, with reference to the width. 	<p>We would encourage all sounding boards members with interest in the SVCN project, to register to the Oxfordshire County Council bulletin here. The bulletin provides continuous updates on built improvements to the network.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can find the latest construction updates here.</p>
Transport and Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the HIF1 routes tie in with the existing roads and cycle paths? 2. Better consultation about HIF1 designs and plans over the Appleford Sidings – Appleford was not consulted on flyover ideas which is in the parish 3. Didcot is already grid locked; how will this be mitigated when the long process of the HIF construction starts. 	<p>The HIF transport infrastructure package was put out for consultation in March and April of this year.</p> <p>https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/DidcotAreaInfrastructureUpdate/consultationHome</p> <p>About 22,000 mailers were sent by regular post to homes in the area so Appleford Parish Council will have had the link to online consultation documents showing transport proposals.</p> <p>The consultation included a bridge over the rail sidings for the river crossing near Appleford. Since that time, OCC have incorporated some changes based on comments they received. They are scheduling individual meetings with all parish councils and were able to meet with Appleford this week (after the parish council sounding board meeting). The OCC transport team feels that whilst Appleford would have like to have the alignment for the river crossing further to the west, they understand the explanation for why the alignment was set where it is.</p> <p>Latest progress on the HIF1 transport projects will be provided at the next DGT Advisory Board on Friday 23 October – the meeting will be recorded and published on our websites.</p>

Parish Council Sounding Board Feedback – 22 September 2020

		Oxfordshire County Council will develop a traffic management plan as part of the planned transport improvements. Please contact them at: HIF1project@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better maintenance to footpaths and bridleways is needed. 2. Footpaths from Didcot to the Milton Park entrance is unkept. 	<p>All adopted roads, footpaths and cycle paths are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. The quickest way to submit your concerns is to use their online reporting web page https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ or email highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p>
Public transport and infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is rail travel going to support the overall infrastructure? 2. Cycling and walking referenced a lot, but what about public transport. 	<p>The Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan includes work to study public transport and the idea of having autonomous vehicles run along the Garden Line. These are longer term visions, but transport is very much at the heart of the plan. The Didcot Garden Town team is now working with a consortium to trial autonomous vehicles that link Didcot Parkway to Milton Park.</p> <p>Earlier this year at Milton Park, one of three key employment sites in the Didcot Garden Town area, launched a new app called Mi-Link. The Mi-Link platform gives its users a full range of transport mode information including walking, cycle hire, e-bikes and all public transport details, as well as advising on traffic congestion. Over the coming months, the app will be expanded to include details of autonomous electric vehicles, which will provide public transport services around the park in 2021. This will offer even more opportunity for people to complete their journeys from door-to-door without the need of their private vehicle. You can find more information at www.miltonpark.co.uk/mi-link.</p> <p>The e-bike data from Milton Park shows that their bikes have continued to be very popular despite the recent COVID-19 outbreak, and many key workers, who have been reluctant to use public transport, have really appreciated the free bike service between Didcot Parkway and the business park. There is evidence that these bikes have been used to travel as far as Oxford.</p> <p>One example of an effort to accelerate active travel is Oxfordshire County Council's work to quickly add cycling provision as part of the COVID recovery action plan. Please visit the county council's website at https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/emergency-active-travel-fund/active-travel</p> <p>These projects require the support of the public to be successfully implemented.</p>

Parish Council Sounding Board Feedback – 22 September 2020

Housing	<p>1. Need high quality housing to be delivered, with more parking options.</p>	<p>Didcot Garden Town is a consultee for planning applications within the garden town boundary and will submit a response once an application has been filed.</p> <p>There are several council policies which officers use to support embedding garden town principles in new development, which includes design quality. These policies support development application reviews. Links to a few of these documents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan• Principles are being incorporated in the Local Plans of both South and Vale• Design Guidelines are approved for both South and Vale• Climate emergency work being done supports policy work, including development of the corporate policy for South and Vale <p>We implement the above policies during planning application reviews in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didcot Garden Town is a consultee and reviews most major development applications located within the boundary.• The South and Vale Planning team carefully assess planning applications for quality, using all relevant policy documents. In many cases officers engage in extensive negotiations with developers to push for quality outcomes.• Officers liaise with other stakeholders and agencies to ensure their comments and best practice design is implemented wherever possible.• Sustainability issues and the reliance on motorised vehicles, and the scope to use other modes of transport, is assessed in connection with all major development.
Parking	<p>1. There's limited parking in the town centre.</p>	<p>There is an active project to study the feasibility of Civil Parking Enforcement, which would help with enforcing parking violations locally. We are working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and a decision is expected in Autumn 2020. This work is an important part of the parking strategy for Didcot Garden Town, which we will continue to develop, once the CPE position becomes clearer.</p>

Parish Council Sounding Board Feedback – 22 September 2020

Open space and green infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Buffers to remain between town and AONB. This much be protected.2. Green gaps to be maintained.	The Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan includes strategies to maintain green gaps. Please see Figure 8.8 – Proposed Landscape Plan on page 239 of the document.
Meanwhile spaces and pop-up use. Retail	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gateway site, possibly as a meanwhile garden.2. Shops in the Broadway, more boutique, café culture.3. Orchard Centre is expensive.4. Can meanwhile uses be expanded to the broader area of influence?5. Could PCs share a pop-up space within Didcot for community connection?	We are currently working with our Public Arts Development Officer to develop a creative plan to identify areas where public improvements could be implemented. The new spaces could potentially be in the form of public art and structures but also an opportunity to create a temporary pop-up uses and events. Once a draft plan is developed, we will ensure to liaise with our parish and town council partners.

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 7

Minutes

Didcot Garden Town (DGT) Parish Council Sounding Board

Tuesday 22 September, 5:30–7pm, Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Parish and Town Councils

Didcot Town Council – Cllr Denise Macdonald
Sutton Courtenay Parish Council– Cllr Simon Lazare
Harwell Parish Council – Cllr Martin Rickets
Milton Parish Council – Cllr Mark Smith
Long Wittenham Parish Council– Cllr Gordon Rogers
Appleford Parish Council – Cllr Victoria Shepard
East Hagbourne Parish Council – Cllr Paul Dixon
Chilton Parish Council – Cllr Robert Girling
Blewbury Parish Council – Cllr Lydia Inglis

Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board Members

Cllr Ian Hudspeth
Cllr Sue Cooper
Cllr Judy Roberts
Cllr Rita Atkinson
Cllr David Rouane

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White District Councils - Internal Staff

Marybeth Harasz – Garden Communities Manager
Nicky Wyer – Didcot Garden Town Project Officer
Katie Embling – Development Projects Officer
Zoe Elford - Consultation and Community Engagement Team Leader

Didcot Town Council - Internal Staff

Guy Langton – Planning and Environment Officer
Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk

Key Discussion Summary

1.	Welcome
2.	Orientation Presentation – Status update on DGT NW to circulate slides following sounding board

Didcot Garden Town

23 October 2020

Agenda Item 7

3.	Breakout Session 1 – Insight and Concerns
	Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVCN route 8 not finished. Needs to be upgraded and maintained as a proper cycleway, with reference to the Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards. • Cycling routes and connectivity distorted especially through to town. Need greater connection to surrounding parishes. • Insufficient bus services including Chilton X32 under threat. • Traffic modelling to be more transparent. • Connectivity across the railway line. • How is rail travel going to support the overall infrastructure? • Upkeep of footpaths and bridleways.
	Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for high quality housing • Reduce high density • Not enough parking and garages which are too small
	Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little parking in the town. • Didcot is becoming grid locked – what will happen when HIF1 is being built out to help manage the network?
	Green Buffer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffers to remain between town and AONB • Green gaps to be maintained • PC's to maintain their identity
	Specific Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radcot Green development in Sutton Courtney/Appleford concern – NW confirmed not included in the housing figures. • Flyover for Appleford Sidings – Consultation questioned. MbH to follow up with OCC
4.	Breakout Session 2 – Pop Up Uses and Meanwhile Spaces
	Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway site, possibly as a meanwhile garden. • Shops in the Broadway, more boutique, café culture. • Orchard Centre is expensive. • Can meanwhile uses be expanded to the broader area of influence? • Could PCs share a pop-up space within Didcot for community connection?
5.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion raised that Parish Councils could have a pre-meeting with Rita Atkinson the Parish Representative for the DGT Advisory Board. • PCs within the area of influence may need a separate meeting.