

Neighbourhood Development Plan Questionnaire

Summary of Responses by Cllr. Professor Michelle Brown

March 2022

150 forms received from 500 distributed = 30% which is higher than national average of 20-25%.

Volunteers, mostly PC members plus 3 others, distributed the forms to save on cost. Most were returned to the Spar, 2 were handed in at the market, 5 were returned online.

Data capture was undertaken by Alex Rowe, Cllr Sue Rowe and Cllr Michelle Brown. Analysis of data was undertaken by Michelle Brown with assistance from Alex Rowe on statistics entered into software spreadsheets he uses for his PhD in heritage management with Plymouth University. This has taken a lot of voluntary time but has made a considerable saving for the public purse. I would like us to consider giving him £125 as thanks for his contribution.

Results:

The one thing everyone in Sennen seems of accord on / interested in is poo – be it canine or human! Dog fouling, bin provision and the state of repair, cleanliness and access to the toilets in the Cove and Harbour were a big concern. Many lamented the call of the Cove toilets on the public purse, in a private paying car park. Many people would like to see recycling point reintroduced and would like holiday homes to have enforces recycling responsibilities.

Around a third of people only seem to have commented on matters of immediate concern to them, the others have taken a wider view of the community. There are a few who were negative about everything, but thankfully not many. Two thought the whole process a waste of time but the majority engaged and several expressed thanks and support.

Priorities overall were ranked and showed that building development and housing issues were foremost. There was great concern about the escalating number of new builds, for whatever purpose, and concerning design, quality and contextualisation of materials and styles. The need for a cap on expansion generally and on the number of holiday and second home properties was frequently expressed, on environmental and infrastructure grounds, and a fear of us becoming a holiday dormitory rather than a living community.

There was a large majority in favour of affordable/social housing (to rent and to buy, and with many people supporting them remaining in entailed, dedicated community use) for those eligible for full-time local residency and a desire to limit the escalating number of holiday lets and second homes owned by absentees and locals alike. Closing of loopholes in levels of rates, business rates and planning applications which benefit those marketing holiday accommodation rather than full-time residents was called for. There was significant support for a limited number of new affordable/social homes geared to demonstrable need and both a concern about location and a recognition that this may entail some building on green field site(s) but not on the AONB. Concern re adequate homes for the elderly was also frequently expressed. Any new affordable housing needs to incorporate all age groups. It is important that properties for the elderly are built in the heart of a development and that they are offered support and inclusion.

The next priority was protection and preservation of the environment and landscape, with much concern re the AONB, local landmarks, the beach and harbour, coastal path, footpath network and historic features (stiles, crosses, buildings). Landscape views and accessible open space are highly valued. Rewilding and planting of and preservation of trees and wildflowers were also a priority. Many

people would like allotments / community food growing area. Surface water, effluence overspilling into streams and flooding were significant concerns, with several properties already having experienced flooding – even on high overhill ground - due to changing weather patterns and new developments piggy backing on existing infrastructure. It was pointed out that with patterns of higher winter rainfall and summer drought, it would be sensible to look to harvesting and retaining winter water for summer use (cisterns etc?).

Footpaths and highway verges: maintenance issues (detailed), stile maintenance and elderly/disabled/buggy access, dog poo, problems with overgrown or obstructed paths, better signposting, dangerous stretches of A30 to negotiate on foot, suggested new routes to Chapel Carn Brea and St Buryan, some need re-asserting eg across Treeve Moor, would like to see the PC, CC and EH take a firmer line with landowners who obstruct or close paths or who damage stiles and crosses, or who are aggressive to walkers, a number expressed appreciation of the footpath network and upkeep.

Renewable energy sources (wind, geothermal, water /wave and solar – with a preference for domestic -which was top preference - rather than commercial – which was lowest preference), community energy group/plan were also a high priority. Beach cleans. Tree planting and wildflowers / rewilding. Plastic free Sennen has high level of support. Some form of cooperative business delivering food, fish and veg around the houses in the area. Future allotments donating part of their produce to the supper club for the elderly and those hard up. “We are in such a unique position to be seen as doing something special in a community through initiatives. With rising energy costs the idea of Sennen generating its own power would be incredible.”

Then come (in order of 1st level prioritisation):

Traffic Calming/Restrictions – some thought 30mph adequate if enforced, others felt 20 is plenty either throughout village or in parts of. More speed bumps and different configurations were suggested. The VAS were welcomed but the positioning questioned, with need for one at Land’s End exit/approach to village. Speed cameras and traps were discussed. Enforcement is a big issue. The Cove roundabout is a problem as is congestion outside Spar/Fish Shop. Concern re chicane by the church (give way sign requested). One way system for Trevescan triangle, or at least one way on first narrow turning was often mentioned. Most of these concerns are already being considered by the PC and there will be a highways safety review soon.

Young People’s Facilities – a big desideratum in Sennen, other than the beach. Most of all, a desire for BMX and skateboard activities and for things for youth to do in the evening – especially a coffee shop / drop in centre and youth and play clubs, mother and toddler groups. Better lighting and shelter in the MUGGA, where young people currently congregate. Praise for existing karate club.

Public Transport – much demand for more regular services, cheaper fares, faster direct routes to Penzance and St Just and timing of services to get people to college or work and to enable evenings out. Clearer info re timetabling, better shelters with seats. Many thought smaller single decker buses running on renewable energy would be preferable to double deckers, except for the coaster service. Better disabled access was requested and ticketing across services/companies. There was a majority in favour of reinstating the community buses.

Parking - the Cove and the cost of parking there was uppermost in peoples’ minds. Many requested a locals’ pass or similar concessions. The yellow lines enforcement was generally welcomed but with concerns re resident parking and for employees and carers needing to work in the Cove. A number of people expressed interest in a free car park in the village itself. The flashpoint for dangerous parking

and congestion is the Spar/Fish Shop, with suggestions including no parking on the opposite side of the road. Cars parked inappropriately on Stone Chair Lane and Maria's Lane and congestion at entrance to Cove car park. Drives blocked. Individual parking problems were expressed.

Recreation/Sport Facilities – many praised the current services in both halls and their providers, but it was felt that they were underused and that it needs to be clearer what's on and how to book at both venues. More activities at both would be welcome. That being said, surprisingly few people said they belonged to existing clubs/groups. Many felt the Community Centre needed some updating and a vocal minority felt it should be knocked down and a customised swimming pool / gym built in its stead. Interest was expressed in other activities – gym, swim, surf and gig clubs, dancing and tea dances, more arts and crafts activities, voluntary or paid teaching of skills and in learning activities / talks and courses on a range of subjects, gardening club, book / dvd / toy swap. Repair project. Youth activities and lunch clubs and activities for the elderly.

Agricultural environment – there was recognition of the essential rural agricultural aspect of Sennen's landscape and history, along with its important maritime environment, and of the essential importance of food provision and in stewardship, but also concern re development and disturbance of historic features and wildlife habitats and obstruction of footpaths and common land access.

Older peoples' facilities – lunch club, befriending, volunteer hub support with gardening etc, shopping bus, drop in coffee shop. Suitable housing and help in downsizing without moving, to help free up larger properties for purchase (by locals / full time residents).

Historic Buildings/ Heritage/Archaeology – the vote was split (although with the 2nd priority rating taken into account this item then ranked quite high in the priorities list) and people don't seem widely aware of how much historic building remains and of how important the parish is in terms of heritage and archaeology, although destruction of what they are aware of is a concern. There is scope for more public education here, as the present moment is but one stage in Sennen's long and significant history: past and future should not be sacrificed to its present indiscriminately, they need to be viewed together to get the longer, sustainable view.

Community Buildings – see recreation and sports facilities, above.

Provision of Land for Business / Employment – some individual needs /aspirations were expressed. Several people felt there was scope for work/home premises and/or a few more shops, especially in the village itself (eg crafts, world food take away etc). There was recognition that there are agricultural and service industry jobs available locally but that they are mostly seasonal and poorly paid. There is a desire for diversify but not many ideas on how to do so.

There is significant concern re broadband / internet speeds and of being left behind as standards and new options are introduced more rapidly elsewhere in the UK. A desire was often expressed that we develop a local community and economy that can thrive sustainably in the absence of the tourist community, if need be, ie that is not so heavily reliant upon it.