



PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of the

Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

Held on: Tuesday 14 November 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr Peter Baker	Chairman - PTC	Juan Shimmin	Cumbria Youth Alliance
John Bodger	PACT	Jane Sullivan	Newton Rigg College
Cllr Duncan Graham	PTC	Stephen Williams	Churches Together
Cllr Doug Lawson	PTC	Michael Wellock	Kirkwells
Stephen Macaulay	Chamber of Trade		

Also present: Rosalyn Richardson – Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Roe Baker (CAFs), Paul Buckland (QEGS), Cllr Scott Jackson (PTC) and Cllr Ron Kenyon (PTC).

Introductions were made as new members had joined the group. Stephen, Juan and Jane welcomed to their first meeting.

2. Notes of Meeting held 19 July 2017

The notes of the meeting held on 19 July 2017 were approved for publication.

SMc asked how the document had evolved and was informed that the key issues incorporated into the document by PGB had emerged from comments made at the public consultation events. Under a previous Chair, it had been proposed to set up focus groups to consider the issues however, it was felt that this was impractical as most people on the group had jobs.

PGB explained that he had worked on the issues pulled together using research information and comments provided by members of the group in order to draft the document and that MW had developed the objectives and policies so that the group had something tangible to consider and debate.

SMc felt that an important missing element was mapping of the town. It was explained that a number of appendices would eventually be included with the document, including mapping.

MW pointed out that at this point members of the group were being asked to consider whether they were happy with the general key issues, vision and objectives so that more detail could be incorporated into the document for the next stage. Those present were advised that the group had an opportunity to include much finer detail for the Town Centre than the Local Plan and that the fine detail would be included once policy headings and objectives had been broadly agreed.

3. Key Issues

The key issues outlined in the draft were agreed although it was acknowledged that the sections on culture and leisure, well-being and education needed to be expanded.

JW said that she would provide figures on full time student numbers at Newton Rigg to RR for inclusion in the document.

SMc suggested that there was a gap between the conservation areas of the New Streets and the Town Centre and that the remaining frontages on Drovers Lane should be included to protect the buildings.

PB reported that EDC had requested potential brownfield sites for possible future development. A number of sites had been identified by the Planning Committee and forwarded to EDC.

In terms of employment, JS explained that a county wide bid by FE providers had been submitted to the Institute of Technology to try to attract higher level skill training. It was explained that Newton Rigg had training for the hospitality industry on their radar although they had advertised a tourism course previously that had no intake. Established catering courses are already provided at Carlisle or Kendal so there is no suggestions that this will be covered by the college.

In terms of transport reference to rail travel needed to be included as did a reference to the regular bus link from Carlisle to Penrith.

References to the areas rich history and the festivals and events needs to be included.

4. Finalising the Vision

Those present considered the suggested options for the Vision and **AGREED** that the preferred vision based on Option A and refined by circulation to Members:

Penrith: Gateway to the Lakes - a great place to live, work and visit

By 2032, Penrith will be a highly successful and sustainable market town at the gateway to the lakes providing an environment for investment, opportunities for families, quality of life and tourism, reflecting on the past to deliver its future whilst protecting the best of its built and natural character'

AGREED that amendments be made and finalised at the next meeting of the group.

5. Reviewing the Objectives and Policies

a) Objectives

The objectives on the report were considered. It was **AGREED** that objectives 3 to 11 were acceptable but that Objectives 1 and 2 should be amended as follows:

Objective 1

To ensure that all development in the town is sustainable and meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Objective 2

To support a level of housing growth that retains Penrith's identity with high levels of social interaction. Actual housing needs rather than perceived needs should be met through the provision of a range of housing types and tenures that help grow the local population, especially young people. Good quality sustainable design should be promoted.

b) Policies

MW explained that the policies had been prepared on a standard Neighbourhood Plan format underneath an expanded objective. **AGREED** that the objectives and policies in 5.1 need to be in the same order as those in Section 6.

Objective 1 - Sustainability

In terms of the objective and policies on sustainable development the work carried out by the sustainability group had been incorporated. Although some of the suggested policies pushed boundaries, MW encouraged the group to do this and submit to EDC to gauge their reaction.

Objective 2 – Housing

MW explained that housing was dealt with extensively by EDCs Core Strategies and Local Plan so rather than allocate sites, the Neighbourhood Plan would try to address housing needs through the mix of housing, affordability, design and development in private gardens. A detailed housing needs survey is going to be undertaken on Penrith by Eden District Council funded from the Community Housing Fund. This will add to the information already provided through the initial consultation.

The Group **AGREED** that they were comfortable with the heading and policies contained with it which could be developed further as necessary.

Objective 3 – Greenspaces

A lot of work has been progressed in identifying greenspaces which need to be mapped. The Plan can designate local green spaces that would then be protected however, the space needs to fulfil the national criteria and be demonstrably special. **AGREED** that Members of the group need to consider which greenspaces they would wish to designate.

Objective 4 – Culture and Leisure

Additional work was still required on the mapping of leisure and recreation facilities which would be carried out prior to the next meeting.

Councillor Graham left the meeting at 5.50pm.

Objective 5 – Wellbeing

Concern was expressed that although the proposed policies looked at protecting and enhancing health and community facilities, there was nothing specific to help 16-18 year olds and tackle drugs problems in the town which could also be linked to mental health problems.

It was explained that the Neighbourhood Plan was specifically about planning policies relating to land use however the NP could include supporting actions. Members were advised that the Community Plan was a broader document which could cover engagement with young people and which could link with the Neighbourhood Plan as a supporting document. It was pointed out that information was not available in one place for young people re sports clubs, youth groups, events etc which would be especially valuable for residential students at Newton Rigg. A youth section on the website would be very valuable. It was explained that it was hoped to set up a Youth Summit which could cover a number of issues.

AGREED that an additional objective about engaging with young people and a clear link to the issues of drugs, alcohol and mental health should be included and that the ideas regarding information and website would be passed to the appropriate officer in the Town Council to follow up.

Objective 6 – Education

Needs to be linked to above through engagement with young people as there is very little in the way of youth services or drop in centres in Penrith.

Objective 7 – Car Parking

It was suggested that specific sites should not be highlighted at the present time. It was pointed out that there is a caravan site down Thacka Lane with hook ups but that it wasn't well signposted.

Objective 8 – Traffic Management

Specific detail about traffic improvements that are required to improve the flow round Penrith need to be included.

Objective 9 – Town Centre

It was felt that a mapping exercise regarding signage should be included. MW pointed out that objective 9 and the associated policies should be the centrepiece of the Neighbourhood Plan as they are not covered in the Local Plan and could provide an real opportunity to the town.

Objective 10 – Employment

EDCs Local Plan allocates employment sites. EDC are preparing a Neighbourhood Development Order to set up 5 Food Enterprise Zones in Eden including 3 in Penrith at Gilwilly Industrial Estate Extension, Newton Rigg Campus and Skirsgill (land to the south of the A66). This is designed to encourage food and farming businesses to expand their business activities into processing, packing and other activities which 'add value' to agricultural produce, as part of a wider objective to increase the number of higher paid skilled jobs within the district.

Objective 11 – Tourism

There is a need to consider whether areas in the town centre could lend themselves to leisure and tourism uses, this is something that the NP could expand upon and push.

Next Steps

AGREED that:

1. SMc would submit his views on the town centre to RR for circulation to the group
2. MW would go through the document to produce more detailed policies
3. RR would produce information for an appendix on health, leisure and community assets and circulate for comment / addition
4. Consideration to be given on which employment sites should be protected.

6. Next Meeting

AGREED that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 16 January at 4.30pm, 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

Jane Sullivan – Newton Rigg

Nick Ellery - UCC

Mariusz Waluk – Minority & Health

Dan Harding – Penrith BID

Stephen Williams – Churches Together

Cllr Doug Lawson

Simon Whalley - EVAN