

Minutes for NCA meeting with Duchy of Cornwall

18th May 2020 4pm, online using Zoom.

Attending the meeting

Duchy:

Ben Murphy (BM),
Peter James (PJ),
Tracey Nicholas (TN)

Blenheims:

Ben Dobson (BD)

NCA:

Theresa Ferguson (TF),
Tess Lowe (TL),
Jane Combes (JC),
Suzanne Featherstone (SF),
Annalisa Mather (AM).

1. Meeting Open: BM begins with a reflection on HRH's vision for Nansledan and sense of how important our environment is to our health and wellbeing, especially in a situation like this.

2. SANG Update:

- i. PJ reports that the clover will be cut in the SANG tomorrow.
- ii. 98% of residents are using the SANG properly.
- iii. Information boards will be installed before cows go in, as dogs will definitely need to be on leads in those fields.

- iv. PJ is disappointed that the car park hasn't started yet because a pumping station needs to go in first which is awaiting planning permission. But those contractors have also been on furlough.

3. Planning permission: PJ lists Five planning projects

- i. Pumping Station in the SANG.
- ii. Additional allotments at Rialton Terraces.
- iii. An Art Deco building opposite the Duchy Office on land currently used for the car park.
- iv. The courtyards behind Duchy Office will be made larger to allow residents with large vans to rent these spaces from the Management Company, to help ease the problem of them parking on the estate.
- v. Attenuation ponds.

4. Bee Swarm: TF mentions that a swarm of bees have settled on the fence near the new pathway opened last week at the bottom of the estate. PJ will have a look tomorrow and sort it if necessary.

5. Contractor Social Distancing: PJ says the Duchy have imposed new procedures for social distancing for the contractors who are now back on site – e.g. maximum of two tradespeople in one house at a time with doors locked. The finishing-off trades are most affected as they normally work in closer proximity, so their work will be slower.

6. Housing Market: BM says that despite the lockdown, developers have only had 3 purchasers pull out prior to exchange of contracts, and all others have completed at the sale price, which is a positive reflection on the desirability of living here.

7. High Street plans: BM reports that the Duchy have been planning in more detail the design, uses and shape of the high street, including

the location of a pub/hotel and supermarket. One block is likely to have a gym, children's nursery and cafe. But it's all early days with discussions and planning still ongoing. The 'Western Arm' road leading to down and connecting into the Market Street will be built by the Duchy and work starts spring 2021 with completion by the autumn. The main NSR from Hendra, bridging over the railway line and Chapel stream is the responsibility of Cornwall Council and Network Rail, and this section is not likely to start until late 2021 and complete end of 2022 or into 2023.

8. Birdbox Survey:

- i. TF says it's going live on Wednesday. NCA has advertised this in social media and on posters.
- ii. SF says more people are posting pictures on FB. Since we have 'red-listed' birds on the SANG, SF asks if we can protect such birds nesting on the SANG by roping off areas.
- iii. PJ says that since the SANG is the only such area in Cornwall, the information we feedback in wildlife and ecological surveys is very important.
- iv. BM says it is good to see how many birds are settling here, even though Nansledan is currently still very urban without substantial tree cover.

9. Green Square: PJ says contractors will start to prepare the area this week by trimming the hedgerow and clearing the weeds and removing stones for seeding in September. Unfortunately, we missed the summer season for seeding due to the lockdown.

10. Restricted Walking Areas:

- i. SF reports that some people are entering fields they shouldn't and suggests that signs make it plain where it's okay to walk or not.
- ii. PJ says that they will make efforts to fence off areas which should not be accessed.
- iii. TF highlights that the field next to the car park opposite the Duchy office is being used as a shortcut to the SANG or for dog walking. PJ will investigate as this shouldn't be happening.

11.Dog Bins:

- i. BD reports that it costs over £4000/yr to empty the dog bins.
- ii. PJ reports that more signage will be put up reminding dog owners to pick up after their dogs. On a recent walk, someone picked up 47 bags of poo. PJ intends to use temporary 'warning – watching you, you will be fined' type of posters consistent with what the town council are doing, although he feels the posters are rather aggressive.

12.Community Allotments:

- i. TF asks when allotments can be worked on again. PJ wanted to open the play area and community allotments at the same time, but asks for suggestions.
- ii. JC suggests if younger children are returning to school, the play area could be opened at the same time.
- iii. TF suggests we ask for local council advice so that we aren't out of step with other areas. BM agrees. BD asked to contact council.
- iv. PJ feels he can't open the play area and the allotments at separate times.

- v. TN will contact Justin to discuss his plans for the allotments. BM says if Justin's association is ready to open and take responsibility for the allotments, the Duchy could consider allowing them to open.
- vi. BM hopes that with a further relaxation of lockdown in June then perhaps both allotments and the play area could open then.

13.Community Update:

- i. TF gave an update on the COVID 19 volunteer team and says each of the developer areas have a volunteer team leader who meet online weekly with TF to discuss how things are going. The pool of those needing help is quite small. The team has leafletted every house with information about contact numbers if anyone needs help with food and prescription deliveries.
- ii. TF is going on a mental health awareness course this week, and will think about what mental health support we can offer if any.
- iii. The Hub is also providing resources to keep people active.
- iv. There was activity around the estate on VE day. Many Easter Eggs were given away at Easter.
- v. The newsletter has a summary of what we've been doing. The NCA are now planning for the post-lockdown future.

14.Blenheims:

- i. BD reports that Blenheims have restarted landscaping.
- ii. BD has had several requests for explanation of how completion monies and management fees are allocated and

spent. When these have been explained, the reaction has been positive.

15.Wetland Habitat: PJ says ponds are being dug, and the spoil tip has been tidied up.

16.Medical Practice: JC asks for any news about a possible medical practice on Nansledan. BM says a preferred location has been identified near the community orchard. The case is being put to the NHS commissioning service for funding, but this is at an early stage ("first base").

17.Badger Setts: TF asks about protection for local badger setts if any are found and reports the location of a potential sett. PJ says all setts that they're aware of are protected and he'll have a look at any new ones that they are made aware of.

18.Meeting Close: BM closes the meeting with requests to see any photos of VE day celebrations, and for any updates about anti-social behaviour, then wishes us all well. Meeting closes at 5:30pm.