Date: 4 th December 2023	Venue & Time: Thurlestone Parish Hall, 19.30 hrs			
Present: Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair) Cllr Adam Ryan Carter Cllr Gill Stone Cllr Eric Palmer Cllr David Smyth Cllr Mike Hodges	In Attendance: Helen Leather (Parish Clerk) DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert SHDC Cllr Mark Long Parishioners/guests: 14	Apologies: Cllr Nigel Hadaway SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis		

214. OPEN FORUM

Guest Speaker – Peter Sandover Chair of National Landscapes/AONB. See Appendix A for a synopsis of the talk.

- Matt Bright had emailed the clerk and Cllr Ryan-Carter with a public comment that he wanted read out at the Open Forum regarding dark skies:
 - "I have previously commented on planning applications to SHDC about dark skies, (that they should be preserved), and over fenestration using Velux and similar upward facing widows should be avoided. I submit this in order that the parish council know there is at least some vocal support from one (and hopefully other,) residents of the parish, and that a dark sky is not some arcane idea, but a tangible, beautiful asset that needs protecting."
- A member of the public asked for understanding of the relationship between the neighbourhood plan and the Joint Local Plan and which one formed the other as he believed that the Neighbourhood Plan was formed by the government because they wanted to bottom up the decision-making process in the Community. But it seems increasingly decisions are made according to the JLP and not the NP. Cllr Stone responded that the Neighbourhood Plan stands on its own as a legal statutory document, but it is informed by the JLP which is there for to use alongside the neighbourhood plan and the national planning policy framework. Every five years the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed and updated. This way, changes can be put into the Neighbourhood Plan that inform decisions that are not covered in the Joint Local Plan.

Mark Evans, a member of the public involved in planning applications state that planning inspectors are looking at and addressing the neighbourhood plan when they are giving consideration to applications ahead of the joint local plan and ahead of the national Planning policy framework. But they have to consider all of them.

• Judy Pearce raised a point about Article 4 and stated that in citing it in planning application comments they are not normally used on single buildings.

215. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert. Email: rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk

Flooding and road repairs - Adam Keay from DCC will fulfil some enquiries if informed of problems, but it is important to remember that ditches on farmers land is the farmers responsibility not the highway authorities.

Kerse Lane. Cllr Gilbert has been working hard on this behind the scenes. The government has allocated £6.6 million more out of the HS2 funds towards Devon Counties Highways. Consequently, DCC hope to be able to use some of that money towards repairing Kerse Lane which is a priority. Modbury - Southwest water closure of Modbury Main Street begins on January the 8th for 6 weeks.

The Mobile Library Service will finish in February, regrettably, but DCC are maintaining 50 static libraries internally. In 2012 a total of only 3012 people used the mobile libraries across the whole of Devon. It was just uneconomic to continue the service.

Bus Fares. The £2 bus fare scheme continues until the end of 2024.

Gritters. DCC have bought 6 nearly new salt gritters for the highway network. Gritters don't last very long in such a harsh environment.

CII Hodges asked when does a road become labelled as unpassable for certain vehicles and he believed it was very close to being unusable. CIIr Gilbert replied that when it becomes a safety hazard, highways officers will properly close the lane. He stated he would ask a safety office to go and do a check of it the next morning.

Cllr Smyth asked when the road from Thurlestone Village down to Bantham would be open. It has been closed for months. Cllr Gilbert said he would query this closure as well with highways.

Cllr Palmer asked for clarification on the ditching and who is responsible for problems on the roadside rather than on the farmer's side. Cllr Gilbert replied that was County's responsibility. They deal with everything that's in the public realm. And the landowner deals with the bit that's in their realm.

Cllr Palmer responded that he had a meeting with Adam Keay from DCC Highways five years ago and he had assured Cllr Palmer that he was going to replace some pipes on the DCC roadside and do some repairs. There had been one or two disgruntled members of the public wondering why the farmer wasn't keeping the roads and drains clear. Cllr Palmer said this was because they are still waiting for the larger pipes from the Council as promised by Adam Keay from 5 years ago. Cllr Gilbert said he would follow up with this as well.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

District Councillor Mark Long. Firstly, apologies from Councillor Dennis Waste collections. The new rounds of collections began on 20th of November. There have been some glitches, but very few to ClIr Long. More people are actually using the online system to report any problems. The first week of the new operations out of 89,000 properties, there were only 376 missed collections. So, a massive improvement. If anyone does have any problems report it online. You will get a response, and then if it's not resolved please contact ClIr Dennis or ClIr Long.

The task and finish group on Enforcement that Cllr Dennis and Cllr Long sat on reported to the executive. There's a new process being developed and that will go to full council and part of it is greater communications and improved communications with parishes on various aspects of enforcement.

There are a number of different grants currently available which are available on the District Council website to support the resilience of local communities, particularly village halls. The grants are between £2000 and £10,000. They are a requirement there for match funding. Cllr Dennis recommended visiting the District Council website because there's an awful lot more of useful information on there.

The new planning IT system came into force at the end of the week. The new mapping system is a major big improvement, it's possible to find the history of a site by clicking on the map rather than searching for an address. There are some IT glitches with the new system to sort out, but it will improve.

216. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES,

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Hadaway.

217. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (6th November 2023)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November 2023. They were signed by the Chair.

218. CLERKS REPORT.

The South Hams Community Action and Voluntary Services have written to all local Parish Councils to ask if they would consider providing a donation to support their services in 2024. Councillors agreed to think about this.

Parish Paths Partnership Update. Ros Davies who was Parish Paths liaison officer, has transferred to a different role within Devon County Council. Devon County are recruiting for a new officer to replace her. In the interim period general queries can be directed to prow@devon.gov.uk. A response will be provided by the most relevant contact within the public rights of way team, but please be patient as there may be a delay in replying. If reporting a path maintenance and / or safety matter, please can this be directed to the online system at https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-

problem/map/map_src/prow/. The report will then be issued to the appropriate warden for your area who will investigate accordingly.

Mobile Boost Scheme. This is a programme run by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS). The Mobile Boost scheme ran from February 2021 to March 2023 and funded over 1,700 installations across the region, helping small businesses and homeworkers with poor indoor mobile coverage. They have recently been successful in securing additional funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and will be re-opening for applications on Monday 8th January 2024 and is the scheme will run for six months until June 2024, subject to demand.

Website/Email consideration to move to gov.uk addresses. DALC and SLCC recommend that all parishes have gov.uk addresses for increased security and better online presence and GDPR compliant email services – all council officials and councillors. Will cost around £500 per year. Councillors agreed this seemed like a sensible idea and would give us more control over the website and email addresses. Having control over the parish website would make it more comprehensive and increase the parish council profile.

Updates

Bin Store outside Thurlestone Hotel Staff Accommodation. There has been some screening place in front of the bins. Councillors noted that the bins are still visible from the road and it still looks untidy and like a temporary structure.

Quick update on landslip by Golf Course from Graeme Fairley. They have found another contractor to do the work and he is scheduled in for the third week in February.

219. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr Lewis

I. Update of Schedule 14 on Aune Cliff PROW. Graham Gilbert has been handling this and is in charge of the application. He got over 80 signatures supporting the application to instate the public right of way across the land next to Aune Cliff. By 2nd December he was hoping to have a document from the Alvingham's proposing what they were going to do as a legally binding permanent PROW. It still hasn't appeared, but Graham reports that the fallback position of the schedule 14 PROW application still applies and DCC are expected to consider the application in 2024, some five years after it was submitted.

Cllr Stone

- Coastal Parishes: The Council have joined the Coastal Parishes Committee. This is a
 group of parishes like Thurlestone from all around the country who have similar
 issues and considerations. They meet online and Cllr Stone will circulate agendas in
 case anyone wants to join their meetings.
- II. **Planning procedure for site visits.** Cllr Stone wanted to advise councillors on protocol for when attending a site visit. Main core points are:
 - Look at/study the plans in advance and on site.
 - Questions and queries on the design are allowed, but not comments on what is and isn't acceptable.

- Gather the information and then come away and discuss together and assess the application as it stands.
- III. Permitted development/certificate of lawfulness updates. Cllr Stone has been trying to establish with the South Hams Planners clarification on permitted developments and certificates of lawfulness. Clarification is needed because an increasing number of planning applications are being submitted under these options. Cllr Stone wanted clarification on issues such as footage, where a building is placed within the curtilage of a house, where it's back garden, is whether it's front or back. Cllr Stone told the meeting that there is confusion in people's minds that when a planning application goes in for consideration, it immediately negates the permitted development rights, but this is not the case. The permitted development rights remain and are there permanently and are difficult to remove. Cllr Stone had asked the Planning Department under what circumstances can a certificate of lawfulness be withdrawn but has not had a definite reply from the Planning department.
- IV. Renaming of AONB to National Landscapes. This was covered by our Guest Speaker.

Cllr Ryan Carter

I. Dark Skies Policies. Cllr Ryan-Carter has been trying to find out if there could be a consensus among councillors and planning departments as to how to judge a planning application on the Dark Skies policy. The Joint Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan all say the same thing basically about limiting the impact of light pollution. Cllr Ryan Carter was to make dark skies policy more relevant and more important and wants a definitive guide on what can and cannot be allowed so that planning applications can be discussed in a more thorough way. He wondered if the environmental group or the Parish Council could put together a leaflet explaining what the Dark Skies policy is so that everyone was aware of it, including visitors and the effects of leaving lights on in houses and gardens.

Cllr Smyth

- I. Update on Police Base at Village Hall. Everything is progressing. The police team have visited and Karen Barker from the Parish Hall Committee has shown them around and told them what they can and cannot do. They have been provided with key cards which will enable them to access the Parish Hall as and when they need to, even if there's nobody else around. Regarding routine surgeries we are still awaiting clarification on dates and frequency. Karen however advised, from the floor, that she had recently spoken to the local Sergeant who is going to contact her in January about setting up a surgery in the near future.
- II. **Bantham Assault.** On the evening of Sunday, 6th November a resident of Bantham was assaulted outside his residence. What followed, as the victim chose not to dial 999 and instead report the incident to the police the following morning, were frustrating encounters with phone line 101 and on-line reporting with the upshot that, despite spending considerable time hanging on the phone and thinking that he had completed the on-line forms correctly, his reports weren't received by central police control. When made aware of the case ClIr Smyth contacted the area Police Inspector and Sergeant and am pleased to report that the matter has now been dealt with and the case closed. ClIr Smyth subsequently discussed this particular issue with the local Inspector who made the point that anything that is reported via

101 will simply be treated as 'routine' and may not be dealt with for up to 48 hours as it is not decreed as an urgent event. The main lesson therefore for the community from this particular event is that if a prompt or immediate reaction from the police is required then dial 999.

220. PLANNING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Full details of all applications and Parish Council responses can be found by entering the reference number on the South Hams District Council planning portal

https://apps.southhams.gov.uk//planningsearchmvc

- a) 3588/23/HHO West Seacombe, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NY. Householder application for two storey front extension, remodelling of rear terrace, new windows & internal alterations to existing dwelling. Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application
- b) 0299/23/FUL Thurlestone Hotel, Eddystone Road to Kerse Cross, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NN. Proposed upgrade to existing rooftop telecommunication equipment, removal & replacement of 3No. Antennas with 3No. Antennas. Proposed 1No. 300? Dish & 1No.GPS Module to be installed. Existing internal Cabin to be upgraded internally & associated ancillary works upgrades. No Decision more information to be requested.
- c) 3611/23/FUL 5 Zealands Field, Bantham, TQ7 3AN. Erection of dog kennels (Retrospective). Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application
- d) 3629/23/HHO Onnalea, Bantham, TQ7 3AR, Householder application for demolition of existing extension and extensions and alteration to existing dwelling, driveway improvements and associated landscaping. Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application
- e) 2116/23/FUL Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Conversion, restoration & alterations to outbuildings & associated landscaping. Demolition of Piggery & replacement with walled garden with natural pool, poolhouse & greenhouse. Change of use to provide ancillary accommodation & associated spaces for Farmhouse Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application
- f) 2117/23/LBC Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Listed Building consent for conversion, restoration & alterations to outbuildings & associated landscaping. Demolition of Piggery & replacement with walled garden with natural pool, poolhouse & greenhouse. Change of use to provide ancillary accommodation & associated spaces for Farmhouse. Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECT to this Application

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:

RATIFICATION 2900/23/HHO – Apple Trees, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. Householder application for alterations, extension & construction of detached garage (resubmission of 3045/22/HHO). **Conditional Approval.**

4258/22/HHO – Morstones, Bantham, TQ7 3AP. Householder application for proposed alterations & extension to include demolition & replacement of conservatory. **Under Consideration.**

3468/23/CLE – Certificate for Lawfulness for works commenced within the time limit of three years as per condition 1 under planning permission number 1720/19/FUL & 2643/22/VAR. Thurlestone Hotel, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NN. Cert of Lawfulness (Existing) Certified 3336/23/VAR. Outside Land At Sx 699 454 Bantham. Application for variation of condition 3 (opening hours) of planning consent 1093/20/FUL. Under Consideration 2786/20/FUL, West Buckland Barn, TQ7 3AJ. Under Consideration 4118/22/FUL, Edgecombe House, West Buckland. Conditional Approval

221. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE Receipts & Payments

Councillors agreed to pay Clerks Salary & HMRC, Thurlestone Village Hall £12.00 hall hire. K Harrod expenses & salary back paid - £207.12. Julian Lee – October Grass cutting, tree pruning and clearing debris £450. £25 Remembrance Wreath, Bantham Noticeboard £376.68.

Receipts 01/04/2023 - 30/11/2023 58.425 64.386	
SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 30/11/2023 19,618	3,47
Cash in Hand 30/11/2023 44,751 (per Cash Book)	1.26
Cash in hand per Bank Statements	
Petty Cash 30/11/2023 0.00	
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Current Account 30/11/2023 21,314.52	
45.8	49.67
45,8	49.67
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222. CLOSE OF MEETING:

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

223. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS – 8th January 2024, 5th February 2024, 4th March 2024

Signed as a true record:

Print Name & Date:

08.01.2024

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk one week prior to the meeting to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: Thurlestone Parish Councillors. For Information to: County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Salcombe & Thurlestone Ward Councillors, Thurlestone Parish Website: https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/

Appendix A

GUEST SPEAKER - PETER SANDOVER. Peter is the new and independent Chair of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He is a semi-retired architect who has lived and worked in South Pool for over 25 years. He recently stepped down as a parish councillor.

SYNOPSIS:

The organisation AONB has just been re-branded/re-named as a National Landscape; giving more profile and weight. The South Devon National Landscape is part of a family of NLs (46).

What we do and our priorities:

- Covers over 60 miles of coast, 3-5 miles inland and up the 5 estuaries and Rias and much more, from Brixham (Elberry Cove) to Wembury coastal strip and up the river and estuary/ria valleys to Totnes, Kingsbridge, Avonwick, Ermington and Brixton)
- It is a Protected Landscape, one of a family that includes National Parks and Trails.

The special qualities of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):

- The single statutory purpose of the National Landscape designation is "must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB (National Landscape)". At the end of this year this duty (following the enactment of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill) will from a "duty of regard" to an enhanced duty by all Relevant Authorities
- Our National Landscape is distinctive and is worth conserving and enhancing.
- South Devon's National Landscape is one of 46 in the UK (34 are in England) and one of the earliest as it was designated in 1960.
- Together with National Parks, the National Landscapes have the highest status of protection and this will increase. They are living and working landscapes. Maintaining thriving local communities (and their economy) is essential to their long-term future. Accommodating development that meets the needs of these local communities plays an important role. However, we recognise the challenge that development within the National Landscape and its settings has the potential to significantly harm the area's natural beauty. Many National Landscapes are experiencing considerable development pressure, particularly where they are located adjacent to large urban areas, such as Torbay. Much of this pressure relates to meeting needs arising outside of the National Landscape boundaries.

About Me

- Almost retired Architect and community engagement consultant, I have lived and worked in South Pool for over 25 years. Recently stepped down as a Parish Councillor.
- Membership of the Partnership for almost 5 years (representing community and voluntary groups)
- Neighbourhood Planning Champion (helped on 10, so far most in the National Landscape)
- Design Council Advisor on design quality and reviewer of emerging planning schemes in Southwest England
- Particular interest in Access for special needs; and help with a few Visual Impaired Charities

My ambitions in this role are to improve engagement of our communities, make the area more inclusive and accessible, and maintain design quality in everything within the AONB without detriment to our special landscape- so a challenge! Get more to fall in love and engage with Nature- for their own enjoyment, health and wellbeing. Put more people in the landscape with equality and shared experience.

Three strands to the National Landscape:

- The designation.
- The Partnership
- The staff team (numbers 10 including a manager) overseen by the Partnership

We do not own any land.

The Partnership - Who is on the Partnership?

- Combination of funders, and those interested in protecting and enhancing our landscape- It is apolitical.
- Secretariat
- Devon CC
- SHDC
- Torbay C
- Plymouth CC
- NE
- NT
- EA
- Plymouth Uni
- SWCPA (recent)
- Forestry Commission
- Historic England
- Most important are community Reps, representing;
 - a. Amenity Groups
 - b. Community and Voluntary Groups
 - c. Environmental Groups NGOs (e.g. Devon Wildlife Trust)
 - d. Coast and Marine Organisations
 - e. Parishes councils within the AONB
 - f. Tourism
 - g. Peter Sandover, Independent Chair
 - h. Business Community rep
 - i. Land owning and farming rep

Observers are welcome to watch the Partnership Meetings via You Tube.

Key tools to undertake our duties.

• Management Plan and Design Guidance (2019-2024)

- National planning legislation and guidance governing AONBs (National Landscapes) notably the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Note; Under this act, the relevant authorities (which include Parish and District Councils), must make sure that all decisions and actions have an enhanced duty for that purpose of 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape'. So, decisions and activities must consider the potential effect it will have within the National Landscape and land outside its boundary. I say this as this is a shared responsibility of all Councils not just the Partnership.
- The recent Levelling Up and Regeneration Action adds planning and plan making obligations as well as that enhanced duty.
- There is a separate Estuaries Partnership (supported by Harbour Authorities/Boards)
- Core Funding around £200k, (mostly from DEFRA 75% (maximum) rest from 4 Local authorities including DCC and from earnings and grant)
- In addition, there is also project funding currently around £500k (mostly from DEFRA)

Key projects/ priorities the SD AONB is engaged on:

- National Lottery Funded Life on the Edge, our Flagship project; Our strip of coast is home to one of the most diverse range of plant and invertebrate species thanks to our warm climate, unique geology and long history of low intensity farming, but many of these species are now in trouble. So this project sets out to -Protect and enhance our (rich) biodiversity; we have just completed the 18 month development phase and have bid for round 2 (worth £4M over 5 years) Working with landowners, ecologists and meadow experts to restore populations of the rarest insects in South Devon over 20 threatened with extinction, expanding habitats e.g. wildflower rich meadows. One of the most rare bumble bees the Brown Banded Carder Bee has been re-discovered at Prawle Point
- Majority of the National Landscape area is farmed, Landscape Recovery to support farmers
 post Brexit; and transition to 3 ELM schemes; Sustainable Farming Initiative, Countryside
 Stewardship and CS+, Landscape Recovery. Collaborating with local farmers and establishing
 links to landscape recovery. Public benefits. We applied for extra funding but unsuccessful.
- Nature Recovery Plan for the National Landscape (by 2023) linked to Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (by DCC) 30% of our land and sea connected for nature recovery by 2030 (30 x30).
- Preparing a Climate Action Plan for the AONB, linked and coordinated with the Devon Carbon Plan and other NLs.
- Early Stages of the National Landscape Management Plan (Planning, Policy, Programmes)
 Review 2024 and collecting evidence for this. Community engagement starts next year.
- Year 3 Farming in Protected Landscapes DEFRA Funded Grant Programme. funding until 2025, focus themes on climate, nature, people and place, over £2k, small grant up to £5k above through an assessment panel as much as £50k but most around £10k. Around £50K to allocate for the remainder of Year 3 and £460K for the year.
- Planning Advice and Guidance in line with an agreed Planning Protocol for the 4 LPAs (Plymouth, South Hams, Torbay and DCC
- Heritage Projects working with HE, NT, NE, SWCPA, to protect and celebrate heritage assets currently focusing on Bolt Head to Bolt Tail and Dart Entrance.

- Nature based solutions to climate change that deliver on Nature Recovery (dealing with Coastal Change e.g. Slapton Line, South Milton Sands and flood risk with nature based solutions to flood mitigation.
- Farm and Landscape Connectivity Facilitation Fund (recently secured £73k) centered around River Dart.
- Green Financing through Nature encouraging green finance for nature-based solutions such
 as tree planting and support farmers to access new private sector revenue streams whilst
 protecting the natural environment. Improved access, physically (South Milton and
 Wembury) and virtually with a more accessible website.
- Undergrounding power cables funded by Western Power Distribution (now National Grid) SD
 AONB secured £110k 1.8km around Prawle Point working with local farmers. Further projects
 planned on River Dart around Totnes/ Sharpham. Noss Mayo and Wembury.
- Heritage Coast Review, conserve, protect and enhance, SD one of 32 first defined for South Devon in 1984 first review since 2005.

Role in Planning process

- Consultee to LPA (not a statutory consultee)
- Planning Protocol (Updated June 2023)
- There is a resource issue (recently secured extra £18,000-£8k from SHDC) allocated for shared post this year 1.5 days per week shared with ND and ED. No one in post yet so resources stretched.
- Things are changing The Landscapes Review (Glover Review 2019)
- 'Strengthened, with new purposes, powers and resources and AONBs re-branded 'National Landscapes' more sustainable communities lasting legacy.
- Recovering Nature, tackling climate change, expanding access to improve health and wellbeing.
- Statutory consultee?
- More status as a National Landscape
- Review governance-most different
- Engage more young people and under, represented groups.
- More consistent identity like National Parks.

Any Questions

Cllr Ryan Carter asked now, you're described as National Landscapes do you have similar authority if you want to use that word as national parks, because when it comes to planning, national parks have an awful lot more control over what happens in their arena.

PS - Unfortunately, at the moment that's not the case and we would like to think long term that would be the case. There's a huge amount of support that that we do gain a statute consultee status. Unfortunately, we've got very limited resources to oversee planning applications. We do as much as we can, but it is limited.

We are there to help you, so if you feel there's anything that you want us to look at, particularly a planning application that you're not sure we're looking at. Please tell us. We are in the process of

writing our new management plan. It will be for Local Parishes to use as a planning tool, so you're able to look at emerging applications and projects