

FOIV 2022 AGM

19th October 2022, 7-9pm, Church Hall Iffley

1. **Welcome**

Troth Wells as Chair welcomed members and Iffley and Rose Hill's local councillor Ed Turner, who joined the meeting at 7.40 p.m. Apologies had been received from his fellow Councillor Shaista Aziz and County Councillor Brad Baines.

2. **Minutes of 2021 AGM**

These were received, with a gloss on Cllr Shaista Aziz's statement that 'people have a right to live in [nice areas]'; it was agreed that by the term 'right' was meant 'a legitimate aspiration'.

In response, a comment was made that no such right exists in any international treaty or legal instrument that the UK is signatory to.

3. **Chair's report**

The Chair welcomed all and thanked those who have helped FOIV's activities, including the newsletter editor and deliverers; Mercure Hawkwell House and the Tree restaurant; and the committee. Peggy Seeger kindly donated her time and talent; and in June the Queen's Jubilee weekend was packed with celebrations; FOIV working with other groups and raising funds for Ukraine. Planning issues and other local concerns such as Covid and the cost of living crisis touched us all. FOIV regularly sends out e-newsletters to those who have signed up, to complement the print Newsletter.

The Chair was warmly thanked for all her work over the course of the year.

4. **Committee changes**

In the course of the year, Lucy Grabe-Watson, Anna Radford, Phil Hart, Kate Griffin, Emily Williams, Paul Pemberton and Rosie Penna resigned from the Committee, and were thanked warmly for their work.

5. **Committee reports**

The motions proposed by members arising from these reports are recorded below as item 14.

6. **General Planning Issues**

During the year FOIV have published 27 Bulletins covering General Planning applications, Court Place and other updates. FOIV reviewed the OCC weekly planning updates, responding if/where appropriate. When appropriate on applications where FOIV consider an objection should be raised, Phil Hart takes the matter to our Councillors who can use their judgement to request that the proposal goes before the planning committee rather than be dealt with by delegated powers to the planning officer. When potentially unapproved building works are drawn to our attention these are raised with the Enforcement Officer.

Reminder that works to any trees within the conservation area require prior approval from the tree officers that these works can take place.

7. **Court Place Gardens**

Felthams Construction started work. PH/BB formed an alliance with Rosehill Community Network, Rivermead Nature Park, Iffley and Rosehill Low Carbon, the church and FoSM, and lead monthly meetings with Felthams.

There is a good relationship with OUD and Jeremy Titchen, the OUD Project Manager, who is very helpful in responding to our queries and requests. The project has been registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme and our objective is to ensure that Felthams are meeting the minimum good standards that the scheme defines. The approach to Felthams about disposal of surplus furniture from old buildings was that they have now made this available to the community rather than it going to landfill. Phil Hart was asked if Felthams and University could look at energy hubs to service the wider community.

8. Iffley Mead

It was reported that the County was in discussion with the Planning officers of the City about the development of 84 or more houses on this site. The present FOIV Committee had raised no objection to this development but noted both that difficulties had been raised about access through Augustine Way, and that it had been mooted that Iffley Mead might become Car Free development, with its attendant issues concerning local parking.

9. Horse Fields and Memorial Field.

The Horse Fields, along with Memorial Field, is owned by OxPlace (formerly, Oxford City Housing Ltd), and the Horse Fields were designated as SP 42 for development of 29+ houses. FOIV's stance is opposed to this proposed development, since it lies in the Iffley Conservation Area, and is not possible to 'enhance and conserve' the Conservation Area by building over it, nor to produce a 'biodiversity net gain', as set out in LP 2036.

FOIV responded to two public consultations on OxPlace's design proposals, with detailed objections in the areas of ecology, Conservation Area characteristics, traffic, the designated Quiet Route, flood risk, development design, and public communications. After the second public consultation (Dec-Jan 2022), we expected that the application in April 2022, but this did not occur. FOIV has instructed a team of experts to assess the application when it is submitted, and has allocated some reserves for this, along with funds from an independent Crowdfunding appeal.

There was lively discussion on the payment of advice from experts from FOIV funds, which led to the resolution recorded in minute 14 below. Once the application is live, we will inform FOIV members how they can lodge their comments directly on the Planning website, and prepare a formal response.

FOIV wrote to OxPlace on 7 October reminding them of their land management obligations to provide a haycut of the meadows. CEO Helen Horne replied, saying that arrangements were under way; the haycut was undertaken a few days later. The mowers stayed away from the bottom of the meadows, for the safety of wildlife. We note that once again an outlier badger hole was driven over. We again urge OxPlace to have an ecologist on site when heavy machinery is being used on the meadows. The badger sett is still active: Luna the white badger and her three siblings are healthy and well, having survived the summer drought. Song thrush, woodpeckers, owls, and many other birds, foxes, roe deer and muntjac are regularly seen or heard, with bats arriving over the summer.

Membership supported a request by Nuala Young to graze her horses on Memorial Field over the winter months only. FOIV agreed to contact OxPlace CEO Helen Horne.

10. Membership

It was noted that there were presently 280 members. The problems of compliance with GDPR were mentioned.

11. Highways

During the year, FOIV has been active in publicising and commenting on a variety of highways / traffic / parking issues affecting Iffley. We are mindful of the possible Highway implications of the potential new builds in Iffley – and related issues more generally in Oxford – which are likely to have a major impact on local traffic and parking and will require a detailed response from FOIV when the proposals are published.

12. Security

Security concerns that have been brought to the attention of the FOIV committee have been reviewed at the committee meetings throughout the year. Appropriate actions, where applicable including reporting to, and liaising with the police, have been carried out and recorded in the committee meeting minutes.

13. Treasurer’s report and accounts

The Treasurer reported an excess of expenditure over income of £3560, leaving reserves of £12,859 at 31 March 2022. Although income had doubled over the prior period, there had been expenditure on professional fees in respect of Court Place and the Horse fields prospective development, in furtherance of FOIV’s purpose of the “conservation of the essential character of Iffley village and its Conservation Area.”

14. Resolutions relating to the Constitution

(1) In relation to expenditure by executive action of the Committee, a motion was passed limiting this to £1,000 for individual items from the date of the meeting. If greater sums that this were proposed for disbursement, it was agreed that an extraordinary meeting of FOIV would have to be called. The Committee reiterated, and the meeting agreed, that this vote is for future expenditure. As £7,970 (a value that was included in the treasurer's report) has already been agreed by the Committee as a two-part consultation process it lies outside of the motion that has been passed.

(2) The motion to amend the Constitution by limiting full voting rights in FOIV to those whose main domicile is within the Parish Boundary of Iffley (all others who choose to be members being designated as associates without voting rights) was defeated.

15. Election of committee members

Celia Palmer’s term of office was renewed, and she was thanked for her work as the Trees representative on the Committee. Anna di Stefano, David Broughton and Dominic Woodfield were elected, having been duly proposed and seconded. Bill Beaver was co-opted on to the Committee.