POLPERRO & LANSALLOS PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO THE NDP HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

This is a summary of the main findings from analysis of questionnaire responses. Out of 935 questionnaires distributed in November 2016, the NDP Steering Group received 260 completed responses, about 20% of the adult population.

Our Unique Setting: Overwhelmingly (86%) respondents believe that the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is of prime importance to the community and should be protected and conserved through the principles and policies of the NDP. 73% say that development within the AONB should be allowed only if there are exceptional circumstances, if it is in the public interest, and if it conserves and enhances the AONB. The majority of responses highlighted the need to conserve and protect the beauty of our landscape, coastline and heritage, of footpaths, streams, rivers, beaches, harbour, natural habitats and farmed areas.

Residential / Commercial Development: In view of the above priorities there is very high support for control of, and clearly set limits and boundaries to, any development, whether residential or commercial. 52% of respondents say that more housing should be built (in line with the Cornwall Local Plan) to accommodate only the needs of residents in the parish. There is, however, little consensus on where new development should take place within the parish. A large majority of respondents say that housing development should prioritise smaller starter homes for young people, smaller homes for elderly members of the community and genuinely affordable housing. 78% believe that affordable housing should be permanently retained as affordable housing in the future. 75% say that there should be a ban on new builds being used as second homes or holiday homes and that there should be planning restrictions on the conversion of existing shops and businesses into housing and vice versa.

Many respondents say that any building within the parish should be subject to clear design guidance which ensures consistency with the character of our villages and settlements, and that buildings should be energy efficient and environmentally friendly. 42% would welcome additional workshops/small business units sited with minimum impact on the landscape to increase employment opportunities within the parish.

Employment: In addition to the above, respondents rated the following employment areas in priority order to encourage and support:

1. Fishing, 2. Agriculture, 3. Tourism / Leisure,
4. Building / Maintenance, 5. Shops / Retail

83% of respondents say that the Polean site near Millpool should be redeveloped as:

1. Shops / Retail, 2. Leisure facilities,
3. Lock ups / small business units

on which we will liaise with Looe's Neighbourhood Plan team.

Facilities and Amenities : Local footpaths and beaches, the post office, chemist, surgery, local shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants are valued by the community, although many respondents were concerned about car park charges and lack of other transport locally and within the parish.

Facilities would be better used if car parking for local people was improved, including the possibility of short stay parking (63%), a shuttle bus service or a park and ride scheme was available (54%) and public transport was improved (48%).

There were many written responses which contain some thoughtful and challenging views, which are welcomed by the Steering Group as they clarify and add weight to some of the strong opinions expressed. The 'wordclouds' included in this summary capture the most frequently used words and expressions from those responses, where the size of each word shown is in proportion to how often the word has been used.

The Environment and Green Issues: 81% of respondents say the visual appearance at the centre of Polperro should be protected and there is high support for new buildings being energy efficient and environmentally friendly. 54% say the night sky should be protected from light pollution. There are conflicting views on the use of plastic/composite doors and windows in the conservation area with no majority view, similarly with the use of solar panels/solar tiles. There is little support for the use of wind turbines or solar farms within the parish.

What Next?

The NDP will be developed into a set of policies that support the main views of the community. These could include setting up a Community Land Trust to control any housing development to be sure it truly fits a real local need; to identify settlement boundaries; undertaking a Landscape Character Assessment to control the impact of any building development; considering appropriately sited business units to boost local employment opportunities; reviewing and updating the present regulatory framework and provide a new village design statement for the Conservation Area; protecting and conserving the heritage and character of the AONB; promoting energy efficiency and sustainability; developing and improving some of the existing facilities and amenities.

Important issues you have raised that do not fall into the national remit of NDPs but we will look to be addressed by other local organisations include :

- Provision of short term parking within Polperro for local residents;
- A local transport system for getting around within the parish;
- Community use of the Net Loft, recently refurbished by the National Trust;
- Footpath improvements;
- Promotion of / support for fishing;
- Better use for the community of some local facilities and amenities.

We will be planning further consultations during the next few months alongside working with specialist organisations that will support the legal framework for creating NDP policies. You can continue to find updates and information and contact the NDP Steering group through:

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