

Lyneham Steering Group Meeting

This is the summary of the Key Point Notes from the second Lyneham Steering Group meeting held in Lyneham Primary School, Lyneham on the 18th May 2011. See Appendix 1 for list of attendees.

Ref Item	Key Point Notes Summary	Owner Action By
1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>TS welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Lyneham Steering Group (LSG). On behalf of the group he thanked Mrs Julie Carr, Head Teacher, for hosting the meeting at her school.</p> <p>For the benefit of new members, members were asked to introduce themselves and state what organisation they were representing.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Attendees were invited to declare any special interests in the context of the LSG. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p>Action points from last meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the key point notes from the first LSG meeting on the 7th April were correct.</p> <p>ACu, Service Director for Economy & Enterprise (including Planning), was invited to update the group about the planning context for Lyneham and other Lyneham related work as follows:</p> <p>Planning context for Lyneham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was explained that Wiltshire Council was developing the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS) which would determine land use in the county up to 2026 • Policies were included in the WCS that relate to the re-use of the Lyneham site. The WCS was due to go to Cabinet (Wiltshire Council's decision-making body) on the 24th May in advance of a period of public consultation (starting on 13th June for a period of 8 weeks) • Lyneham was in the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area, and this has been chosen as a pilot for what was known as 'neighbourhood planning'. A neighbourhood plan would have weight in planning terms. If no continued use for the site was identified, a planning brief for the site would be produced to inform future development • Natural England was looking at the site as a national pilot. Earlier Natural England was involved at RAF Hullavington where they were responsible for examining the archaeology of the site and listing a number of World War 2 buildings <p>In discussion it was evident that Wiltshire Council had already carried out a considerable amount of work in relation to Lyneham in Planning terms and they would continue to do so, including talking to any potential developers who approached them.</p>	

<p>3...</p>	<p>RAF Lyneham Economic Impact Assessment</p> <p>ACu also updated the group on a recent study to examine the economic impact of the closure of RAF Lyneham, particularly on local businesses (Previously, in 2009 Wiltshire Council published a report on the military presence in the county which considered the economic impact of RAF Lyneham). This latest piece of work was commissioned by the North Wiltshire Economic Partnership (NWEPP) and Wiltshire Council and the study was carried out by Roger Tym and Partners.</p> <p>Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work focused on the impact of the RAF closure on the local business community. Twenty-three out of twenty-five local businesses took part in the study • The study found that there would be around £52m less spend in the local community as a result of the closure • Relative to other parts of the country the Wiltshire economy was doing quite well in these 'difficult' economic times e.g. unemployment was quite low whilst economic activity was quite high • A surprisingly high proportion of businesses (35%) replied 'Don't know' when asked whether they expected to change the way they run their business as a result of the RAF draw-down/closure • The study has given a clear steer on what Wiltshire Council, NWEPP and the chambers of commerce needed to do to assist businesses through this period of change and uncertainty • The findings of the study – completed in May – were still being considered <p>During discussion it was acknowledged the study could be interpreted in 2 ways: either the economic impacts were a serious threat to the local economy, or Wiltshire could absorb the closure of Lyneham because the rest of the local economy was quite buoyant. Therefore, there was a need to be careful about the message that was sent to government. Other areas of the country are competing with Wiltshire for military re-use of sites e.g. Kinloss and may be chosen if their need is perceived to be greater.</p> <p><u>Decisions.</u> It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community wanted to be actively involved in Planning matters concerning Lyneham • Partners (NWEPP, chambers of commerce and Wiltshire Council) needed to work together to support businesses in Lyneham village 	<p>All to note</p> <p>CM, SB, and IC</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Progress on Lyneham Issues & Actions Table</p> <p>TS re-emphasised the importance of communication within the group. The community needed to know about the impending closure of the RAF base because some people still didn't believe</p>	

4...	<p>it was happening. Officially the RAF base will close by the end of December 2012 although the pace of the RAF drawdown will speed up significantly in the weeks ahead. It was anticipated the decision about any further MoD use of the base would be made by government by the end of July.</p> <p>IC informed the group of important dates in the RAF drawdown: the last Hercules aircraft was due to leave Lyneham on the 1st July and the runway would be closed by 30th September. After discussion RC suggested the RAF Lyneham communications team could liaise with the Wiltshire Council communications team to ensure that the same consistent messages were going out to the public.</p> <p>TS reviewed progress on the Lyneham issues and actions table. Currently, there were 29 issues listed under 8 different headings. Please see the attached table (now 30 issues and 9 headings).</p> <p>The gap between the RAF closure of the site (31st December 2012) and any further MoD re-use or private sector use is considered to be the highest priority issue in the table. Main discussion points were:</p> <p>Accommodation/housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Families Accommodation (SFA) at Lyneham was not part of the RAF disposals process, and the long-term future of the housing needed to be confirmed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) • In particular, concern was expressed about what would happen to the houses once they started becoming vacant and vulnerable to unauthorised occupation, stealing and damage • About 500 homes will become empty as a result of the RAF drawdown (around 250 other homes will remain occupied by Service personnel at Lyneham due to the national shortage of accommodation) • AK was concerned on behalf of her parish council about the loss of Council Tax in the area as houses became vacant and the impact this could have on the remaining residents in Lyneham <p>Children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 play areas in Lyneham. The Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council was responsible for maintenance but insurance requirements (thought to be a RAF responsibility) needed to be confirmed <p>Schools and education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was raised over the independently run pre-schools in Lyneham and whether any help could be provided to them. It was difficult to judge what assistance might be possible without knowing the length of the gap between the RAF closure and any re-use of the site either by the MoD or the private sector 	
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4...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyneham Village Independent Pre-School needed to be put in touch with Wiltshire Council's Early Years Childcare Team. Currently, the pre-school has 54 children which will reduce drastically to 15 in September after the school holidays. Also, the pre-school asked to be specifically named in the issues and actions table in view of the seriousness of their concerns <p>Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AK pointed out that security of the SFA will be responsibility of the DIO as it is private property, and not the responsibility of the civilian police. The importance of continued patrols and maintenance of the MoD Police presence for as long as possible was emphasised <p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threat of possible water contamination needed to be considered in the context of reduced demand for the supply of water. Apparently, some properties in Bradenstoke get their water supply from RAF Lyneham It was confirmed that Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council maintain the ditches <p><u>Decisions.</u> It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC would ask the RAF Lyneham communications team to liaise with the Wiltshire Council communications team IC will arrange a meeting between TS and DIO (Housing) to establish DIO's intentions concerning SFA at Lyneham Wiltshire Council will investigate the Council Tax position in the Lyneham area AB will put Lyneham Village Independent Pre-School in touch with the Early Years and Childcare Manager at Wiltshire Council Concerns about the security of empty SFA will be brought to the attention of the MoD Police and civilian police Wiltshire Council will investigate responsibility for the ownership of ditches near the RAF base Concerns about possible water contamination will be brought to the attention of the water supply authority 	RC IC IC/JJ AB IC IC/JJ JJ
5.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>To improve communications, and allowing for the time taken to produce Key Point Notes, it was agreed that a set of 'key messages' would be agreed at the end of the meeting. These key messages would be sent out to members of the group promptly, so that they could feedback to their organisations in a timely manner.</p>	All to note
6.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>TS thanked all members for their participation in the meeting. The next meeting will be held at 4 pm on Thursday 21st July in St Michael's Church Hall, Lyneham.</p>	All to note

Josh Jones/Caroline Lightfoot

Wiltshire Council

Appendix 1

Lyneham Steering Group Meeting Attendees – 18th May 2011

Attendees					
TS	Cllr Toby Sturgis (Wiltshire Council)	√	PG	Peter Gantlett (Clyffe Pypard Parish Council)	x
SB	Stefan Barbaruk (Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce)	√	EH	Cllr Emma Holton (Calne Town Council)	√
MB	Mark Barrett (Calne Chamber of Commerce)	x	JJ	Josh Jones (Wiltshire Council)	√
AB	Cllr Allison Bucknell (Lyneham Ward)	√	AK	Ann Kingdon (Lyneham Women's Institute)	√
JC	Julie Carr (Lyneham School)	√	CL	Caroline Lightfoot (Wiltshire Council)	√
AC	Cllr Andrew Chapman (Dauntsey Parish Council)	√	CM	Colette Mallon (North Wiltshire Economic Partnership)	√
RC	Squadron Leader Rob Connolley (RAF Lyneham)	√	DM	David May (St Michael's Parish Church)	√
WC	Bill Cotton (Swindonforward)	x	LM	Lisa Mitchell (Community Development Worker, RAF Lyneham)	x
ACu	Alistair Cunningham (Wiltshire Council)	√	DO	Don Oakley (Malmesbury Chamber of Commerce)	√
CC	Cllr Christine Crisp (Calne Area Board)	√	MP	Mark Packard (Chippenham Area Board)	x
WD	Bill Dowling (HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade)	√	JR	Jo Ramage (Lyneham Village Pre-School)	√
PD	Cllr Peter Doyle (Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board)	√	JRi	Jean Rimmer (Little Albert's Pre-School)	√
SE	Sonita Ellis (Wootton Bassett School)	√	SS	Sarah Still (Tokenham Parish Council)	√
JF	Jeff Files (Hilmarton Parish Council)	√	VS	Veronica Stubbings (Broad Town Parish Council)	√
DF	Drena Frankham (Lyneham Business Representative)	√	CW	Cllr Chris Wannell (Wootton Bassett Town Council)	√
TF	Cllr Tanya Franks (Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council)	√		Members of the public x 2	√
AF	Alan Friend (Wootton Bassett Chamber of Commerce)	√	IC	Ian Cambrook (Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Programme Manager)	√

