

RSN Seminar – Neighbourhood and Wider Planning 29 April 2014 – Penrith

Key Messages:

Fergus McMorrow – Eden BC

Neighbourhood Planning has provided an opportunity for people to engage in an enhanced way with planning.

The unfolding of the new localism agenda through neighbourhood planning is an interesting and challenging agenda for those in local government used to “business as usual”.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan is agreed if new issues crop up they cannot be included in the established plan and a new plan cannot be prepared until the old one has expired.

There are six communities engaged in Neighbourhood Plans to different levels of intensity in Eden.

Neighbourhood Development Orders are potentially very powerful (giving pre-agreed planning rights for certain geographies) none have yet been agreed but a number at the national level are in the pipeline.

John Wellbank – Rural Futures

The Rural Planning Facilitation Service provides an opportunity for businesses to get up to 12 hours support towards the development of planning around business activities within the Cumbria Rural Growth Network.

Conversion of agricultural buildings into employment or residential units is now covered by permitted development rules.

There has generally been much more interest in housing than in employment space in the development of neighbourhood plans to date.

Adrian Banford – Cumbria Fells and Dales LEADER

LEADER is a powerful vehicle for joining up the housing, employment and environmental aspirations of rural communities and has significant affinity with the neighbourhood planning agenda.

CFD LEADER has provided direct funding support for aspects of the work of the Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan.

Small scale projects can have big impacts and this is as true in Neighbourhood Planning terms as it is in relation to LEADER.

Mick Duggan – CLG

The number of communities engaged one way or another in Neighbourhood Planning now exceeds 1000.

In addition to community led Neighbourhood Plans there are also a number of business led neighbourhood plans in process, which have been developed by businesses leaders.

A number of Neighbourhood Development Orders are anticipated within the next 6 months or so.

This weblink is a very useful starting point for communities considering getting more directly involved in Neighbourhood Planning.

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/>

Communities can generate £7,000 towards the cost of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with a local plan this can be interpreted widely and is the responsibility of the inspector in the Neighbourhood Planning process.

There is a huge diversity of approaches to Neighbourhood Plans from a few specific policies in places like Upper Eden to a very wide range of activities in areas such as Tame.