

Note of 11th meeting of Cusop Planning Project Group held at Snails Hill Cottage, Cusop Dingle, 27th May 2014

Present: Jane Weaver (JaneW) (Chair), Ian Jardin (IJ), Jim Wesley (JimW).

1. Apologies for absence. None.

2. The Note of the 10th Group meeting on 30th January 2014 was agreed.

3. Questionnaire.

JimW reported that 304 questionnaires had been delivered and at least 240 had been returned and passed to Data Orchard who would produce a full report by mid June. JimW was thanked for organising the exercise so successfully. JimW would send an email of thanks to all the distribution volunteers.

4. DCLG Grant

IJ reported that the Group had been successful in its grant application, receiving an offer of £3190 which had to be spent on the agreed tasks by the end of the year. IJ would issue a website news release publicising the grant and reporting progress with the questionnaire.

5. Herefordshire Core Strategy - new pre-submission version

IJ reported that the latest version of the Core Strategy did not seem to contain any substantive alterations that would affect the approach to the Cusop Plan; the wording of the housing section had been slightly expanded and stated that neighbourhood plans could utilise the Core Strategy evidence base but any departure from the Core Strategy housing targets would have to be explained by additional local evidence.

6. Next steps - from questionnaire to draft plan

Housing. Data Orchard had provided raw data from the questionnaire responses. These indicated a clear majority on the key housing issues and this, in combination with the Core Strategy evidence base, made it possible to proceed to plan drafting without further research. Initial drafting to be carried out internally, drawing on the Herefordshire Council neighbourhood planning team as necessary.

Infrastructure. The raw data indicated majority support for no further infrastructure, although individual responses might contain specific suggestions that should be followed up - DO's full report would contain these. Subject to this, no need for further research or help with drafting was foreseen.

Business. The raw data revealed clear support for encouragement of home-working and other non-premises-based small business as the primary business strategy. Further investigation of the best ways planning could help with this was needed - IJ to approach residents with home-working/IT experience for advice.

The attitude to allocating more land for business premises was less clear-cut, although there was strong support for a Newport St location if it were needed. Further evidence would in any event be desirable and it was agreed that the Brecon Beacons and Herefordshire plan evidence bases should be examined and the relevant planners consulted. It was also noted that there were only two likely practical options for extending the Newport St business area and information about these should be obtained.

Environment. The raw data showed strong support for protection of Cusop Hill views. No further research was needed and initial drafting of a policy could be carried out internally, using the parish council's online mapping service. Any specific suggestions for other protected landscapes could be considered when the full DO report arrived.

There was also strong support for policies on dark skies and on the Dulas Brook, but it was agreed that further research was needed on how far these issues could be turned into practical planning policies - IJ to commission Data Orchard to carry out planning research, liaising with interested residents as necessary. There was also support for some forms of renewable energy, but it was unclear how far national and county policy gave leeway to produce distinct parish-level policies.

7. Any Other Business. It was noted that the allocated housing site opposite the Co-op was on the market.

8. Next Meeting. Early July, exact date to be decided.