



St Erme Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Sustainability Check

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The NPPF identifies the three overarching objectives that planning must contribute to achieve sustainable development.

a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

(NPPF Section 2)

We have reviewed the policies of the St Erme NDP to check how they contribute to these objectives.

Policy 1: New Housing – 'Within the Settlement Boundary'

Policy 2: New Housing – 'Outside the Settlement Boundary'- (Exception Sites)

Policy 3: New Housing – 'Design'

More than the minimum required dwellings have been proposed in the St Erme NDP, to deliver the Cornwall Local Plan's recommendation for the area. The need to fit in with the 'St Erme Landscape Character Assessment' has been key, with bungalows recommended on some sites. The requirement for varied sizes of property and a mix of local led and affordable homes will help fulfil the needs of all ages and covering some lifelong needs; making the best use of the limited supply of suitable sites.

There is a wish to ensure that the character and style of the area is protected in line with the 'St Erme Village Design Statement' with some emphasis on sustainable energy sources and better parking provision.

Policy 4 – Infrastructure

Provision of adequate sewage and telephone and internet facilities is key to the quality of life of parishioners and for many who work from home. The internet capability improves access to key services and may reduce the need to travel and provide possible reduction in greenhouse gases.

Careful and adequate parking facilities will enhance the local environment and improve road safety. Maintenance of all the PROWS will also enhance the rural character and provide facilities for leisure, promoting health and wellbeing.

Policy 5 -Highways Transport and Public Rights of Way' (PROW's)

Whilst little can be done to alter the local roads the St Erme NDP supports appropriate parking throughout the village as a key safety measure, with maintenance of all PROWs and the possible provision of a safe commuter cycle route to Truro enhancing the long term health of residents.

Policy 6 - Community and Recreation Facilities

Support for existing facilities will help provide local provision for all kinds of recreation, with saving in travel costs and reducing carbon footprint and maintaining the sense of an independent rural community.

Policy 7 – Open Space Facilities

The need was clearly identified in the consultations. These open spaces are valued and enhance the community ambience

Policy 8 – Community Services and Facilities

It is clear that support for some local retail and other facilities will save on travel and help reduce carbon emissions and could improve access to health care

Policy 9 - Landscape, Heritage and Local Environment

The consultation on the St Erme LLCA was clear. The careful approach will help retain the biodiversity and distinctive features of the parish, maintaining a high quality living environment. The result will fit the Cornwall unique heritage value, identifying the local historical assets.

Policy 10 - Business and Commerce

This policy will foster small enterprises allowing them to work within the rural environment, reduce travel need and assist work-life balance

Policy 11 – Renewable Energy

This policy will help to support the move towards a low carbon future whilst not reducing fuel poverty and any savings will assist with parishioners overall quality of life.

Policy 12 – Health and Social Wellbeing

Support for any improvements would enhance the lifestyle of many parishioners. Enhanced transport facilities could result in emissions saving.