

Minutes of Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Monday 2 October 2017

**Squires Field Community Centre
6pm**

Present: Ruth Finlay Chairman, Heather Hunt, Chris Wharton, Andrew Gardner, Kate Jones, Giles Asker, Tony Ryde, Cora Woodside, Katherine Alexander.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declaration of Interests

Pecuniary
Non-Register able
Dispensations

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

HH confirmed that room would be provided on a notice board in the community centre for the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. LLCA Presentation on the 6th September.

RF commented that it was very good to see Town Councillors as well as committee members present at the presentation.

HH stated that she felt it was a very good presentation.

6. Feedback from the meeting on the 28th September,

TR spoke stating that he felt the Landscape document we now had was very professional and a huge step forward in being able to protect the areas of town needing protection.

Concern was expressed over the number of white spaces left on the plan and that these could be developed as they have not been identified and therefore will not have any protection, areas such as Briar Fields and the Playing Fields.

It was agreed that RF would go back to the document originator on these matters.

TR stated that we had not gone into the numbers that made up the data and subsequently the assumptions that in turn resulted in the drawings, as it was not felt to be that straight forward to review.

RF stated that she did have the numbers if anyone wanted to see them.

TR said that the drawing should not be considered as a blue print for development areas.

TR questioned whether instead there would be specific criteria for development to conform to. RF confirmed that this would be the case.

7. Business Workshop.

RF confirmed that in advance of the workshop she had visited all businesses in town delivering questionnaires and trying to get engagement. She went on to say how we had thought this section would be the hardest of all to do due to a lack of input from the business community.

AG said that he had been to the Post Office and collected 4 questionnaire replies and that in addition he had sat with 2 business owners in the Windmill Estate whilst they completed them. He anticipated having to chase others but hoped to get a meaningful number of 40.

Most responses so far had been from tourist related businesses.

No reply had been received from the Brewery or Hotels.

TR questioned whether cynicism was being experienced?

AG replied that this was the case from some businesses when we held the workshop.

It appeared that there were a lot of issues, which were going to be difficult for the Town Council to address.

RF stated that we needed to get all the feedback captured and into black and white.

C Woodside questioned whether the town had anyone marketing it?

RF replied that larger towns have this facility but that we do not.

RF went on to state it is dangerous to have a paid marketing team if they are not managed properly quoting St Austell who have such a facility but where recent events were not promoted at all.

RF stated that the business survey is useful and replied to CW comment questioning its validity with such low returns, by stating when taken in the round with other evidence it provided the necessary picture.

TR questioned what percentage was required to have the document approved.

RF explained that it required 50% of those who vote.

CW questioned whether there was a minimum turnout required for the vote to be valid as she thought it was quite a high percentage. She also stated that we needed to get the policies right in order to ensure a good turnout.

RF confirmed there wasn't a minimum turnout required and that the draft plan would be circulated in order to get support and buy in.

8. Housing Need Survey

This document went out to everyone in the parish on the 8th September.

RF described how Nick Marsden said it wasn't necessary to do, however it was felt to be necessary in order to get a current picture.

Needs survey closes on the 16th October, which means the housing policy has been slowed down.

RF explained about Westcountry Land offering 50% affordable.

CW questioned whether the Estate Agents in town have been involved?

TR felt that feedback was required specifically from the elderly population and that this should form a section in the plan. Stating that the number of over 65's was rising from 25% to 40%.

TR questioned what the Elderly wanted to move into.

RF stated she was finishing writing the policies, they would then need signing off. Housing is proving problematic with respect to what are we trying to achieve, particularly ensuring we have the necessary evidence.

RF stated that the housing policy would be Criteria Based not Site Allocation.

RF stated that purely affordable development was not desirable.

TR stated that delivering affordable housing was a conundrum and perhaps a small working party was required.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

23rd October 2017 @7pm in the Town Hall.