



PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the

Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

Held on: Wednesday 1 March 2017

PRESENT:

Roe Baker	CAFs	Cllr Fiona Johnson	Penrith Town Council
John Bodger	PACT	Cllr Doug Lawson	Penrith Town Council
Paul Buckland	QEGS	Cllr Julie Monk	Penrith Town Council
Chris Dunning	Cumbria Youth Alliance	Heather Walker	Eden Arts
Karen Harvey	Chamber of Trade	Michael Wellock	Kirkwells
Cllr Scott Jackson	Penrith Town Council		

Also present: Rosalyn Richardson – Deputy Town Clerk

Before the meeting began Councillor Fiona Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the group would consider issues and report all decisions and findings back to the Planning Committee. The group was not a formal committee of the Town Council and would therefore meeting without press or public present in order to be able to have full and frank discussions. Those present were asked to indicate when they wished to speak and listen to all views and opinions before reaching conclusions by consensus.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ron Kenyon (Penrith Town Council), Heidi Marshall (Chamber of Trade) and Mariusz Waluk (Health, Social Care and diversity)

2. Introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves and explained who they were representing.

3. Neighbourhood Planning: an Introduction

Michael Wellock advised the group that Kirkwells was an independent Town Planning Consultancy and specialised in neighbourhood planning, from small villages to large towns. Kirkwells had completed more neighbourhood plans than any other company and had just had the 20th plan through referendum.

Neighbourhood Planning was brought in by the Localism Act 2011 and a plan, once complete, becomes part of the development plan for the area. In effect this means that Eden District Council would, if the plan succeeded at referendum, be required to use the policies along with their own local plan and core strategy.

The process for work to be undertaken is as follows:

- Preparing the plan including informal consultation
- Formal consultation for 6 weeks on draft plan
- Revise plan
- Submit plan to Eden District Council
- EDC consult formally for 6 weeks
- Examination by independent inspector
- Referendum
- Adopted plan

The first formal consultation requires representations from statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England etc. The draft Plan would be submitted with three documents: consultation statement, basic conditions statement and environmental support, produced by Kirkwells. Once the plan is submitted to EDC they take over the costs of the inspection and the referendum.

The appointment of the independent inspector is a joint appointment between EDC and PTC and is expected to be a light touch with written representations. The referendum on the final plan goes to all people of voting age within the parish area with an average turnout being 30%-40%. It is expected that the process will take 18-24 months and that the group should be constituted until the plan is adopted in case there are any queries

4. Planning Policy Assessment and Evidence Base Review

One of the main bits of work would be reviewing all documentation and producing the evidence base in a handy guide with links to websites etc. Kirkwells were undertaking the work which was hoped to be ready in the week beginning 6 March. There is a need to demonstrate general conformity with the NPPF and local plans within the evidence base review. (**AGREED** Once completed RR would circulate to group members).

Those present were advised that the Neighbourhood Plan for Thame was a good one to reference and that there may be others for towns of this size as well (**AGREED** MW to provide links, RR to circulate)

Cllr Scott Jackson apologised that he needed to go to work and left the meeting at 18.00.

It would be important to develop positive relationships with EDC to progress the work.

A number of queries and questions were posed.

1. What would add value in neighbourhood planning terms?
A – it was important to find where the local plan was silent and add detail such as different character areas, design policy etc
2. Theoretically can you decide that you do not want any more supermarkets as an example?
A – the general principle is that the Neighbourhood Plan must be positively prepared. Negatives are hard to defend at examination. In a recent example a school site was offered up for housing, however the community didn't want this so the Neighbourhood Plan turned it into a positive by stating that the site should be for community use ie a community building
3. Can evidence from other countries be used?
A – Don't see why not as long as it is used objectively and is relevant and up to date.

Heather Walker left the meeting at 18.12.

4. Will you be showing us the gaps?
A – the NP should be community led with the group leading the process but advice will be offered and the emerging Eden Local Plan taken into consideration.
5. Will Brexit have any relevance to the process?
A – non at the present time
6. Are demographics and economic growth factors included in the document?
A – demographics are covered including a link to the strategic market housing assessment, school projections, climate change projections etc. Any gaps need to be referenced when it comes out so that they can be included.

5. Community Engagement

Cllr Johnson reported that three community consultation events were planned: an invited stakeholder event on 15 March at the George Hotel to which 125 organisations and community groups had been invited. The theme was Lets Talk About Penrith and following a short film, those present would be asked to visit themed boards and put their views on a range of issues.

Public consultation would take place at Penrith Goes Orange when the film would be run on a continuous loop and people encouraged to give feedback and comments followed by a similar event on 1 April in the Parish Rooms, St Andrews Place.

Consultation is part of a continuing programme with regular feedback provided before moving on to ensure progress. Councillors can go to speak with Student Councils to promote engagement should that be a way forward. At the present

time consultation is quite wide in order to gather views but will possibly become more focussed and targeted.

Adverts and press releases will be put out on a regular basis.

Cllr Doug Lawson left the meeting at 6.37pm.

6. Timetable and Next Meeting

Once the information has been collected together, the key issues need to be considered in order to pull them into a framework to direct the plan. A

AGREED that the emerging Local Plan, the NPPF and Plan examples be circulated round to members of the group by RR.

AGREED that the next meeting takes place on 5th April.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

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Chairman

For the attention of members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group:

Michael Wellock – Kirkwells Planning Consultancy

Planning Committee Members

Councillor Fiona Johnson - **Chair**

Councillor Jamie Ayres

Councillor Scott Jackson

Councillor Ron Kenyon – **Vice-Chair**

Councillor Duncan Graham

Councillor James Shorrocks

Additional Members

Roe Baker – CAFs

Paul Buckland – QEGS

Dan Harding – Penrith BiD

Councillor Doug Lawson

Heather Walker – Eden Arts

Stephen Williams – Churches Together

John Bodger – PACT

Chris Dunning – Cumbria Youth Alliance

Heidi Marshall- Chamber of Trade

Councillor Julie Monk

Mariusz Waluk