

A PLACE TO RELAX AND ENJOY



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AIMS

To

- Conserve and enhance existing open spaces and leisure facilities
- Enhance connectivity to key facilities
- Integrate with existing local walks, cycle trails (e.g. the Caradon Trail) and the World Heritage site
- Develop the multi-use park at Roundbury
- Protect our rural hinterland.

Strategic Approach

The evidence collected suggests that the need is for a local open space and leisure strategy to seize the opportunity to provide high quality recreational and green space as well as good leisure provision that takes into a hierarchy of neighbourhood provision (for our five main neighbourhoods) and town-wide provision.

Therefore, the main elements of the strategy should be to:

- Protect/conservate and enhance green spaces within the town for the benefit and good health of all ages with particular emphasis on children's play and adult recreation
- Enhance access within the town centre for pedestrians
- Encourage the creation of new green spaces (formal and informal)
- Encourage greater access to sports facilities
- Protect and enhance the character of the surrounding countryside including designated landscapes, heritage assets and areas of local significance.
- Make provision for enhanced connectivity throughout the town and into the near countryside
- Support the enhancement of community leisure facilities in and around the town
- Promote Liskeard as a destination for locals and visitors to support the towns economy, and increase footfall through provision of well-publicised walks, trails and formal leisure and community facilities.

OBJECTIVE 1

Protect/conservate and enhance green spaces within the town for the benefit and good health of all ages with particular emphasis on children's play and adult recreation by:

- a) Designating a list of open spaces as local green space (NPPF 76-78)
- b) Using s106 and CIL to conserve and enhance Westbourne Gardens, Castle Park and other key sites
- c) Providing equipped play areas for the five neighbourhood areas
- d) Create and conserve new green spaces as part of development and as ancillary to new growth of the town
- e) Enhance existing green spaces



POLICY OS1

Green Spaces

The neighbourhood plan designates the following locations as local green spaces (as shown on the proposals map).

OS ref Name

1	Old Rd Nature Reserve
3	Lanchard Woods
4	Pound Dean play area
5	New Road paddocks
6	Thorn Park
7	Westbourne Gdns
8	Varley Ln bowling green
9	Lanchard Cemetery
10	Rapsons Open Space
11	Trevillis Pk OS/Station Rd
12	Trevillis Pk OS – N
13	Trevillis Pk OS – S
14	Sungirt woods
15	Pound Street OS
16	Smiths Cottages OS
17	Castle Park
18	Castle St OS
19	St Martins Churchyard
20	Pengover Park OS
21	St Martins School playing fields
22	Plymouth Rd woodland
23	Charter Way/Tencreek woodland
24	Boveway Lane (Maudlin Farm)/Carthew Close OS
25	Charter Way/ Catchfrench Crescent woodland
26	Carnclaze Close play area
27	Hanson Rd OS
29	Pengover Rd allotments
32	Luxstowe Parc Sports fields
33	Luxstowe Tennis courts and OS
34	Culverland Play area
35	Wrey Ave OS
36	Trevecca Cemetery
37	Culverland Rd rugby practice pitch
38	Eastern Ave OS
39	Catchfrench Crescent OS
40	Jago Close OS
41	Dennis Rd/Courtney Rd OS
10AA	Rapsons MUGA
43	Quaker Cemetery, Trevecca
44	Dungarth Rd allotments
OSL15	Roundbury Parc

POLICY OSL2

Conservation, Enhancement And Creation Of Local Green Spaces And Other Parks And Green Spaces To Accommodate Growth

No development will be permitted within the local green spaces listed in Policy OSL1 and shown on the local green spaces proposals map if it would impair the effectiveness of the site in serving one or more of the following purposes:

- a) Providing a resource for formal and informal recreation and/or a venue for formal events;
- b) Forming a green foreground or background which is important to the character of Liskeard's setting;
- c) Helping to preserve the cherished views of the town centre, or of individual buildings or groups of buildings, or of the surrounding rural and heritage landscapes from within the town;
- d) Providing areas of rural tranquility which surround or penetrate the built-up area of Liskeard and helps to maintain the relationship between the town and surrounding countryside;
- e) Contributing to the character and visual setting of the town by their open nature
- f) Conserving biodiversity, ecological assets, vegetation, watercourses and other landscape features important to the local community

POLICY OSL3

Play provision in neighbourhood areas

The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAPS) at

Castle Park,
Thorn Park and
Rapsons Park, and
of 'natural play facilities' at Sungirt Woods, Lanchard Woods and
'Roundbury Park'.

New housing or mixed use developments shall provide equipped formal and natural play in accordance with tables shown or provide contributions towards facilities as set out in order to provide each of the five neighbourhoods (see diagram pg 67) in the town with a range of equipped and natural play across all age ranges. Only family dwellings of two or more bedrooms will be required to contribute to the provision of children's play space.

NEAPS are also required within the urban extensions to be provided at Addington, Tencreek and Charter Way.

APPLICATION OF QUANTITY BENCHMARK GUIDELINES – EQUIPPED/DESIGNATED PLAY SPACE

Scale of Development	Local Area for Play (LAP)	Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
5-10 dwellings	✓			
10-200 dwellings	✓	✓		Contribution
201-500 dwellings	✓	✓	Contribution	✓
501+ dwellings	✓	✓	✓	✓

LOCAL OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

Application	Standard
Connection, design and management	<p>Open space scheme shall incorporate areas of existing on site and off site landscape features such as mature woodlands, copses individual trees, wildflower meadows and hedgerows, watercourses etc and include appropriate new planting. Design should allow for good natural surveillance and overlooking, with lighting in appropriate circumstances such as a key route to school or workplace. A mechanism for long-term management of the developing landscape shall be submitted.</p> <p>Open space development that encourages and contributes to improving the interconnectedness of green spaces, green corridors, significant woodlands, vegetation areas and road verges and tree-planted streets, will be encouraged.</p>
Housing development open spaces	Open spaces should be provided within or adjoining new housing development including housing specifically built for the elderly, in addition to the play space requirement. Open spaces should ideally be created around existing landscape features on the site and connect to landscape and green infrastructure off site. They should allow for additional landscaping as appropriate.
Non- housing developments	In addition to the standards detailed above, informal open space provision will be encouraged as part of business park, retail and large-scale commercial developments; this is for the benefit and well being of the workforce and also visitors to the site. Any spaces provided should have regard to the nature and location of the development.
Exclusions from open space	Open space must be usable for recreation unless set standard calculations aside for biodiversity reserve. The Appendix E lists the types of green and open space that shall not be used to fulfil the open space standard obligations.

MINIMUM PLAY SIZES AND WALKING DISTANCE

Play space type	Walking distance	Minimum sizes	Minimum dimension	Buffer zones
LAP	100m	0.01ha	10x10 metres (minimum activity zone of 100sqm)	5m minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings
LEAP	400m	0.04ha	20x20 metres (minimum activity zone of 400sqm)	20m minimum separation between activity zone and the habitable room façade of dwellings
NEAP	1,000m	0.1ha	31.6x31.6 metres (minimum activity zone of 1,000sqm comprising an area for play equipment & structures & a hard surfaced area of at least 465sqm (the minimum needed to play five-a-side football))	30m minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings

NEIGHBOURHOODS AROUND LISKEARD



Reasoned Justification

Policy OSL1 - These areas are of particular importance to the local community and fulfill the requirements of the NPPF in that each green space:

- Is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- Is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife;
- and concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Policy OSL2 - The Neighbourhood Plan Open Spaces and Leisure Working Group audited (through site visits) 44 open spaces within Liskeard town area (i.e. within the limits of the built up area, there being no public accessible spaces except public rights of way, outside the town limits), using the Green Flag Award⁴ quality system as a basis for the appraisal. It revealed only 22 ha of publicly accessible open space. This public accessible amount of open space is 3 ha below the level recommended by the Cornwall Council Open Space strategy which requires 42 sq m/person. i.e. 39 ha total. It is therefore essential that existing green spaces be protected.

The Liskeard Town Council Open Space Audit of 2014 recognized the potential role of the town's attractive and popular green hinterland and the link to the World Heritage Site at Caradon, and in January 2014 the Town Council adopted the policy: "to protect and enhance the character and accessibility of the natural green spaces around the

boundary of the town, accessed via green corridors and quiet lanes, which would also fulfil the objective of the Cornwall Local Plan to maintain the physical link between Liskeard and the world mining heritage site at Minions".

Policy OSL3 - Equipped play provision in the town should reflect neighbourhood accessibility and provision across age groups. However, it is currently inadequate. Rapson's park provides basic young teenage play and skate ramp but needs additional investment to improve natural surveillance, safe access (currently through a car park) and landscape design. The children's play area at Castle Park needs significant improvement. Carnclaze Close, Trevecca and Thorn Park are well equipped though require more family seating and better disabled access. A new play area is planned in the new Addington development. There are other local Areas for Play around the town for doorstep use by toddlers but cannot to be considered strategic play areas. It is also desirable to provide areas for natural play that allow children to create dens and mazes, construct willow domes and arches, dig mud pits or create steeping stone or balance log paths. Making accessible and managed woodland spaces in the town such as at Sungirt, Lanchard and Catchfrench Crescent woods could provide more play at reasonable cost. A rural edge of town play area with good parking access would be highly valued by families.

Comment Where appropriate, investment through planning obligations related to developments which bring additional population to Liskeard will be directed towards the maintenance, conservation and enhancement of the key existing public parks at Westbourne Gardens, Castle Park, Thorn Park and Rapsons Open Space, and improved access and facilities at natural spaces Catchfrench Crescent Woods, Sungirt Woods and Lanchard Woods. The intention will be to bring greater diversity and lower maintenance costs, for example by utilizing gravel paths, mowing regimes and natural planting with low-cost native plants, provision of simple timber or granites seats, localised community planting/gardens etc to provide more varied, accessible and interesting facilities.

Where appropriate, investment through planning obligations related to developments which bring additional population to Liskeard will be directed towards the maintenance, conservation and enhancement of these facilities.

PROJECT 1

Parks and Open Space Management Refresh

Set up a town-wide initiative and strategy with action plan to support the positive and progressive management of parks and green spaces around the town based on simple objectives for open space types and new partnerships. As part of this strategy, review how the local authorities can work with community groups to utilise funding to create facilities (podium, utilities etc) for 'party in the park' events/live music in Westbourne Gardens, Castle Park and Sungirt Woods.

See also TC3 Castle Park Improvement Scheme - to improve a valuable public and historic resource, providing improved leisure and historic resource interpretation to support the Town Centre

PROJECT 2

Town Council Open Space Audit review

Review the 2014 town council open space audit &

policy 2014 to identify specific design and management proposals for each park and green space, as listed in Policy OSL1. Set out a spatial strategy, in partnership with other stakeholders, for the enhancement of their relationship to the wider, landscape and heritage and ensuring access connections in this plan are accounted for. Include a landscape and heritage assessment study of the rural hinterland.

Projects 1 & 2 – Whilst Liskeard's open spaces score reasonably on maintenance and access (other than for disabled), they are poor in provision of cultural heritage, interpretation and education, or adequate responsiveness to the needs of people in terms of signage, seating, interest, or other elements that would make them attractive. In an age of increasing obesity and mental health problems, this low quality indication suggests our open spaces are failing to provide basic levels of service that might contribute to reducing pressure on other services such as health and education.

OBJECTIVE 2

Enhance access within the town centre for pedestrians by:

- a) Use of shared surfaces e.g. (Dean St/Barras St/The Parade)
- b) Bay Tree Hill re-modelling - (Caradon saved policy)
- c) Liskeard Station gateway, enhancement of public realm, signage
- d) Improved pedestrian crossings, signage, street trees Promoting better access for disabled (TC obj)

POLICY OSL4

Public Realm Access And Circulation Improvements

Schemes to enhance the Public Realm for pedestrian comfort, improved convenience of access and connectivity, including improved access for mobility impaired users through improved surfaces, level changes, handrails etc, quality signage, tree planting, cycle parking, public seating and trolley friendly surfaces will be implemented. The main focus will be on:

- a) The Dean St/Barras St/Windsor Place junction with barrier free pedestrian-prioritised design linking in with the existing Dean St civic space

- b) Bay Tree Hill – in accordance with retained Policy LISK5 (with possible timed road closures)
- c) Liskeard Railway Station (including links between mainline and branch line stations) with disabled parking, kiss 'n ride, rail staff parking and taxi rank to reduce conflicts and promote sense of place for arriving passengers.
- d) Conserve and enhance The Parade as civic space.

Reasoned Justification

Pedestrian use of Barras Street in Liskeard has been shown by Cornwall Council to have consistently fallen year on year in the past decade whilst traffic levels of around 12,500 vehicles a day make it one of the busiest trafficked town centre main streets in the county. The need is to create a better balance between traffic and other town users, improve conditions for walking and cycling in the town, and improve the visual quality of the streetscape. There are key focal areas within the public realm of Liskeard that have consistently been mentioned in surveys as being of concern or causing difficulty to users. These include the main junction at Barras St/Dean St/Windsor Place where barriers, footway levels and signage are all combining to prevent a good walking or visual environment; and Bay Tree Hill which is a natural urban three sided space that is dominated by vehicles although could have far more pedestrian priority within it. Other spaces, such as the area fronting the Railway Station, could contribute more as an important gateway to the town.

Comment Where appropriate, investment through planning obligations related to developments which bring additional population and traffic to Liskeard will be directed towards these improvements.



OBJECTIVE 3

Encourage the creation of new green spaces (formal and informal) by:

- a) Applying conditions to planning approvals
- b) Providing new sports and multi-use park off St Cleer Rd at Roundbury
- c) Conserve existing and extend provision of orchards and allotments through developer contributions

OBJECTIVE 7

Encourage greater access to sports facilities by:

- a) Encourage multi-functional use of existing pitches/spaces and developer led provision of additional space (e.g. Roundbury)

POLICY OSL5

Open Space And Developer Contributions

Developers of housing sites (including affordable and starter homes), larger holiday accommodation (hotels, caravan parks etc.) and developments that impact upon access to public open space will be required to make financial contributions towards the creation and maintenance of new and/or the extension and enhancement of existing public open space facilities. The level of contribution for each site will be determined taking into account the table

below. On-site open space must be laid out prior to occupation of 75% of dwellings in any phase, and off-site contributions to be paid prior to occupation of 50% of dwellings.

Where on-site provision is required, the local planning authority will seek the option of a commuted capital sum to construct the facility. In these circumstances, a serviced site (as appropriate for the facility concerned) will be transferred to the town council free of charge by the developer.

PROPOSED QUANTITY PROVISION STANDARDS FOR STRATEGIC OPEN SPACE IN LISKEARD

Type	Provision to meet existing shortfall	Provision to meet additional requirements from population growth	Future quantity provision minimal standard town-wide (m2/person)	Minimum quantity needed for new housing (m2/dwell)
1 Parks and New Amenity	'Roundbury Park' proposal (Policy OSL9 and ALT15)	New 'Roundbury Park' proposal (Policy OSL9 and ALT15)	8.75	20.13
	Conserving & enhancing our parks and green spaces to accommodate greater use (Policy OSL3)	Conserving & enhancing our parks and green spaces to accommodate greater use (Policy OSL3) Urban boundary planting at Tencreek and Charter way (Policy H2A & B)		
2 Natural Space	New 'Roundbury Park' proposal (Policy OSL9 and ALT15)	'Natural play facilities' at Sungirt woods, Lanchard Woods and Roundbury Park. (Policy OSL4) Urban boundary planting at Tencreek and Charter way (Policy H2A & B) Buffer land adjoining employment land allocation, east of Charter Way (Policy EM1)	15.17	34.89
3 Public sport	New 'Roundbury Park' proposal (Policy OSL9 and ALT15)	New 'Roundbury Park' proposal (Policy OSL9 and ALT15)	16.3	37.49
4 Children's Equipped Play	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS) at Castle Park, Thorn Park and Rapsons Park (Policy OSL4) and at Addington, Tencreek and Charter Way (Policy H2A & B)	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS) at Castle Park, Thorn Park and Rapsons Park (Policy OSL4) and at Addington, Tencreek and Charter Way (Policy H2A & B)	0.7	1.61
5 Teen Provision	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS) at Castle Park, Thorn Park and Rapsons Park (Policy OSL4) and at Addington, Tencreek and Charter Way (Policy H2A & B)	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS) at Castle Park, Thorn Park and Rapsons Park (Policy OSL4) and at Addington, Tencreek and Charter Way (Policy H2A & B)	0.25	0.57
6 Allotments	New allotments and/or community orchard at Boveaway Lane (Maudlin)/ Carthew Close, Charter Way and Culverland Rd	New allotments and/or community orchard at Addington, Boveaway Lane/ (Maudlin)/Carthew Close, Charter Way, Woodgate Rd and Culverland Rd areas	0.75	1.73
7 Cemeteries	Adequate capacity in the existing cemetery; future expansion space allocated on the adjacent (temporary) rugby practice pitch		2.09	~
8 School Pitches and clubs	~	~	16.3	~
TOTAL			43.99	
TOTAL for 1-6			41.92	96.42

POLICY OSL6

Meeting The Communities Need For Sports And Leisure

Approximately 8.8 hectares of land adjacent to St Cleer Road and identified on the proposals map is allocated for open recreational use. Land use will comprise playing fields, play areas, public open space, and ancillary buildings such as changing rooms, cycle hire shop, café and shelters.

Where appropriate, investment through planning obligations related to developments which bring additional population to Liskeard will be directed towards the creation of this new park.

In addition, parkland and natural areas will be provided in the mixed-use urban extensions to be provided at Addington (3.08ha), Tencreek (4.1ha) and Charter Way (4.8ha) (Policy H2a & b), and as part of the employment land allocation on land east of Charter Way (Policy EM1)

POLICY OSL7

Provision Of Orchards And Allotments

Conserve existing allotments at Pengover Road, Dunganth Road and extend provision of orchards and allotments through developer contributions at Boveaway Lane (Maudlin)/Carthew Close; Charter Way, Tencreek, Woodgate Road and Culverland Road and Addington.

Reasoned Justification

Policy OSL5 - The Neighbourhood Plan Open Spaces Audit revealed only 22 ha of publicly accessible open space. This public accessible amount of open space is 3 ha below the level recommended by the Cornwall Council Open Space strategy which requires 42 sq m/person. i.e. 39 ha total. It is therefore essential that new open and green spaces are provided to meet community requirements.

The Audit also found many of Liskeard's parks to be lacking in cultural resonance, provision of facilities for all ages such as places to sit and relax, imaginative planting or natural habitats that encourage wildlife, although they were generally well kept with grass cut and litter usually



collected. In order to meet the needs of the existing population and those living in new developments, it is necessary to invest in improving a few parks and natural green spaces as the primary community spaces, in addition to the provision of new facilities.

Policy OSL6 - There is also a shortage playing pitches to meet current and forecast needs, requiring rugby and football clubs to use school pitches and limiting their development. The allocation for playing fields of land at Roundbury, on the St Cleer Road will provide playing pitches and running track as well as leisure facilities such as a cycling hub, play area, car parking and changing rooms/café, all in a naturally landscaped park that should blend into the countryside. Consideration could also be given here to specialised play provision for disabled children.

Policy OSL7 - More innovative uses encouraged in appropriate locations will add to the attraction and versatility of green spaces, providing a better experience for users

Comment For small developments (less than 5 dwellings) within acceptable range of some form of open space (in accordance with adopted standards) contributions will be sought off site entirely via a Section 106 agreement or planning condition. For larger developments this will be a combination of on-site provision and some off-site. To help work through the requirements the Open Space Planning toolkit has been prepared by Cornwall Council for use on all developments.

Liskeard has a good supply of natural green spaces around and within the town but their undesignated nature and lack of any positive management means they have lacked design, management or investment to provide adequate walking and cycling to and from them and within and through them. The intention is to ensure that these areas are clearly available for access by residents of all types and ages, are safe and convenient whilst recognizing their rural nature and avoiding the urbanizing of their features. Spaces should have quality access and should be managed to maintain biodiversity and rural character. The intention is also to prioritise those that have public

rights of way through them or that form natural routes to and from local facilities such as schools, shops etc.

‘Roundbury Park’ continues the allocation of the land in Caradon Local Plan saved policy ALT15.

PROJECT 7

Roundbury Park development brief

Prepare a development brief, design and procurement strategy and outline management plan for Roundbury Park.



OBJECTIVE 4

Protect and enhance the character of the surrounding countryside by:

- a) Conserving and enhancing designated landscapes, heritage assets and areas of local significance, that are valued for their tranquility, views and contribution to health and well-being
- b) Promoting the use of low-impact lighting into our countryside in support of a dark skies objective (plus sustainable low-energy lighting within the town)
- c) Fulfilling and enhancing [Local Plan objectives] relating to the World Heritage Mining area
- d) Designate area of local landscape and heritage value as a precursor to extension of the local AGLV to provide stronger protection for heritage assets and valued landscape.

POLICY OSL8

Routes And Settings Of Caradon Trail, Liskeard Caradon Railway World Heritage Site And Looe Valley Cycle Trail

Development which would adversely impact on the routes and settings of the caradon trail and proposed looe valley cycle trail, in terms of its location, functional connection, appearance,

heritage value and interpretation, and the safety of pedestrian and cyclist users, will not be permitted.

Development on or adjacent to the Liskeard Caradon railway line designated WHS will not be permitted unless it conserves and enhances the asset, its setting and landscape context. Full heritage impact assessment will be required for any development in the WHS buffer zone.

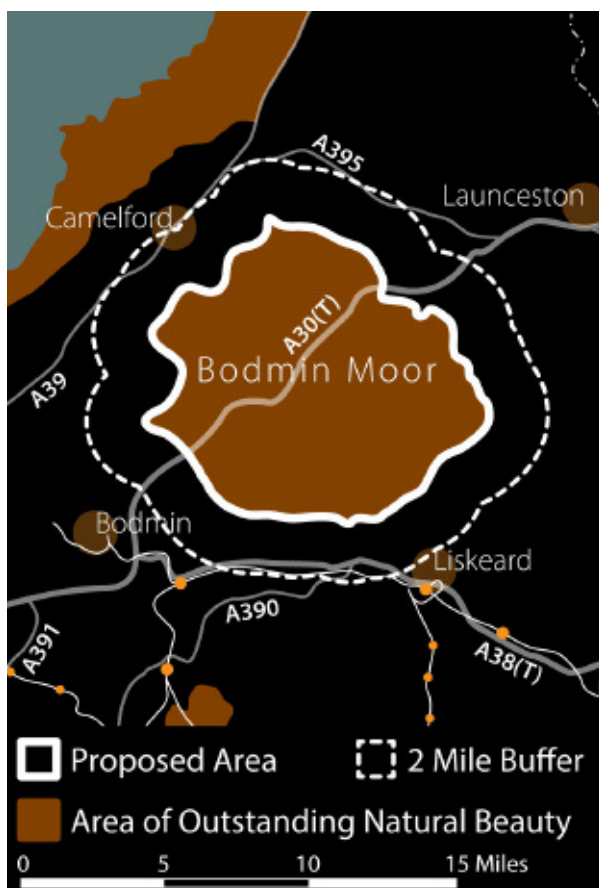
POLICY OSL9

Dark Sky

Designs which incorporate measures to reduce light pollution, into adjoining properties or the open countryside will be supported. Proposals must include an assessment of the impact of light pollution from the development on local amenity, surrounding countryside and dark landscapes, as well as nature conservation, identifying mitigating measures to be incorporated.

These could include:

- The use of full cut off streetlights in rural edge highway and public space lighting
- Restricted and careful use of flood and security lighting including effective baffling and motion sensors
- Low colour temperature lighting
- Landscaping to reduce glare and light throw, off site



POLICY OSL10

Area Of Local Landscape And Heritage Value

The area between the development limit and the Caradon AGLV, (CL8 & 9 saved policies), is designated as an area of local landscape and heritage value with a view to future redesignation as an extension to the area of great landscape value. Within this area any permitted development should recognise and respect the landscape character, pattern and scale of settlement, and reflect the traditional building styles, materials and design of the local area.

Proposals to create greater recreational linkages in the form of permissive paths connecting to the existing network of paths and bridleways, signage and interpretive material will be supported.

Reasoned Justification

Policy OSL8 – The landscape surrounding Liskeard has escaped the plot and paddock land fragmentation often associated with the urban fringe and by-pass development, providing a setting which is highly valued locally and through which pass the Caradon Trail and the proposed Looe Valley Trail, enabling re-connection with the landscape and heritage of the area. Developments which might cause the blockage or relocation of these routes or their connections with the town, spoil the appearance of the routes, harm the heritage value of features, and reduce the safety and convenience of users, is undesirable.

The settings of World Heritage Sites are recognised as making a fundamental contribution to their Outstanding Universal Value and the agreed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is an essential reference point when considering development affecting the setting of a World Heritage Site. Cornwall & W Devon mining landscape supplementary planning doc. (draft Feb. 2016) states that “policy frameworks at all levels should conserve the outstanding universal value, integrity & authenticity of each WHS and its setting, given that WHS are designated heritage assets of the highest significance.”

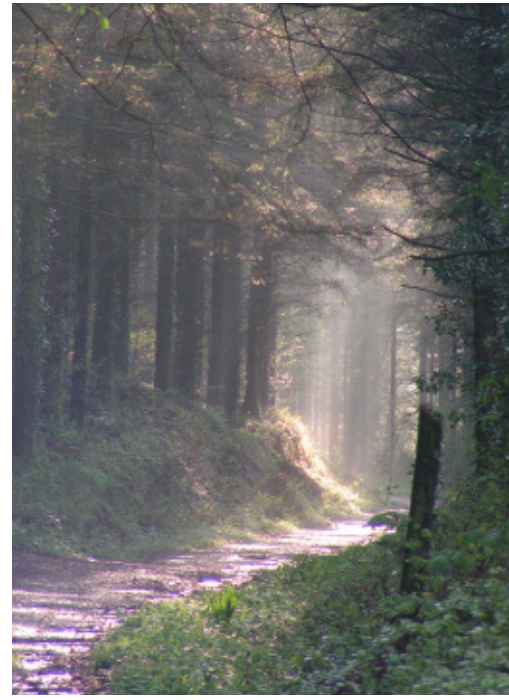
Policy OSL9 - National Planning Policy Framework (para 125) says that ‘by encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the

impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation’. Careful design can also contribute to the proposed ‘Dark Sky Park’ initiative Bodmin Moor, the proposed buffer zone which enters the Liskeard Neighbourhood Development Plan area.

Policy OSL10 - to the west and north of the town lies the locally cherished landscape including the World Heritage Site Liskeard & Caradon railway track-bed and Ladye Park/Old Park valley with its associated Ducal deer park, and the historically significant Moorswater valley. These important landscapes are highly valued locally for their contribution to character and the distinctiveness of Liskeard and should be retained, respected and enhanced. They are considered to be of equal and in places superior quality to the already designated Area of Great Landscape Value north from Treworgy to St Cleer and also forms an important part of the distinctive setting of Liskeard.

National Planning Policy Framework says that policies may “identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason” (NPPF para 123). This is reiterated in Cornwall Local Plan Policy 23 which says that “Development must take into account and respect the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape asset, considering cumulative impact and the wish to maintain dark skies and tranquillity in areas that are relatively undisturbed”

The ‘Liskeard Town Framework’ and ‘Cornwall Council’s Historic Environment data sheet 2011’ for Liskeard and Looe refer to the need for further studies/assessment of Liskeard’s heritage and landscape hinterland. The latter includes comments on Liskeard’s setting ‘on its hilltop overlooking wide tranches of landscape as an important characteristic’ and mentions missing evidence, threats and proposed projects e.g. ‘threats to landscape setting and development on skyline around the outer limits’. (The CLP also shows respect for “physical boundaries of existing settlements,” such as the elevated northern edge of the town which looks down into the Ladye Valley and across to the AGLV, seeking to provide protection from inappropriate development into open countryside).



The document above points out that the underlying structure of the area remains medieval or earlier. This paper emphasises that the areas beyond the urban centres and around Bodmin Moor are under studied and that an historic landscape characterisation study is required (which has not been carried out to date) which would provide a detailed assessment of the heritage assets and setting of the rural hinterland of Liskeard.

'Planning Future Cornwall Growth Factors Liskeard and Looe CNA version 2 2013', says that 'studies are required on the Liskeard and Looe streetscape, links to world heritage site, conservation areas, & historic landscape character reviews'.

Cornwall local plan (Oct 2016) policy 23a states the intention to reassess the extent of each Area of Great Landscape Value "to inform and produce strong revised statements of these local designations of landscape value."

Liskeard people see this area as a valuable local resource – it has quiet, Cornish lanes, abundance of flora and fauna and sweeping landscape views and as such is well-used and enjoyed by walkers, cyclists, horse riders, running groups, families with buggies, dog walkers etc. thus contributing to the local communities 'health and well-being' (One of NPPF core planning principles and CLP policy 17). It is traversed by the designated Caradon heritage trail, forming a green corridor that supports both recreation and nature conservation. This areas protection and enhancement could also provide

economic benefits to the town through its attractive setting and heritage assets, especially the World Heritage Site railway track bed link.

Comment

A 'dark sky park' is an area of land that is recognised internationally as having an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment. As well as helping to protect the night sky from light pollution, Dark Sky designation provides a focus for awareness and learning about the stars and solar systems, bring health and bio-diversity benefits, and provide an opportunity for local tourism. Within and on the boundaries of such Parks, steps to reduce light pollution, such as Installing lights that point down not up, turning lights off when not needed, using automatic timers and only lighting where necessary, are encouraged. Recent light readings show the quality of the night sky over Bodmin Moor is amongst the best in the world. The current proposal is for the core area to follow the designated Bodmin Moor Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary, with a 2 mile buffer area around this in which good lighting practice would be encouraged and where communities would also be expected to reap some of the benefits. That 2 mile buffer includes the northern part of the Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan area.

OBJECTIVE 5

Make provision for enhanced connectivity throughout the town and into the near countryside by:

- a) Facilitating safe access for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders & others including crossings
- b) Designation of footpaths, bridleways, trails, quiet lanes and green corridors
- c) Protecting and enhancing designated trails (Caradon Trail) and supporting creation of new ones (Round Liskeard Trail, Looe Valley Trail), as part of leisure and sustainable transport strategies

POLICY OSL11A

Pedestrian, Equestrian And Cycle Links And Corridors

When formulating S106 agreements associated with new residential development, consideration should be given to the inclusion of proposals that provide or support facilities that form part of the strategic pedestrian, equestrian and cycle network for Liskeard in order to:

- a) Create new and improve existing walking, equestrian and cycling connections where routes are disjointed, enhance surfaces, and create safe priority road crossings and/or inline highway routes;
- b) Create new designated footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths to improve the movement network for these modes and enhance permeability; and
- c) Create direct and safe routes to local amenities
- d) Provide linkages or safe road crossings between parts of existing or proposed routes
- e) enhance the function and appearance of designated quiet lanes

Reasoned Justification

Liskeard has a series of open spaces scattered in valleys and hilltops across the town, the linking of these areas will form an important way of being able to enjoy them better as well as providing an important green network that will support biodiversity. The aim is to improve these links as comfortable walking and, where possible, cycling links. As well as the physical ability of local residents to access natural green space it is important to address how equal access to nature is for different groups in the

POLICY OSL11B

Protection Of Pedestrian, Equestrian And Cycle Links And Corridors

Development which would adversely impact on the route and setting of the round Liskeard Trail and links to Caradon and Looe Valley cycle trail, in terms of its location, functional connection, appearance, heritage value and interpretation, and the safety of pedestrian and cyclist users, will not be permitted.

community. Emotional connectivity, whilst not a spatial plan issue, will be enhanced through better physical linkages. NPPF Para 125 and policy 23 of Cornwall Local Plan, quoted earlier, are relevant here also.

Comment. These linkages may be main roads with space for avenue tree planting and space for good cycle lanes, or at times they may be narrow lanes with low traffic volumes or alleys that have been built into housing estates. Importantly too there are a range of old green lanes such as Sungirt Lane, Lanchard or Bovey Lanes, that have become part of the fabric of the town and act as regular public footpaths. Crossing points at busy roads need to be provided with traffic islands and drop kerbs, and planting improved and managed to enhance their amenity and natural habitats wherever possible

Where appropriate, investment through planning obligations related to developments which bring additional population to Liskeard will be directed towards new or improved pedestrian and cycle links and corridors that form part of this network.

"Local amenities" are: shops and services, a primary [or secondary] school with available places, healthcare facilities, cultural, religious and recreational facilities, libraries, places of worship, cinemas, sports & community centres, evening classes, play parks and open spaces, rail station, and regular bus-service stop.

PROJECT 3

Walking, equestrian and cycling local infrastructure plan for Liskeard

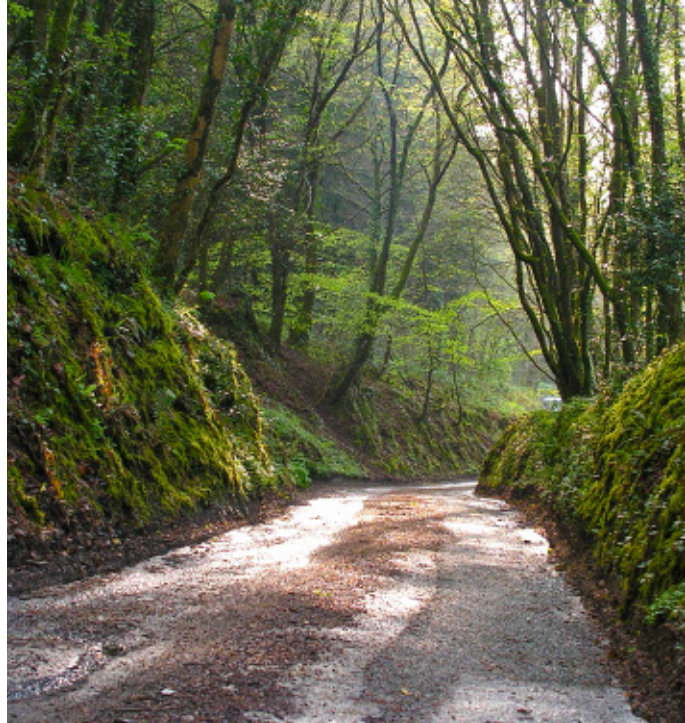
Partner with Cornwall Council, Sustrans, Ramblers Association, East Cornwall Riding Club (and other relevant bodies such as Living Streets, Walkers are Welcome, Cornwall Cycle Club etc) to prepare a walking, equestrian and cycling local infrastructure plan for Liskeard as figure 37, in collaboration with the Highway Authority, including:

- a) Quiet lanes – designation and traffic calming
- b) Caradon Trail
- c) Round Liskeard Trail
- d) Connecting the Caradon Trail and new round Liskeard Trail to a new Looe Valley Canal Cycle Trail.
- e) Green Avenues
- f) Pedestrian improvements to busy streets

PROJECT 8

Liskeard street design guide

In partnership with Cornwall Council Highways and their contractors/consultants, develop a simple design guide/strategy plan for town centre street design and asset management in order to conserve the traditional character of our street elements whilst enhancing pedestrian, and cycle access that assists the viability and vitality of the town.



OBJECTIVE 6

Support the enhancement of community leisure facilities in and around the town by:

- a) Protection of existing sites, and allocation of land for additional ones
- b) Developing Cattle market hub 'the Shed' as part of overall redevelopment of site
- c) Enhancing orchards and allotments supporting indoor soft play/bowling
- d) Supporting events/live music in Westbourne Gardens, Castle Park and Sungirt Woods

POLICY OSL12

Protection Of Existing Cultural, Community, Arts, Recreational And Sports And Leisure Facilities

The loss of existing community, sport, leisure and recreational facilities will be not be permitted, unless replacement facilities of at least equivalent value in terms of quality, accessibility and cost of access are provided and fully commissioned to the satisfaction of the planning authority in consultation with the town council before the existing facilities are closed.

Reasoned Justification

Cultural, community, arts, recreational and sports and leisure facilities are important to the health and well-being of communities and therefore an essential part of the 'social infrastructure' of a town. It is important that these facilities and services are accessible to all.

Policy OSL12 –Policy 4.3 of the CLP 2016 says that the loss of community facilities will only be acceptable where there is no need for the facility or service or it is not viable or adequate facilities or services exist or the service can be re-provided in locations that are similarly accessible by walking, cycling or public transport. Policy OSL12 is intended to clarify this policy to make it clear that replacement facilities should be at least equivalent to those being lost, what criteria and timescales should be involved, and that the Town Council as a local service provider should be involved in any judgement made.

POLICY OSL13

Provision Of Additional Cultural, Community, Arts, Recreational And Sports And Leisure Facilities

The inclusion of new community facilities in new developments and redevelopments within the town centre, in particular facilities that provide for cinema, high quality indoor leisure such as bowling and soft play for young children within them will be supported provided that they:

- a) Are designed in a way that integrates them into the historic built environment;
- b) Provide for their flexible use as community and other facilities, and
- c) Are well linked by public transport and by pedestrian and cycle access routes to all town neighbourhoods

Policy OSL13 - Any population growth must be supported by adequate 'social infrastructure'. Non sport leisure and other cultural provision, whether for arts or performance, conferences or presentation, is provided in general purpose buildings such as Liskerrett Community Centre and the Public Hall in the town. These buildings tend to be inflexible and are largely difficult to access for disabled users. The school provides halls for hire though these are again difficult to provide full public access to when during school terms. There is little ability to provide for relaxed or boutique entertainment or leisure activities such as pop up cinema, theatre in the round, conferencing with modern facilities for business use, or for quality exhibition space. There is potential with land aggregation and public property rationalisation around the cattle market to combine or share public and community uses in a multi-purpose type building in the town centre that would provide a communal arts and cultural hub, adaptable for theatre, conferences, community and office use.

Comment. Where appropriate, investment through planning obligations related to developments which bring additional population to Liskeard will be directed towards new cultural, community, arts and recreational facilities.



OBJECTIVE 8

Promote Liskeard as a destination for locals and visitors to support the local economy and increase footfall by:

- a) Well-publicised walks & trails (eg Henry Rice) as well as marketing formal leisure facilities
- b) Promoting designated trails (eg Caradon Trail) and the World Heritage Site
- c) Creating new trails (eg Round Liskeard Trail, Looe Valley Cycle Trail)

Reasoned Justification

Liskeard has important social, economic and physical links with Cornish mining heritage and these provide an opportunity to develop an 'offer' to the residents that will help embed a stronger sense of place and cultural heritage for Liskeard's community with benefits for health and well-being, whilst promoting tourism visits to the town for the benefit of the local economy.

Comment This project will build upon the excellent work already in place as a result of the Caradon Hill Heritage Project and the wider World Heritage Site initiative.

PROJECT 6

WHS Interpretation And Local Marketing

Prepare and implement an interpretation strategy to market, educate and raise awareness of the world heritage site and related to the heritage assets of the town and surrounding countryside. Link this to direction signing and information regarding sustainable movement routes for residents and visitors in order to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the locality and support the local economy.

Policies OSL8, OSL10, Projects 3 & 4 are also relevant

