Madron Parish
Neighbourhood Development Plan

Madron Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan: A Sustainability Check

ABSTRACT

A sustainability check report on the NDP policies.

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Introduction

This paper presents a Sustainability Check (SC) of Madron Parish's Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

This SC reflects the intentions of a more formal Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and aims to predict and assess the **social**, **environmental** and **economic** effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of Madron Parish's NDP, in order to ensure that the strategies and policies within this contribute to and promote sustainable development.

The Madron Parish NDP Steering Group considered carrying out a full SA (which is not a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012), but it was decided that applying a 'lighter touch' SC would be less resource intensive, whist achieving suitable outcomes to inform the NDP making process. It was considered it to be good practice to carry out a SC as it provides a useful means to assess plan proposals against a set of sustainability objectives - the intention being to help avoid negative environmental and socio-economic effects and to identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of [Parish] and the prosperity and quality of life of residents through the NDP.

This report sets out how the SC was applied to Madron Parish's Draft NDP and the results of this.

NB. The SC or SA should not be confused with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA is a separate assessment to the SA and focuses in more detail on the environmental impact of plan proposals[1].

Madron Parish NDP: The SC process

When adopted, the Madron Parish NDP will sit within a framework of higher level planning documents, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Cornwall's Local Plan. The Cornwall Local Plan: Strategic Policies 2010-2030 (Local Plan) was adopted in November 2016 and was subject to a SA (further details available at www.cornwall.gov.uk).

For consistency, the SC of the Madron Parish Draft NDP reflects the 'SA Framework' which was used for the SA process on the Local Plan. The SA Framework is a framework of 19 SA themes together with a number of objectives, appraisal questions and indicators, which provided a methodological framework for the SA on the Local Plan.

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[1] In order to establish whether an SEA was required Madron Parish's NDP Steering Group submitted the NDP to Cornwall Council for SEA Screening, where the outcome of this showed that an SEA was not required.

Table 1: SC Themes and Objectives

SC Theme	SC Objectives
Climatic Factors	To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
	To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.
Waste	To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
Minerals and Geodiversity	To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources
	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county.
Soil	To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality.
	To encourage and safeguard local food production.
Air	To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.
Water	To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion.
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.
Biodiversity	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change.
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape.
Maritime	To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments.
Historic Environment	To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment.
Design	To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development.
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
Housing	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.
Health, Sport and Recreation	To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities.
Economic Development	To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities.
Education and Skills	To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society.
Transport and Accessibility	To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices.
	To reduce traffic congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions.
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.

KEY	
	Environmental Themes
	Social Themes
	Economic Themes

For the purpose of carrying out the SC on Madron Parish Draft NDP, it was considered unnecessary to apply the full SA Framework, as this would have entailed a very lengthy and detailed analysis. Instead, the 19 SA Framework themes and objectives (hereafter referred to as the SC themes and objectives) have been considered directly against Madron Parish Draft NDP (i.e. without presenting answers to each of the individual appraisal questions which are included within the more detailed SA Framework). The SC themes and objectives are set out in Table 1.

The Madron Parish NDP Steering Group have carried out the SC, by considering SC themes and objectives (see Table 1) against the overall Madron Parish Draft NDP and including consideration of all of the following elements of this:

- The Vision for Madron
- The NDP Objectives for Madron; and,
- Each of the 18 NDP Policies.

The Madron Parish Draft NDP was considered as to whether it is likely to undermine, support, or neither undermine or support, the SC themes or, whether the theme is irrelevant to the NDP or the anticipated outcome is unknown at this stage.

Consideration of how the Madron Parish Draft NDP performed against the SC themes and objectives was carried out through a round table discussion at a meeting of the Madron Parish NDP Steering Group, where the questions included at Appendix 1 were used to structure the discussion].

The outputs of this process are:

1. The SC Assessment Table of [Parish]'s NDP (see Appendix 2); and,
2. SC Summary Matrix Table of [Parish]'s NDP (see Appendix 3).

SC Results
The results of the SC are presented in Appendices 2 and 3. It is noted that water quality and flooding did not appear as areas of concern or interest in any of the community surveys and there is no history of such problems in the parish. No specific policies have therefore been raised on this subject.

Conclusion
The SC on Madron Parish's Draft NDP has demonstrated that the policies within this and the vision and objectives that it seeks to achieve succeed in encouraging sustainable development.

Appendix 1: Questions used to help carry out the SC

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Climatic Factors	To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	• Does it limit greenhouse gas emissions? • Does it secure the highest viable resource and energy efficiency? • Does it encourage the use of renewable energy technologies?
	To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.	• Does it minimise vulnerability and encourage resilience to the effects of climate change?
Waste	To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	• Will it reduce the amount of waste produced, collected, and or landfilled? • Will it increase the amount of waste recycled or recovered? • Will it increase levels of composting or anaerobic digestion? • Has space for storage of recycled materials been planned for? • Will it reduce the waste management industry's contribution to climate change?
Minerals and Geodiversity	To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources	• Not applicable. No active mineral activity within the Parish except for that conducted under the Cornwall Council's Mineral Safeguarding Plan
	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county.	• Not applicable. No active mineral activity within the Parish except for that conducted under the Cornwall Council's Mineral Safeguarding Plan
Soil	To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality.	• Will it protect, enhance and improve soil quality in Cornwall?
	To encourage and safeguard local food production.	• Will it avoid development that leads to the loss of productive soils?
Air	To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.	• Will it reduce pollution including greenhouse gas emissions? • Will it maintain or improve air quality in Cornwall?
Water	To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion.	• No significant flood risks within Madron parish, and no coastal elements.
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	• Does the proposal maintain or enhance water quality overall? • Does the proposal reduce the overall demand for water? • Will the proposal provide for greater integrated water catchment management and strengthen links between habitats to increase the likelihood of adaptation to climate change? • Will the proposal increase the risk of water pollution events?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Biodiversity	**To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change.**	• Does the proposal protect, enhance or restore biodiversity interests of BAP habitats, Cornwall Wildlife Sites, SSSIs and internationally, nationally and regionally designated areas? • Does the proposal allow adaptation to climate change through the connection of habitats (wildlife corridors)? • Does it protect not only designated areas but also of wildlife interest everywhere? • Will it encourage the provision of new or improved wildlife habitats?
Landscape	**To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape.**	• Will it sustain and enhance and/or restore the distinctive qualities and features of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape character? • Will it conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cornwall AONB and the Tamar Valley AONB, and increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONBs? • Will it protect, enhance and promote opportunities for green infrastructure within and between urban settlements? • Will it maintain and enhance a high quality living environment? • Will it encourage the location and design of development to respect and improve landscape character and the landscape setting of settlements?
Maritime	**To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments.**	• Not relevant to Madron, no littoral aspects in the parish.
Historic Environment	**To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment.**	• Does the proposal reinforce the distinctive character of Cornwall? • Does the proposal have an acceptable/unacceptable level of impact on the historic environment? • Does the proposal preserve and enhance the cultural and social significance of the historic asset? • Will it result in development which is sympathetic towards the need to promote the Cornwall's unique heritage value, historic environment and culture? • Have flood mitigation measures been designed to be compatible with the immediate historic environment? • Has a balance been struck between the level of risk (e.g. in adaptation to climate change or flood risk) and the aspiration to preserve the distinctive qualities of the historic environment?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Design	To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development.	- Will it encourage developers to build to higher environmental standards? - Will it help to promote local distinctiveness? - Does the proposal meet targets for renewable energy capture and sustainable construction using BREEAM or Code for Sustainable Homes? - Will it promote high quality, sustainable and sympathetic design that takes account of sustainable construction and transport modes, and green infrastructure?
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.	- Will it improve access to and provision of services, health and community facilities (including community youth facilities) especially in rural areas and for the socially excluded? - Will it reduce poverty, deprivation, discrimination, social exclusion and inequalities?
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	- Will it reduce crime and anti-social activity, and in turn, provide safer communities in Cornwall (particularly in the most deprived neighbourhoods and identified hot spots). - Will it help reduce the fear of crime?
Housing	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.	- Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing to ensure delivery of long-term regeneration schemes for the county? - Will it reduce the number of people homeless or in temporary accommodation? - Will it contribute towards the provision of affordable, social and key worker housing? - Will it reduce the number of unfit homes, and those falling below the decent homes standards? - Will it deliver adaptable housing to meet the lifelong needs of the population? - Will it provide a well-integrated mix of decent homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes? - Will it provide energy efficient development which reduces the annual cost of heating/lighting and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions? - Will it make the best use of land?
Health, Sport and Recreation	To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities.	- Will it improve health and well-being and reduce inequalities in health? - Will it improve access to health services? - Will it improve access to the countryside, coast, recreation and open spaces? - Will it increase participation and engagement in physical activity and sport? - Will it lead to unacceptable noise levels?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Economic Development	**To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities.**	• Will it promote a diverse range of employment opportunities? • Will it provide affordable, small scale, managed workspace to support local need? • Will it support the development of access to ICT facilities including Broadband, particularly in rural areas? • Will it raise the quality of employment and reduce seasonality?
Education and Skills	**To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society.**	• Will it help improve the qualifications and skills of young people? • Will it improve facilities and opportunities for lifelong learning (particularly for those with greatest need)? • Will it help increase the County's skilled and professional workforce? • Will it support a viable future for rural communities? • Will it encourage a greater diversity of choice in skills training as part of regeneration efforts? • Will it increase accessibility to training facilities?
Transport and Accessibility	**To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices.** **To reduce traffic congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions.**	• Will it promote sustainable forms of transport (public transport including bus and rail, cycle and pedestrian routes) and ensure the necessary associated infrastructure is made available? • Will it reduce traffic congestion by promoting alternative modes of transport? • Will it reduce the need to travel by seeking to balance homes, jobs, services and facilities? • Will it lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions? • Will it improve service provision or provide a service or facility which is accessible to all, including those with disabilities and those in the more rural areas? • Will it transfer freight from road to rail and/or sea?
Energy	**To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.**	• Will it promote and support the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies? • Will it help reduce fuel poverty? • Will it encourage local energy production?

Appendix 2: The SC Results

Key:

-	Likely to undermine the SC Objective
+/-	Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the SC Objective
+	Likely to support the SC Objective
0	Impacts unknown or SC theme/objective(s) irrelevant to this element of the NDP

Appendix 2: The SC Results

SC of the Madron Parish Draft NDP			
SC Theme	**SC Objectives**	**Comment**	**Likely Impact**
Climatic Factors	**To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.**	Policy BEH1 seeks to promote energy efficiency, green energy generation and a reduction in carbon emissions.	+
	To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.	The Built Environment objectives include putting climate change protection and energy saving as an intrinsic part of new developments. Policy BEH 1 addresses energy efficiency and green energy generation.	+
Waste	**To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.**	Not specifically addressed in the NDP	+/-
Minerals and Geodiversity	**To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources**	Not applicable to Madron Parish	0
	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county.	Not applicable to Madron Parish	0
Soil	**To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality.**	Partly addressed through Policy H1 that seeks to see new development placed in the large brownfield site in the village, rather than on open fields.	+
	To encourage and safeguard local food production.	Policy CFS4 encourages the use of land for allotments and orchards, increasing local food production.	+
Air	**To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.**	Policy NE3 seeks to encourage reforestation which would improve air quality.	+
Water	**To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion.**	There are 5 rivers or streams within the parish that show up as areas of flood risk on the Cornwall Council strategic flood risk mapping facility. These are narrow streams that run in steep sided valleys running north-west to south-east across the parish. These present a flood risk that is graded as flood risk zones 2 and 3 but only along very narrow confined corridors, leaving the majority of the parish flood risk free. Policy NE3 seeks to reduce the vulnerability to flooding by steering away development from these risk areas. Note that the parish has no coastal element.	+

SC of the Madron Parish Draft NDP			
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	Water quality and use not addressed within the NDP.	0
Biodiversity	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change.	The Vision Statement supports looking after the natural environment. The Natural Environment objective aims to protect and enhance biodiversity. Policy NE1 seeks to improve biodiversity. Policy NE3 seeks to improve wildlife corridors, hedges, verges and tree lines. Also encourages reforestation.	+
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape.	The Vision Statement supports looking after the landscape. The Natural Environment objective aims to protect and enhance the landscape. Policy NE1 seeks to protect the landscape.	+
Maritime	To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments.	Madron Parish is not a coastal environment.	0
Historic Environment	To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment.	The Vision Statement supports the historic village of Madron. Policy BEH 1 seeks to protect the historic environment. Policy BEH2 seeks to preserve elements of historic structures.	+
Design	To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development.	The Housing objective aims at a sustainable community. Policy BEH1 seeks high quality design that reflects a sense of place and is sustainable. The Parish Design Guide supports high quality and locally distinctive design.	+
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.	The Vision Statement supports levels of housing, employment and leisure for a happy community. The Community Facilities and Services objectives include a enabling a high quality of life for both young and old. No specific NDP policy on social inclusion but the underlying issues are addressed in supporting policies e.g. on development and employment. Not registered as a key theme in community consultations.	+/-
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	The NDP policies do not specifically address crime and anti-social behaviour as crime and anti-social behaviour as issues managed through development, but seen instead ac community action issues.	+/-

SC of the Madron Parish Draft NDP			
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
Housing	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.	The Vision Statement includes levels of housing. The Housing objectives aim to meet the needs of the local community. Policy H2 through a mix of tenure seeks to address the housing needs across the community in terms of open market, affordable housing, and assisted living.	+
Health, Sport and Recreation	To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities.	The Vision Statement includes supporting leisure activities. The Community Facilities and Services objectives include enhancing sports opportunities and facilities. Policy NE2 seeks to protect the parish playing field and the Gulval cricket club ground from development. Policy CFS3 seeks to encourage the development of new recreational and sports facilities.	+
Economic Development	To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities.	The Business and Jobs objectives include local job creation. The Natural Environment objective aims to support sustainable farming. Being a rural area, policy BJ1 supports the development of businesses and facilities suitable for the location, and it seeks to reduce the carbon impacts of commuting by allowing for live/work units.	+
Education and Skills	To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society.	Policy CFS5 encourages the development of super-fast broadband communications that would better support education, and skills across the parish	+
Transport and Accessibility	To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices. To reduce traffic congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions.	Transport objectives include promoting the use of public transport and reducing emissions. Policy T3 supports the use of walking and cycling routes and public transport. Although Madron Parish does not suffer from traffic congestion, Policy T1 supports traffic management in residential areas primarily to address safety issues.	+
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.	Policy BEH1 supports designs that improve environmental performance, reduce carbon emissions, include energy efficiency and bring in green energy generation.	+

Appendix 3: The SC Summary Matrix of Results

Key:

-	Likely to undermine the SC Objective
+/-	Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the SC Objective
+	Likely to support the SC Objective
0	Impacts unknown or SC theme/objective(s) irrelevant to this element of the NDP

SC Theme	Potential Impact of [Parish] [Draft] NDP
1 Climate Factors	+/-
2 Waste	+/-
3 Minerals & Geodiversity	+/-
4 Soil	0
5 Air	0
6 Water	+
7 Biodiversity	+
8 Landscape	+
9 Maritime	0
10 Historic Environment	+
11 Design	+
12 Social Inclusion	+/-
13 Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour	+/-
14 Housing	+
15 Health, Sport & Recreation	+
16 Economic Development, Regeneration & Tourism	+
17 Education & Skills	+
18 Transport & Accessibility	+
19 Energy	+