Welcome to the Neighbourhood Planning e-bulletin for April 2020

As the current national situation continues, we are still responding to enquiries and working closely with parishes whose neighbourhood plans are going through the statutory stages.

This month, one plan has been submitted, there are a number of plans at examination and Falmouth was successful at examination and the decision notice was published yesterday.

There are some important changes to Neighbourhood Planning from Central Government which may affect your plan depending on what stage of the process you have reached, the Locality grant programme has reopened for groups to apply for funding and there is information about adapting community engagement when consulting the local community on your Plan. Most importantly stay safe and continue to follow the Governments advice.

Neighbourhood Planning Team
www.cornwall.gov.uk
Climate Change Development Plan Document Consultation (DPD)

The Council are creating a new planning document, the Scoping Climate Change DPD to help tackle the challenges of Climate Change through planning. This document will help the Council to meet our ambitions by strengthening existing policies, creating new ones and making allocations that address the climate change issues affecting Cornwall.

On 18 March 2020, Cornwall Council’s Cabinet approved a first document for public consultation. This scoping document provides some initial ideas of what planning might be able to do and is designed for our communities, businesses and other interested people to make suggestions for new policies or allocations.

The consultation started on 30 March and ends on 26 May 2020. We are also consulting on a draft Sustainability Appraisal which will be developed alongside the DPD.

The Council’s planning policy team wrote to Parish and Town Councils in February 2020, about the Climate Change Development Plan Document (DPD), sharing information on the topics that relate most directly to Neighbourhood Planning (renewable energy and coastal change) and to seek input at an early stage before the formal consultation started in March.

You will find more information about the formal consultation and how to respond on the Council’s website.
Designations:

From the 1st October 2016, local authorities no longer need to publish designation applications and consult people who live, work or carry out business in the area as long as the application is in conformity with the parish boundary as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012/16 5A (3).

Cornwall Council will continue to consult statutory organisations when designation applications are submitted. A report will be collated providing initial information and guidance from these organisations to support town or parish councils during the early stages of developing their Neighbourhood Plan.

There have been no further designations submitted.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening (SEA):

Portreath NDP is currently being screened for SEA.

47 Plan Proposals Submitted
St Eval, Quethiock, Roseland Peninsula, St Ives, Truro and Kenwyn, St Minver Parishes, Bude-Stratton, Roche, Rame Peninsula, Gwinear-Gwithian, North Hill, South Hill, Lanreath, Feock, Mevagissey, St Erth, Withiel, Liskeard, St Mewan, Crantock, Hayle, Lanlivery, Landrake with St Erney, Newquay, Lanner, Polperro and Lansallos, Illogan, Lostwithiel, St Agnes, Chacewater, Luxulyan, Landulph, Crowan, St Stephen by Launceston, Fowey, Gwennap, St Erme, St Enoder, Lezant, Ludgvan, Falmouth, St Clement, Camelford, St Cleer, St Endellion, Lanteglos by Fowey, Budock

42 Examinations held
St Eval, Quethiock, Roseland Peninsula, St Ives, Truro and Kenwyn, St Minver Parishes, Roche, Bude-Stratton, Rame Peninsula, Gwinear – Gwithian, North Hill, Lanreath, South Hill, Feock, Withiel, St Mewan, Mevagissey, Crantock, Hayle, St Erth, Liskeard, Landrake with St Erney, Lanlivery, Polperro and Lansallos, Lanner, Lostwithiel Illogan, Newquay, Landulph, St Agnes, Luxulyan, Crowan, Chacewater, St Erme, St Stephen by Launceston Rural, Gwennap, Fowey, St Enoder, Lezant, Ludgvan, St Clement, Falmouth

38 Referendums held
St Eval, Quethiock, Roseland Peninsula, St Ives, Truro & Kenwyn, St Minver Parishes, Roche, Bude-stratton, Rame Peninsula, Gwinear-Gwithian, Lanreath, North Hill, South Hill, Feock, Withiel, St Mewan, Mevagissey, Crantock, Hayle, St Erth, Liskeard, Landrake with St Erney, Lanlivery, Polperro & Lansallos,
Pre-Submission Consultation:

Tywardreath and Par Parish NDP consultation will run between 23 March until 18 May 2020.

Linkinhorne NDP consultation will run between 29 March and 28 June 2020. The group have extended the consultation period.

Plan Proposals Statutory Consultation:

Budock Parish NDP has been formally submitted and is currently going through a legal compliance check

Examination:

St Endellion NDP will be going to examination once an examiner has been appointed.

Lanteglos by Fowey is currently at examination. The independent examiner appointed is Deborah McCann.

St Cleer NDP is currently at examination. The independent examiner appointed is Deborah McCann.

Camelford NDP is currently at examination. The independent examiner appointed is Deborah McCann.

Falmouth NDP was successful at examination and the implementation date is 8 May 2020.

Referendum:

St Clement, Ludgvan, St Enoder and Falmouth NDP referendum’s will be held after 6 May 2021 or when the Covid-19 circumstances change as set out by Central Government. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have updated planning guidance to set out that neighbourhood plans awaiting referendums can be given significant weight in decision-making.

Made Neighbourhood Plans:

No further neighbourhood plans have been made.

For more information or if you would like to contact us please email the Neighbourhood Planning Team.

Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit links

- Neighbourhood Planning in Cornwall
- Neighbourhood Development Plan Proposals
- Neighbourhood Planning Examinations and Referendums
- Neighbourhood Planning Guide Notes and Template
Toolkit and Guidance Notes

We have a number of guidance notes and templates available on the toolkit. The following guidance has been updated:

- Neighbourhood Planning and Heritage – new
- Pre-submission Consultation
- Developing a vision and objectives – updated April 2020
- Sustainability Check guidance and report template
- Climate Change
- Environment – Understanding the environmental baseline and plan context
- Do we need to review our Neighbourhood Development Plan
- How to get the most out of your Neighbourhood Plan – appendix 1 added
- Funding and Support includes updates on
- Development Boundary guidance (new)
- What can Neighbourhood Plans do – Topics Analysis Templates
- Neighbourhood Development Plan Template – updated November

Useful web links

- My Community
- The Neighbourhood Planning Bill
- Cornwall Local Plan
- Neighbourhood Planning Roadmap Guide
- Neighbourhood Planning Regulations
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Cornwall Community Network Areas
Government Legislation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published some important changes on Neighbourhood Planning. The current planning guidance has been updated and provides advice on the implications for conducting publicity and publicity, and examinations.

Regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020 mean that no elections or referendums can take place until 6 May 2021. This includes neighbourhood planning referendums. These provisions will be kept under review and may be amended or revoked in response to changing circumstances. Neighbourhood plans awaiting referendums can be given significant weight in decision-making.

Grants and technical support will continue to be available to support communities during the next financial year, and Locality’s advice service continues to operate as normal.

Other Information

Adapting your neighbourhood planning Consultation

There are a number of parishes who are undertaking or are due to progress to the Pre-submission consultation stage with their plan. You do not need to postpone the consultation or put the development of the plan on hold due to the current Covid-19 crisis. This relates to any consultation being carried out throughout the neighbourhood planning process. You can adapt the way you work and how you carry out the consultation and still follow Central Government’s advice. Locality have set out information on their website about how neighbourhood planning can continue during the Covid-19 crisis.

If you continue to carry out any consultation on your plan, this will need to be agreed at a parish level. You will need to update your Consultation and Engagement Strategy if you adapt the way you consult the community and include the information in the Consultation Statement submitted with the plan at Regulation 15. An example is the Mylor NDP Steering Group, who have put together a document setting out how they will adapt their Regulation 14 consultation. The document can be viewed here.

The main difficulty will be the need to demonstrate whether the community, which as defined by the NDP Regulations, includes those who ‘live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area’ will be aware of the consultation and have had sufficient opportunity to view and comment on the NDP. It is therefore even more important to consider how to reach people in their own homes and how to contact businesses and their employees, to publicise the consultation and ensure they are given sufficient time to respond.

This will be checked by us at the legal compliance and by an independent examiner at examination stage once the plan has been formally submitted to Cornwall Council. If you have any queries or would like some advice you can contact the Neighbourhood Planning Team by email at neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk.

Some of the information on this bulletin is taken from Locality.