



Looe Neighbourhood Plan

NOTES FROM THE LOOE NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN WORKSHOP EVENT 12th JULY 2016



LOOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISIONING EVENT 12th JULY 2016 @ 16.30

THE MILLPOOL CENTRE, WEST LOOE

INTRODUCTION

The Acting Chair of the Looe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Edwina Hannaford, welcomed the attendees and introduced the team, and set out the broad aims of the meeting which were:

- To look at the results from the long period of widespread community engagement that had recently completed.
- Identify the key issues facing Looe that the Neighbourhood Plan could aim to tackle.
- Discuss draft visions for the future of Looe that is based on these results.
- Spend a little time looking at how we will do the work to create the planning policies and proposals that will achieve the vision.

LOOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKSHOP 12TH JULY 2016

AGENDA

4.00 TO 4.30 PM Arrival, sign-in, refreshments

4.30 PM Welcome and introduction

Acting Chair of Looe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Edwina Hannaford.

4.40 PM Session 1 – What is a Neighbourhood Plan and what have we been doing?

Steve Besford-Foster, Neighbourhood Plan Project Manager

4.50 PM Session 2 – Feedback report on the Looe Community Survey 2016.

Steve Besford-Foster, Neighbourhood Plan Project Manager

5.10 PM Session 3 – Table discussion: having heard the feedback from the Community Survey, what are the top 3 or 4 issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to deal with?

5.30 PM Feedback from table discussions.

5.45 PM Break – refreshments.

6.00 PM Session 4 – Table discussion of a ‘future Looe vision’: This could be recorded in the form of a ‘vision statement’ OR as a map/diagram depicting how the future layout of the town might be, or how it might ‘work’ functionally.

6.20 PM Feedback from table discussions

6.35 PM Session 5 – The next steps in creating the Looe Neighbourhood Plan

Acting Chair of Looe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillor Edwina Hannaford.

6.45 PM General Q and A Session.

7.00 PM Chair’s Summary.

7.05 PM Sign-up to Working Groups, 1-to-1 discussions, refreshments and dispersal.

7.30 PM Workshop ends

Members of the Steering Group will assist at the Table Discussions.

Flipchart paper, maps and plans, pens and post-it notes available to record ideas.

SESSION 1 - WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

The Acting Chair said that to begin, and bring everyone up to date, Steve Besford-Foster, the Looe NP Project Manager, would give a short presentation on what Neighbourhood Plans are, why they are important and what Looe had done so far. The slides from this presentation are given as Appendix 1.

Questions raised at the end of this session concerned the status of the Neighbourhood Plan, and whether the Local Planning Authority would properly respect it as a planning tool when making decisions on planning applications affecting Looe. In reply the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the consequent changes to the Planning Acts, which made Neighbourhood Plans a formal part of the planning system, were referred to, pointing out that if the Plan was supported at Referendum the Local Planning authority had no choice but to 'make' the Plan. It was also noted that local monitoring of the use of the Neighbourhood Plan was desirable, so that any lack of use or misinterpretation could be raised as an issue with Cornwall Council.

SESSION 2 - FEEDBACK REPORT ON THE LOOE COMMUNITY SURVEY 2016

Steve Besford-Foster then presented a rapid summary of the survey results, noting that a copy of the graphs was on each table, and that fuller details were being posted on the Neighbourhood Plan website. The slides from this presentation are given as Appendix 2.

He explained that 495 returns had been received from adult population (17 and above) of 4,321 which gave a confidence interval of 4.15 points at a confidence level 95%, meaning that the results were a reasonably fair expression of the views of Looe's community. He also explained how the survey involved 'closed questions' presented using a Likert Scale weighting or a percentage of those responding to a question, and also open ended questions. It was also noted that the age profile of the respondents differed a little from the actual profile for Looe, as older people were more inclined and available to respond to such surveys. This meant that the Working Groups would need to ensure that younger people were engaged when they developed ideas and solutions to the issues raised.

Key points arising in the presentation were:

- It was notable that when asked how the town might be described in the future, the harbour as a source of work and leisure, the traditional feel and values of the town, and its quiet tranquility were all strongly supported.
- The protection of the local identity, heritage and the history of Looe was seen as an important sustainability issue, second only to flooding.
- Whilst almost all respondents identified with Looe, they also identified with 'neighbourhoods' within the town, such as Barbican and Hannafore
- Additional shopping facilities and better parking arrangements topped the list of things that would make Looe a better place to live.
- If any new housing was to be built, respondents felt it should be smaller starter homes for young people, affordable housing and dwellings built to take into account changing requirements that come with old age.
- There was strong support for the redevelopment of Polean, with leisure, shopping and hi-tech industry as the most popular uses.
- Quite a lot of respondents also wanted to see a development for shops and jobs on the fields opposite the school on the Barbican.
- As to what sort of jobs should be provided, respondents had favoured service jobs in tourism and care related work, IT and communications, and arts/entertainment as the top 4.
- On the town centre, respondents were interested in pedestrian priority, being able to access more services, having more independent traders, and a change in the balance of retail to make it more interesting.
- There was strong support for the harbourside and its role in economic well-being.

SESSION 3 – TABLE DISCUSSION: HAVING HEARD THE FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY, WHAT ARE THE TOP 3 OR 4 ISSUES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TO DEAL WITH?

After listening to a brief introduction, the table groups got down to detailed discussion of what it all meant, and what the key issues were. Each table ‘flip-charted’ the discussions, and fed them back to the workshop via spokesperson, and these points are summarized in the table below:

SUMMARY OF SESSION 3 FLIPCHART NOTES FORM EACH DISCUSSION TABLE

Housing – low cost – infill, by local builders, with local design – keep control of affordability Low cost housing

Safe Environment as a cross cutting theme

Shopping needs support - Retail offer – mix to be supported - Supermarket – what type and what about impact on Town Centre? Supermarket – but what impact on TC and traffic infrastructure on TC – but significant proportion of townfolk want modern standards of supermarket shopping and choice Geography – Looe has half a catchment

Polean is an asset for the future - Working Harbour - Keep fishing industry - Better jobs for youth to retain them in the community - Polean development – what type and impact on the town centre - Fishing industry – can we support the protection of the industry and promote it in the NP? Employment must grow

Tourism – dependent on tradition and heritage of area – how can we get visitors more involved in the industry?

Safeguarding traditional areas and harbour = ‘**essential identity of Looe**’ - Identity – cultural/industrial heritage is key

Environment cross cutting issues – flooding, coastal defences and infrastructure
Community Safety

MORE INFO NEEDED FROM OTHER SURVEYS TO PLAN

CLUES FOR THE ‘VISION’

Harbour/Fishing/Beach/Maritime economy/Opportunity/Identity

Prosperity/shopping

Self-supporting/Environment/Future proof/pollution free/Responsive

Timeless/preserving

SESSION 4 – TABLE DISCUSSION OF A ‘FUTURE LOOE VISION’

Following a short refreshment break, the table discussion reformed, this time to discuss what might be a future vision for Looe. Each table group was asked to record this in the form of a ‘vision statement’ or as a map/diagram depicting how the future layout of the town might be, or how it might ‘work’ functionally. Each table ‘flip-charted’ the discussions, and fed them back to the workshop via spokesperson, and these points are summarized in the table below:

SUMMARY OF SESSION 4 FLIPCHART NOTES FORM EACH DISCUSSION TABLE

‘A community that has revitalized its maritime economy into one that can bring prosperity to all whilst significantly reducing its impact on the environment’

A Venn Diagram showing five circles:

1. Unchanged – timeless
2. Culture – music – choirs
3. Tourism – quality destination
4. Opportunities – employment business
5. Sustainability – future proof: ‘Live – work – rest – play – live’

‘Preserving, responding and shaping: We are Looe’

'Develop Looe's central location as the tourism hub for SE Cornwall'

SESSION 5 – THE NEXT STEPS IN CREATING THE LOOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The final session of the evening was a plenary discussion of what the next steps should be to take the Neighbourhood Plan forward. Slides used to assist this discussion are given as Appendix 3.

There was agreement that the best way forward may be to form short-term working groups that will meet a few times over say a 3-month period to focus on particular themes and work up proposals.

During the break the Acting Chair and the Project Manager had looked at the feedback from session 3, and proposed the following working groups:

- Housing and Environment
- Shopping and access to services
- Economy jobs
- Heritage and culture/tourism

In dealing with these themes, each group could look at the cross cutting themes – infrastructure, affordability, safety, geography/environment.

The workshop finished on time, with attendees 'signing up' to assist the Working Groups as they left.

DRAFT WORKING 'VISION' FOR LOOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At the subsequent Looe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting (11th August 2016) the following statement was adopted as an interim vision pending review following the working group activity and reports:

'A community that has revitalised its maritime and coastal based economy into one that brings prosperity to all and significantly reduces its impact on the environment, whilst maintaining its special character'

It was also agreed that a strapline should be added to this for promotional purposes:

'Preserving, responding and shaping: we are Looe'

ATTENDANCE

NAME	ORGANISATION
Edwina Hannaford	Looe Town Council
Armand Toms	Looe Town Council
Anne Frith	Looe Town Council
Steve Besford-Foster	PlanSupport – Project Manager
Alison Foulkes	Parish Church
Andrew Lightfoot	Riverside United Church
Chris Roy	U3A
Diane Trerise	L.I.S.

Edmund Wilson	Looe Strategy Group
Edith Coles	SECTA
Greg Spence	SECTA
Heather Garden	Looe Valley U3A
Joy Higgs	Looe Valley U3A
Justin Spreckley	Looe Development Trust
James Lundy	
Kate Whittington	Looe Valley U3A
Kathy Lang	Looe Harbour Commissioners
Mark Allen	Old Bridge Surgery
Mark Camp	Looe TIC
Mike Jackman	Looe Sailing Group
Mark Joce	Looe Music Festival
Pat Moore	Lanteglos-by-Fowey PC
Paul Whitehouse	U3A
Peter King	LOCS
Tanya Brittan	Looe Music Festival
Vivienne Woodgate	U3A

WORKING GROUP SIGN UP (including sign-ups subsequent to the event)

(note the italicized names are suggested representatives from the Steering Group. * indicates possible lead.)

1. Economy		
NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL/TEL NO
Mark Joce	Looe Music Festival	
Joy Higgs	Looe Valley U3A	
Vivienne Woodgate	U3A	
Diane Trerise	L.I.S.	
John Martin		
Gwen Challoner		
<i>Kathy Lang</i>		
<i>*Justin Spreckley</i>		
<i>Kate Jackman</i>		
<i>*Edmund Wilson</i>		
<i>Edwina Hannaford</i>		
<i>Armand Toms</i>		

2. Housing and Environment		
NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL/TEL NO
<i>Ross Fisher</i>		
<i>Edwina Hannaford</i>		
<i>Armand Toms</i>		
<i>*James Lundy</i>		
Laura Tansley		
David Gamblin (Research)		

3. Shopping and access to services		
NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL/TEL NO
Chris Roy	U3A	
Jill Fleming		
Paul Penhaligan		
<i>Sheila Brock</i>		
<i>*Mike Jackman</i>	Looe Sailing Group	
<i>Armand Toms</i>		
<i>*Susannah Gill</i>		
<i>*Andrew Gill</i>		
<i>Mark Allen</i>		

4. Culture/heritage/tourism		
NAME	ORGANISATION	EMAIL/TEL NO
Paul Whitehouse	U3A	
Bob Fleming		
Tanya Brittan	Looe Music Festival	
Edith Coles	SECTA	
Greg Spence	SECTA	
P Myles		
<i>*Ross Fisher</i>		
<i>LOCS Chair</i>	LOCS	
<i>Mark Camp</i>		

APPENDIX 1 – Slides for Session 1

APPENDIX 2 – Slides for Session 2

APPENDIX 3 – Slides for Session 5