

Brief Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

Development can be felt as an opportunity or a threat, depending on what is being developed where and by whom.

Existing planning policies are available to read but are not clear-cut or necessarily binding. They lack clarity and are applied inconsistently. As a result people are very often unsure about what sort of development they might expect in their locality.

The Localism Act (2011) provides for communities to have greater influence over what happens where they live. They can do this by producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Parish Council wants to find out whether people would like to have a greater say in developments in the parish, i.e. whether to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The PC needs to make sure that everyone knows what a NDP is and to find out what everyone would wish to include in a NDP.

If the PC produced a NDP and a majority of voters in a parish referendum were in favour, the NDP would be adopted and the Local Planning Authority would be obliged to take it into account when making planning decisions.

The NDP would remain in force for 20 years.

Linkinhorne Parish may change a little or a great deal over the next 20 years. No one knows. Much will depend on what happens generally in the country and, indeed, in the world beyond. One thing is definite: there will be some changes. A NDP is every local person's chance to take part in deciding what the changes are. Everyone has an equal voice.

We need to look at the parish and decide what we want it to look like in 20 years' time. Do we want it to look and feel more or less the same? If so, how will we accommodate changes in housing, business, energy generation and tourism? Do we want the parish to look and feel very different? If so, how will we conserve important natural environmental and historic features?

It's a very big task with great responsibility attached. Do we need to undertake it at all? We are not obliged to produce a NDP. If we don't, however, we will have to accept development on developers' terms.

Please take your time to think about Linkinhorne Parish, what you value most about it and what you would wish to change. And let us know. Everyone in the parish will be given a questionnaire to complete, and any comments and suggestions may be sent at any time to ndplink@btinternet.com or Yvonne Appleby, Posting Place Cottage, Henwood, Liskeard, PL14 5BP.

Responses will be reported to the Parish Annual Meeting in April, so please respond and attend.

Thank you.