

Draft Constitution of “Save South Winchester Campaign Group”

To be formally approved by a Special General Meeting (see below).

Name

Save South Winchester Campaign Group (SSWCG)

Aims/objectives

SSWCG is a politically unaligned group established to campaign to preserve and to protect the rural nature of the environment to the south of Winchester from large scale development for the future benefit and amenity of residents and the wider population. The applicable area is the east half of Hursley, plus Oliver’s Battery and Compton & Shawford Parishes. Broadly speaking, this includes the land bordered by the A3090 and Otterbourne Road, south of Oliver’s Battery and Badgers Farm Road to Poles Lane and Hursley village.

And more specifically within that area to advocate to:

Shield historical heritage and conversation sites

Maintain distinct and separate settlements

Avoid damaging important rural views

Stop any worsening in ground water flooding problems

Also,

To ensure that the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield sites is at the heart of local planning

How will SSWCG operate

SSWCG will be made up of volunteer “members” (see below). When necessary, specific input may be sought from experts or consultants who may be paid; campaigning materials may also be required; the group may also need paid media or publicity.

Other interested parties - e.g. those who follow the Facebook page or those who sign any petition - may not wish to become members and will remain as SSWCG followers.

SSWCG may seek donations from members and followers of the campaign aims for its purposes. Unless expressly designated otherwise by any donor in writing to SSWCG, donations will be considered as non-refundable gifts.

SSWCG Members are expected to comply with all relevant law and codes, including, but not limited to, the codes administered by the Advertising Standards Authority and the law of defamation. SSWCG will apply the principles of GDPR (May 2018).

As stated, SSWCG is a campaigning group, made up of volunteers with no specific skills related to planning or development. Whilst SSWCG will endeavour to ensure that material or information it makes public is “legal, decent, honest and truthful”, the media sites used to promote the campaigning messages will not be moderated by SSWCG. Accordingly, SSWCG is not responsible for the content or accuracy of such published information and will not be responsible for decisions made based upon such information.

Members

Membership will be open, inclusion to membership is automatic subject to provision of name and contact details and agreement to comply with the SSWCG constitution. There is no fee and anyone on the membership list will be entitled to a vote at general meetings as convened for the inception of the Group and on an ongoing basis (at least annually) by the Management Committee. Some of the Members will volunteer to contribute time, ideas or materials to the development and implementation of the campaign group's activities.

Membership will cease in the following circumstances:

At the member's request

If the group ceases its activities

If in the judgment of the Management Committee a member has engaged in activities that contradict or are incompatible with any of the aims of the group

If a member behaves or acts contrary to relevant law or any relevant code of practice.

Management of the Group

Management of the group will be undertaken by a Management Committee appointed from amongst the membership, including a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary. These positions will initially be filled by volunteers and ratified by the members at SSWCG's first Special General Meeting of members.

These positions will be subject to annual election/re-election at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any vacancies falling due between AGMs will be filled via volunteers and ratified by the Management Committee for the rest of that annual voting cycle. The Management Committee may co-opt members with particular expertise (who must agree to comply with the SSWCG constitution) to attend Committee Meetings because they have specific skills or knowledge required. For example, but not exclusively, knowledge about environment/socio economic matters or traffic management.

The Management Committee has the following responsibilities:

Planning and reviewing the campaign's activities

Keeping a record of decisions made

Keeping proper financial records and accounts

Keeping membership and wider interested stakeholders informed

Controlling expenditure and allocating funds to projects

Purchasing of services and goods in pursuit of aims

Investment of unallocated reserves

Controlling fundraising and reporting to funders

Adhering to membership policy (including upkeep of the membership list) and treating members/volunteers fairly and equitably

Exercising good governance and ensuring clear individual roles and responsibilities

The delegation of roles and responsibilities to sub committees/task and finish groups as appropriate

Risk management and compliance with regulation (eg GDPR)

Management Committee Meetings

Meetings will be a minimum of monthly but maybe be scheduled more regularly if required.

Their primary purpose is to agree actions and monitor progress against previously agreed activity

It will be quorate if there are 3 or more committee members present

Decisions will be based on the majority view and in the event of no majority the Chair will have the deciding vote

Member Meetings (AGM/SGM)

Members will be invited to approve the constitution and at least annually thereafter at an AGM to consider the election of Committee members.

Decisions on the election of Committee members, on the constitution and any amendments thereto will be based on the majority view of members attending the relevant meeting.

The AGM will also formally update members on activity untaken/planned and finances

AGMs and SGMs must be notified to all members on the membership list 7 days in advance outlining the agenda, time and location

New Committee members can be proposed by any member in advance of the AGM as long as they are seconded by another member. If an incumbent also wishes to stand for re-election there will be a vote of the members to determine the outcome of the election?

There may also be Special General Meetings (SGMs) called from time to time

To be quorate an AGM or SGM will have at least 5 members to be in attendance.

Bank account(s)

Banking will be agreed, set up and maintained by the Management Committee. There will be 3 signatories and a requirement of 2 signatories for any spend, agreement for which will be in writing by email or WhatsApp. The acceptance of funds or expenditure, in either case over £2000, will require full Management Committee approval.

Commitments to spend will only be made from cleared funds in the bank account.

Dissolution

The dissolution of the SSWCG requires a motion to do so and a majority of 2/3rds vote at a quorate AGM or SGM

Upon dissolution assets including any intellectual property will be given to a group with similar aims; and in the case of money will be donated to a charity proposed by the Management Committee and approved at a SGM.