

Invitation to a Business Breakfast, 8th July 2014, Eliot House Hotel

Hello,

You may be aware that Liskeard Town Council has kicked-off the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the town, under the new powers granted under the Localism Act 2011. We can now make a plan at the local level, rather than the future of the town being determined only by the Unitary Authority. We want to gather the views of local people, businesses and visitors about what they think is important for Liskeard's future.

On Tues 8th July 2014 we are inviting business representatives to a Complimentary Breakfast at The Eliot House Hotel to introduce the Plan and focus exclusively on the views of local businesses. We would be very pleased to see you there. More details can be found below, along with a short summary explanation of the Neighbourhood Plan concept.

Meet at 7.30 am – breakfast is served at 7.45, with round table discussions to follow, enabling you to return to work by 9.00 am

RSVP (one representative per business) by Fri 4th July to: info@planliskeard.co.uk

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It gives people like ourselves a real say in how our community develops – the way that land is used for housing, business, shops and leisure. It can also protect green spaces and influence the design of buildings and estates.

Local people play a major role in making the plan. It's part of their democratic right granted by the Localism Act.

The plan has to be agreed through a local referendum. It may take up to 2 years to complete. It will have legal force for the next 20 years, and *must* be followed by Cornwall Council when making planning decisions.

Why should we care?

Are we up for taking part in some tough decisions about the future of the town? Things like where housing should go, jobs created, shopping developed and play spaces increased. Or do we let those decisions be made elsewhere?

The Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan is this community's chance to make these important decisions locally, and to strongly influence how future planning applications are decided. The more people that get involved, the better chance there is of making this a brilliant plan for Liskeard!

BUT there is some 'small print': the Neighbourhood Plan must be realistic. **It's not about stopping development.**

It's really about making local land-use choices, which the whole community will have to support through a referendum.

It must also fit within the National Planning Policy Framework, Cornwall's Local Plan, and accord with European legislation.

To find out more see the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan website:

www.planliskeard.co.uk

Prompting points for table-leaders

Business breakfast – gathering views and ideas

- The main priority before and during breakfast is to encourage filling in of the detailed questionnaire (unless they have already done one!), especially comments on the questions related to business.
 - Use the 4 supplementary questions as a stimulus for further discussion over the breakfast table – encourage each person to write their ideas on post-its.
 - Share ideas and agree the most important response to each question (team member to record these)
 - If time allows we can go round each table and share our top points
- stick post-its onto relevant sheets on side tables

Breakfast meeting 8th July 2014



Summary of responses at Business Breakfast

Business Breakfast - A meeting of the leaders of the business community on the morning of 7th July 2014 drew out more specific details relating to the concerns of doing business in the town. One critical issue repeatedly raised was the availability, cost and accessibility of good quality industrial units with good transport links, through close proximity to junctions onto the A38. It was suggested that Liskeard needed small starter units but also larger units for successful firms to move to as they grew.



Better road links, particularly from the southern end of town to the A38 was identified as important. Business leaders also suggested that the town was not promoted well; Liskeard does not get a mention until 22 miles east of Liskeard on the A38. The signs on the M5 just have 'Plymouth and the West'. The good rail links and high speed broadband should attract businesses to the town (especially high-end tech firms). Although the town population is less than 10,000, as a market town Liskeard serves a rural hinterland of up to 33,000 people. Respondents thought that all these things should make Liskeard attractive to businesses, and the ideas they provided pointed the way forward to future work such as the assessment of suggested sites, and the impetus to initiate discussions with the school and Jobcentre over further training needs.

Notes on responses at Business Breakfast

At the business breakfast the purpose and scope of a neighbourhood plan was briefly outlined supported by posters around the room

During breakfast there was a general discussion around each table about Liskeard as a business centre. Four specific questions were asked:

1. What are the main strengths of Liskeard as a centre for business/employment?

- Good communication with rest of county/country through excellent rail link with regular service to Plymouth and London, and national bus service from town centre
- Central position for access to rest of Cornwall via good road links on A38, although junction access to business sites in town (including, Millers Park and Heathlands) should be improved
- High speed broadband
- Good service centre (hospital, doctors, dentists, leisure centre, Cornwall one-stop-shop secondary school with sixth form)
- Good natural and built environment; attractive and friendly place to live with welcoming population providing a good employment pool
- Market town/hub serves wider area of circa 30,000 people

2. How can we attract more businesses/employers to Liskeard?

- Provide/facilitate employment land particularly on outskirts of town near road access
- Business premises of different sizes to help start-ups, expansion, so that businesses can grow and remain in Liskeard – ‘easy-in-easy-out’ agreements – advice and help with grants/professional services – LEP etc. to play important role
- Make best use of sites within town such as cattle market, pannier market and provide better access to A38 from southern end of the town centre (e.g. at Heathlands, Moorswater)
- Build skills base with more vocational training for young and old
- Promote high-tech/high value businesses – possibly a larger employer as well?
- Provide a range of housing to attract entrepreneurs/business leaders
- Pro-actively promote Liskeard to wider world through better marketing

3. Where should business/employment/training be developed?

- Easy access to the Main road network especially the A38, for connectivity with the rest of the country, and ease of delivery
- Tencreek/Charter Way/flat land/cattle market/near railway
- Extend Business Park/affordable land/brownfield land
- Improve school/business links/college/further education – to address skills shortages

4. Supporting expanding businesses

- encourage start-up/expansion/flexibility with a range of unit sizes
- push for European funding/grants
- have more favourable business rates
- improve access to A 38 for Station Rd businesses