



Wadebridge Town Council

The Town Hall, The Platt, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7AQ
Telephone: 01208 812643

Town Mayor – Cllr Tony Rush Locum Clerk – Sue Lee

Notes from Advisory Group meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2013, 7pm, Victoria Room

Those present : Dr Mike Kent, Tony Rush, Mike Todd, Steve Knightley, Stephen Frankel, Simon Malloni, Pamela Starling, Tony Faragher & Amanda Pennington

Also present : Beverley Collins, Minutes Clerk

1. **Apologies** were received from Peter Collis, Jeremy Varcoe, Mark Innes & Paula Martin
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – Draft meeting notes of 19 June 2013 had been previously circulated. It was noted that this meeting had been a joint meeting with the Steering Committee.

Stephen Frankel had previously circulated meeting notes which he had amended to highlight omissions from Agenda items 4 & 9. Members discussed procedure in relation to accepting and/or amending meeting notes. Mike advised that the notes of 19 June would be re-drafted to include elements of discussion as necessary (Stephen & Mike have amendments) & these will go forward to the next Steering Cttee meeting to be received.

Action : Agenda Steering Cttee.

Mike Todd proposed that the meeting notes, as originally circulated, should be accepted. Tony Rush seconded. Proposal **AGREED**.

Stephen proposed that time is allowed at the end of the meeting in order to discuss Any Other Business, specifically the current effectiveness of the Advisory Group. Tony Faragher seconded. Proposal **AGREED**.

3. **Our Vision**

Economy & Housing – Stephen gave a brief verbal précis of a report circulated prior to the meeting - Strategic Statement 2015-2030 (copy attached). Several elements from the Statement and reactions from various members were discussed at length, specifically opposing viewpoints and personal opinions which had been circulated via e-mail prior to the meeting.

This led to a discussion highlighting issues and concerns, including misinterpretation of WREN involvement & personal views relating to renewable energy – Stephen reminded the group that WREN is a co-operative and that only the views of its members are put forward.

Some of the points noted include;

- That the Advisory Group representatives need to be able to express views openly.

- The Steering Committee will take an overview of Advisory Group work and balance as necessary.
- Several members are representative of either Town or Parish Councils and should not relay personal views.

Transport – Tony Rush highlighted several points from the Vision Report (copy attached);

- To minimise journey lengths and provision of a choice of transport with a more effective bus service being established especially to the outlying villages and estates on the edge of town.
- Clear cycle routes / re-routing of cyclists - discussion with Sustrans is underway in order to obtain help and advice on this matter.
- Free parking and more adequate parking – the financial impact (to residents) of free parking was noted.
- Alternative delivery options in order to ease congestion – possibility of delivery point on outskirts of town.

Young People & Education – Pamela gave a brief précis of a written report (attached). She noted further information from the Children’s Centre is awaited and Amanda advised information is also awaited from Cornwall Council in relation to; child per household numbers, school places, travel etc. It was noted that any information obtained would be useful to the Health & Wellbeing topic group.

Environment – Mike Kent circulated a draft document for consideration (Our Natural Environment - attached). It was noted the Environment includes ‘built’ environment as well as natural – suggestion to re-word to Natural and Built and/or Wadebridge Environment.

4. **Sustainability Appraisal** – It was noted that advice and documentation is contradictory. The advantages and disadvantages of preparing a Sustainability Appraisal at this stage and to what level were debated at length.

Steve raised the point that all topic groups are considering the sustainability element within their topic – he suggested that, in order to evidence that sustainability has been considered, a statement is prepared to advise that all topic groups have a sustainability ethos – obtaining advice from Paul Weston was discussed. Mike Kent advised of his concerns of not including a Sustainability Appraisal and noted he would prefer advice is obtained from Cornwall Council Planners (contacts are Zoe Bernard-John/Sarah Arden). Steve proposed to apply to Paul Weston to obtain information and advice in relation to; the requirement of a Sustainability Appraisal at this time and issuing an ethos statement. Amanda seconded. This proposal was discussed.

Tony Rush proposed an amendment that this information is formally requested from both Paul Weston and Cornwall Council Planners. Mike Kent seconded. The amended proposal was **AGREED**. **Action : Steering Cttee.**

5. **Questionnaire** – Mike Kent gave a brief précis of a report which is filed in the Dropbox account for members to view and comment on (copy attached).

Aspects of the questionnaire and feedback were discussed – it was noted that; feedback is contradictory, that the results may be flawed & that the demographic range is not broad enough.

Cornwall College has advised that the Data Base will be available in the next few days.

6. Evidence-based topic reports

Transport – Tony Rush confirmed documentation received to date will be made available via Dropbox. Tony advised that an area for potential development is a green Park & Ride scheme with the possibility of an electric bus. Mike Todd and Stephen noted the importance of evidence of economic viability and that funding availability may be possible from Section 106 monies.

Housing – Mike Kent noted the details within the presentation will need to be applied to the evidence based report. Tony Faragher advised that further information is awaited. Amanda read an e-mail from Mark Innes which had been circulated prior to the meeting for inclusion (copy attached) – response to recent comments suggesting that his work within the Housing topic group has a connection with WREN.

Economy – Mike Kent made brief comments on the report available. Stephen noted the group is looking at prosperity and economic impact.

Environment The Chair asked for any feedback on the evidence-based environment topic group reports on landscape and biodiversity made available in the Town Hall office. No feedback was given and it was established after enquiry that no one from the other topic groups had looked at the reports.

7. **Chairman's update** – Mike Kent expressed his concerns with the way the group is currently working and the development procedure undertaken which he believes is flawed. He advised that, for various reasons he is unable to continue as Chair of the group and would step down from the role with immediate effect. It was clarified that he would continue with his topic work as an Advisory Group member.

Steve Knightly, as Vice Chair took the remainder of the meeting

Referring to Mike Kent's comments in relation to the Questionnaire, Steve gave a précis of how the document was prepared and the timescale involved. He reminded Members that he had been Chair of the group(s) involved with the Questionnaire and confirmed that the drafting process had not been undertaken lightly. Steve re-iterated that whilst many groups had been consulted there had been no pressure or bias from any of the groups involved.

Additional item – Any Other Business

Stephen voiced his concerns with the way in which the group is currently working. He believes that the group needs a convivial atmosphere in order to work together and proceed and expand.

The group debated, at length, issues and recent comments in relation to beliefs/personal opinions and individual organisations policy being relayed within the topic group work. Some of the points noted include;

- Members will reflect their own beliefs / backgrounds / vision along with community views - the Steering Committee will consider all input and filter as necessary.
- E-mails have become personal with critical and derogatory comments.
- Recent communication and meeting content has been unprofessional making it difficult to work together as a team.

Tony Faragher confirmed that he does not sit on the Advisory Group in a WREN capacity.

Steve reminded the group that WREN does not have a representative on either the Steering Committee or Advisory Group.

8.40pm, Tony Rush left the meeting.

8. **Date and time of next meeting** – availability issues in August was discussed. Agreed to schedule next meeting for September. Topic groups to continue with work as necessary through August.

Steve advised that he intends to stand in the Cornwall Council by-election in September and therefore will not continue as Chair or Vice Chair of the Advisory Group - first Agenda item for next meeting will be to select a Chair / Vice Chair. Members were asked to consider candidates. Members to forward suggestions for Agenda items to Beverley who will liaise with Steve and circulate an Agenda early September.

Next meeting scheduled for **TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER, NOON** – Mike Todd gave apologies.

Amanda requested Terms of Reference are revised.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Meeting & Date	Date received by Steering Cttee	Date received by WTC – Full Council
Advisory Group – 18/07/13		