



Dursley Town Council

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Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan: Meeting with surrounding parishes

Wednesday 26th November 12:00 - 2:00pm

Draft Programme

12:00 – 12:10 Sandwich lunch

12:10 – 12:20 Introductions and Welcome by Dr Jonathan Bird,
Chairman, Dursley NDP Steering Group.
(How we got started, making the application and setting up the steering group.)

12:20 – 12:30 Clare Nelmes, Deputy Chairman, Dursley NDP
(Consultation and evidence gathering)

12:30 – 12:40 Dursley NDP Resident, Chris Lambert
(What we have found out: using the draft vision/objectives and key messages paper)

12:40 – 1:40 How you can help. A discussion facilitated by Elin Tattersall, GRCC

(All) to provide comments and thoughts on:

- Are there any gaps in the findings?
- What are the key cross boundary issues?
- What do you think of the draft vision, objectives and key messages?
- Solutions? What policies do we need to help achieve the objectives?

1:40 -1:50 Summary (Elin Tattersall)

1:50 -2:00 Next Steps and Closing Remarks (Dr Jonathan Bird)



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10 November 2014

Mr P Garrett

Chairman
Slimbridge Parish Council
7, Longston Lane
Slimbridge
GL2 7BA

Example

Dear Mr Garrett

DURSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: INVITATION TO A LUNCH TIME MEETING WITH SURROUNDING PARISHES

I would like to invite you as Chairman of Slimbridge Parish Council to a lunch time meeting on Wednesday 26th November at 12.00-2.00pm in Jacob's House, Dursley.

We would like to share the work we have been doing with the local community on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Dursley. Your views on our draft vision and objectives would be appreciated, particularly where issues raised through this process cross parish boundaries. Further information in the form of a briefing note will be sent to you nearer the time.

The discussion will be facilitated by Elin Tattersall, Deputy CEO at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

Please RSVP with details of any dietary or access requirements to Anita Gambie, at the above address or via email on ndp@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely


Dr Jonathan Bird
Chairman
Dursley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan

Notes from Meeting with representatives from surrounding parishes held on 26th November 2014 at Jacob's House 12:00-2:00pm

Present: Jonathan Bird, Chairman, Dursley NDP Steering Group, Clare Nelmes, Deputy Chairman, Dursley NDP Steering Group, Chris Lambert, Dursley Resident, Dursley NDP Steering Group, Pauline Dutfield, Vice Chair, Cam Parish Council, Jenny Walkley, Deputy Clerk, Cam Parish Council, David Purnell, Chairman, North Nibley Parish Council, Elin Tattersall, Deputy CEO, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Ricardo Rios, Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Stroud District Council, Councillor Jim Dewey, Uley Parish Council, Ashy McKay, Clerk, Uley Parish Council, Helen Dunn, Clerk, Slimbridge Parish Council, Helen Bojaniwska, Clerk, Dursley Town Council, Leah Wellings, Deputy Clerk, Dursley Town Council, Anita Gambie, Project Administrator, Dursley Town Council.

Introductions and Welcome

Jonathan Bird welcomed everyone to this lunchtime meeting with representatives from the surrounding parishes. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- to share Dursley's experience and findings, to date, in developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP);
- to identify any gaps in the findings;
- to discuss cross boundary issues; and
- seek views on draft vision, objectives and key messages.

Jonathan Bird described how the town had started with the process of developing a plan. A few Residents had made enquiries, the town clerk had briefed councillors about neighbourhood plans and a joint meeting was held with Cam Parish Council. At this event Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) had made a presentation about developing neighbourhood plans. Guidance issued by Locality has also been useful as an information resource.

He explained that whilst the key focus for the plan was about future development, the actual process of developing the plan would enable all residents, businesses and visitors to examine current and future needs for Dursley.

The Steering Group had identified six key topic areas which would require research and assigned a lead to each key theme. Topic areas include: traffic and transport, environment, economy, housing, design, facilities and services, consultation and engagement.

It was acknowledged that there had been a lot of effort from those steering group members involved in the research and consultation. The Steering Group consists of about 10-12 members, with a core of 6-8 members who attend monthly meetings.

It was noted that the Steering Group needs to be representative of the community it reflects, although Dursley has tried to encourage volunteers from all sections of society this has proved to be challenging.

Jonathan Bird stated that collaboration with and between surrounding parishes is a priority for the NP as Dursley acts as the service centre for these areas and the town benefits from these residents using local facilities and shops.

Consultation and evidence gathering

Clare Nelmes described the evidence gathering which had been undertaken. This was mainly desk based research covering data on demographics and population and in turn looking at what this means for future population growth and service provision needs. Existing plans at national, regional, county and district level have also been looked at to ensure our emerging vision and objectives do not contradict current policies.

Publicising the NP has been achieved through press releases, articles in the local press and the town council's website and newsletter 'Dursley Matters'.

Volunteers were recruited to undertake street condition surveys, the results of which have contributed to the traffic and transport evidence. A Parking Needs Survey for the town centre has also been carried out; this has focused on looking at the alternatives to the loss of the long stay car park in Long Street. A rail and train station survey, jointly with Cam Parish Council and Gloucestershire County Council's Integrated Transport Unit will also be completed.

A housing survey with Estate Agents, albeit with a small return, has also provided valuable information about household moves. There are a lot of people moving into the area, due to cheaper housing, proximity to work and green spaces. There is also movement with household moves from larger properties to smaller ones.

A business survey has also been undertaken. This was also completed in partnership with Cam Parish Council. The response rate was disappointing. However, we did receive some additional feedback through an NP consultation meeting held with local traders. Cam Parish Council reported a much higher return rate from their business survey, which was due to a volunteer visiting and going through the survey on a 1:1 basis with businesses.

Community engagement has been undertaken by contacting individual local groups, representing different parts of the community, and attending their meetings with NP display material and questionnaires.

The next step will be to develop a resident's survey through which we will test emerging policies. This will be delivered to all households. We would also like to get businesses and community groups to complete this survey as well. Our timetable for this is February 2015.

At present not enough of the town's residents know about the NP. We would like more of them to get involved and have their say. There may be a number of large planning applications proposed which will help to publicise the existence of the NP.

A question was raised about whether the NDP would provide power for the community. It was agreed that to some extent this would. The Town Council would also be able to request some compensation to mitigate against the adverse impacts of development.

What we have found out: using the draft vision/objectives and key messages paper

Chris Lambert gave a brief description of the work he had undertaken as the lead for the Economy theme.

He highlighted a few of the key findings from the draft vision and objectives paper which had initially been produced by the Steering Group in October. He informed the group that Dursley has a history of developing community plans. The town is a key service centre and has facilities and resources for all ages.

A query was raised about the extent to which the NP may be able to influence developers. If the plan has policies about the types and tenures of housing the residents would like to have in Dursley then the plan will be used to guide that development.

It was noted that Uley would support Dursley, if any proposed new developments were to lead to increased traffic on existing transport routes.

In discussion the following points were made:

- Cam is getting the strategic housing because it has the land.
- Facilities and services need demand in order to sustain them.
- We need to stop losing industrial and employment land to housing.
- Slimbridge is viewed by BT as being located in South Gloucestershire.
- Cam and Dursley station needs better bus links and access via cycle paths.

How you can help. Discussion facilitated by Elin Tattersall, GRCC

All were asked how their populations use Dursley and why?

Cam residents make use of the facilities in Dursley that are not available in Cam – banks, shops, library and swimming pool.

Slimbridge residents make use of the supermarket, shopping, and banking facilities in Dursley and Stroud.

North Nibley residents use services in both Wotton and Dursley. The loss of jobs in Dursley is an issue. Historically you would have had 5-10 people from North Nibley working in Dursley. Retaining the existing employment is important.

There used to be an issue with the traffic lights in Parsonage street at the junction with May Lane. A mini roundabout replaced these lights and the traffic now flows more smoothly.

The numbers of houses forecast for the Littlecombe estate could potentially pose problems for a range of existing services.

The importance of free flowing traffic movement through the town is vital.

At present the preference is for Dursley over Wotton as parking is better.

Uley Residents mainly use Dursley for shopping, banks and the secondary school. Young people will visit Dursley to meet up with friends and entertainment. They will also visit the

town to make use of the sports facilities, swimming pool, school and golf club. If they do not use Dursley they will go to Stroud or Nailsworth.

Station: There is lots of dissatisfaction regarding the lack of parking. The car park is frequently full by 9.00am with cars parking on the grass verges. Improvements need to be made to public transport so that buses align with train times.

All were asked to comment on Vision/Objectives/Key Messages and Cross parish boundary issues were raised as part of this discussion.

The following points were made:

- Dursley is one of the few towns on the Cotswold Way – the vision/objectives should reflect this.
- There appears to be an anxiety about turning into a commuter town.
- People moving in are less concerned about loss of local work as they have not known it.
- There is a need to retain some local employment in the town.

Community cohesion

The community needs to be mixed with both old and young residents. There are pockets of deprivation in the town.

There is a question for Uley and Cam regarding the river flooding. It is a concern for **Cam** especially as since opening up of the river near the Littlecombe site the water seems to be faster flowing.

Uley: There was flooding in Dursley a few years ago. Uley has a flood management plan. It gives an early warning signal. There is a possibility of getting together an action group – for both up and downstream.

Flooding in Dursley, Policies if needed will relate not to building on greenways and soakways.

Cross boundary - cycling – connectivity discussed at Gloucestershire Integrated Transport Workshop (October) in Nailsworth. Connecting villages, towns and cities. **Uley** – There is no free bus service for students travelling to Rednock so cycling via a Green cycleway would provide a safe way to travel and provide students with independence.

Where does **sustainable energy** fit into this plan? During the consultation events there were several negative conversations regarding wind farms. There were also some conversations about solar panels. Sainsbury's has lots of eco features which are not well publicised. There was a discussion about St Briavals (Forest of Dean) wind turbine project which had a minimal visual impact on the landscape compared with the wind turbine at Nymysfield which is prominent.

Ebley Mill (offices for Stroud DC) is looking at electricity generation from the river. It may be interesting to see whether it is possible for the river here to generate electricity. (It may also help with flood defences.

Employment and lost employment land.

In discussion the following points were raised:

- Some employment left at the care home, hospital site and some within the new site.
- Should employment sites be left for Cam?
- Developers say there is no demand for this land in (Cam)
- Future development should include employment land (Live work units as housing as part the mix).
- Adult education – Cam & Dursley is one of four possible sites for a Green Academy. There is a possibility that this may go to Berkley.
- Dursley hosts only one primary school.
- Should Littlecombe have capacity for more Primary school provision?
- There is limited space for development within Dursley.

Key cross boundary issues are:

Dursley: as a service centre for residents of surrounding parishes, it is vital to have sufficient town centre parking and for traffic to be able to move freely around the town.

Cam and Dursley railway station: lack of adequate facilities, parking, buses and cycle routes.

Greenway: cycle route from Uley, via Rednock School, Cam and Dursley station.

Flooding: potential risk for Uley, Dursley and Cam.

Next steps and closing remarks

Ricardo Rios confirmed the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan in giving the community a real influence in shaping the future development of an area.

He also said that Stroud District Council have a land drainage officer who would be a useful contact to discuss any flooding issues and another officer who could provide information about recreational facilities.

Jonathan Bird informed the group that Dursley is keen to learn from the experience of other communities who are developing a neighbourhood plan and asked whether any other parishes (with the exception of Cam who are already producing an NDP) were thinking about preparing a neighbourhood plan.

Uley are currently preparing a design statement which should be completed by April 2015. They may look to do an NDP at a later stage.

Slimbridge are also preparing a village design statement. Whiteshill and Ruscombe are making good progress with their Neighbourhood Plan.

Cam has made some, but limited progress with their plan. They have had a small input from the council so are not as far ahead as they would anticipate.

North Nibley is not currently thinking about a neighbourhood plan.

Jonathan Bird thanked everyone for their comments and views. He described how these would be used to inform the drafting policies stage of developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

A copy of the notes from the meeting would be circulated to all attendees and we will keep you informed of progress in developing Dursley's Neighbourhood Plan.