

Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Mawnan NDP Steering Group held on 18 March 2019 at The Bowling Club, Mawnan Smith

Present: Terry Damer (Chair); Dennis McQuillan (Sec); Peter Stokes (Treasurer), Richard Martin, Mick Hartley, Georgena Morris, Cllrs Jackie Whibley and Rex Sadler, Simon Sheldrake, and 14 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Jon Holt and Melissa Mercer.

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (28 Jan 19) had been circulated. No alterations had been requested and the Chair accepted them as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Para 4c. A face-to-face meeting had been arranged with James Evans on 25 February 2019 at which the Working Group leaders undertook to provide him with the required input (policies and supporting material) to formulate the Draft NDP. The LCA leader undertook to complete the draft LCA document by early March as this was a vital document in the process.

4. Finance

a. £2930 had been lodged with the Parish Council (PC). There had been only minor expenditure in the current period to 31 March 2019. The consultant's fees were awaited but it was likely that a surplus would be returned to Locality. A new bid would be produced in April and that would likely encompass the expenditure required until the end of the NDP process currently planned for April 2020.

b. The Chair reminded the audience that a total of £9,000 was available from Locality. In addition, the PC had funded £700 of start-up costs outside the available grant.

(Since the meeting the need to return unspent funds to Locality by the end of the budget period had changed; instead they could roll-over to the next period. This would allow us to plan more precisely for the expensive period ahead which would encompass consultant fees, document production and public consultation exercises.)

5. Progress

a. Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). The draft LCA had been completed by 12 March and had been forwarded to James Evans (Consultant), to Sarah Furley (CC NDP Planner) and to Kath Statham (CC Landscape Architect) for comment. It had also been circulated to the Steering Gp and a copy placed on the NDP website seeking comment. Links were provided via the Newsletter to the contact group (approx. 240 people). Three

hard copies were to be placed; one to the PC Chairman, one in the Parish Office for public access, and one in Cornish Maid for public reading. Initial comment from the consultant had been positive. D McQ explained the background and need for the LCA and recorded his thanks to the team who had helped bring the assessment to fruition.

(For the record, the team comprised: DMcQ, Mike and Carol Hurst, Ruth Walker, Melanie Williams, Rod Allday and Mick Hartley)

b. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The consultant was working on the SEA version of the Draft NDP document which would reflect the vision, objectives and policies sent to him by the working groups (WGs). It had been hoped to complete this work by end-March 2019, but it was now likely to be end-April before it was available for inspection, comment and redrafting before submission to Cornwall Council. They would check the legality of the policies and determine whether environmental factors such as AONB, SSSIs, heritage sites and scheduled monuments were impacted by the plan. The Chair emphasised the need for the WGs to expedite their input to the document. After discussion, and in the hope that the draft NDP would be available, it was agreed that the next public meeting would be held on 13 May 2019 at which the consultant had agreed to attend.

c. Carbon Reduction. The Chair and Cllr Whibley had attended a Conference on Climate Change and NDPs at Tremough campus on 9 March. It concluded that climate change was a real and existential threat to us all. Cornwall Council had declared a Climate Emergency in January 2019 and several Parish Councils had followed suit. There were recommendations for the latter to follow and these would be followed up by JW at forthcoming PC meetings. The full text of JW's speaking notes are at Annex A. NDPs had a role to play by including policies that promote and recommend:

- High standards of energy efficiency and the provision of renewable energy for all homes and businesses.
- That all new homes be designed to meet Net Carbon Zero Building Standards and have rainwater harvesting facilities.
- The use of ground/heat source pumps as an alternative to oil or gas heating systems.
- Provision of clean energy systems such as wind turbines and solar arrays to supply local needs.
- Improved insulation for new and current housing and for business accommodation.
- Increased woodland cover.
- Small scale and local farming to include community food production.
- Protection and extension of local green space.
- Resistance to "change of use" applications that may harm local amenities and services by increasing the carbon footprint.

The Chair emphasised that we could not dictate design to support eco-friendly initiatives but could recommend plans to reduce the carbon footprint

6. Settlement Character Assessment (SCA)

a. The consultant considered that an SCA or Design Statement should be included with our NDP to provide developers and planners with principles which they should follow when considering applications for new builds within the parish. No such document currently exists, nor is there a parish-wide vernacular building design. However, certain areas of the parish had a local vernacular, and these should be respected. Mick Hartley would lead the assessment which would describe our main settlement areas by division of the parish built-environment into manageable bite-size chunks. The use of our street reps and LCA groups could support the description effort. The Chair would provide a checklist of design features against which to record findings and take photos.

(Subsequently, a team of 10 had been put together and work was on-going to evaluate the area. Base results should be available by Easter and correlation into a document for the consultant shortly after.)

b. It was queried whether a settlement edge/boundary was required. As the main settlement (Mawnan Smith) lay centrally within an AONB and the likely policy for house building in the NDP would be for small-scale infill or rounding projects, a boundary was not required. The provision of one along geographic features (the normal method for defining a boundary) could give rise to unwanted development or provoke dissension among landowners.

7. Any Other Business

a. A plea was made by the Environment and History WG for information about green spaces and modern artefacts in the parish that need to be protected.

b. The Business/Leisure and Amenities joint WG were working towards a selective series of face-to face meetings with owners/managers to determine whether their plans included any development aspects. A common Questionnaire was to be used; it was hoped to conclude the interviews by Easter.

c. It was suggested that the Town Planning Institutes Guide on Carbon Reduction (published 2019) was the gold standard and had been employed by Gwinnear and Gwithian parishes in their NDP submissions.

8. Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Steering Group would be held in the Bowling Club at 7.00 pm on Monday 15 April 2019. This would be an in-house WG meeting to ensure that progress had been made on input to the consultant.

The next public meeting would be held on Monday 13 May 2019 with the NDP consultant, James Evans in attendance. The Chair thanked those present for their involvement and the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.

T Damer
Chair
Mawnan NDP

10 April 2019

Notes by Cllr Jackie Whibley 12/03/2019

Climate Change and Neighbourhood Planning Conference

Penryn- Tremough Campus- Saturday 8th March 2019

Background:

Cornwall Council declared a Climate Emergency on 22nd January 2019 and a number of parish councils have followed suit. The ambition is that Cornwall is carbon neutral by 2030. 75% of the reduction in emissions of greenhouse gas has been achieved by phasing out dependence on coal, but this is not enough. The conference was to share understanding of the impact of climate change on Cornwall, and to discuss how local councils and communities can help through Neighbourhood Development Plans and Emergency Plans.

A website has been set up to follow on from the conference, with speaker biogs and links via youtube to the presentations as they were delivered. Go to www.zerocarboncornwall.wordpress.com.

Key points:

- Climate change is a very real and existential threat to us all. Historical trend data and future predictions of climate change concur that global warming is occurring regionally across the globe at differential levels, and devastatingly in the arctic (much faster than predicted).
- Greenhouse gases impact far more on sea temperature (and ph) than on the atmosphere. The last 4 years have been the 4 warmest in history. The goal is to contain the rise to +1.5 degrees C vs. pre industrial levels. Beyond this we can expect catastrophic changes in climate. Sea levels could rise by 25 metres if the planet warms to +3.0 degrees, and by up to 70 metres if it escalates to +4.0 degrees C. At this level 50% of all species will have become extinct- including humans. (200 species a day are already becoming extinct.)
- The current level of CO₂ is 411.75 parts per million, and has never been as high in the history of the planet.
- 75% of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and CO₄ (methane)) are generated by energy production and usage, 25% from land use.
- There will be more variability and extremes of weather for more sustained periods as slower-moving blocking systems of high/ low pressure develop.
- Expect mass migrations from uninhabitable regions. And if high temperatures (35 degrees C or above) combine with high humidity, life will become extinct.
- We are the first generation to realise the danger we are in, and the last that can do something about it. This will be our legacy to all future generations.

- Climate resilience needs to be embedded at all levels of society. Local government and parish councils are now operating in a new world, and need to get involved. NDPs can support the effort of Cornwall Council in seeking bio diversity, energy efficiency, local walking/ cycling routes, managing coastal change, green infrastructure and resilience to flooding.

What can our Parish Council do?

5 Big Objectives were suggested (see leaflet):

1. Declare a climate emergency: show support for the Council and demand that Westminster takes a meaningful lead on addressing climate change.
2. Form a Climate/ Environment Action Group: explore ideas and actions we can take within our community
3. Inform and educate- bring the community together to envisage a better future
4. Short- term actions- immediate opportunities with immediate impact, at little/ no cost
5. Longer-term goals- projects that may take longer , cost more or need to be planned

Several ideas were suggested for each of these objectives (see leaflet)

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):

- Very important to finish creating our legally binding NDP
- Consider including policies which promote high standards of energy efficiency, and include provision of renewable energy for all homes and businesses
- Consider policies for all new homes to be certified to Passivhaus Standards, or Net Carbon Zero Building Standards. And for no surface water to enter the public drainage system: they need to have rainwater harvesting facility.
- Include policies to prevent installation of oil or gas heating systems in new homes or businesses: recommend ground/heat source pumps, and electric sourced from renewable energy. It will soon be cheaper to get electricity from PV panels than from a power station: and current metrics suggest they repay their carbon debt within a few months.
- Include provision for Clean Energy Schemes (wind turbines, solar arrays) and electric car charging points within the parish: be as self- contained for community energy use as possible (65% of energy is wasted in the delivery of energy from a power station to a 3- pin plug).
- 80% of today's homes will still be occupied by 2055. We need to get on with improving insulation, and making them more energy efficient- even if they are listed buildings: retro-fitting should be possible when energy efficiency is weighed against heritage.
- Can we set up community car sharing?
- Cornwall has only 7-8% woodland cover: biogas is not a way forward unless we plant more (mixed coppice) woodland.

- Include policies to support small scale and local farming, and food growing in the community (shared tools, even?), and with a view to supporting increased biodiversity
- Include policies to protect and extend local green spaces (for both social and environmental benefits)
- Have policies to resist “change of use” applications in order to protect local amenities and services to the community (reduce carbon footprint)

General ideas:

- Talk about climate change!
- Lobby our MP (George Eustice) and Westminster for all initiatives that will help our community reduce carbon emissions
- Switch to renewable energy supplier for council/ community buildings
- When awarding contracts for goods or services, consider carbon emissions, and source locally where possible
- Support the community in ways to reduce consumption, reduce waste and increase recycling. Help people to buy less “stuff”, to get things repaired (skills/ repair cafes), share, keep for longer and to try and buy craft and locally made products.
- Encourage local businesses to let people know bicycles are welcome etc
- Familiarise ourselves with Cornwall Council’s Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and policy documents e.g. “Building with Nature”, and “Connecting Cornwall 2030: Towards a green peninsula”.