

The Progress of Our Plan

Back in 2013, Geoff Clemerson, on behalf of South Hill Parish Council, applied for designation as a Neighbourhood Planning Area. This was the start of the process. A team was formed to guide the development of the plan, and members of the public were invited to make suggestions at several parish events such as the Horticultural Show. In December 2014, we delivered and collected a 24 page survey to every household in the parish. Over 80% of people living here replied to the questions, and further events were held to exhibit the results and discuss them with the residents.

Not all the questions in the survey were about planning matters, so they have not all lead to policies in our NDP, but the information gained about peoples wishes will help the Parish Council make decisions for years to come, and has already prompted the council to try and improve the state of the public footpaths in the parish.

The survey revealed some strong difference of opinion about some topics, including wind turbines and large scale solar panels. This was reflected in our NDP development team, where some wanted us to include a renewable energy policy, but a majority thought it better not to include a policy which was likely to be contentious.

The development team have continued to study Government guidance, and look at numerous other Neighbourhood Plans, to draw up a plan which would suit our own parish, which one of the smallest NDP areas in Cornwall. We continued to talk to residents at various events in the parish, and to discuss our emerging plan with officers from Cornwall Council. By July 2016, had a draft plan and were able to astart a 6 week consultation with various statutory bodies, such as Natural England, the Highways Agency, Historic England, and of course, the residents of the parish. The responses were encouraging, but we had still not made a final decision whether or not to include a renewable energy policy.

We were advised to seek outside expert advice. Cornwall Councillor George Trubody, who has been recognized by Locality as a Neighbourhood Planning Champion, came to adress our team in November 2016. On his advice, we conducted another online survey, and then obtained further professional advice in January 2017 from a qualified planning consultant through the Cornwall Rural Communities Council. After making minor corrections to our draft plan based on this advice, the development team voted by a sustantial majority to adopt the present draft plan, dated February 2017, for submission to Cornwall Council.

What you see now is the plan that will be submitted for the next stage in the process. It is not perfect, but we are satisfied that this plan is a fair representation of the expressed views the majority of our residents on planning matters in this parish. We hope you will agree.