

In its first year Penzance Neighbourhood Plan (PZNP) achieved two key milestones:

1. The Designate Board, appointed by PZTC in July 2014, completed its remit to develop the processes and protocols necessary for the effective management of the PZNP, including:
 - a. Recruitment of an Advisory Board to provide support and expertise for the future Community Board members and to ensure that the Board complies with its statutory duties under the Localism Act; and
 - b. Development of a project delivery plan to ensure that the community is properly consulted and fully engaged
2. The first round consultation process launched in February 2015 which sought community feedback on:
 - a. A regeneration focused theme “Reconnect with the Sea” which detailed 16 extant or previously consulted regeneration opportunities along the coastal fringe; and
 - b. “What matters to you”a series of questions under headings which included
 - i. Housing
 - ii. Transport and Infrastructure
 - iii. Town and village centres
 - iv. Open Spaces
 - v. Tourism and the visitor economy
 - vi. Employment and training
 - The above consultation themes/subjects were selected following discussions with Locality, the Government agency which provides support and advice for Neighbourhood Plans, Cornwall Council, PZTC and a review of previous public consultations in the parish.
 - The consultation was delivered through a “roadshow” from February to May – 3 days/week for 4 weeks in a Pop Up shop in Penzance; 2 days at The Centre, Newlyn; community meetings in Gulval, Heamoor, Eastern Green, Mousehole and Paul.
 - The process was supported by hard copy and online questionnaires (relating to a. and b. above) and people were invited to add their own ideas.
 - Around 3,500 people attended the roadshow events and 350 questionnaires were submitted.

From the outset the PZNP Board’s ambition has been to create an exemplar Neighbourhood Plan – one which goes beyond a basic planning remit and acts to engage the community to work collaboratively to develop of a wide range of projects making the parish a better place to live and work in. We have been encouraged by reactions to the consultation both in its form and content:

- Feedback from the community was almost universally positive – the visual nature of the consultation exhibition enabled people across a wide range of ages, backgrounds and abilities to engage;
- The “Reconnect with the Sea” series of regeneration proposals attracted >80% positive responses;
- The launch event was attended by Nigel Blackler, Cornwall Council’s head of strategy, economy, enterprise and environment who stated that Penzance was the best consultation presentation and process that he’d seen in the county.
- In addition to delivering the “set up” and first phase consultation process, PZNP has played an instrumental role in the “Placemaking group”, a collaboration between Cornwall Council, PZTC, Penzance Chamber of Commerce, Penzance BID and PZNP to promote projects supporting physical and economic regeneration. The group is chaired by Jim McKenna and managed by Nigel Blackler. As an example, the PZNP “Mounts Bay Maritime Park” proposal was the basis for the Bay Bike scheme which was exhibited at the Cornwall EXPO in September 2015 and which inter alia supports all of the town centre regeneration proposals included in “Reconnect with the Sea”. PZNP is also represented on the Harbour Steering Group and is working in close collaboration with the BID.
- In summary, PZNP has become an integral part of the various collaborative initiatives which are driving regeneration in Penzance and the results of the first round consultation indicates support and engagement from the community.

There have of course been challenges and PZNP is currently running ~ 4 months behind the initially anticipated delivery plan which envisaged the publication of 1st phase consultation data in July 2015 and the appointment of the Stakeholder Board in September. The primary factors behind this were:

1. Extended “roadshow” which ran out to the end of May vs the initial programme timetable of early-April:
 - Delay of 3 weeks from initial launch date – production and printing of exhibition materials;
 - Securing dates with target community groups; and
2. A lack of volunteers able to commit to support the initial activities despite advertising volunteer posts in the Cornishman and via the PCDT

The current delivery timetable is:

- Dissemination of 1st phase consultation – early November
- Appointment of Stakeholder Board January 2016
- 2nd phase consultation process April – May 2016
- Data analysis and final draft NP August 2016

- Independent inspection Sept 2016
- Town referendum in November 2016

Delivery will be dependent upon effective engagement of Stakeholder Board members and securing a small number of skilled volunteers to support:

- Data collection and analysis
- Website and social media updates
- Recording community engagement for audit purposes

The Board is working with PCDT and Penwith College to secure this support. In addition, the phase 1 consultation process elicited offers of support from 40 local people.

What's next?

The results from the phase 1 consultation process and a housing questionnaire will go out within the next two weeks to all households in the parish through a reply paid mailshot which will also include a call to action to identify and appoint the Community Board members.

This method is efficient and offers value for money. Assuming a 10% reply rate, it will cost ~£3,800 and ensure that the entire population is reached which:

1. Doesn't require significant volunteer resources (which we don't have) to administer;
2. Doesn't rely on the recipients to deliver completed questionnaires to a drop off point....all they need to do is find a post box; and
3. Enables us to identify and address "unengaged" areas in the parish as the questionnaire requires a full post code as part of the information provided

Budget and Funding

The table below shows the original budget (black) and actual spend/revised budget (red)

Cost	Year 1		Year 2		TOTAL	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Revised budget	Original	Revised
Project coordinator (1.5 days/week @£250/48 weeks)	18,000	21,000	18,000	20,000	36,000	41,000
Website	5,000	0	2,500	2,500	7,500	2,500
Data processing & management (1 day/week @ £105)	5,200	0	5,200	5,200	10,400	5,200
Consultation:						
Exhibition costs	4,000	3,795	4,000	3,000	8,000	6,795
Questionnaires/surveys	5,000	250	5,000	6,000	10,000	6,250
Marketing collateral	2,500	0	2,500	1,000	5,000	1,000
Consultancy (10 days @£400)	4,000	0	4,000	0	8,000	0
Governance	2,000	40	2,000	210	4,000	250
TOTAL	45,700	25,085	40,000	37,910	88,900	62,995

The original budget which was provided to PZTC in October 2014 was devised by the Designate Board and approved by the Advisory Board on appointment in February 2015. For reference, once the parish council appoints a body to deliver a NP, the responsibility for arriving at and approving a budget lies with that body. As noted above, the ambition has always been to produce an ambitious exemplar NP which will enable people in the parish to have a genuine opportunity to play a part in shaping the place in which they live and work. To put PZTC's budget into context, the cost of completed NP's range from £10k for simple single issue plans to >£100k for the most complex.

Penzance is clearly complex: a large parish, ostensibly rural but with many urban characteristics; a diverse demographic with pockets of severe deprivation in which areas engagement is poor and requires resources to overcome this challenge.

Year 1 funding from PZTC and the Town Centre Regeneration Board amounted to £26k, leaving a balance of £36,995 to secure full delivery.

Re year 2, PZNP has secured £16,000 from the Town Centre Regeneration Board and the Coastal Communities Team fund and anticipates a further £14k of Government funding (£8k statutory + a further needs assessed £6k as a complex community), leaving a funding deficit (subject to full Government funding) of ~ £7k.

PZNP will request funding of £6k from PZTC to meet the year 2 spend on questionnaires and surveys in line with the council's obligation under the Localism Act to support community engagement.

Susan Stuart

1st November 2015