

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



10th December 2015 at Wheal Quoit, 27 Trevaunance Road, St Agnes.

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

Actions from previous meeting:

Business

Roger had not received any feedback on the two documents that he had presented at the last meeting. It was agreed that everyone should do this before the next meeting.

Mike had found a document entitled “What’s in it for me? / A Roadmap for Businesses and Neighbourhood Planning” This was all about how an NDP might be able to help local businesses. It is available on our website under Documents.

The group was disappointed that nobody from the Chamber of Commerce had attended our meetings – it was agreed that we should approach them again.

Actions:

- Roger said he would work on some questions relating to business for the next questionnaire.
- Roger would be happy to do his NDP presentation to the “Transition St Agnes” Group. Alan to broach the subject with Jo Pollack.
- Alan will approach Louise Treseder reference attending the next FG3 Meeting to represent the Chamber of Commerce.
- Mike and / or Vince to approach Ian Doble to enlist his help.
- All to review the two documents and provide feedback.

Renewable Energy

Vince explained how recent changes in Government policies had all but destroyed the expansion of domestic PV generation. (i.e. rooftop solar panels)

He felt that the only way forward now was for the NDP to ask the public whether they wanted Community Generation Projects e.g. Wind, Solar and Sea?

There was some discussion on whether this was an area that an NDP could influence? Vince agreed to look at other NDPs to see how they covered the subject.

He agreed to start thinking about some questions for the questionnaire on renewables.

Roger hadn’t yet contacted Stephen Ford at County Hall regarding contacts who might be able to provide some data.

Actions:

- Vince to research other NDPs
- Vince to start producing questions for the questionnaire.
- Roger to contact Stephen Ford.

Public Transport

Alan had contacted Dave Edwards at the Passenger Transport Unit at County Hall who was producing some data.

He had started work on producing questions for the questionnaire.

He has established that the bus companies are prepared to provide the degree of service required provided there is sufficient support and usage to allow them to provide this on a small profit basis. The population needs to be canvassed regarding what services would be used and how much they are prepared to pay for them.

Roger has approached Victoria Fraser (CC Transport Planning and Strategy Team Leader) asking for her assistance in producing a parish profile.

Actions:

- Consider an early approach to canvassing people using buses on their views and support for changes.
- Produce a set of questions concerning public transport •
- Check what questions other parishes have formulated reference public transport

Utilities and Communications

Mike had invited Toby to the meeting but he had been unable to attend. Alan suggested that as Toby was so busy, he would contact him and if he was unable to attend in future he might be able to pass on some thoughts to Alan.

Actions:

- Allan to approach Toby Parkins.

Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Bridleways.

Jamie shared his 'vision' on how our villages could be made more pedestrian and cycle friendly. This involved many ideas including:

- Provision of bike racks around the village to encourage cycling.
- Possible cycle route to Truro
- Cycle paths linking all five wards in the Parish
- There was evidence that the pavements in the area covered by the one way system could be widened to promote pedestrian safety.
- Use of different style road surfaces to encourage 'shared ownership' between drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

- Removal of excess road signs e.g. corner chevrons and some white lines which are believed to encourage higher speeds in a normally low speed area!!!
- To improve traffic flow he suggested the removal of the roundabout on Dales Corner.
- Consideration be given to studying the whole subject of on and off street parking.

There was a general discussion on Jamie's ideas, one of the main problems highlighted was parking in the village – i.e. too much on-street and not enough off-street parking. There was some concern over how much the NDP could 'micro manage' traffic etc. It was decided that the opinion of the Steering Group would be sought on this matter.

A couple of suggestions which the NDP might be able to put forward as policies were:

- Earmarking of certain areas of land as possible resident's car parks e.g. in British Road and Rosemundy?
- Future developments to include cycle storage facilities to encourage cycles instead of cars for short journeys e.g. to the shops.

Actions:

- Jamie to find out if Sustrans have any data we could use.
- Jamie to come up with five questions to cover this subject.
- All to seek clarification from Steering Group on the need to find an outlet for "ideas and solutions" that emerge from the work of Focus Groups but go beyond the policy formulation remit of our NDP document

Miscellaneous

It was noted that in June 2016 the next wave of EEC grants would become available and that qualifying schemes for improving Parish facilities e.g. car parks, safe cycle ways could attract an EEC grant. We should consider this further in the FG and SG

Next meeting to concentrate on Business and will be on Thursday January 7th 2017 at Chalfonts, Trevaunance Road (Vince's) at 1800hrs.