

**Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan
Community Engagement
Quality of Life Workshop at Squires Field Community Centre
April 23 2016**

1. Groups representing the local Pre-school, Fowey River Academy, the WI, Memory café, the Community Bus, Regatta committee, the Library, the Chamber of Commerce, Guides and Brownies clubs and the Community centre committee were invited to attend this workshop.
2. Our NP officer Colleen O'Sullivan spoke about the NP process and how important it was to involve local people in our community engagement.
3. Our County Councillor David Hughes also spoke about NP's and their role in the Planning process.
4. The workshop broke up into small groups to discuss the major themes which came out of the Questionnaire (Oct. 2015). Copies of the Questionnaire summary, was available to all. Groups were asked to write down their responses after their discussions. These responses were shared with the rest of the work shop.

Issue 1: From the survey (2015) Q25'What do you like most about living in Fowey?' was the most popular question on the questionnaire, with 'sense of community' and 'quality of the landscape' being the most popular answers.

Issue 2: From the survey (2015), and both Parish Plans retention of services was a priority; citing transport, health services, shopping provision for locals.

Issue 3: From the survey (2015), and both Parish Plans; there was interest to retain the current level of public transport; reinstatement of a railway from Lostwithiel to Fowey; cycle routes to the new hub at Lanhydrock.; promotion and preservation of existing footpaths.

Issue 4: From the survey (2015), and both Parish Plans there is a positive response to protect the green spaces in Fowey parish such as Allday's Fields, St Catherine's Parade, school playing fields.

Also discussed in the Workshop was the Quality of Life vision for the NDP;

- **To ensure that Fowey remains an enjoyable and sustainable place to live by promoting the retention and development of local services and community facilities in Fowey**
- **To strengthen the community through a wide range of cultural activities**
- **To support the services and amenities supporting community health, wellbeing and education**

After the workshop all the responses were written up (see below)and used by the steering group to inform and shape the Quality of Life policies.

Issue 1: From the survey (2015) Q25 'What do you like most about living in Fowey?' was the most popular question on the questionnaire, with 'sense of community' and 'quality of the landscape' being the most popular answers.

How can this be achieved? - Workshop Responses

1. Restricting new housing to be principle residency only.
Preserve the coast and character of the Parish.
Develop a Design Statement
Development Order to extend Community Centre
2. If they are sympathetic to the history, architecture and culture of the area. They are in line with the needs of the residents of Fowey. Development should embrace the Cornish culture.
Encourage the development of small businesses within the town, bringing more local services & tradesmen.
3. Fowey parish is a popular and well-regarded holiday destination with an active commercial port and a balanced residential centre equipped with matching amounts of education, health-care and a broad age profile.

Geography dictates that large developments – commercial, residential or retail – would be difficult to fit in without major effects on the existing footprint, road and services layouts. The existing, sometimes awkward, road layout is part of the character of Fowey, but needs local control: over-parking, enforcement and signage.

The appeal of Fowey cannot be considered separately from Bodinnick and Polruan – and structures need to be developed to jointly cover the visual appeal, environmental control, joint commercial developments, planning and facilities. Linking Fowey Parish to Par, St. Blazey and Tywardreath in terms of statistical analysis and policy is fundamentally flawed and combines totally different housing and economic markets. The Lower-level Super-output area 035b should be the unit of policy making, not the Medium-level 035.

4. Keeping the community spirit alive by encouraging community projects eg new community centre.

Encourage a balance in community life – maintain involvement in Fowey as a thriving living and working settlement – not a dormitory town.

Work-based learning – involve local businesses with vocational training and skills.

5. Role of Development, such that it is, integrated with the Town
Create new facilities in upper part, eg shop, pub, community centre, bus service
Easy access to Dentist, GP service
Hospital services, MIU, Nursing Home
6. All new builds must incorporate sustainable methods for heating, lighting & water/sewage facilities & functions eg solar panel roof tiles, grey water collection, triple glazing, high levels of insulation & environmentally friendly building materials. New build designers must produce homes/other buildings which are “state of the art” yet retain character of Cornish structures.

As well as ensuring the natural environment is protected, ensure Fowey is recognised as a cultural centre offering opportunities for all ages to participate in and enjoy all forms of art: drama, music, poetry, literature, visual arts.

In addition, ensure sporting facilities are maintained & enhanced including rugby, football, cricket, tennis, etc. etc. Further, retain outdoor activities: sailing, fishing, canoeing, cycling, walking etc.

Fowey is already an embryonic centre for creative industries. Further promotion of this would support the local economy without the need for vast investment in infrastructure.

Issue 2: From the survey (2015), and both Parish Plans retention of services was a priority; citing transport, health services, shopping provision for locals.

How can this be achieved? - Workshop Responses

1. Limit change of use from Commercial to Residential
Control of employment space
Improvement of access to the water and protection of public quays
Long term strategic plan for the Windmill/Community College to develop community. Plan integration alongside commercial and retain future activities. Regenerative scheme.
2. Shopping – only development to be considered on the environmental impact, eco building, accessibility eg Gloucester Services. Protect and retain hospital & health services, Fire & Community Police. Maintain & improve transport links and footpaths. Retain & improve library, Community Centre. Retain beach and river access. Develop Farmers Market.
3. FTC does not have any resources to support or promote the retention of services. Four Turnings Garage is a prominent and key resource, and a gateway to the Town, but will only be used if fuel prices are low – noting that Lostwithiel lost its only garage recently.

Reality must indicate that as with the removal of Police, or a main post office, FTC effort should go into developing local alternatives. There is little prospect of retaining a Library, One-Stop-Shop, over-the-counter Banking, or the Hospital into the medium term – so how can these services be delivered without a fixed base?

Ideally Fowey needs a balanced approach to housing, retail services, education, health care, public transport, and the range of services supporting householders, holiday homes, and economic activity on the river. It is difficult to single out what is the “key”, but the Neighbourhood Plan should promote dialogue and communication with those businesses with their base in the locality – sail-makers, boat builders, Town Bus, Water Taxi, Taxis builders, decorators, rental agencies, B & B to ensure that their needs are known and represented. We cannot presume that such a dialogue with nationally-based hoteliers, retailers and breweries will have as much force.

The plan should have regard to the ways in which the Town and parish are promoted by the tourist trade.

4. Retain essential services – optician, dentist, doctors, chiropodist, chemist, library, banking, postal services for tax pension credits, pensions, parking, retail for the local community all year round – how many fudge shops do we need! Perhaps a co-operative outlet accessible for all. Perhaps at the industrial centre.

A developed health centre. Adequate care for the whole family life – cradle to the grave eg training within work-based learning.

5. Develop employment facilities & improving location
Encourage water-based industrial development
Protect Town Bus
Protecting & improving local bus service
Train – developing links with Fowey via Par & Lostwithiel
6. Fast & efficient communication systems for general public, traders and business eg Internet facilities & functions which are reliable, safe & quick. Mobile 'phone services which cover whole neighbourhood ie no black/dead spots.

Safe and well maintained cycle/walking tracks in and around the town.

Park & Ride facilities with regular and (if possible) free town bus services. NB Disabled access and pushchair friendly essential.

Sufficient “fuelling” stations to meet demands of electric car users.

Issue 3: From the survey (2015), and both Parish Plans; there was interest to retain the current level of public transport; reinstatement of a railway from Lostwithiel to Fowey; cycle routes to the new hub at Lanhydrock.; promotion and preservation of existing footpaths.

How can this be achieved? - Workshop Responses

1. Liaise with rail and bus companies to match timetables.
Alternative footpaths into the Town Centre
Better signage of the Town
Extending the Town Bus to incorporate Polkerris
Protection of the Ferry services
2. To help develop innovative transport links, cycle paths, train, new bus links. Encourage entrepreneurs. Promotion & preservation of existing footpaths. Local resident ferry tickets. A safe way to get into Fowey – for children on bikes, in pushchairs, prams etc.
3. This needs definition: Affordability; Less Energy Consumed; Less Congestion; Less Pollution; greater occupancy per vehicle. There is little FTC can do to prompt changes to vehicle fuel type, albeit it could approve electric charging points (as a cost of losing parking places) and LPG/Hydrogen refiling at Four Turnings.

Work needs to be done to avoid congestion and Sat-Nav tourism by appropriate Road Signage and (FTC) control over parking policy, practice and enforcement across the parish, and if not control, then coordination over areas, prices and dates.

We have no policy on cycles across the parish, and no defined routes for either on-road or off-road cycling. As a result, Fowey misses all the evident commercial benefits in Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Wadebridge and Padstow. Active steps should be made to define suitable routes and signpost them, including use of the Haul Road and Estuary Rail routes if these can become available, with a deliberate attempt to provide links to the Clay Trails, Eden and Lanhydrock Hub. Safe corridors need to be established, including use of St. Catherine’s Parade.

If the current scheduled bus service ever fails through lack of custom and financial support, then the existing bus stops should be re-designated as Taxi ranks. FTC should attempt to maintain Cornwall Council interest in Air and Rail links into the County.

4. Reinstatement of Fowey railway to Lostwithiel – investment from Network Rail, First Bus, Imerys, CPRE, supported also by local rail enthusiasts, FTC.

Develop road access – B3269 into Fowey – passing places, traffic calming measures.
Cycle route link to Lanhydrock – develop what’s already available.

5. Develop use of dock/rail facilities
Rail link to Lostwithiel
Docking for cruise liners
Provision for leisure craft
Protecting Town Bus
Train links with Fowey

6. See Issue 2

Issue 4: From the survey (2015), and both Parish Plans there is a positive response to protect the green spaces in Fowey parish such as Allday’s Fields, St Catherine’s Parade, school playing fields. How can this be achieved? - Workshop Responses

1. A record of all open space to be classified Community Purchase Options registered on key sites including the corridor of green land following The Parade, Renovation of the sea pool at Whitehouse.
Liaise with neighbouring parishes about cycle paths on the Haul Road and railway line
2. We must preserve green space within Fowey, eg Hanson Drive field. Development should only be permitted on brownfield sites.
3. Many of the key spaces are in Private hands, eg Place Grounds, Brewery Field, School playing fields, Fowey Hotel, Polkerris. There has to be practical understanding of the challenge facing FTC of coming up against any landowner with deep pockets.

Areas which might be thought to be in public ownership eg the schools or hospital, can see that ownership change with privatisation/moves to Academy status. As with the garage for the Community Bus, other peoples’ agendas may not coincide with FTC.

The best approach to control (and limit developments) is for FTC to document and hold a public register of “significant” places covering the complete parish, to include photographic landscape views, access rights and footpaths, and description of plantings. This can then link and overlap with the details held by English Heritage, National Trust, AONB, Tree preservation records, the Saints Way and the Coast path, who can be expected to be statutory consultees on any planning applications.

The Plan should, however, retain flexibility, and if, for example, the Beach and facilities at Whitehouse Quay could only be maintained at the cost of developing the Grammar School Gardens site, the overall net gain should be weighed in the balance.

4. Protect Alldays Fields, St. Catherine’s Parade and school playing fields.

5. Preservation of all existing open spaces eg Albert Quay, Readymoney, Squires Field, Allotments, Station Woods, Alldays Field, Polkerris Beach, School Fields.
Preservation of existing footpaths including Coastal Path and Saints Way.
Respecting AONB
Opening up river access for walkers from Fowey to Lostwithiel
6. To ensure open spaces are valued by whole community and visitors alike organise regular events on the existing spaces eg musical events for children, farmers' markets, dog shows, etc. etc.