

Small Group Meetings

Transition St. Agnes - Tuesday 1st March 2016

The meeting was held at the Miners and Mechanics Institute, St. Agnes. Nine members of the group were present and they either lived or owned property at Wheal Rose, Menagissey, Mount Hawke and St. Agnes.

The group received the introductory talk "St. Agnes Parish – The Story so far" from Roger Radcliffe and the "Local Landscape Character Assessment" presentation from June Crossland.

A wide ranging discussion then followed; here is a summary of the points made:

1. Where is the evidence that NDPs work?
2. Concerned that developers were jumping the gun.
3. The irrational and unscientific nature of planning was a concern.
4. Concerned that a lot of effort would be put into something that didn't work.
5. What if Donald Trump becomes president?
6. Will the plan cover the whole of the parish?
7. Several people were interested in participating in the LLCA and wanted to know about the practicalities, training etc.
8. The group wanted the NDP to embrace the principles of sustainable development contained in a book entitled "One Planet" (see article in the February edition of *The Bolster*).
9. Local employment for people who live here was seen to be crucial to sustainability (reference was made to current traffic volumes).
10. Ensure that there is a much stronger link between housing and local employment, including further consideration of live/work units.
11. More people should be encouraged to move back onto the land; it should be more about Ecology and less about Economy (it was noted that 'retail' was in decline).
12. More allotments please, but place them close to where people live rather than making people drive to them (the Cuban model of growing food even in urban areas was cited).
13. Housing that 'fits into the landscape' to encourage living on the land should be part of the NDP (soil erosion from current farming practices was mentioned).
14. Organic farming by individuals and small groups would not only capture carbon but improve the land and increase biodiversity.
15. Break up the land into smaller fields and allow low impact dwellings.
16. Find ways to stop people adding value to the land and selling up once they've got their planning consent. Encourage long-term commitment to a lifestyle. Land ownership is not essential for this model.
17. Eco-homes are too focussed at the high-end of the housing market. What about kit homes and self-builds.
18. Link the LLCA with the housing policies in the NDP.
19. Use the NDP to influence the path of agriculture locally.

20. Ensure that small businesses can thrive (a small scale digital workshop was cited as an example of where potential may lie) and encourage walking or cycling to work.
21. All new housing should be built to passive house standards, not only to reduce carbon footprint but also to make them cheap to run.
22. Many old houses are constrained by planning or listed building status in their efforts to become more energy efficient (e.g. no solar panels or double glazing allowed).
23. Encourage the 'Green Doors' initiative where houses are opened to the public as local exemplars to encourage practical affordable solutions to becoming sustainable (a new-build 'cob' house in Goonvrea was cited as an example).
24. Community groups should be encouraged to work together to help find local solutions to bigger issues.
25. Permanent residency in new homes as a policy was supported by some of the group.
26. A Community Land Trust model should be investigated as a potential outcome of the NDP.
27. "I always hear about NDP meetings after they've happened, can you make it easier for me to attend?" (I don't have a computer).

END.

RR 3.3.16