

## **Notes of the Climate Emergency Working Party Meeting held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllr Crawford, Cllr Capon, Steve Jarvis (Chairman), L Goodger, P Smith and Mrs K Graddock (Clerk)

### **Apologies**

Martin Sosnowski and Cllr Mackie.

### **Cycleways in Fremington and Connections to Tarka Trail**

The DEO gave an update on her investigations regarding potential new Tarka Trail access routes in the Parish, particularly Bickington and that it is currently on the Section 106 list as a priority. Lou Goodger mentioned that in the current climate, these access routes are and will be important.

**Action:** That access to the Tarka Trail is made a priority and particularly DDA access and should be considered to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Rewilding of Verges**

The DEO explained that the Administration team were currently producing the maps to be circulated to members and will be available shortly.

Steve Jarvis suggested a potential wildflower area at the top of Elmfield Road on Bickington Road (opposite the boat)– he has spoken to people that mow the grass and the neighbour that backs onto the area and all seem happy for it to be re-wilded. The area would suit foxgloves.

### **New Standards on Planning Applications for 2025: Energy Saving**

The DEO explained that the Council had obtained North Devon Council's response to the consultation and that she would circulate this to members. She further explained that Fremington Parish Council has written to North Devon Council to express their views that the standards should be implemented sooner.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

**The following comments were made on the draft Neighbourhood Plan:**

- Emphasis (and far too much) on pottery history and a very limited mention of sustainability. Some sections have very little substance.
- It is written as if there isn't a climate emergency and does not actually say that Fremington has declared a Climate Emergency, which is a very important aspect and should be reflected all the way through the document.
- The plan does not reflect the current climate.
- Some members felt that the current draft is not fit for purpose and that a good Neighbourhood plan is written in consultation with people and perhaps a new consultation on future proofing Fremington. The clerk explained that this was not possible due to funding and resources and that the CEWP were needing to submit suggestions for consideration. Lou Goodger explained that there was a great deal of consultation previously, but there had not been much uptake with consultations and not many people responded. Cllr Capon – A lot of the new housing wasn't build before this survey was sent out.

- **Vision statement**
  - Does not reflect the situation we see ourselves in. Does not talk about sustainable living, reducing emissions, reducing energy consumption, generating energy needs sustainable.
  - Does not say we have declared a Climate Emergency Declaration.
  - Suggestion was to send the consultations and Steering Group the list of resources that the DEO sent to members, and especially the CSE document.
  
- **Green Infrastructure**
  - Didn't understand the climate change statement within the section, very vague statement.
  - The terminology of the policy is not clear and is ambiguous.
  - One paragraph should read: "*Proposals that have a significant adverse impact on a locally important green space or ecological site identified above will not be supported*". There should be no variations.
  - Improve connectivity in the Parish through development, e.g: provide access points to Tarka Trail/open spaces.
  - Development should pay full attention to green infrastructure. Fremington Parish Council should protect green infrastructure and development should be in harmony with nature.
  - No development on salt marsh areas.
  
- **Renewable Energy**
  - Where would renewable energy generation come into the document? Already have significant amount in the parish and need to face up to this. Suggestion is that need a section in the Neighbourhood Plan is needed on renewable energy.
  - Fremington Parish Council should emphasise and encourage producing zero carbon energy.
  - Members looked at other Neighbourhood Plan examples (particular Exmouth) and they all include renewable energy and concentrated on what's important in relation to climate change.
  
- **Sustainable Tourism**
  - Need to look at encouraging our own tourism in the area.
  - Policy is not ambitious and needs to be pro-active, not reactive.
  - Need to encourage developers to include good bus infrastructure, cycle ways etc to encourage less cars.
  - Encourage Tourism to use bike, footpaths, walking, public transport etc.
  
- **Design and Local Distinctiveness**
  - The Policy felt like it was more about the visual aspect and should also be about the eco system and maintaining it. Using terms such as 'Best energy conservation in design'.
  - Need to be careful not to detract away of solar panels etc.
  - Policy is more about town planning and landscaping.

- What about the visual aspects of the coastal landscape – not included at the moment and there were concerns that if it isn't included, it could force development into flood plains.
- **Residential Policy**
  - Statement A doesn't mean anything and doesn't appear to be evidenced.
  - Agree with point C.
  - Nothing about visual aspect, infrastructure, build quality, energy efficiency.
  - Future Standards 2025 to be included as a very minimum and strongly advise to look at Passivhaus Standard to be included. Fremington need to set standard high, especially as declared a climate emergency.
  - No building in or near SSSI.
  - Green space for ground level residential dwellings.
  - More single and two bedroom affordable or social housing to accommodate local community.
  - Aim for 40% affordable/social housing. Our area has lower than average incomes.
  - Increased standard of housing for people with disabilities and that's to future proof buildings so they do not have to be moved out or is costly (to be applied to all new houses).
  - All new developments to include electric car charging points.
- **Sustainable Travel Policy**
  - In view of congestion at peak hours, the provision of a park and ride should be included.
  - Link between Barnstaple and Bideford using Tarka Trail. E.g: light railway/tram – future aspiration.
  - The second part of the policy refers and reads as if it's 'road building' and is a negative. The policy should look at major improvements to existing road network access to take traffic away from build up areas, not build new ones.
  - Provision of Bus Shelters
  - Provision of Additional seating
- **Funding and Developer Contributions**
  - Developers should provide allotments, more leisure facilities such as trim trails, allotments (DEO informed members she had asked for allotments, trim trails to be included).
  - Contributions towards something green eg: nature reserves. Lou Goodger mentioned that in her development if a home is sold a proportion is granted to the local nature reserve.
  - All renewable energy developments should pay into a community development fund and provide local opportunity for local share ownership and renewable schemes.
  - Community energy schemes to be encouraged.

Members felt that Mr Peter Smith should be elected onto the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as he has a great deal of expertise that could be utilised and would help the Climate Change and environmental aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan to be addressed.

**Action:** The DEO to inform the Executive Officer that Mr Peter Smith would like to become a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

### **Review impact of Government Climate Change Committee Report**

Mr Peter Smith gave a brief overview about high emission scenarios and looking at by 2080, sea level rises of over a 1m, +4degreesC. This item will be included on the next Agenda for further discussion.

### **July 2020 Budget**

Mr Peter Smith gave a brief outline of the going green grants which includes insulation, triple glazing and heat pumps. This item will be included on the next Agenda for further discussion.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6.00pm.