

Truro & Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan

Meeting of the Transportation and Communications Working Group Thursday 17 November 2011 at 6.15 pm in the Municipal Buildings, Truro

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Councillor A Ayers – Truro City Council
Councillor R Ellis – Kenwyn Parish Council
Councillor C Wells – Truro City Council
Mr Matt Sydney – Cornwall Council
Mr Roger Gazzard – Town Clerk, Truro City Council

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor David Johns

Item		Action
1	Chairman It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Wells be elected as Chairman of the Working Group.	-
2	Introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan Process Mr Roger Gazzard explained the background to the Truro and Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan to Mr Sydney, Transport Strategic Manager, Cornwall Council. He advised the Steering Committee met every two weeks and they had formed seven working groups.	-
3	Up to Date Position The Town Clerk referred to the list of organisations specified in the previous minutes and confirmed he had not yet contacted Nigel Blackler, Head of Transportation, Cornwall Council nor Bernard Ray, Sustrans, National Cycle Network. Mr Sydney confirmed the report of Parsons Brinckerhoff setting out Cornwall Council's approach to tackling the current problems, future challenges and opportunities for the transport system within the Truro/Threemilestone area, was going to cabinet in December. Members discussed inviting consultants to a future meeting to talk through what effect the strategy model would have on Truro's infrastructure. Mr Sydney reported the transport strategy review was to be presented to cabinet in January 2012 in line with the three year review. Information for transport strategies was gathered by the Department for Transport (DFT) with surveys being commissioned specifically for a particular task. He advised roadside interviews also took place with all information being fed into a "model". Members considered that one problem Truro had was that it was part of the strategic road network and there was a high demand to travel through Truro to reach Falmouth, Threemilestone etc.	-

3	<p>Following a question regarding future car use figures, Mr Sydney confirmed that, TEMPRO (Department of Transport) is used for transport planning purposes. The forecasts include population, employment, households by car ownership, trip ends and simple traffic growth factors based on data from the National Transport Model (NTM).</p> <p>Rail Travel</p> <p>Following discussion on rail travel Mr Sydney confirmed he could arrange for someone to attend a future meeting to talk to the Working Party on the Mid Cornwall Rail Study. He advised there was a programme to invest in a feasibility study and the production of a pre-feasibility report to identify potential convergence investments in the mid-Cornwall rail network, to provide an enhanced north-south rail service between key towns in mid-Cornwall.</p> <p>Mr Sydney reported the Truro Falmouth branch line, providing an improved public transport giving access to work and combined universities in Cornwall at Falmouth, Penryn and Truro had been a phenomenal success. He advised there had been a one hundred and seventy per cent increase in usage of the line since the loop service had been installed. Mr Sydney confirmed the Truro Rail Study, published two/three years ago, looked at the benefit to Truro to reinstate the halts at Truro, Grampound Road etc and Councillor Ellis confirmed that, should the stadium for Cornwall be built, Kenwyn Parish Council would support the opening of the halt at Hugus. Mr Sydney confirmed it was imperative that a good level of service had to accompany any additional services.</p> <p>Bus Service</p> <p>It was confirmed street surveys had been conducted in Truro, the result of which would help inform the first stages of the emerging bus Station Feasibility Study to help determine the most suitable location for Truro bus station.</p> <p>Members were advised Cornwall Council were unable to charge bus fares above the commercially operated bus companies and reported most services were run commercially by bus operators along commercially viable routes and at such times as operators feel they can make a profit. Mr Sydney confirmed Cornwall Council only became involved in areas and at times when nothing was provided commercially. He confirmed the successful tenderer then ran these services under contract to Cornwall Council. As a rough guide Mr Sydney advised that all the evening and Sunday services ran only because of Cornwall Council, also almost all the rural routes, some town services and some inter-urban routes. Members were advised that in all, about forty per cent of all bus mileage is run under contract to Cornwall Council and these services carried some three million passenger journeys a year out of the total of eleven million bus journeys made on local services.</p> <p>Mr Sydney confirmed the general level of service was better than it had been for a long time with over ninety-eight per cent people living in communities having bus services. It was reported everyone living in communities over a thousand population had services which ran at work, shopping and school times. Half the population had services that run hourly or better through the day, some on ten minute frequencies.</p>	
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3	Cycle Network Mr Sydney confirmed a secure network was required for cyclists and the new route planned to run between Treliske Lane and the City centre would open up the area at Coosebean for pedestrians and leisure cyclists to enjoy. He reported this route offered a safer alternative to cyclists currently using the A390 Highertown road and would be accessible from Treliske Lane, Malabar Road, Cornish Crescent and Coosebean Lane and enter into Truro via St George's Road.	
4	Dates of Future Meetings In view of a Planning meeting scheduled to take place on 8 December 2011, it was agreed to change the next meeting of the Working Party to Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 6.15 pm, when the railway network should be discussed. Thursday 12 January 2012 discussion take place on the road strategy.	-

The Meeting closed at 7.00 pm

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CHAIRMAN