

04.11.20. NDP Working Group Report From:

David Hughes, David Quoroll and Alison White

1. Cornwall Council (CC) Consultation

CC consultation ran between Thursday 6th August until Thursday 15th October (10 weeks in total). Thanks to David Q, the bid for extra Covid-19 funding was successful, This meant that we could publicise the consultation in a more targeted fashion, including to those residents who do not access the internet and/or those unlikely to see the posters up around the parish. The postcards were delivered by Royal Mail to individual households throughout the parish. Information on the postcard included the various ways in which the community could submit comments on the Planning Application to Cornwall Council and an offer to provide the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) in booklet format to those without access to the internet. 13 residents asked for the NDP in booklet form. David H lent out a few spare copies and CC arranged for others to be printed and mailed out as necessary.

At this point in the consultation process, there is little that the NDP Steering Group (SG) can do in respect of any comments, except respond in factual terms and refer on to the External Examiner for review and advice. Policy wording has all been agreed with CC Development Officers. Indeed, in some cases, the Development Officers suggested the wording. All the comments and our responses to date are up on the online planning register under the reference: PA20/00006/NDP.

2. Appointment of the External Examiner and going forwards

Liz Beth has been appointed as our Independent External Examiner.

The independent External Examiner:

- reviews all the comments made by the community and statutory consultees, such as Natural England and the utility companies
- scrutinises all the documents including the policy wording
- ensures that the NDP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- checks that the NDP conforms with the Cornwall Local Plan and national planning policies and advice
- makes sure that the NDP is compatible with any other obligations e.g. that the NDP has been adequately assessed regarding any environmental impacts
- makes comments and recommendations
- communicates with Cornwall Council who in turn liaises with the Parish Council in respect of any amendments

It is impossible to know how long all the above will take, but it is likely to be months rather than weeks, especially given the current overwhelming pressure on CC Development Officers and the upcoming Xmas holidays. Our understanding is that

either CC can make any necessary amendments or that we can do so. We have agreed that it is probably easiest if Alison makes any changes. The final document will in any case be subject to ongoing scrutiny by the External Examiner and CC legal officers.

Once the Parish Council has agreed a final version of the NDP, it will then be through to the final stage: the referendum. CC pays for and organises the referendum, but again we have no idea as to when this might take place. All elections – and NDP referendums - are currently suspended until May 2021.

On the other hand, it is important to note that the draft NDP is now at Examination Stage and, therefore, does carry some weight as regards planning applications decisions.

3. Updating the community

The website has been updated with much of the information above and we will continue to post Working Group reports, as appropriate. PL24 Magazine will also carry an article on the NDP in the December edition. It is important that we continue to engage with the community, not least as so much is happening at a national level with the White Paper consultation “Planning for the Future”. Whatever the outcome of the consultation, we do believe that the NDP will continue to play an important role for the foreseeable future as regards sustainable development in the parish.