



PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the

Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

Held on: Wednesday 10 October 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr Peter Baker	Chairman - PTC	Cllr Doug Lawson	PTC
Roe Baker	CAFs	Tim Lorton	BID
John Bodger	PACT	Stephen Macaulay	Chamber of Trade
Cllr Grattan Bowen	PTC	Juan Shimmin	Cumbria Youth Alliance
Cllr Scott Jackson	PTC	Michael Wellock	Kirkwells
Cllr Ron Kenyon	PTC		

Also present: Rosalyn Richardson – Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Julie Monk.

It was reported that Stephen Williams would not be able to attend meetings due to work commitments, however Cllrs Bowen and Lawson would be able to liaise with Churches Together and he would still receive documentation and provide any feedback should this be necessary.

2. Notes of Meeting held 14 May 2018

The notes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018 were approved for publication.

3. Housing Needs Survey 2018

The Housing Needs Survey carried out by the Housing Department of Eden District Council on behalf of Penrith Town Council was received. It was noted that the survey confirmed the need for smaller 1 and 2 bed houses and affordable housing but with small gardens or green spaces.

4. Informal Public Consultation

The comments from the public, Chamber of Trade, EDC and Centre for Sustainability to the informal consultation were considered. The advice from the Planning Consultant was that some issues were already covered adequately within the local plan and some could not be included within planning policies but could be considered as supporting actions.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that:

1. there could be a policy supporting the installation of public art;
2. Frenchfield should remain on the protected leisure space list;
3. the area outside of the town should have some protection and that there should be a separate objective about the natural landscape, ecology and biodiversity and the protection of a view;
4. there should be a better definition of wind turbines within new developments as new solutions such as helical wind turbines or those looking like trees were being developed all the time;
5. MW would make the necessary amendments to the draft document before forwarding to RR;
6. the reference to BREEAM should be removed;
7. there was a need to link biodiversity and map wildlife corridors within the town;
8. MW would make the necessary amendments to the plan which would be taken to full Council on 26 November prior to the Regulation 14 Consultation

5. Greenspaces Appendix

A revised appendix was handed round which incorporated several changes although there were still some more to do. Clarification was provided that although the appendix listed all green spaces those to be given the additional protection were listed in the document under Policy 8.

Although not a green space it was reported that EDC had objected to the inclusion of the Town Hall and Mansion House as community facilities. It was **AGREED** to remove them from the list.

6. The Beacon and Surrounding Forest Land

There was a discussion regarding the protection of the whole of the Beacon and adjoining forest land as a protected green space given the strength of feeling within the town about its possible development.

Taking any emotion out of the equation, MW pointed out that the Masterplan had no status in development terms and that any changes to the Local Plan would need to be widely consulted upon. In order to designate a piece of land as designated green space it had to demonstrably special, in close proximity to those using it and not an extensive tract of land. The whole of the Beacon and the adjoining woodland was close to 317 acres.

Any attempt to protect the whole area would be likely to prompt a major objection to the Neighbourhood Plan from the landowner and EDC and it may run the risk that EDC would use this not to progress the Neighbourhood Plan due to fundamental differences at this stage.

The advice given was that it may be possible to provide evidence to protect the front of the Beacon but to challenge any potential attempts to develop any of the rest of the area in a different way using landscape and biodiversity policies and arguments and sustainability arguments.

The NDPG agreed that their strong preference would be to protect the whole area from development however it was recognised that this was likely to delay or even halt the NP so it was reluctantly **AGREED** to aim to protect the front of the Beacon as protected green space as that was the iconic view with lots of evidence to back it up and to try to protect the current commercial forestry area in other ways although both areas would be mapped within the appendix.

6. Next Meeting

AGREED that the next meeting would be arranged as required.

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

Members

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