

# St Gennys Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group Meeting attended by many people in the Legion Hall 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## 1. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

*“A Neighbourhood Plan will enable communities to develop planning policies that reflect their own local issues.*

*Once in place, the policies in a Neighbourhood Plan will be used to help a Planning Officer determine whether a planning application is approved or refused.*

*It will mean that local views must be taken into place when planning decisions are made.*

*A Neighbourhood Plan also enables communities to set out the projects that they would like to see happen over the coming years.*

*By having a plan in place the community will be in a better position to secure funding and bring forward projects that will make a difference to local people.” Cornwall Council*

## 2. Short history of the St Gennys NDP

The Government passed the Localism Act in 2011. Under this, a parish council can write an NDP for their area with their community.

Annabel took the job of Parish Councillor responsible for the NDP and she and her team produced a survey April 2013.

St Gennys Parish Council had their application for a “Designation of a Neighbourhood Plan Area” approved by Cornwall Council on 19th August 2014.

There was a gap during which no Parish Councillor took on the portfolio until Roger Wade took it on during 2016.

In 2017, Roger was ill for much of the year. However he succeeded in getting some people to join a steering group, which met several times. But making progress was hard work!

The Steering Group agreed to hold a public exhibition in October 2017. The exhibition was very successful with about 100 people attending. Jackie Carpenter typed the words on the display panels (we were short of people with energy to help) which were afterwards criticised as being “leading” . . . but the exhibition did say, “This is not an attempt at scientific research or a detailed survey, but we want you to know that we value your ideas. As we begin to crystallise our intentions, we shall conduct more thorough research on how local people feel.”

During 2018, the focus has been on preparing the main questionnaire, based on the sense that there was a need to get on with it before energy ran out. The process set up by the Government and the County Council (and it is a legal process) is rather complex and bureaucratic.

## 3. The “open” meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

The date, time and place for this meeting was scheduled for a regular meeting of the Steering Group. These meetings are always open and people from the parish are welcome to attend. Annabel had suggested at the previous meeting that she would get a few young people to attend.

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, some members of the Steering Group were astonished to find it had turned into a sort of general meeting. This was very exciting, and the lively and frank discussion was greatly welcomed. However, the meeting was not advertised to all and other people who may have wished to be there had not been informed, so the process of calling a meeting which is supposed to be an “open” meeting will be improved in the future.

Jackie Carpenter, one of the members of the Steering Group, was present and offered to take photographs as evidence and notes of what was said. However, she was not prepared for such a meeting (or she would have brought a tape recorder). She was tired and the notes taken were not of a high standard. Sorry! But here they are.

## 4. PowerPoint presentation

Roger Wade gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the sort of subjects that might be covered by the NDP and the sorts of questions that might need to be answered. His aim was to show examples of how questions might go. This PowerPoint presentation is available if anyone wishes to see it.

## 5. Comments from the floor

It is important to have people living and working here. Can we enable small workshops/ artisan crafts/ boat-builders/ window-makers?

Design - some people like old traditional, some like modern or diversification. Maybe we need a word like "sympathetic" to give scope.

Need to include latest techniques for energy efficiency.

Must not dictate design.

Could we have a gym in Brockhill chapel?

Sports field - this has been in discussion for 20 years.

Skateboard park backed by young people!

Small businesses - 0-10 employees, class 1 or 2 - need a group! Lots of people work here. We need small businesses to help the community to thrive.

Are polytunnels acceptable, for growing local food?

Renewable energy and climate change are issues. Trelay is helping to pioneer a new wind fence - things like this could be installed not just at Trelay. We need a working group to think about "spots on the map".

Need to flesh out the thinking - a lot of people have made up their minds about wind turbines.

Who may want a wind turbine on their land? How do we find out?

We can think about emerging energy technologies that are sympathetic to the AONB.

Irrigation may become an issue as the climate changes.

Definitions need more work

Power cuts/ additional infrastructure

Mobile phone masts - planning.

Self-build for young people. Affordable. Make it easy for young people

Define "affordable" housing. Do we follow the Government definition or our own?

Questions must not be leading. Ellen offers to do editing or to lead a "leading question" group.

Chris Crocker - this is like the parish plan in that it will go on for a long time. The underlying question is - what type of society do we want?

Young people NOT second homes.

Need work to make it sustainable.

We have to accept that property in Crackington is going to be more expensive than Bude or Week St Mary. But then someone said there is no need for it to be more expensive.

Agricultural ties can have a local restriction - need to explore this more.

Someone said they are happy to print things to go through doors.

Someone asked for more information about the "St Ives" policy which is designed to stop second homes.

Lift holiday restrictions/ planning conditions?

Good support for a questionnaire to go out soon as long as it is open-ended

A preliminary questionnaire to get comments, a second questionnaire to get good quality answers. Gill Shippies asked, can she send her questionnaire out in the next Gazette?

People said don't short-circuit the process.