Perranwell NDP is adopted.

Now that the NDP (or NP as they are referred to within CC), has been adopted, the former Steering committee would like to outline some of the good and bad things that were encountered.

We inherited the NP from Ted Moir, unfortunately we didn't inherit any of his extensive evidence, so started again from scratch. The PC kicked us off by employing Jeff Muir, who guided us for the first year, including setting up a website (essential), and helping us with the processes we needed to follow.

From the first public meeting it was evident that the public was behind us, and the working groups were mostly popular (except for transport!).

The 4 surveys, Ist Postcard, Business, Youth and whole parish were all successful, and the responses formed the majority of our policies.

We mostly used the Groundwork (Locality grant), which the clerk applied for and administered for us as best she could. Unfortunately, often this left us not knowing how much we had spent.

Only having 1 PC on the committee also proved tricky, we were on our 3rd one by the referendum, and a higher proportion of councillors helping, would probably given the PC a higher level of ownership and buy-in, which a handful still haven't got. In fact, we were constantly being accused of doing things wrongly from some councillors, when we were being advised by the experts, and had an exceptional support from the parish. All our consultations have had one of the highest response rates for NDPs in Cornwall.

The Reg. 14 consultation launched in May 2022 on the garage forecourt, it was disappointing that not all the PC came, but lots of parishioners did, wanting to find out more. The comments were collated, and we rejected or accepted them based on planning law and best practice and advice from the very experienced consultant.

The PC were given monthly updates in great detail, and could have asked any questions, looked at the evidence or, indeed got involved. The draft plan and policies were freely available, with a hard copy that could have been requested (as explained in a PN article, as well as in a Council update). It wasn't requested by anyone.

Yet, when explaining the Reg 14 responses a PC voiced their dismay that the PC didn't get to 'Go through the policies, and get to change them, since they might not like what's in them!'. You'd only had about 6 mths since the draft was published! That is not how the process works, the policies were formed from public responses/preferences. Everyone had the right to comment, but the all the comments had to be carefully considered, and looked at as a whole.

The PC then adopted the draft plan to go forward to CC consultation (Reg 16)…again it was disappointing that it was evident that some PCs still hadn't yet read the document, and someone pointlessly attempted to somehow stall the process by complaining that the SC had sent the plan to CC, (as was our duty), and not the clerk!

After the Reg 16 consultation closed, the examiner considered the public and all other consultee comments, and made the very few adjustments she felt were required (the main one being she didn't like a numerical value on size of developments requesting it became 'around 10'). It was now this plan or NO PLAN, NO enhanced CIL, NO enhanced protection, NO say!

We then disbanded as a SC and formed a 'Vote Yes Campaign' registered with CC election services. Amazingly, I discovered, whilst canvassing for vote yes, to my horror that a councillor was actively advising parishioners to vote against the plan because 'it's about developing the village'. Totally misrepresenting the plan.

The vote yes campaign gave us access to a phenomenal amount of funds, a tiny amount of which we used to produce posters.

We printed out some neutral posters to go into the PC notice boards which incredibly were removed in about 2 days, and we were informed that a malicious rogue key holder and not Councillor Davey (quote from an email from the Clerk) had removed them. I had not suggested any names.

I truly hope the Clerk's reply was accurate, because if that appalling behaviour was from a PC, it would make one question not only their integrity, but indeed their fitness to be a Councillor.

I got replacements re-printed, along with some spares and put them back into the notice boards on the Monday, and informed the clerk. Strangely the mystery key holder didn't remove these (nor had they removed the official CC election notices), and they stayed on display till the referendum on the Thursday.

As I wrote in my reply to the clerk, we would like to know how long have the notice boards been being maliciously interfered with, and what is in place to stop it from happening in the future? Will there be an enquiry? An attempt made to track this key holder down?

Now that the NDP has been adopted and is now law, I strongly advise you all to become familiar with it, and if you don't refer to it in your planning decisions, and support the future community projects the Planning Officers and electorate, who's wishes it is based on, will want to know why.

We are thrilled that the evidence base is being transferred onto the PC website and thank everyone who's supported us along the way. This has been a huge community project, reaching out to all and discovering what matters to us, and I'm confident it will be fully respected by the PC.