

MADRON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Corona virus Update

Issue 7 dated 27 July 2020

We may have been a little quiet over the last few months but we are still alive and kicking, and so is your neighbourhood plan! Although our government has now eased the lockdown, your Neighbourhood Development Plan team are a parish council sub-group and are still subject to a ban on holding live meetings unless they are an absolute necessity. As part of managing the pandemic, Cornwall Council has stopped parishes from submitting any neighbourhood plans until May 2021 so right now a live meeting or consultation session is hard for us to justify. With a block on live meetings, we had planned to put out some form of on-line consultation on the work done up to now so we could obtain your feedback and create a plan that we could hold in storage until next year. However, it's not easy to present the information in a suitable form on-line, and there are also clear difficulties in ensuring everyone in the parish is able to both access the information and to comment on it.



As we wrestled with the problem of how to have a meaningful consultation, we discovered that we had not yet properly addressed a significant element of a good neighbourhood plan, and that is the green infrastructure for a parish. The delay enables us to now put this right and to have a better plan for you to see and comment on.

Green infrastructure is a term used to describe networks of green spaces. These can deliver a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for communities, such as improving air quality and public health and wellbeing. They also provide opportunities to protect and increase biodiversity, improve food and energy security, facilitate community development, and build resilience to the effects of climate change. Through a Neighbourhood Plan's actions and policies there are opportunities to protect and enhance our green spaces. These opportunities will be greater if they are treated as 'green infrastructure' ensuring that where possible they can be seen and managed as a network of spaces rather than isolated pockets of green. Communities have the right to designate areas that are of particular importance to them as Local Green Spaces and give them protection through their Neighbourhood Plan. Once designated, this means that development would be highly unlikely to be permitted on that site.



Your planning team are busy right now creating a list of all the possible sites that could be included under the term “green infrastructure” and assessing which ones best fit the criteria set out in the planning guidance we have been given. The intention is to show you the recommended sites on maps, along with other features and options for the neighbourhood plan, in a live consultation event as soon as we are allowed to do this.



It may seem a long process producing your neighbourhood plan, but in reality the team has only been working on it for a year. Most neighbourhood plans have been in their making for about three years or more, and we are well ahead of that in our time scale. Our next big event is to bring the work before you for your comments, suggestions and approval. The final word is yours, remember you get to vote on it.

