Evidence Paper
Community Consultation

Introduction

1. The NDP is supported by a range of evidence obtained directly from the Preston Parish Community.

2. This Evidence Paper provides results from the following community evidence:

    a. Landowners' Event

    All known landowners were contacted and invited to attend a question and answer session on XXXXX. **Appendix 1** is a note of the meeting.

    b. Community Event

    The NDP steering group advertised the community event through the parish newsletter, delivery of leaflets to individual properties and direct contact with harder to reach villagers. The event was held on 26 September 2016. The report of the event is set out in **Appendix 2**.

    The output from the event was used by the steering group to refine the NDP vision and to identify the most important policy topics. The event was also an opportunity for the steering group to explain the purpose of the NDP, its potential benefits and risks.

    c. Community Survey

    A survey of all relevant topics, most of which were identified in the community event. The survey was administered through Survey Monkey online but some villagers were provided the opportunity to submit paper responses which the Parish Clerk entered into the survey. The response to the survey is set out in **Appendix 3** which is a separate document.

    d. Business Survey

    A short electronic survey was administered to all local businesses. The results are set out in **Appendix 4** which is a separate document**.**

Appendix 1: Landowners' Event

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Landowners' Meeting – Thursday, 20 July 2017

Present: Tony Warren (Chairman), Alan Stone, Julie Tomblin, Sue Cameron and Regine Freyne
Roger Mills, Scilla Chester-Master, Belinda Carruthers, Roger Gegg, Darril Rogers (Pegasus Planning Group representing Michael Harris), Will Chester-Master, Sue & Howard Spivey, Jane Bainbridge, Nick Price.
Dr Andrea Pellegram (Consultant) and Caroline Braidwood (Clerk)

The Chairman introduced himself, the Group, Dr Pellegram and the Parish Clerk. He then gave the Locality definition of a NDP, how and why the decision was made to carry one out and how the Group was formed.
He said that it is hoped that the final document will be available for public consultation in about 1 year's time.
This meeting had been called to explore landowners' views, enable landowners to ask questions and share concerns ahead of the first public meeting in September. The Group has no views of its own and aims to bring together a picture of the community's vision for the future.

Dr Pellegram gave an overview of the process for the NDP and explained where it will sit in relation to CDC's Local Plan. She said that Neighbourhood Development Plans are a new power given to communities to add local detail to the Local Plan. More information can be found on the Locality website.(http://locality.org.uk)

The Design Statement was an important work giving local views and had already identified some areas to be developed in the NDP.

The first public meeting in September would be particularly important and it would be crucial to engage with all parts of the community.

Community Consultation

QUESTIONS

Q Has CDC asked Preston to supply a certain amount of housing ?
A The Parish has not been given a number as it is outside the development boundary and contrary to CDC policy.

Q Could the NDP be over-ridden ?
A Not if written correctly.

Q Will a NDP be enforceable ?
A It depends how well it is put together and if it works correctly within higher level Plans but if the process is followed correctly then it will have weight.

Q If the community is asked for an opinion it will always be the 'same' people and not all will engage.
A Community consultation is an important part of the process and the Group will have to show details of its engagement strategy. The Plan will follow many stages and there will be many forms of consultation to ensure that as many people as possible, from all age groups, are given the opportunity to be involved. Ultimately, the community will be as large as the community of Preston wants to make it. We acknowledge that we wont achieve a 100% response rate. The Design Statement reached a 43% response by hand delivering and consulting face to face on the doorstep.

C Timings of future consultation events will be important and week day evenings were suggested.

Q Has Siddington got a NDP and, if so, wouldn't it be better to work with them ?
A Both Siddington and South Cerney are working on NDP's. Councillors from the 3 Parishes are in contact.

The meeting closed at 16.35

Appendix 2: Community Event
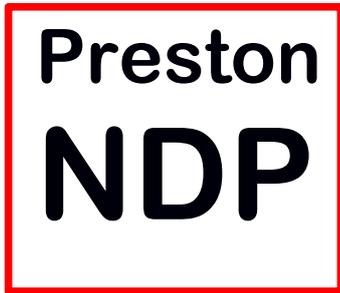
Preston NDP

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL
PRESTON NDP – VISION AND OBJECTIVES
PUBLIC MEETING

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 26 September 2017

1. A meeting of the Preston village community was held in the Village Hall on 26 September 2017 from 19.30 to 21.00. 49 villagers attended including a number of younger members of the community so that the entire community was represented.

2. The meeting was opened by Tony Warren the NDP steering group's Chairman who explained why the NDP was important, why the Parish Council agreed to proceed, and the basic role of the steering group. He stressed that the steering group's intention was to guide the process not determine its direction. All members of the community were encouraged to comment on the NDP's progress and to make comments and let their views be known throughout the process.

3. Andrea Pellegram led the meeting through a SWOT exercise to learn more about the villagers' views about Preston.

Strengths	- Rural character - Edge of countryside - Compact form allows neighbours to meet and know one another - No streetlights - Separate from Cirencester with own identity - Easy access to Cirencester on foot - Own community identity - People know and recognise each other - Has allotments so that people can grow their own food - Village Hall - Church - Feeling safe - Lovely walks - Small village feels like a hamlet - Community activities and community support - Play area - Dog walking - Places to run - Safe when walking - Parents feel children are safe - Near schools - Broadband - History - Cotswold vernacular design - Village fete - Quiet in some parts of the village - Enough parking for personal cars - Employment/agriculture/small industry - Access to evening activities in Cirencester - Birdsong - Private swimming pool available to villagers - Wildlife - Horses/sheep

Weaknesses	- House prices too high for young people - Traffic in village as motorists rat run through centre to avoid other congested areas - Traffic noise from A419 - Rabbits/squirrels - Access on A419 for pedestrians/cyclists is very dangerous and frightening - Access to A419 is also difficult for motorists - Traffic speeds on A419 and in village too high - No pub/no shop - Lack of good quality cycle/footpaths to schools and town - Access to Cirencester on foot is dangerous or unpleasant in places - Fly tipping in laybys - Poor visibility for walking/cycling on South Cerney route past Tesco and into town - Village is long and two ends of the village don't meet socially - Local bus services not good - Rubbish/flytipping - Dog bins – more required - Poor road surfaces - Gas network – not there! - Broadband still not good enough - Low flying aircraft noise
Opportunities	- NDP can help control: - Future development - Design - Type of housing - Size of housing - Public transport - Routes - Timetables - Subsidy - Access to Kemble - Retain gap between Cirencester and Preston - If development should occur, direct it to the south of Preston - Cycle infrastructure in Cirencester - Gain a better understanding of where improvements are required for walking/cycling infrastructure - Get rid of overhead power lines

Threats	• Infill development between Cirencester and Preston • Traffic growth and congestion • More difficult for pedestrians and cyclists as population rises due to new developments • More people rat running through the village • Children's safety • Light/noise pollution will increase • Overspill parking to cater for Cirencester • Increase in HGV traffic • Chesterton development • Village safety • Shortage of school places • Dr surgery – need more spaces • The small new roundabout will encourage development • Need space between Preston and other developed areas • Difficult to manage change which is increasing in pace • Preston is so small it will be swallowed up • Threat to village character • Cemetery space is running out

4. Andrea Pellegram then asked the villagers what their Vision for Preston was – what sort of village did they want in 2028?

In 2028, Preston would be a village:
• That still felt like a village • That had a pub and enough recreational and meeting opportunities to cater for the needs of all villagers and that had a village hall • Where there were good opportunities for play for all ages and access to the countryside • Where younger families could afford to live • There was safe, convenient and attractive access to Cirencester, nearby shops and the countryside for walkers, cyclists and people with mobility difficulties on a network of footpaths and cycleways • Where the character of the village had been preserved as an attractive historic Cotswold village that did not suffer from light and noise pollution • Where the surrounding countryside had been preserved as mainly rural in character with rural businesses and agriculture and where there was a sense of tranquillity and openness • There were opportunities for small commercial enterprises to thrive, where villagers were able to work from home and where small businesses could start up • Where traffic was controlled and the village was not used as a rat run and villagers were able to drive safely into and out of the village

5. Andrea Pellegram finally asked villagers which main policy areas they felt the NDP should cover.

- Transport – controlling motorised traffic
- Sustainable transport – network of footpaths and cycle ways
- Design and Heritage – preserving the character of the village as set out in Design in Preston
- Character of the countryside – preserving openness, agriculture, tranquillity
- Village amenity – noise, light, flytipping control
- Social infrastructure – village hall, play and recreation, meeting space, etc.
- Housing – restrict size of new housing to discourage large homes in favour of smaller homes suitable for young families
- Economic – protect small commercial areas