

Notes of Business, Employment, Transport & Infrastructure (BETI)
Focus Group



2nd February 2016 at Chalfonts, Trevaunance Road, St Agnes.

Present: Alan Clark, Roger Radcliffe, Vince Falco, Jamie Roberson, Mike Bunt.

Declarations of interest from anyone other than Steering Group members:

Vince: Two rental Properties in the Parish
Jamie Runs St Agnes Cycle Hub

Business

As part of the Community Engagement and an attempt to involve local businesses Roger was doing his NDP talk to several organisations, the following have already been done or arranged:

Blackwater Poppins Group	10/12/2015	
St Agnes Transition Group	01/03/2016	Venue TBA
St Agnes Chamber of Commerce	19/04/2016	Venue WI Hall
St Agnes WI are interested but date TBA		
Blackwater Village Hall Trust (Cheryl)	08/03/2016	Venue Blackwater Village Hall

There was some interesting feedback from the Blackwater Poppins event – see Appendix 1.

Roger has researched a number of business questionnaires from other NDPs. He felt that his favourite format was the one used by Amberley and has produced a draft set of questions – The Amberley questionnaire is accessible on our website cloud storage: “Amberley PC NP Questionnaire”. And Roger’s draft questions: “Questionnaire”.

There was some discussion on the format of the questions e.g. whether they might be considered as leading? It was agreed that at this stage it was important to at least produce some draft questions and we could worry about their format at a later stage.

Following Alan’s meeting with him, Toby Parkins had made the following suggestions on Business Premises:

There is potential for new developments and also for refurbishing existing buildings.

The Eco Park at Porthtown does have some available employment space.

There is a requirement for commercial buildings for start-up companies and small businesses.

There appears to be plenty of light industrial space available and he is aware of companies requiring office space having to convert light industrial space.

The need therefore is for office space with suitable heating and communications facilities etc.

Providing office space would encourage a better knowledge base and bring generally better turnover to the Parish.

100% PV installation should be encouraged on any new commercial buildings, as it is a small added cost to the building but attractive to potential tenants.

There appeared to be a trend of converting shops to dwellings or office space. This is considered to be bad for the parish.

Renewable Energy

Roger had been in touch with John Allen (BEng, PhD) of MIGRID on the subject of local Power Distribution. This had produced a number of contacts, sources of data and a map which have been forwarded to Vince and other group members.

Vince to produce a set of draft questions (5-10 in number) on Renewables for the questionnaire.

Action Vince

Public Transport

Alan had received some statistics from the PTU at C'Hall. To see this report access "St Agnes Travel Data" on the Cloud Storage on the NDP website under: "St Agnes Travel Data"

These stats appeared to show how different routes varied in their viability, with some routes being well used and therefore profitable whilst others were much less well used.

He intended using this data to help frame his draft questions for the questionnaire.

He was also looking in to how cycle and foot paths could be linked into public transport.

Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Bridleways

Jamie was scheduled to attend a meeting with Cormac and Sustrans on 4th February to discuss the fact that St Agnes was being used as a pilot project to encourage cycle rather than car use.

They would be discussing the design and infrastructure necessary e.g. where cycle racks could be located etc.

He was also interested in obtaining the details of landowners whose land might be useful for producing interconnecting cycle/foot paths throughout the Parish.

Action Jamie: To produce five draft questions for the questionnaire

Utilities and Communications

Alan had been in touch with Viv Bidgood regarding the availability of Utilities Maps of the Parish. He reported that it was possible for us to set up an account which would enable us to access these maps.

Unfortunately, the maps tended not to cover over-ground utilities such as power cables.

He believed that similar maps were also available from the communications companies.

Alan had also met with Toby Parkins to seek his input on communications infrastructure.

Toby felt that BT were unlikely to help unless it involved very large developments.

He also suggested that a possible policy might be to encourage new developments to incorporate underground conduit for BT fibre/copper connections. That group felt that this could include all utilities.

It was agreed that a possible "aspiration" might be to have all new developments connected by fibre to BT's CABs.

Alan also had contact details for Julian Cowan of the Cornwall Superfast Team which might prove useful.

Date of next meeting: To be arranged.

Appendix 1

Feedback from Blackwater Poppins Group

There were many follow-up questions and comments, here is a selection of them that I made note of at the time:

1. Infrastructure needs to be provided first in the order of development, it is so often playing catch-up. This applies to schools, parking, cycling etc.
2. "The minutes of NDP meetings showing date and time of future meetings are posted on the website after the agendas. The agendas are fine but could notifications of meetings be shown two or three meetings ahead as I want to attend one of your Steering group meetings and I am finding it difficult."
3. Holiday homes are a problem, is there any way to restrict developments which include more of these?
4. Employment needs to be a consideration in planning new homes; where will people work?
5. There were specific concerns expressed about proposed developments on North Hill and East Hill.
6. The mix of housing is important. Developments containing all social housing (for example) are not welcome. "They don't become involved with the village".
7. The speed of change is difficult to cope with; we need time to assimilate new development.