

STOKE CLIMSLAND PARISH COUNCIL - NOTES ON CLIMATE CHANGE DPD

Introduction:

These notes were created over the course of two remote meetings held on 27.01.2021 & 03.02.2021.

The Climate Change DPD is acknowledged by the Councillors as a very worthy document with many positive aspects. The notes below are necessarily critical but do not represent negativity towards the document as a whole.

Parish Councils should welcome the invitation to comment on the CCDPD, as consideration should be given to Local Knowledge of the PC and Community in all Policies.

Policy C1 – Climate Change Principles:

- Planning Policy & Climate Change still at odds, how quickly can they be aligned?
- Can PCs be encouraged to up their precepts specifically for Climate Change issues, to give out environmental grants?
- All new buildings and extensions to existing buildings should incorporate carbon neutrality and the use/production of renewable energy, water collection and reuse etc. as a matter of course, not a preference but obligatory. Although this is said later in SC1, it should appear in all sections and be reiterated frequently.

Policy G1 – Green Infrastructure:

- The 10% net gain for nature appears to benefit Towns and Brownfield does it also apply to rural sites?

Policy G2 – Environment Net Gain:

- Planting should be native species only ; because e.g. oaks and willows support the largest number of species of insects etc, upon which birds, bats small mammals etc feed.
- Plant to maximise biodiversity by mixing local native tree species (to suit the geology, hydrology, soil, altitude etc).

Policy G3 – Nature Recovery Network:

- 7 – Existing mature trees should have TPOs as a matter of course, and especially Ancient and Veteran trees (which support most wildlife and sequester most carbon) should be fully protected.
- The presumption should be against being allowed to fell any existing trees. Permission to fell any tree coverage of a set area trees above a certain cubic volume per annum, is a rule that is broken frequently, so protect all trees (and even non-native garden trees are carbon sinks.)
- ‘Replacing’ trees hundreds of years old with a few saplings is not good enough.

Policies AG1-4 AGRICULTURE:

- All new agricultural buildings should incorporate carbon neutrality and the use/production of renewable energy, water collection and reuse etc.

- Eaves to be incorporated into all designs for new agricultural buildings to encourage roosting birds and bats (in a way that keeps livestock secure from contact).
- Measures should not detract from business continuance for Family Farms.
- Include Water boreholes, reservoirs, leats, use of grey water/fresh water/rainwater collection (water will become a premium as Climate Change progresses).
- Encourage more County Farms & Smallholdings, particularly to grow vegetables for the local market.
- Support farms in putting % of their ground into fruit/veg production, also field corners into trees, and wet patches or ponds.
- All new barn etc roofs required to be solar panels automatically. Support to retrofit wherever possible. Seek gov't support as before.
- AG2 Question 5 Great consideration should be given to local working families being able to be eligible for low cost housing and not have to compete with a "BAND" from outside the Parish/Area.
- All new buildings and extensions to existing buildings should incorporate carbon neutrality and the use/production of renewable energy, water collection and reuse etc. as a matter of course, not a preference but obligatory. Although this is said later in SC1, it should appear in all sections and be reiterated frequently.

Policies TC1-4 TOWN CENTRES:

- All new buildings and extensions to existing buildings should incorporate carbon neutrality and the use/production of renewable energy, water collection and reuse etc. as a matter of course, not a preference but obligatory. Although this is said later in SC1, it should appear in all sections and be reiterated frequently.
- Power points for electric vehicles to be a requirement in every town centre or out of town parking area.
- Encourage options to grow your own food, rooftops, allotments, beekeeping.
- Any municipal tree planting to use food producing native trees (grafted as necessary with local varieties).
- And shade trees will be needed in all car parks.
- Encourage/incentivise town centre shops to supply local needs from local sources.

Policies T1-3 TRANSPORT:

- The grid is not sufficient to support widespread electric vehicles yet.
- Electricity production point (e.g. solar) straight-to-user (e.g. car) would avoid having to use the grid.
- Can lampposts be adapted to have charging sockets?

- Funding for new non-car routes on every major road with separate lanes for cyclists and walkers.
- T2 Point 6. 1 in 10 not a good way to start, 1 in 3 more like it (failure to future proof).

Policies RE1-6 RENEWABLE ENERGY:

- Local plans should also be encouraged to use existing/disused methods as appropriate, for example, reinstating old leat systems and mill ponds for hydro-energy.
- It was noted that hydro energy appears to have been largely disregarded in favour of solar and wind. Cornwall's disused leats feeding mine sites and mills should be reused with small modern Poulton-wheels or turbines to produce electricity. Tamar Valley basin has many opportunities.
- Solar water heating (not just electricity) for households should be specifically mentioned.
- All new buildings and extensions to existing buildings should incorporate carbon neutrality and the use/production of renewable energy, water collection and reuse etc. as a matter of course, not a preference but obligatory. Although this is said later in SC1, it should appear in all sections and be reiterated frequently.
- Retrospectively fitting heavy panels to old houses, especially over 100 years old or in Conservation Areas needs to be substantially subsidised and stringently assessed for practicality, especially for low wage households who are prevalent in SE Cornwall and Countywide. Ground-mounted panels for electricity or hot water production should always be favoured, as easier to maintain.
- Existing mapping (RLU) is a broad stroke tool and should be used as a guideline rather than a rule and continually updated with reference to local knowledge and updated study. Therefore, all applications should be considered even if not indicated on the RLU map. Conversely, applications which do appear valid on the RLU map may not be appropriate though the map indicates they should be.
- Local community should be strenuously consulted at all stages of planning to install local renewable energy schemes, especially with regard to education and elucidation as to the need for renewable energy sources.
- Local Renewable Energy Schemes that are proven to be viable should be actively supported (both financially and in principle) and encouraged, not merely granted permission.

Policies SC1-2 ENERGY & SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION + NATURAL CARBON STORAGE:

- All new buildings and extensions to existing buildings should incorporate carbon neutrality and the use/production of renewable energy, water collection and reuse etc. as a matter of course, not a preference but obligatory. Although this is said later in SC1, it should appear in all sections and be reiterated frequently.

- There is more to carbon neutrality and lowering footprints than just producing energy, what about water capture and recycling, solar water heating, etc.
- SC1.3 is far too open to being abused if a developer can offload obligations via a fee or a local initiative, if the developer goes bankrupt no one benefits. Is there a back up to this to prevent no effort being made towards carbon neutrality?
- 100% mitigation should be onsite, not reliant on infrastructure.
- Incentives to employ local tradespersons in addition to local materials and reusing materials should be given.
- Pending footnote 7 included here, where possible this entire section should be much more rigid.
- Carbon Storage & Biodiversity Net Gain not the same thing. It takes time to offset via replanting and rewilding.
- Can new developments be asked to consider and mitigate flood risk created by historic development in the same area?
- Consider methods of new developments for collecting and using/reusing/purifying water on site.
- Approach to flood risk should be 'catchment wide'.