

Feedback from Lewdown Grouped Parish Neighbourhood Planning Community Consultation

This document provides notes from the Lewdown Grouped Parish Council community consultation event which took place on the evening of 21st April at the Lewdown Grouped Parish Council AGM in the Victory Hall, Lewdown.

Context

Since the Government brought in the Localism Act in 2011 there has been increased interest in Neighbourhood Planning by local communities. The Act allows parish councils and groups of people from the community, called neighbourhood forums, to formulate Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders, which can guide and shape development in a particular area. In West Devon there are a number of Neighbourhood Plans in various stages of development including plans locally for adjoining parishes including:

- Bratton Clovelly
- Bridestowe and Sourton
- Milton Abbot and Kelly
- Lifton

The Lewdown Group Parish Council undertook to consult local residents about the possibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish area following discussions held at parish council meetings in late 2016/early 2017. The purpose of the event was to provide information and gauge interest on the formation of a steering group to support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The consultation took the form of an open forum event for local residents to come and learn more about Neighbourhood planning, speak to their local parish councillor and add their thoughts and ideas to a range of topics about the area, including:

- Housing, Homes and Planning
- Business, farming and employment
- Recreation/leisure and the environment
- Infrastructure(including schools, shops, roads etc)

Residents were invited to add their thoughts to a display through placing post-its (sticky labels) on posters; speak to their councillor and take part in a short focus group. There was also an opportunity for residents to provide their 'best ways to spend £50 on your community'. Residents were also invited to complete a sign-up form for the steering group.

Additional information from the event can be found in the appendix

Document collated and summarised by Jacqui Wolstenholme on behalf of Lewdown Grouped Parish Council May 2017

Attendance

Attendance was recorded on signing in sheets and by residents adding a star to parish map to indicate where they lived (and where they had local businesses):

Attendance (by parish area)	Residents	Businesses	Notes
Thrushelton Parish	6	3	Some residents were also business holders and therefore appear on both lists
Coryton Parish	3	3	
Lewtrenchard Parish	9	1	
Marystow Parish	6	4	
Total*	24	11	

- It is not known whether these numbers correspond to the door register

Comments Made on the different topics (included poster post-its and focus groups)

Business, farming and employment Current Assets Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copper stores – future? • Ideas • Business Park? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small Ind units ○ Low rent ○ Brownfield site • Broadband <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reliable ○ Repeater mobile • Local stores facility • Support local farm produce 	Housing, Homes and Planning Current Assets Issues Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing % of income – for local people (part owned?) Possible landowner 'offer; site for a reduced rate • PV panels on building regulations • Main Sewerage possible upgrade – need to look into possibility • School – build new – for safer parking and closer to village/recreation field – greener more efficient building
Infrastructure (including, shops, doctors, roads etc) Current Assets School Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough information or buses /running to Lewdown from Oke/Exeter in the afternoon • Timely doctors' appointments • Mobile phone reception • Speed limit to 30 outside the school • Fibre Broadband • Road maintenance • Trucks should use A30 at Broadwoodwidge • Reduce speed limit between Coombe down and Lewdown to 40 • Limitation of internet to outer areas • Ideas • Negotiate residents electricity bills 	Recreation/leisure and the environment Current Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marystow, Lewtrenchard, Coryton, Thrushelton PCCs, Victory Hall, Cricket club, young farmers, WI, Red Spider, Lewdown past, Lewdown Residents Assoc Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No wind turbines • Footpath signs • Fly tipping (Stoney Lane) • Japanese Knot weed (Stoney Lane) • Victory hall needs updating for <u>all</u> villagers of Lewdown Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase donation to cricket club • Playpark at the ramps/or behind Victory hall? • Fundraising to alter Victory Hall – create a small room for coffee mornings, painting classes language classes etc

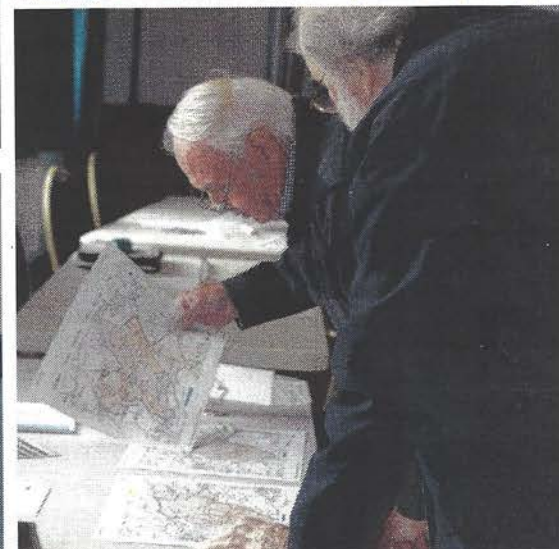
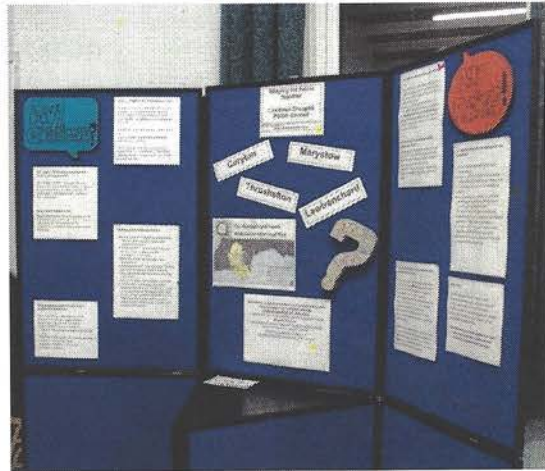
£50 ideas:

- Mirror opposite Cricket Club to help vehicles to see traffic on the road
- A playground with monkey bars on it please

Steering group sign-up sheets

2 sign – up sheets were received (details provided separately)

Photos from the event:



Appendix A

NP information provided to residents

FAQ's Frequently Asked Questions

Lewdown Grouped Parish on Neighbourhood Planning

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

A Neighbourhood Development Plan is a plan prepared by a community that helps shape development in the area in which they live.

Once adopted, a neighbourhood development plan will:

- Form part of the local statutory development plan
- Form the basis for determining planning applications in that area

NOTE: There are other forms of plans that communities can undertake (e.g. Parish Plan) although not all of them have the same weight in terms of legal force.

Neighbourhood Development Plans:

- Can set policies in relation to development and the use of land in the designated neighbourhood area
- Should identify a collective vision and key local priorities for the sustainable development of the area
- Can allocate sites for housing or other development
- Can identify special protection green areas of particular importance to the community
- Must specify the time period for which they are to cover
- Can only relate to one neighbourhood area
- Cannot relate to any types of excluded development as set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. (This relates to types of development that have a larger than local impact, such as waste management facilities, major infrastructure projects and airports)

The scope of the Neighbourhood Plan is for each community to decide. For example, the Plan may wish to focus on a single issue, such as land for housing, or cover a wider range of topics including employment development, renewable energy, local green space and design.

Do we have to prepare a Plan?

Neighbourhood planning is not compulsory and communities volunteer to get involved. In some cases it may be more appropriate for communities to use other tools to plan for their local areas.

Is a Plan the right tool for our community?

- A Plan might be the right tool for your community if:
- There is a minimum planned requirement proposed for your community in the current or emerging local plan for the Borough or District.
- Your community would like to see further development above that identified in the current or emerging local plan.
- You wish to take the lead in developing planning policies and proposals in partnership with local residents and businesses.
- You wish to have a greater role in making decisions about planning in your area.
- You are able to commit significant time and resources to its preparation.

Can neighbourhood planning be used to stop development in our area?

No. A plan or order can be used to shape where and how development takes place but it cannot be used to say no to development. However, they can be used to provide for more development than is required by local plans. The process of preparing a plan or order includes understanding what a sustainable and appropriate level of development is for your community and looking at where this additional growth might go.

Neighbourhood plans must be in conformity with local and national policies. Neighbourhood plans will therefore need to ensure they reflect any minimum planned requirements set out in the local plans for the District or Borough.

West Devon, along with South Hams and Plymouth have a Joint Plan currently out for final public comment [DEADLINE MIDNIGHT 26th APRIL 2017]

To comment on the Joint Local Plan visit the consultation portal using the link below.

<http://plymouth.consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/jlp>

Comments are also accepted via email plymouthplan@plymouth.gov.uk or strategic.planning@swdevon.gov.uk or via post

What procedures need to be followed in neighbourhood planning?

There are five key stages that need to be followed in preparing a neighbourhood development plan or order (including Community Right to build). These are:

- Stage 1: Designating the Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Stage 2: Preparing the plan or order proposal
- Stage 3: Independent check
- Stage 4: Community referendum
- Stage 5: Legal force

Who takes the lead in Neighbourhood Planning?

For South Hams and West Devon which are fully parished areas the parish or town council is the the lead in neighbourhood planning (referred to as the 'qualifying body').

However, it is envisaged that the Town/Parish Council will delegate responsibility for preparing the **Neighbourhood Plan to a Steering/Project Group** which can include members of the public or other interested parties who are not on the Town/Parish Council.

How much does it cost and where will the funding come from?

The average cost of producing a neighbourhood plan is around £13,000. The cost will very much depend on the complexity of the plan and the resources and skills available within a community. Some grant funding is available but it will be necessary for some local funding to be sought.

What next?

Lewdown Grouped Parish Council will be providing information and putting on events in 2017 to gage public interest in forming a Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group to take the process forward. Further updates will be published from these events.

Information in this document has been adapted from West Devon and South Hams Neighbourhood Planning Frequently Asked Questions – updated April 2015