

neighbourhood plans

From: Malcolm Elliot [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2017 12:24
To: neighbourhood plans
Cc: Mark Owen; Steve Church
Subject: Consultation Response to Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan

I am making representations on the above planning application as the Devon Planning representative of the South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA). The Association is a charity with over 6000 members that is dedicated to looking after the South West Coast Path so that it can be enjoyed by everyone, and works closely with Natural England and the local authorities to manage and promote the Path.

A significant omission from the Plan is reference to the need to protect and ideally enhance the route of the South West Coast Path National Trail. This could be easily remedied by adding the South West Coast Path National Trail as one of the Local Green Spaces referenced in Policy E4 and Table 3. Suggested text is: The South West Coast Path National Trail is the area's prime recreational walking route linking many of the other LGS and also UNESCO Geopark sites and so is highly valued by the local community. It is also vital to both the local and regional tourist economy, as South West Coast Path walkers spend £500 million a year in the region which supports over 11,000 FTE jobs. Walking tourism is a year round activity and as illustrated by the recent international marketing campaign supported by Visit England to promote Torbay as the 'Seafood Coast' providing great walking and fantastic local seafood can be used to improve the quality of the jobs that the tourism sector can provide. However these benefits are reliant on the Coast Path and other rights of way being well maintained, and the views from them retained or enhanced, as per paragraph 75 of the National Planning Policy Framework " Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails".

Policy J6

We welcome a Master Plan being developed for Brixham Town centre. As part of this we would like to see improved signing of the Coast Path (integrated with pedestrian street signing) from the harbour in both directions, i.e. to Berry Head, Battery Park and beyond and walk information included in any orientation / map panels. The aim of this is to be able to encourage visitors staying in the parks either side of town to be able to walk rather than drive into the centre.

Policy J7

We are concerned that the plan also proposes redevelopment of Oxen Cove which will entail realignment of the South West Coast Path National Trail (incorrectly referred to as the South Devon Coastal Path). Within the Planning Brief / Master plan to be produced for this site we ask that the South West Coast Path Association is included as a consultee on these proposals.

Please can you also ensure the South West Coast Path Association is added to your list of consultees. It is hoped that you will give due consideration to the representations made by the SWCPA and look forward to being a party to the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan and its proposals in the context of the comments we have made.

Regards

Malcolm Elliott DipTP MRTPI(Rtd)