

## **MINUTES: Initial Topic Group Meeting – Economic Development April 24 2013**

### **Present**

Darren Saint	darrensaint@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	St Ives Community Police
Morag Robertson	morag@blue-earth.co.uk	St Ives
Rita Lait	t.rlait@btinternet.com	St Ives
Andrew Mitchell	andrewmitchell.stives@googlemail.com	St Ives

Due to the low number of people present, it was not possible to set up a working group for Economic Development at this meeting.

It was strongly felt that the Chamber of Trade should be involved with this issue and that there are other interested people who couldn't make the meeting. The Chamber were formally invited to all of the Topic Group meetings.

It was therefore decided that the meeting should be reconvened in a few weeks time.

### **Lucy Hackett will:**

- **Attend a Chamber of Trade meeting to generate interest in the neighbourhood plan and secure their involvement;**
- **Reconvene the Topic Group meeting, with members of the Chamber present and all other interested parties (in late May/early June);**
- **Advertise the meeting, through the neighbourhood plan mailing list, website and facebook page;**
- **Write a press release about the neighbourhood plan process, focusing on this issue.**

### **Issues**

Some of the issues that will be covered by this group were discussed. Particular concerns at this meeting were:

- Protecting St Ives retail space from being dominated by chain stores;
- Oversupply of pasty shops and surf shops;
- Retail rents are too high, which prohibits smaller businesses from the town centre;
- 'Seasonal prices' are too high, e.g. rental accommodation, restaurants;
- Need to consider the use of spaces above shops;
- Find ways of supporting creative and cultural industries;
- Find ways of supporting knowledge based industries, i.e. graduate retention (e.g. Unlocking Cornish Potential);
- Local, year-round employment.

A suggestion was made that a business and employment audit be conducted as a first step for this group (NB. or find out if the Chamber of Trade have one).

A Neighbourhood Plan training workshop will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 15 May 2013 at the St Ives Guildhall. This will provide training in the main steps of building a neighbourhood plan and could assist Topic Groups in planning their next steps. Topic Group Chairs and Vice Chairs are required to attend, but everyone involved in a Topic Group is also encouraged to attend. ***Please let Lucy Hackett know at the email address below.***

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS**

As above.

Contact Lucy Hackett on:

[stives.n.plan@gmail.com](mailto:stives.n.plan@gmail.com)

or in the Town Clerk's office and on 01736 797840 (Tues and Wed)

or contact the Town Clerk on:

[stivestowncouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stivestowncouncil@gmail.com)

01736 797840.