

# BLISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## Steering Group Minutes - DRAFT

Date of meeting : 21 January 2020  
Time: 1900  
Location: Blisland Institute  
Attendees: Karen Dickin (chair) Stephanie Meads, Lynne Clayton, Anne Green, Dominic Fairman  
Apologies: John Stansfield

### 1. Commoners Association

The Steering Group was joined by Dominic Fairman to discuss how the NDP may reflect issues and opportunities from the perspective of the Commoners Association.

DF explained that there are approx.. 60 registered Commoners with grazing rights but only 12 are currently active. Commoners receive a grant under environmental scheme to limit the amount of stock that are grazed. This is now subject to review under the Agriculture Bill to come before Parliament which will set out post-Brexit support arrangements for farmers.

Most of the common land is an SSSI and the condition is monitored by Natural England. The local CA is working with Natural England towards favourable condition for upland habitat. Blisland Parish is a target area for Marsh Fritillary Butterfly in particular

Specific issues for the future include:

- Current uncertainty regarding the future of farming and the viability of upland farms. This may lead to a need for more diversification e.g. converting barns or farm buildings to accommodation, alternative uses etc.
- Dependent on Govt. policy there may be renewed interest in renewables i.e. wind, solar
- Succession for farming families is an issue and may lead to more requests to build affordable homes/convert outbuildings into accommodation.
- Environmental Land Management schemes may introduce opportunities for more tree planting and woodland creation

### 2. Landscape Character Assessment

KD to continue work on collating the templates to discuss with the LCA group on 13 Feb. KD circulated a first draft of the general sections for the Blisland LCA document.

LC to ask Steve Mason whether he would be interested in doing more work on this.

### 3. Communications

SM/Parish Clerk to arrange meeting to discuss communications to follow up on the St Breward Bus email.

### 4. Parochial Church Council

LC met with the Blisland PCC on 13 Jan. Report as follows:

The Reverend David Seymour was not present.

### **Congregation profile**

Blisland: an average of 10-12 people are present at Sunday morning services; a few tourists attend some of whom are regulars. They have introduced a 4pm service followed by tea/coffee which is proving popular.

Temple: there are six services per annum at Temple with 12-15 attendees on average and a maximum of 20 apart from the annual candlelit Christmas carol service which is extremely well attended.

### **Access/parking**

Parking is generally only felt to be an issue if there is a simultaneous village event on, for example at the Blisland Inn.

Funerals are well attended and, at this time, parking can be more of an issue but was not felt to be problematic.

The PCC reported an ongoing problem regarding water run-off from the road outside Blisland church; the water runs down the churchyard path depositing mud and silt on the path and in the graveyard area. The matter has been raised with Chris Batters.

### **Signage/heritage/tourist industry**

The PCC are aware of the costs associated with obtaining official brown tourist signs directing people from the A30 to Blisland and/or Temple churches but felt that it 'would be nice' to have them as both churches have a noteworthy position in the history of the Parish.

Blisland church is the most visited church of the seven in the cluster; an estimated 1200-1500 people visit each year; around 500-600 of whom sign the visitor's book. In addition to independent visitors the chair of the PCC reported conducting at least three group tours over the past year.

Temple church receives a significant number of visitors throughout the year some of whom, apparently, are under the misapprehension that it is a Muslim/Hindu temple!

### **Cemetery extension**

The PCC were set to vote that evening regarding the plan to extend the cemetery; there is a £10K budget although the expectation is that it will come in under that. The plans are due to go out to five contractors for competitive tender. It was reported that the Cornish hedges are to remain although the trees will be pollarded.

The PCC are seeking ideas regarding the path into and around the extension.