

Dawlish Neighbourhood Plan

Community Engagement Programme

Background

The neighbourhood planning legislation places an obligation on the body responsible for preparing the Neighbourhood Plan to carry out an extensive and inclusive programme of community engagement and to prepare a report, as a supporting document to the Plan itself, to show how, when and where local people and businesses were 'engaged' in the neighbourhood planning process and what the outcome was.

The Project Plan has earmarked four main consultation points during the plan-making period that are the responsibility of the Town Council and its Steering Group to deliver:

- C1** – *publicise intention, recruit helpers* – from January 2015
- C2** – *'survey' of local needs & demands* – April - May 2015
- C3** – *consult on vision & objectives* – September 2015
- C4** – *consult on draft plan* – January – February 2016

A significant amount of consultation took place during 2010 and 2011 in preparation of the first Dawlish Neighbourhood plan. It is important to acknowledge that this took place and to use the outputs from these exercises in a positive way. It is important too not to be seen to be duplicating or repeating what was previously done.

Draft Outline Proposal

C1 – Publicise Intentions

Purpose

- launch the new neighbourhood planning process
- set the context and purpose for this new initiative
- show the plan-making timetable and explain the process in simple form
- confirm that the planning process is to be community-owned and led
- explain the role of the Steering Group and who is on it and why
- emphasise the need to consult (again) at key stages in the process
- give details of how to find out information, make contact, keep in touch with progress
- make a call for volunteers

Method

It is proposed to place a feature in the **Dawlish Post** and on the Town Council website

Timetable:

copy to **Dawlish Post** by xx January 2015;
published in February

Cost:

Who will be doing what?

C2 – Survey of Local Needs and Aspirations

Purpose

- To share the main findings and conclusions from the evidence base
- To test our conclusions on the bigger issues and main themes
- To encourage and facilitate debate where it is need
- To carry out specific consultations with interest groups to fill in the gaps in our knowledge and understanding

We want to engage with as many people as possible. To make it as effective as possible, we propose to carry out:

- Survey of all residents via a community questionnaire delivered to every dwelling in the neighbourhood area
- Focus groups business organisations
- Correspondence with service providers
- Survey of town centre users and visitors

Timetable:

April and May 2015 will be the survey period for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cost: £?

Who will be doing what?

C3 – Consult on Vision and Objectives

Purpose:

- report back on response and conclusions from the C2 consultation programme
- share a draft vision and objectives for the Dawlish Neighbourhood Plan
- set out the themes and priorities for neighbourhood planning policies
- seek reaction/endorsement of the vision and objectives
- invite suggestions for specific planning policies
- encourage community action and enterprise to realise the vision

Timetable (provisional):

Programme developed in detail during July 2015

Locations and events booked in July 2015

Copy written and exhibition material prepared July/August 2015

Leaflets and posters printed in August 2015

Feature in **Dawlish Post** in September 2015

First exhibition in September 2015

Cost: £?

Who will be doing what?

C4 – Consult on Draft Plan

Purpose: The Town Council has a statutory duty to ensure that consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan takes place for at least 6 weeks and everybody has an opportunity to see and/or hear what it contains, and to comment on it. We suggest:

- A number of hard copies of the draft Plan should be placed on deposit for public viewing in suitable locations across the area
- A summary leaflet is distributed to every household
- The Plan's purpose and policies is featured in the **Dawlish Post**