

## A Community Charter for St Ives?

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### SOME KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER FOR ST IVES:

- Assets can include =
  - Beaches, coast paths, views etc.
  - Children – education and jobs
  - Housing – access to affordable homes etc.
- A charter represents a return to the roots of community resource management, e.g. as in Magna Carta, which was destroyed by the enclosures. It could also be seen as the beginning of a process to address the culture of greed that pervades our culture, by giving people the courage to talk about real values. In St Ives, we are at the beginning of a process of authentic change – from disengagement to participatory democracy at the local level; from accepting what is thrown at us by market forces to taking some control over our own lives and livelihoods. Consumers vs. citizens engaging in meaningful dialogue.
- We can build our own definition of Cultural Heritage for St Ives, that can be used to feed into an EU Environmental Impact Assessment (i.e. Any planning application in St Ives must be accompanied by a EIA against the values expressed in the Charter), and to build on the NPPF definition of Cultural Heritage.

This definition can include:

What is St Ives for?

What makes a community vibrant and how do we protect it?

- St Ives as a “stable place to put down roots”.
- The process can be as important as the resulting document, i.e. participatory democracy
- Are we facing a threat in St Ives? i.e. over-development for the tourist industry and its consequences for the local community – jobs, housing, shops...
- Suggestion = the Town Council should take the lead.

### QUESTIONS

How do we turn aspirations into material considerations?/how do we give it teeth?

- The Charter could either be a standalone document or form the vision and aims of the neighbourhood plan. Either way, it will add depth and substance to the neighbourhood plan.
- ‘Teeth’ is about creating the impetus for change, it doesn’t have to be legal.

How important is legal expertise in dealing with planning issues? Should we have a legal expert on board?

How do we engage more people? Can 20% be called “the community”?

- Can offer the opportunity to engage by taking meetings out to the wider area, making them at convenient times for different people;
- BUT also need to work harder to engage the ‘many communities within the community’. We are at the start and it needs effort to move against the prevailing culture of disengagement.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. Seek approval from the Steering Group (Jan 27 meeting)
2. Seek approval of the Town Council
3. Culture and Heritage Group – it will take work! People need to be invited and encouraged to engage, not just a blanket invitation
4. Small Core Group meeting to agree on an invitation message, to:
5. Workshop – world café style, to being to build a definition of Cultural Heritage.
  - Questions to be devised by...?
  - Invitations to be given by....?
  - Invitations to be given to....? And how?