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DESIGN IN CORNWALL STRATEGY MEETING – RIBA, CDRP & CORNWALL COUNCIL

Location County Hall, Truro
Date of Meeting 9 December 2015
Minutes prepared By Jane Hamlyn
Purpose Discussion on Improving Design in Cornwall
Date 16 January 2016

Present		Initials
Jane Hamlyn	Atelier 3 Ltd/RIBA Cornwall Chair	JH
Edwina Hannaford	Cornwall Councillor	EH
Steve Havers	Cornwall Council	SH
Mark Kemp	Parkes Lees/RIBA Councillor	MK
Mark Pearson	CDRP	MP
Matthew Wills	3HW Architecture & Design/RIBA Cornwall	MW

Apologies for Absence

David Edmondson	Cornwall Council	DE
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Distribution

As above.

MINUTES

1.0 Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 What are the aims and objectives? Not totally clear initially, although to discuss the issues with the existing system in delivering good quality design and to come up with a strategy to assist with making improvements.
- 1.2 Look at existing training and policy research

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1.3 CDRP – annual conference/award – work with the CDRP and don't try to duplicate efforts

2.0 Parish and Town Councils

2.1 They need to understand difference between 'Do I like it?' versus 'Is it good design?'

2.2 Understand what is 'Cornish'.

2.3 Relationship between Town/Parish Councils and Case officers is not a positive one at the moment. Needs to be improved – more dialogue and confidence between both parties.

3.0 Design Guide

3.1 Could do with a separate design guide for House builders

3.2 Simple robust document for householders

3.3 Should 'ordinary' architecture follow a simple set of rules, and then more bespoke architecture – planners need to trust the architects?

3.4 Simple set of criteria for dealing with decisions from non-architects.

3.5 Cornish Chapter of how listed buildings are dealt with.

4.0 Design Review

4.1 What happens to schemes that don't go to Design Review Panel?

4.2 Only 3% of applications go to planning committee.

5.0 Additional reports and information

5.1 Ecology and Contamination issues in Cornwall can always be mitigated – why can this not be at Building Regulations stage?

5.2 Process Change/Culture Change

5.3 Review what impact additional information has had on granting permission and design

5.4 Have Natural England reviewed impact policies have had on population?

5.5 Validation is just a tick box exercise and doesn't usually go to case officer

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5.6 First question asked is not 'is design important?', but instead it is have all the additional reports been submitted.

6.0 Case Officers

6.1 Inertia in RTPI.

6.2 Is society ready for such a quantum shift in how communities are planned?

6.3 Forum for architects and planners – promote discussion. Could be a small group of architects with case officers, possibly even to discuss live projects. Look at format of TED talks, should be a debate, not just sit back and listen. Need to restore confidence in Case Officers.

6.4 Missing link to case officers. EH continually talks to town and parish councils about design. Phil Mason needs to be fully supportive of cause and drive issue of good quality design forward for it to filter down through the Council.

6.5 Cornwall Council have some in house people that are approached for design advice – nothing official.

7.0 Attitudes towards planning and development

7.1 Some of the archaeology department were invited to join the conservation department, but are resistant – want to stay as academics.

7.2 Developer's forum – perception by public wrong (not so much how to get around the planning system, but valid issues to do with development). As council supports developer's forum, negative perception towards council too.

8.0 Ideas to consider

8.1 Tools and consistency

8.2 Systematic approach required with design as the priority.

8.3 MK to look into an RIBA/RTPI shared advice service.

8.4 Design South East run 'surgeries' to quickly look at projects

8.5 Development management conference – will include design.

9.0 Next Actions

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9.1 EH has requested 5 bullet points – to headline tasks/objectives coming out of the meeting, to discuss with Phil Mason tomorrow.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 Set up another meeting in the New Year.