

Ponsanooth Neighbourhood Development Plan -

Consulting the Community

Our Engagement Process

From the outset, the Ponsanooth Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Group adopted a formal **Engagement and Consultation Strategy** to ensure that the community and all relevant stakeholders were properly and meaningfully involved throughout the Plan's preparation. Engagement has taken place over a number of years through a wide variety of events, surveys, and activities designed to reach all sections of the community.

The process began in **November 2016**, when the Parish Council hosted an **open public meeting** to introduce the idea of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, explain the potential benefits for the Parish, and invite volunteers to form a Steering Group. This marked the start of a long and sustained process of local involvement.

Key Community Engagement Events

Since 2016, the following key stages of consultation and engagement have taken place:

- **July 2017 – Ponsanooth Fair Day Exhibition:**

Building on ideas first raised at the 2016 meeting, residents were invited to comment on maps and identify the areas they most valued and the key issues facing the Parish.

- **March 2018 – Adoption of Community Engagement Strategy:**

The Steering Group adopted a formal strategy to guide all future engagement, ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

- **June–July 2018 – Parish-Wide Residents' Survey:**

A comprehensive questionnaire was distributed by hand to all households, supported by collection boxes around the Parish and an online version. The survey explored community priorities, local issues, and aspirations for the future of Ponsanooth.

- **June 2019 – Second Parish Survey and Business Survey:**

A follow-up survey provided an update on progress and invited further input on emerging themes and objectives. A separate business survey gathered views from local enterprises on their needs and challenges.

- **June 2019 – School Involvement:**

Pupils from Kennall Vale School took part in a **landscape character project**, including a visit to Roskrow Solar Farm, helping to capture young people’s perceptions of the local environment.

- **October 2019 – Parking Consultation:**

An open evening focused on known parking pressures in the village, inviting residents to identify potential solutions.

- **March–April 2021 – Housing Needs Survey:**

Conducted by Cornwall Council on behalf of the Parish Council, this survey examined local housing needs and affordability issues.

- **June 2023 – Ponsanooth Fair Day Exhibition:**

The Steering Group and Parish Council presented progress on the Plan and sought feedback on the emerging masterplan concepts and other themes.

- **April 2024 – Ongoing Community Updates:**

Using the newly launched *Ponsanooth Post*, the Group publicised a series of monthly “drop-in surgeries” where residents could ask questions and share views. A dedicated page was also added to the Parish Council website, providing access to surveys, evidence documents, and online comment forms.

The Fair Day exhibition that year again provided a key opportunity for in-person engagement.

- **Spring–Summer 2025 – Monthly Public Surgeries:**

The Steering Group continued to hold open meetings where residents could discuss the NDP process and comment on emerging proposals.

- **July 2025 – Fair Day Exhibition:**

A further exhibition presented updated information on the draft Plan and sought feedback on the **emerging Masterplan allocation** and other key proposals.

July – August 2025 – Additional Business Survey

To ensure that local businesses continued to be aware of the Plan, a further business survey was conducted of all known businesses active in the Parish, asking about their future needs for premises and suggestions for infrastructure improvements.

What You Told Us

The first major consultation in **June 2018** identified a series of community priorities, ranked by level of importance. The top five themes were:

- Transport and traffic
- Where development should take place
- Types of development
- Wildlife and the environment
- Public footpaths and open spaces

There was little distinction in importance between these themes — all were valued highly by residents. Other recurring issues included:

- Protection of key community facilities
- The need for a purpose-built community building on the playing field (since delivered)
- Recognition of Ponsanooth's strong community spirit and the importance of protecting its special character

These views were echoed consistently in later engagement, including the 2019 Fair Day exhibition and targeted consultations such as the car-parking event.

Across all engagement stages, several messages were clear and consistent:

- The community values **its strong sense of identity and local heritage**
- There is a pressing need to **address housing affordability and local need**
- **Road safety and parking** remain major concerns
- The **natural environment and landscape setting** are deeply cherished, and any new development must respect and reinforce Ponsanooth's distinctive sense of place

In the final business survey future businesses were concerned with transport links, road and pedestrian safety, and the physical fabric of premises, alongside the viability of key community services which underpin local economic resilience.

Community Priorities

The key themes and aspirations expressed through consultation:

Priorities for Ponsanooth Parish:

Protect open green spaces, tree canopy and the diversity of natural habitats

Ensure that future generations of local families can remain in Ponsanooth Parish

Ponsanooth Village Centric

Better transport connections, road, rail footpaths, cycling

Developments are respectful of the parish heritage, adding value to the community

Local services are protected and enhanced

A Parish that is more adaptable to the future. E.g. climate change

A Parish that embraces renewable energy

An environment where people can live and work locally – promote local employment

