

NDP Steering Group meeting
Tuesday, 30th June 2015, 6pm, The Church House Inn, Linkihorne

Present: Andy Ward (Chair), Roger Halliday (Vice-chair), Catherine Brunsdon, Lavinia Halliday, Christine Hordley, Tom Pawley, Mike Todd, Yvonne Appleby (Clerk)

Apologies: Mark Clutsom, Greg Coombe (late), Adrian Rowe

Welcome: to Nick Cahill, Historic Environment Strategy Officer, Cornwall Council. Mr Cahill had been asked to attend and advise the Steering Group on NDP matters relating to conservation of landscape and the historic built environment. His advice is summarised as follows:-

Case studies: a good example is Roseland NDP which contains Conservation Area appraisals and management plans. St Ives NDP, by contrast, is too particular and therefore unwieldy if not unrealistic.

Any conservation element of a NDP needs to be based on the **character** of the area and its **historic significance**, supported by **evidence**.

The Cornwall Industrial Settlements Initiative (CISI) reports on Minions and Henwood are evidence of the character and historic significance of these areas. The SG should also check local list of Listed Buildings.

For assessment of the historic character and significance of the NDP area, the SG should consult *Placecheck*, a checklist drawn up by the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) checklist and Historic England (formerly English Heritage). Bath & N.E. Somerset (BANES) also have a character assessment model approved by Historic England.

It will be possible to reinstate development boundaries around settlements if there is supporting evidence. As far as potential new Conservation Areas are concerned, character assessment does not have to lead to Conservation Area designation but will discover what there is of historic significance.

For the purposes of recommending design styles for new buildings the SG was referred to the Carrick Design Guide and recommended to be committed to an agreed local design guide for the NDP. It will be useful to consult the English heritage/Historic England document *Understanding Place* when considering the historic significance and protection of built structures. The **setting** of the built environment is as important as the buildings themselves. The SG should also refer to the Cornwall Structure Plan, Policy 2.

The SG was recommended to look at the local landscape character assessment toolkit produced by Kath Statham and to check the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in relation to historic landscape characterisation.

The NDP can be used to close any loopholes in AONB and WHS designations that could allow unsympathetic development.

The SG was right in wishing to engage the public in assessing the historic character and significance of the NDP area as this itself would provide necessary evidence for any proposals drafted. The character assessment toolkits already mentioned would assist in this. David Stuart of Historic England is the contact for NDP support in the south-west.

The Chairman thanked Nick Cahill for his very useful advice. The meeting ended at 8.10pm.