

Minutes of the meeting of the Madron Neighbourhood Development Plan, Natural Environment Working Group.

Meeting Held on 25 February 2020, 7.30 pm

The venue was originally scheduled to be at the Cricket Pavilion in Madron, but on arrival there was no electricity so those present went to a house nearby of one of the working group members.

Present: Mr A Humphries, Mrs L Phillips, Mr H Eddy

Apologies: C Whitton, T Beckerleg

The meeting was an informal group discussion initially led by Hugh as Steering Group member appointed to lead the Natural Environment (NE) working group.

NDP Survey Results

Hugh had briefly analysed the results so far from the NDP survey. The return rate is 16 % so far which those present agreed was good. The results that related most to NE were discussed.

The most important aspects to residents of living in Madron parish (MP) are:

- 1) Countryside and open views
- 2)Community and village life
- 3) Wildlife and nature.

Both 1 and 3 fall into the NE remit, therefore NE is an important part of this NDP for MP residents.

The most important plan topics with regard to NE are (in order of highest priority):

- 1) Wildlife protection and enhancement (76%)
- 2) Management of the landscape character (69%)
- 3) Provision of footpaths and open spaces (66%)
- 4) Renewable energy (59%)

Discussion

It was agreed that therefore the working group must focus on the plan topic areas that have highest priority from respondents. Various areas of further research were discussed for each plan topic.

Landscape character

Keep green area between Heamoor and Madron

Building on Madron meat site as its eyesore

Building on the former nursery in Madron as it would be infill development

Farmyard developments should be visually sympathetic to the landscape.

Wildlife

Hedgerows: If any section is removed it should be replaced elsewhere

Cornwall Council is proposing a vast tree planting scheme as a carbon offset. We should include areas that are permissible as well as the type of tree as this will affect nature and the landscape character.

Community wildlife areas as part of any housing development e.g. a new estate has to have an open area set aside for wildlife/community space

Footpaths and Rural Access

Possibly more detailed information provided with planning applications and the affect on footpaths.

If a footpath is moved a more detailed study of the new route. It was agreed that it would be unreasonable to say no to moving a right of way but there should be a thorough study if this is done.

Favourably looking on developments that increase rural access, e.g. improved car parks like that needed at Madron Well

Climate change

A topic area not included in the survey per se but is touched on is renewable energy, is that of climate change. It was felt this has to be included as the effects of climate change will be huge on everything from wildlife to landscape character

Tree planting as a carbon offset needs to be controlled to ensure it is appropriate to the landscape and wildlife. Suitable areas should be set aside for this as an option

Carbon neutrality for new homes. Although we all felt this was a good idea, it was considered that setting an arbitrary target may not be beneficial as it could rapidly go out of date as central Government legislation changes, and may provide a target for developers to work to at the expense of environmental benefits elsewhere. Policies in this area should be more over arching than detail specific .

Renewables: It was felt that there must be renewable built to ensure that reduced carbon targets. These can include wind turbines and solar PV. At the moment planning policy is against wind turbines but it was felt sites should be identified both inside and outside the AONB that would be acceptable to PV and turbines. If the climate crisis is not resolved the AONB will be changed dramatically. Also it was felt that renewables, apart from visuals, do not really disturb the wildlife as their actual footprint is small and can be easily reversed if the machinery is removed in the future.

Electric car charging points. Development that facilitates the installation of these should be looked on favourably regardless of location.

SWOT analysis

It was decided to do a SWOT analysis to try to get a handle on the issues into some sort of order

Strengths

Openness of moors

Views

Diversity of landscapes

General Character

Beauty

Weaknesses

Madron Village over developed

Management of access to footpaths and ancient monuments is by a small number of groups. If these disappear then the access provided will be lost

Opportunities

Locations for wildlife to be managed to flourish

Further work keeping footpaths open

Reducing carbon emissions/offsetting

Enhancing wildlife corridors

Community wildlife areas

Threats

Lack of future care if bodies like PLP are no longer around

Increased road traffic

Surface water run off from fields and housing

Climate change and its threat to wildlife, the landscape and housing.

Next Stages

It was proposed that we should not try to set goals ourselves without seeking advice from people with technical knowledge who can have input into our group. Examples of this would be inviting a guest to our working group each meeting to talk through what we think and incorporate any ideas.

It was proposed that the Penwith Landscape Partnership should come to our next meeting if possible and via an informal discussion, hopefully they can have an input onto plan. Other persons would include a renewable expert who lives nearby.

Next Meeting

It was proposed either 10th or 11th March for a meeting in Madron, 7 pm.