

OXFORD BROOKES WHEATLEY CAMPUS

When the outline planning permission for up to 500 dwellings was granted on appeal in April 2020, it was clear that there would be a number of issues affecting local residents to be resolved both before and during the development of the site. It is worth noting that the site lies within the parish of Holton, but an additional 500 houses would have a huge impact on Wheatley.

With this in mind, it was felt that should be material co-operation between the two parishes to ensure a co-ordinated approach to Brookes, South Oxfordshire District Council and the developer in due course. For this reason, we set up a group, cleverly titled the Brookes Liaison Group, with representatives of Holton Parish Council, Wheatley Parish Council and Wheatley Park School.

There will be many matters arising throughout the course of the development which both communities will wish to discuss with Brookes and the developer in particular with the clear intention of influencing their approach and decisions for the benefit of local residents.

There are likely to be a number of organisations who would like to have a say on what happens on the site, both during and after the construction phase, but separate approaches from these organisations to the key players may be conflicting. We feel strongly that discussions with South Oxfordshire District Council, Brookes and the developer will carry much more weight coming from a body representing both parishes. Therefore, we urge anyone with an interest in influencing outcomes on the site to channel their ideas through the Brookes Liaison Group so that we can work together.

At present it appears that it might be some time before any construction work commences. Among other things we understand that there are some legal issues to tidy up before the site can be fully marketed.

Please contact us if you have any matters which you wish to be considered.

Robert Barter – Chair of Holton Parish Council (rbarter@holtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

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