

Truro & Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan

Meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Working Group Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 6.00 pm in the Municipal Buildings, Truro

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Councillor Lindsay Southcombe – Truro City Council
Councillor Richard Tinney – Kenwyn Parish Council
Councillor William Robinson – Kenwyn Parish Council (Chairman)
Rob Pickering – Community Energy Plus
Robin Sellwood – Transition Truro
Mara Sellwood – Transition Truro

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Antony Ayers, Truro City Council

Item		Action
2	Minutes	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 13 th December 2011 were approved as a correct record.	-
	Roger Gazzard provided an update from the minutes, reporting he had spoken to Claire Brown (pg 5 (ii)) regarding grant funding, and Truro City Council and Transition Truro would be signing off on an application for a grant applicable to projects planning on sharing community resources.	RG
	Mr Gazzard also reported the Housing Working Group had made the decision they would be focusing on an 'ideal' house, and therefore the Environment and Climate Change Working Group would be focusing outside the house. Mr Gazzard pointed out the Neighbourhood Plan had to balance high sustainability with realistic planning goals, and therefore the Housing Working Group would be looking at applying Code 3, which was higher than the code of a normal market value house, with a view of increasing where realistic.	RG
	Robert Pickering asked if the size of the garden would be considered, and Mr Gazzard responded it would be set at a minimum of 50 square meters per house, and the Housing Working Group would be commenting on sourcing local materials for building where viable. Mr Gazzard added the Steering Group would be receiving reports from the Housing Working Group, and would then be feeding the reports to the other Working Groups so decisions could be made with the recommendations of the other groups in mind – particularly pertinent to the Environment and Climate Change Working Group, as the decisions to be made had to be highly integrated with the decisions of the other groups, as opposed to being independently considered.	RP RG
	Councillor Southcombe felt communal gardens were important, as private gardens could be paved over if residents wished. Mr Pickering added some people were travelling miles to reach their nearest allotment, and therefore allotment space should be a priority consideration as it was in high demand. Robin Sellwood added a percentage of allotments per house should be determined. Margaret Sellwood pointed out there were also people who did not wish to have a garden, or who were not able to maintain one due to ill	LS RP RS MS

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	<p>health, and they should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Mr Pickering added open space and recreational spaces were also important, not just in terms of capacity, or number of areas, but also positioning during development, as highlighted by Councillor Tinney who felt the proposed Langarth development placed houses facing in the wrong direction for maximising solar energy production.</p> <p>Councillor Southcombe felt recommendations made by the committee, since they were not able to over-ride the Core Strategy though they could influence it during its developmental stages, should be radical in nature. Mr Gazzard pointed out if documents produced by Cornwall Council, such as the Sustainability Appraisal, were considered to be relevant by the Working Group, and as such, recommendations were made based upon their evidence, then it would add weight and credibility to the Neighbourhood Plan as well as strengthen the draft documents the evidence was derived from.</p> <p>Local food production was also discussed, and it was felt there may be some conflict with developers regarding the type of land used for development. However, it was reiterated planning was bound by the original legislation at the present time.</p> <p>Mr Pickering raised the possibility of solar energy production on allotment space, and asked if it should be something the Working Group could include in their recommendations. Councillor Tinney confirmed he felt all renewable energy sources should be considered where possible. Mr Pickering added ground source heat pumps and air sourced heat pumps could be considered. Mrs Sellwood added Cornwall used to have many watermills and they could be considered again. Councillor Southcombe pointed out the business community was already considering the inclusion of a watermill behind the Cathedral.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>RT</p> <p>LS</p> <p>RG</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>RP</p> <p>RT</p> <p>RP</p> <p>MS</p> <p>LS</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Definition of Sustainability</p> <p>After much discussion, Councillor Southcombe's definition of sustainability, as expressed in the previous minutes, was amended, and 'resilience', as suggested by Rob Lacey was added. Members agreed it was a working definition, and after recommendations had been made by the Working Group, the definition would be revisited. The agreed definition was as follows:</p> <p><i>Sustainable, appropriate development is development that meets current human need (but not necessarily wants) without compromising natural capital. It takes account of the needs of future generations, other species and the carrying capacity of the planet. It recognises the intrinsic value of nature and the protection of the environment. We want our community to be resilient enough to withstand future shocks, notably climate change and resource depletion, for example by enhancing food and energy production. We want Truro and Kenwyn to thrive under a new era of community cohesion and localism.</i></p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Documentation Evidence provided by Hilary Gooch/Rob Lacey</p> <p>As the additional documentation had not yet been provided, it was agreed the documents would be discussed at a later meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

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5	<p>Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Gazzard to chase up Rob Lacey for the documentation outlined in the previous minutes. • For copies of the Sustainability Appraisal, and any other relevant documents to be copied and circulated to members. Members to look at the documents prior to the next meeting, where headings would be created from the Sustainability Appraisal and turned into Agenda items for discussion. • Mr Gazzard to speak to the Cornwall Development Company to investigate the possibility of inviting a developer to a future meeting so they may comment on the topics that will be considered for recommendation, and to provide a more inclusive view. <p>Finally, Mr Gazzard commented it was a possibility once the Neighbourhood Plan draft had been created, a trailer would be provided on Lemon Quay to garner the views of the general public. He hoped the addition of an email membership list of young people would be beneficial in obtaining views from the younger end of the spectrum, and Mr Gazzard was working on other methods of obtaining views from other demographics.</p>	<p>RG</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>RG</p> <p>RG</p>
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 31st January at 6:00pm</p>	-

The Meeting closed at 7.15 pm

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CHAIRMAN