



# PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the

## **Neighbourhood Development Plan Group**

Held on: Tuesday 16 January 2018

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Peter Baker	Chairman - PTC	Stephen Macaulay	Chamber of Trade
John Bodger	PACT	Cllr Julie Monk	PTC
Cllr Scott Jackson	PTC	Stephen Williams	Churches Together
Cllr Ron Kenyon	PTC	Michael Wellock	Kirkwells
Cllr Doug Lawson	PTC		

Also present: Rosalyn Richardson – Deputy Town Clerk

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Roe Baker (CAFs), Cllr Duncan Graham and Jane Sullivan (Newton Rigg).

It was reported that Paul Buckland (QEGS) had withdrawn from the group due to school commitments and further responsibilities at school which made it difficult for him to attend meetings. He would however still provide any feedback on educational issues should this be necessary.

### **2. Notes of Meeting held 14 November 2017**

The notes of the meeting held on 14 November 2017 were approved for publication following correction of a spelling error.

### **3. Draft Neighbourhood Plan Review**

#### **a) Sections 1-5**

JM explained that she had a number of comments or inaccuracies in Section 4 that she would forward by email to PB and RR.

PB reported that since the meeting, the Vision had been amended so that it mentioned Heart of Cumbria rather than Gateway to the Lakes. The term 'Heart of Cumbria' had already been adopted by Penrith Partnership and other forums so it made sense to use this to ensure that everything joined up. The Vision was agreed as:

### **Penrith: Heart of Cumbria - a great place to live, work and visit**

By 2032, Penrith will be a successful, vibrant market town providing a sustainable environment for quality of life, attracting investment and tourism whilst enhancing the best of its built and natural character.

JM pointed out that the parish boundary took in a large rural area which was not mentioned in the issues which focused wholly on the town. It was felt that this needed to be addressed and reference to the rural area of the parish included in the document.

### **b) Objectives and Policies**

MW explained that he had considered each of the themes discussed and formalised them into planning policies. It was proposed that the content only be considered as there were issues with typos and formatting to be ironed out. Comments were as follows:

**Objective 1 - Sustainability** (Policies 1-4)– takes all the work of the Sustainability Group which had lots of research and value and pushed the boundaries of what was and was not acceptable. It was suggested that this section should remain unchanged to see how far it could be pushed although background and justification for this, and all sections had been included. It was suggested that a sustainability checklist which could be weighted would be good. **AGREED** that JB, RB and SMC would consider the wording of the section to ensure it was robust

**Objective 2 – Housing** (Policy 8) – MW advised that the issue of affordability was covered in the Eden Local Plan so would add nothing further. This would have a knock on effect on the objectives, where changes should be made to say that PTC recognise the importance of affordability but that it was dealt with through the Local Plan.

Questions were raised about the possibility of identifying brownfield sites within the town and it was **AGREED** that affordable housing developments on these sites through a registered social housing provider should be explored and included.

MW queried whether residential development in private gardens (Policy 9a) was a problem. It was **AGREED** to remove the sentence starting 'This can lead to loss....' From the Background/Justification.

It was **AGREED** that Figure X: Penrith Population Age Profile Comparison should be deleted from the document as it was hard to read and didn't add to the document.

**Objective 3 – Greenspaces** – MW explained that although the greenspaces were listed within Appendix IV, it was possible to seek to protect some of them using the national designation of ‘Local Greenspace’ which gives them the same status as green belt. To do this, certain criteria have to be met and the areas chosen should be spaces that you would never want to lose.

**AGREED** that:

1. RR would check what was designated in the Local Plan;
2. the level of detail within the appendix was sufficient as a summary for each identified area however this should be expanded for the sites specifically identified and pictures and additional information included;
3. PB, RK and JB would meet at 3pm on 22nd January to refine the list before circulating it for comment to all members of the group.

**Objective 4 – Culture and Leisure** – MW reported that the Eden Local Plan protected existing leisure and recreation facilities so this section would only duplicate existing documentation. It was suggested that the policy be deleted and that information relating to young people be incorporated into a redrafted Section 6 but that this objective be used to flag up that the Town Council have considered the information but that it is in existing documentation.

**Objective 5 – Wellbeing** – health and community facilities are not protected in the Eden Local Plan. It was reported that a list of the community facilities (health, schools, community centers) was being compiled.

JM asked whether there was a wider definition of wellbeing to address social interaction. For example when considering developments such as the one at Carleton, community facilities should be included to encourage people to socialise. At what point in a development is a multi-use community facility a good addition (eg when the north end of Penrith is developed by different developers over a period of time)?

**Objective 6 – Education** – MW explained that this section needed more consideration to see whether the NP policies could help and needed to be redrafted to include social interaction so a change of heading. Education is covered by policies within the Eden Local Plan so the policy on supporting the development of new or extended education, health and community facilities should be removed unless specific land use policies can be identified. Important to note that the Town Council have considered the information but that it is in existing documentation

**Objective 7 – Town Centre Parking** – no comments although concern was expressed about the lack or long term cheap car parking for workers.

**Objective 8 – Traffic Management** – remove reference to CIL in No 4 of the policy. Covered in Eden Local Plan but add a Town Council supporting action

**Objective 9 – Penrith Town Centre** – MW suggested and it was **AGREED** that a separate working party comprising of interested members together with a BID representative and the Town Councils Economic Development Officer should take place. This meeting would be used to look at mapping the town with a view to identifying what worked, what didn't and potential opportunities. MW suggested that this was one area where the NDP could make a real difference.

**AGREED** that:

1. a working party comprising of SMc, PB, JB, DL, MW a BID Representative and the Economic Development Officer be organised;
2. RR checks to see whether 4.30pm on 29<sup>th</sup> January is suitable and books a room for the meeting;
3. that the information be circulated to all members of the NDP Group so that they could attend if they wished to

## **NEXT STEPS**

MW explained to those present that he felt that the document was 80% complete, just needing some sections finalised before work was done on formatting and presentation (including pictures). **AGREED** that the master copy of the document would be held by RR to whom all comments and suggestions should be addressed so that they could be considered by the appropriate person(s)

## **6. Next Meeting**

**AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 February at 5.00pm, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

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Chairman

For the attention of members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group:

Michael Wellock – Kirkwells Planning Consultancy

### **Planning Committee Members**

Cllr Peter Baker

Cllr Scott Jackson

Cllr Duncan Graham

Cllr Ron Kenyon

### **Additional Members**

Roe Baker – CAFS

Stephen Macaulay – Chamber of Trade

John Bodger – PACT

Cllr Julie Monk

Paul Buckland – QEGS  
Nick Ellery - UCC  
Dan Harding – Penrith BID  
Cllr Doug Lawson

Jane Sullivan – Newton Rigg  
Mariusz Waluk – Minority & Health  
Stephen Williams – Churches Together  
Simon Whalley - EVAN