



PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the

Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

Held on: Wednesday 10 May 2017

PRESENT:

Roe Baker	CAFs	Cllr Doug Lawson	Penrith Town Council
John Bodger	PACT	Heather Walker	Eden Arts
Karen Harvey	Chamner of Trade	Michael Wellock	Kirkwells
Cllr Fiona Johnson	Penrith Town Council	Stephen Williams	Churches Together
Cllr Ron Kenyon	Penrith Town Council		

Also present: Rosalyn Richardson – Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Buckland (QEGS), Cllr Duncan Graham (Penrith Town Council), Dan Harding/Justin Wales (Penrith BID), Cllr Scott Jackson (Penrith Town Council) and Cllr Julie Monk (Penrith Town Council).

2. Notes of Meeting held 5 April 2017

The notes of the meeting held on 5 April 2017 were approved for publication.

3. Climate Change and Sustainability

RB reported that she had met with JB and MW to discuss issues about climate change and sustainability. DL had sent apologies as he was at work. It was explained that the whole group had to consider whether:

- to approach the neighbourhood plan on the premise that sustainability is the golden thread running throughout thereby allowing a holistic approach to spatial planning and the design factor for the development of the town or
- look at what is defined in the Eden Local Plan and what Penrith Town Council can add in to it.

RB and JB outlined their reasons for arguing that sustainability should be the overarching theme which would influence how the Neighbourhood Plan develops in terms of policies and designs. The approach would be through visual mapping with layers such as walking and green routes intergrating and linking areas along with housing type and affordability.

MW pointed out that the first option was a lot more ambitious and picked up issues about spatial planning which would make it a very worthwhile document for Penrith. Although ambitious it was felt to be an achievable goal and probably made a Neighbourhood Plan more in line with the idea of what neighbourhood planning is all about.

Those present considered the options and unanimously **AGREED** the idea of sustainability being the golden thread running through the Neighbourhood Plan.

When asked if other authorities used this method, MW pointed out that climate change was only one aspect of sustainability and used Ilkley as an example

It was **AGREED** that RB, JB, FJ plus anyone else who wished to join would meet to prepare additional information to bring back to the group.

4. Summary of Consultation Feedback

The summary of consultation responses was given consideration. 362 responses had been received. It was explained that rather than summarising the responses into categories, it was felt that members of the group should see all the responses (except where they were duplicated). The consultation responses under each heading were considered.

Housing – There was a strong feeling that housing should meet actual demand and need rather than perceived need and that issues of affordability, housing mix, type and design (visually, aesthetically and environmental) should be considered. A small town identity was important to residents of Penrith of all ages picking up social strands as a key issue for the Neighbourhood Plan and how it all fits in terms of social interaction. There was a strong feeling that there should be not more development within gardens.

ACTION

- (1) find out evidence of affordability and how it refers to Penrith, the Eden definition of affordability, data relating to Eden as a whole and Penrith separately;
- (2) research wage averages for Penrith;
- (3) look at the range of housing for the elderly in Penrith; and
- (4) find out population projections

Heather Walker left the meeting at 5.30pm.

Leisure, Wellbeing and Greenspaces greenspaces were important to residents of the town so the neighbourhood plan could be used to identify where the policy applies and consider what the most important green spaces were.

MW confirmed that designated local green spaces could be identified which would give the same protection as greenbelt however they could only be used sparingly on the areas requiring a high degree of protection. Each green space could be listed and assessed against national criteria.

AGREED that it would be good to designate one green space in each ward as a designated local green space and that each green space should be assessed against the national criteria.

In terms of leisure, young people feel that they have no where to go and don't necessarily wish to go somewhere run by a church group. The growth in housing will provide a new school at Carleton however it was acknowledged that the golden thread of sustainability became difficult when considering balancing additional school places within penrith against the surrounding village schools that may struggle if they lose a number of pupils that they currently attract from penrith. Health provision is seen as a problem and potential space for a new doctors surgery at the north of Penrith would be welcomed although the problem of attracting GPs was acknowledged.

JB left the meeting at 6.00pm

Given the time taken to consider the responses it was **AGREED** that the remainder of the consultation would be considered at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting

AGREED that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 June at 4.30pm and would include the following agenda items:

- a) Sustainability
- b) Remainder of summary of consultation feedback (Point 15 onwards)
- c) Affordability
- d) Draft framework to start identifying objectives and policy areas.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

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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