

## Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan Group

Minutes of a meeting held at Kingham House, Sydenham

Wednesday 25 September 2024 7pm

Present                    Mark Kermack, Chair  
                                 Michael May  
                                 Tara Glen  
                                 Toby Roe

Apologies                Mark Oliver

### Introduction

Since the Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan was written in 2020 (adopted in May 2021) ("SNP21"), two significant planning policy documents have been published and a third is emerging:

1. The updated National Planning Policy Framework ("new NPPF") was published on 19 December 2023;
2. The SODC Local Plan was adopted on 20 December 2020; and
3. The SODC/Vale of the White Horse Joint Local Plan is emerging, estimated to be adopted Autumn 2025

In addition, as part of the SNP21 the parish undertook to regularly review the plan.

The meeting agreed that a review and update to the SNP21 is needed, in order to:

1. Alignment with current national policy: Updating the plan would ensure it aligns with the latest national planning guidance and policies.
2. Extending the plan would ensure the Neighbourhood Plan remains relevant and up-to-date.
3. Alignment with new strategic policies: The neighbourhood plan will need to ensure it aligns with and is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the newly adopted SODC local plan.
4. Plan period: The current Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2019-2034. The emerging joint local plan is likely to have a longer time horizon, so Sydenham may want to extend its plan period to align with this.

Updating the Neighbourhood Plan would ensure it remains an effective tool for guiding development in Sydenham in line with current national planning policy and local priorities. It would also provide an opportunity to reassess the vision, objectives and therefore policies for the parish based on any changes since the original plan was created.

### Actions outstanding from previous meetings:

1.	None	
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## Actions from meeting

1.	<p><b>Village Communication</b>  Village meeting to be arranged for Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 730pm in the OSR  TR to produce the presentation covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why a review and update is needed</li> <li>• Suggested updates, inc feed back from the meeting</li> <li>• Timetable, inc village consultation periods</li> </ul>	<p>MK – Done   TR – Jan</p>
2.	<p><b>Suggested Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape – The setting with consideration of the Chilterns National Landscape (formerly AONB)</li> <li>• Environment/Green Infrastructure Policy - Building on Policy SYD5 (Local Green Space), a broader green infrastructure policy could be added to protect and enhance green corridors, protect hedgerows, wildlife habitats, and ecosystems throughout the parish</li> <li>• Integrated Parking Provision Policy - To preserve the village's pastoral character and ensure unobstructed thoroughfares, new developments must incorporate sufficient off-street parking facilities commensurate with their scale and anticipated occupancy</li> <li>• Dark Skies Policy - Given Sydenham's rural character, a policy to protect dark skies and limit light pollution from developments</li> <li>• Historic Environment Policy - Expanding on Policy SYD4 (Local Heritage Assets), a more comprehensive historic environment policy could be developed to align with the detailed policies in the Joint Local Plan</li> <li>• Local Views enhancement</li> <li>• Assets of Community Value</li> <li>• Design Code enhancement</li> </ul>	<p>All - ongoing</p>
3.	<p><b>ONPA</b>  TG to attend meeting on 12/10/24 and ask questions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Needs Assessment in light of no Local Plan requirement, and therefore Site allocation</li> <li>• SODC Housing Needs Assessment vs New Government targets</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> </ul>	<p>TG - Oct</p>

## Next Meeting

Tbc

Village Meeting – Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 730pm, OSR