

St. Agnes NDP - Small Group Meetings

St. Agnes Chamber of Commerce 4th May 2016

The meeting was held at Rustic Cakes, Station Yard, St. Agnes, 8 people attended representing 11 businesses.

The group received the NDP introductory presentation "St. Agnes Parish – The Story so far" from Roger Radcliffe, a discussion then took place from which the following points were noted:

1. It is a goal of the Chamber of Commerce to develop business and the local economy, **damage to the landscape is a concern** because it damages the local economy, especially as so many of local members rely on tourism and it is a very competitive marketplace.
2. Would it be possible to have a policy favouring **solar panels on roofs** rather than filling fields with them?
3. Larger renewable energy schemes should **favour local investors** rather than foreign investors in order to keep the money in the local economy.
4. Solar panels on factory roofs would be better. Conservation area status or World Heritage Status **restrictions may need to be loosened** in order to give some people the opportunity of installing solar panels.
5. Don't fill the landscape with too many houses, leave some room for the tourists! **Caravanning and camping** are legitimate activities too.
6. Please include a 'floating allocation' to encourage construction of **new business premises** wherever they're needed, there are lots of new businesses in the parish needing improved – AFFORDABLE – premises.
7. Aim for a 'quota' of **affordable business development units**, set a target, "they're currently like gold dust."
8. Innovation Centre style **support hub** would be a good idea but it would need to be genuinely affordable (i.e. not £300 to hire a room).
9. The success of events like the Christmas Market/late night shopping suggests that there is room for **more business events** of this kind. There should be encouragement (and public sector support) to develop this.
10. We would favour **year round use of new housing**. It is important to distinguish between second homes and holiday rentals. The NDP should establish exactly how many second homes we currently have and aim to reduce the percentage of second homes in the parish.
11. **We need more of the people who live here to work here**; it keeps the money circulating in the local economy. We want a more active local economy 12 months of the year.
12. **Staff need somewhere to live** (either renting or buying); winter lets are limited. Some members of staff use a campsite for the summer.

13. The NDP should **favour local developers** and smaller development sites, it is very disappointing to see all the profits taken out of the local economy from big developments by large 'non-local' developers.
14. Major developers should be restricted by Section 106 agreements (or Community Infrastructure Levy). We need the money to come back into our local economy for local benefit. Any development of more than, say, 10 homes should pay double the amount (or more), the aim is to **discourage big developments** and to discourage big companies taking the profits and running (the redevelopment of the former Film Studios site was cited as a case in point). Money earmarked for local use must be matched with an equal effort to encourage take-up of that money by local projects and groups.
15. **Indoor leisure facilities**, particularly for young people, are needed. (It was, however, noted that existing facilities were not always well used e.g. the local gym).
16. Please **don't use too many highly paid consultants** in producing the NDP, use them only where absolutely necessary.
17. New housing developments should be a spur to encourage **more small shops**. Not supermarkets but more 'corner shop' options in keeping with local needs and surroundings (the former Goonbell Post Office was cited as an example). For outlying houses it was often less hassle to drive to Truro than to drive into St. Agnes even for small purchases. Small shops like this might help stop unnecessary car journeys and encourage people to buy locally.
18. **PARKING**. A range of diverse views were voiced by those present at the meeting. As a general principle it was agreed that **more homes will require more parking** space to be allocated in the villages. Other views included: (i) For busy mums, the Spar with its parking outside, was often the simplest option. Free parking in some measure was essential. (ii) Pay and display was essential. (iii) Long term parking in Trelawny Road car park was the issue. (iv) Charging would potentially drive people away from St. Agnes. (v) Consider adopting a numberplate recognition system in any parking scheme designed for St. Agnes (the Driftwood Spars had just installed one). (vi) A minibus park and ride shuttle service circulating around St. Agnes should be considered. (vii) Pay and display but with a free period (not too short). (viii) We need free parking but we also need to find a solution to the current abuse of the Trelawny Road car park.
19. New homes must include **at least two parking spaces per dwelling**; car ownership is a feature of rural life therefore needs to be properly accommodated into new developments.
20. Pavements in new developments must be wide enough for **wheel chairs**.

21. Why must our local bus companies insist on using **double decker buses**?
They are too big for our lanes.
22. Tourism based businesses depend on the quality of the local landscape.
Do not build any higher up St. Agnes Beacon.
23. Article IV Directive in restricting campsites needs more discretion. We should be supporting **more temporary campsites** over the summer months. There need to be more 28 day campsites for tents because at peak season we are at capacity.
24. A very clear policy on **Second Homes** is key to the NDP. We want year round business.
25. **Homes for older people.** More flats (not tower blocks) and more smaller units. This might also help with options for staff too.
26. Need to give this presentation and brainstorming opportunity to a wider audience. It would help to manage expectations. It has been useful to have the opportunity to air our views and ideas. Give the presentation to councillors too. **Make the presentation available on-line** and send a link to members and a wider group of contacts.

END.

RR 6.5.16