

Tywardreath & Par Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Minutes of 1st meeting of the above : 19th September 2016 at Newhouse Farm

Present:

Alyson Parkes (Tywardreath)
Frank Lawson (Tywardreath)
John Page (Tywardreath)
Claire Hurley (CRCC – Cornwall Rural Community Charity)
Amy Thurtle (CRCC)
Gill Butler (Par)
Trudy Thompson (Tywardreath)
Eve Winterbottom (Tywardreath)

Claire described the role of her organisation, summarised what constitutes a neighbourhood plan and the steps required to develop one.

CRCC was founded in 1946 and established as a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee in 2001. It delivers many projects such as Cornwall Carers Service, Health and Wellbeing, Community Development and Capacity Building. CRCC is part of a network of 38 RCC's across England, all sharing the aim of enhancing rural communities. RCC's are represented at a national level by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). Claire and Amy are part of the Community Development team which provides support and advice to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises across Cornwall. CRCC do not lead community projects – they are focussed on support. One of their team, Tracy, is currently assisting St Blazey and Fowey to develop Neighbourhood Plans.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a legal planning policy for a parish or town (see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/neighbourhood-planning-toolkit/>). It is normally developed for the geographic area defined by a parish council or a town council but it can be drawn up as a combined plan for neighbouring parishes or towns if they are in agreement. Firstly, the objectives need to be established and it should be determined if a neighbourhood plan is the best way of achieving those objectives. The applicant body for the NP should be a parish or town councillor so it is preferable that the steering group has a parish council representative and that it has strong leadership to keep driving the process forward. The development of a plan does take a lot of time and volunteer effort to produce and should not be undertaken unless it is established that it is the best method of achieving the objectives. If a parish/town does not have a neighbourhood plan, then planning policy would default to the Cornwall Local Plan which has been in development for the past 6 years (see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/cornwall-local-plan/>).

A Neighbourhood Plan (henceforth referred to as NP) should be comprised of positive policies (i.e. do not define activities which 'will NOT be allowed') and should take a long term view – preferably a 15 year view to 2030 and beyond. The content should be led by the objectives e.g. designating green spaces valued by the community. It cannot dictate infrastructure development e.g. roads, hospitals etc.

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An advantage of establishing an NP is that the parish council would attract a greater proportion of the community infrastructure levy imposed on developers – 25% as opposed to 15%.

Claire confirmed that an application has already been made to the council to designate Tywardreath & Par as a neighbourhood plan parish which is the first step.

Next steps are engaging the community, developing and analysing surveys, defining objectives, and drawing up plan. Then a pre-submission consultation period is required. Up to this point all costs are met by the NP steering group. CRCC can advise of sources of revenue and are ready with phone advice. St Blaze are receiving a DCLG (Dept. of Communities and Local Government) grant. The plan is then submitted to Cornwall Council for their consultation period of 6 weeks and costs are now met by the County Council. The council ensures it conforms to the Cornwall Local Plan and a planning inspector (who can be selected by the NP steering group) is assigned to ensure it complies with planning laws. Once this is established, the plan is submitted to the parish for a referendum. The plan is endorsed by a 'yes' vote by 50% of the turnout. Before the referendum, the steering group should ensure that the plan is presented well to the community to prevent negative perceptions being embedded.

John made the point that Tywardreath & Par are 2 quite differing communities and asked if the plan could reflect that. Claire confirmed it could and suggested looking at St Mewan NP (see <http://www.wearestmewan.org.uk/>) which combines the communities of Sticker, Trewoon and most of Polgooth). It was also suggested we also may share objectives of similar parishes e.g. Roseland who adopted NP in 2015 - <http://www.roselandplan.org/>.

Actions: The steering group needs to work out how to engage the community. Frank produced a colour leaflet and b&w A5 questionnaire produced by Luyulyan neighbourhood planners to kick off the process and it was decided to plagiarise these for Tywardreath & Par.

The questionnaire can be linked to on-line applications: Trudy to create a dedicated page on enterprise website <http://tywardreath.co.uk/>, Alyson to post on Facebook and Eve to link it to new PL24 website (currently pl24ca.myfreesites.net but may change in future).

Gill will be summarising the proposal in the next PL24 magazine to be circulated at the beginning of November.

Trudy suggested Ty&Par PC are asked to use revenue already received for this purpose to produce printed A5 questionnaire which can be distributed to households. Gill to ask Sally Vincent how many households are within the parish. A rough estimate of 2,000 was suggested. John and Gill are keen to get young people in the community involved in the process. Need to develop ways of involving them.

Displays can be set up in both the shop in Tywardreath and in Par Library to inform the community.