

NDP

Just as a bit of background the Ponsanooth Neighbourhood Development Group first met way back in 2016, two momentous things happened that night – we had our first meeting to set up a Group and was on the same night Donald Trump was elected to be US President!

The reason why the Parish Council wanted to set up an NDP Group was in response to development pressures in our Parish, most notably from a controversial housing scheme on Commercial Hill, and we felt that as a Parish we needed to control our own destiny in terms of future growth – very similar to other Parishes in Cornwall.

So a Terms of Reference was set up working as an official sub group of the Parish Council, and the Group elected myself as Chair and Simon as Vice Chair. Our minutes and Agendas are available on the Parish Council's website and monthly reports are provided to the Parish Council.

So what is an NDP and what work has the NDP Group done so far?

Well firstly, an NDP is quote *"Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided."* That is taken from the Government's website. It also says *"Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area."*

So – working through the Parish Council we are able to draw up a plan which is able to show how our Parish should grow, giving weight to planning decisions that affect our area.

And what have we done since 2016?

Well we first consulted everyone in our Parish in 2017 and asked them what should be our priorities in our Parish. We then sent a further leaflet in 2018 to everyone to say what their properties are which in turn set the framework for our NDP. And the results were as follows:

1. Where should development take place?
2. Traffic and transport issues, including parking
3. What type of development should take place e.g. house size
4. Protection of wildlife and the environment

5. Safeguarding and where possible creating public footpaths and open spaces

What happened shortly after however was the Covid pandemic which slowed our work right down for a considerable time but we then reconvened and have been having regular meetings since.

So with that providing our mandate we began to commission surveys and reports and gather evidence to see what exactly is happening in our Parish and what should our Plan look like.

So the work we have undertaken includes the following:

- Housing Needs Survey
- A report on Settlement Boundaries
- Public Open Space Assessment
- Landscape Character Assessment including a walk of every public footpath in our Parish
- Heritage Assessment
- Conversations with key consultees in Cornwall Council such as highways, rail advisors, tree officers, open space officers and their NDP team

We have also obtained central government support to help us draw up design codes for new housing, as well as provide some initial options for planning land for new housing in our Parish. In response to public

This has been undertaken with the approval of our Parish Council who have provided support for a number of these studies to take place and of course facilitate the meeting rooms in this building.

What are our plans for this year?

Well this year should see us hopefully complete all our evidence gathering which will enable us to complete our first draft of the Plan. We then intend to notify everyone in the Parish of our draft Plan and seek comment which we hope will be at the end of this year. We are then required to submit the Plan to Cornwall Council for their consideration which we expect will be next year, and then after that the Plan goes to formal examination by an Independent NDP Inspector.

In the short term we will provide some exhibition information for public viewing and comment in the Krowji on Fair Day to explain to people the work we have done.