

Minutes of a Meeting of the **PLANS COMMITTEE** of Tavistock Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on
TUESDAY the 30th JULY 2013 at 6.15pm

Present:

Cllr Mrs J Whitcomb Chairman
Cllr Mrs A Johnson
Cllr E Sanders

In Attendance:

Town Clerk
Assistant to the Town Clerk
Cllr Mrs M Ewings
Cllr D Eberlie

131. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk outlining, inter alia, some of the issues, opportunities and challenges associated with Neighbourhood Planning. It also received feedback from Councillors who had attended at a recent Neighbourhood Planning event facilitated by West Devon Borough Council.

More specifically a perceived willingness by the Local Planning Authority to engage with the Town Council to help shape and inform the future Local Plan whilst developing a streamlined Neighbourhood Plan restricted to those issues not suitable for inclusion in the higher level document. The merit of such an approach being to embed partnership working, develop a strategic community led approach to the local plan and optimise the use of scarce resources.

Attention was drawn, in particular, to the substantial work involved in undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan and the importance of identifying a core group of Councillors able to lead the planning process over the 1-2 year development period. It was also recognised that organisational capacity and resources were already under strain and, if the proposal were to proceed, the Council would need to source technical expertise and administrative support externally to deliver same.

Following consideration of the issues the consensus was that the outlined approach was worthy of further investigation to which end it was:

RECOMMENDED THAT if the Council concurs that there is merit in further exploring the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan on the basis outlined above it initiate the necessary preliminary works comprising

- a) Identification of those (suggested 3) lead members with appropriate planning expertise who will be tasked with responsibility, over the next 2 years or so, with taking this project forward¹;
- b) Confirmation of its commitment to working in partnership with the Local Planning Authority to develop a community led approach to the development of the Borough Local Plan (so far as it relates to Tavistock) and a streamlined Neighbourhood Plan for Tavistock;
- c) Pursuant to (b) above conduct of a detailed review and identification of those aspects of the West Devon Borough Council Core Strategy upon which it feels a neighbourhood plan would wish to build and identifying those areas of deficiency to be addressed.

ii.

Subject to the foregoing the Council engage with the Local Planning Authority and both successful and unsuccessful proponents of Neighbourhood Plans elsewhere in the county to develop a good practice model going forward. This to also enable a final appraisal by the Council of the opportunities, risks, issues and implications associated with a Neighbourhood Plan for Tavistock to enable an informed final decision on if/how to proceed to be made.