

Statement from Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum

Chairman and Councillors

I am addressing you tonight as Chairman of the Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum representing the qualifying body of Brixham Town Council.

Our Plan, similar to the two other Plans being presented, is the culmination of many years of diligent endeavour by Volunteers. Recognising in 2008 that there was an opportunity given by the Localism Act to shape our area in planning terms, we produced our Town Design Statement. This was then used to gain Front Runner Funding for our Neighbourhood Plan.

The villages of Churston, Galmpton and Broadsands decided to join with the Town of Brixham and our combined Brixham Peninsula neighbourhood area was formally designated in 2012.

At this point I must record my gratitude to the handful of volunteers, those Working Group members named on the front inside cover of our Plan who have worked tirelessly to communicate the aspirations of the communities through the words of the submitted Plan.

People from the communities came forward to identify what made their areas special, what needed to be improved and what needed to be retained.

There is clear direction on how Brixham Town Centre and the very important Brixham fishing industry should develop, and we have a Master Plan covering this included as part of the plan. There is also a clear plan for delivering more housing than required by the Local Plan.

Equally, developments like these are matched by the safeguarding put in place to protect environmental assets including the countryside, important bats and the coastal waters. This is why our consultation evidenced an overwhelming majority of support for our submitted plan.

We are particularly proud that having carefully followed the expert advice we received, that Statutory Consultees such as Natural England provided glowing reports endorsing our work.

We are also pleased to note that the Examiner concluded that it was unnecessary to delete any of our submitted policies. We have been working with your Officers on modifications for some of our Policies and I can confirm that we are in agreement with 99% of these. However, there is one part of one Policy on which we disagree and the scale of disagreement is significant, but this will not be resolved tonight.

So in summary, because of the size of our area and the planning constraints faced, we found ourselves producing a document more similar to a mini local plan than a typical neighbourhood plan. This provided the opportunity for us to seek external grant funding and external grant assisted technical support. The submitted plan drew on this and took input from the Princes Foundation, the global planning

consultancy AECOM, the bat survey experts Greena Ecological Consultancy, a neighbourhood plan Examiner Liz Beth, local designers MTA Architects, the list goes on and on.

We really do hope the work undertaken will benefit not just our area, but Torbay as a whole for years to come. I therefore wholeheartedly ask you show that our Council supports the community we all represent. Please support our plan proceeding to referendum so we can successfully complete the important final step in this long process.

Thank you.

Jackie Stockman

Chair Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum