

Notes of Neighbourhood Plan specialist groups meeting held on 14/07/2025 at the Community Room, The Pavilion, Sunningdale Parish Council

- Key themes which were considered:
 - Environmental policies: gaps between our villages, biodiversity
 - Housing policies & design guidelines
 - Parking & infrastructure

A meeting was held with specialist groups to discuss the above themes. Attendees from: Society for Protection of Ascot & Environs (SPA), Neighbourhood Plan Development Group (NPDG), Holy Trinity School, Wildlife in Ascot (WiA), and others. Alison Eardley, independent planning consultant, was also in attendance.

Officers and councillors in attendance: Nikki Tomlinson, Deputy Clerk, Sunningdale Parish Council, Cllr Anne-Catherine Buxton, Sunningdale PC, Cllr Lily Evans, Sunningdale PC; Olivia Marsden, Project Administrator, Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council, Cllr Robin Wood, Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council.

- There was broad discussion about how the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) refresh could be achieved, with contributions from former members of the NPDG, who developed the existing Neighbourhood Plan.
- It was confirmed that, as the present NP working group is not a committee, that it was not required to publish minutes of meetings publicly.
- **Housing & design:** Questions were raised about what is meant by “mix of housing” – does that mean smaller properties? Is there a budget for housing allocation?
- Some areas have a community land trust – should one be set up for our area? This is where the community owns the land, making it easier for affordable housing to be built there.
- The character of the area, the current policy in the existing NP works well. What about non-designated views? **Action: Olivia & Nikki to look at their own parish areas.**
- **Environmental policies:** WiA talked about the importance of gardens and green spaces locally. There are a lot of green spaces which mean a great deal to people locally. Alison asked that we consider designating green spaces and encouraging people to nominate green areas which matter to them. **Action: Olivia & Nikki to contact their respective communities?**
- What about gaps between villages? We need to identify these properly.
- **Parking & infrastructure:** This is a difficult issue which was discussed. It was acknowledged that there is a lack of suitable parking for both residents and visitors to our parishes.
- It was suggested that both parish councils engage the knowledge and expertise of local specialist groups and get views and opinions on the above topics, over the summer. **Action: Olivia & Nikki to contact groups.**