Neighbourhood Planning
Cornwall Council Planning Guidance and Advice

Data and Evidence

This is one of a series of notes produced by the Neighbourhood Planning Team to help Neighbourhood Planning Groups to develop Neighbourhood Plans. They provide guidance and advice on a wide range of policies and processes to help you to understand the process and to ensure that your plan meets statutory requirements.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your Neighbourhood Plan, or for specific advice, please get in touch with the Neighbourhood Planning Team at neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk

Data and Evidence

Your NDP should include facts and figures and other forms of evidence to support the vision, objectives and policy direction of your plan. They can provide interesting and useful information and add context about your community and its challenges and how it differs to other places in Cornwall. Considering historical data can give you a good idea of how your community has changed over a longer period of time.

This note signposts to useful sources of information that you can use to build an evidence base for your plan. Local knowledge, for example understanding local facilities and businesses, is also really important in helping to build a complete picture of your neighbourhood area. Some data is not available at the parish level and you will need to use data from a wider geographical area.

Census data

You can download a useful profile of your local area using this census tool Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS

It will give you information about population and household characteristics, employment and demographic information, along with many other data types and will provide useful background information and context for your plan.

Mapping

Cornwall Council's interactive mapping service gives good information on a wide range of issues by selecting different layers. Access the mapping service here Use our interactive maps - Cornwall Council
Neighbourhood Planning groups can contact us to get access to more detailed mapping by emailing us at neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk

We can also offer help to produce maps for inclusion in your neighbourhood plan (there is a small charge for this to cover officer time).

Housing Data

Cornwall Council can provide you with information on the number of new homes that have been built in your area and information on sites that have permission but have not yet been built. We can provide you with information on the affordable housing stock in your parish and the demand for affordable homes from households with a local connection who are actively looking for an affordable home. You can also commission a more detailed housing needs survey to fully understand the demand for affordable housing in your area. Contact us for the latest information.

Useful Information (including data on affordable housing) is available here Housing intelligence - Cornwall Council

Second and Holiday Homes

There is currently no easy data solution to say how many second and holiday homes there are in your local area, but the data sources below should help you to evidence the issue and justify a policy response. Your evidence base should include most of these data / evidence types. Generally, a figure of more than 20% of housing stock used as a second or holiday home is required by examiners to justify a principal residence policy. Your data should not include homes that are designated as holiday homes (for example, those on holiday parks or where there is a restricted holiday use), only those properties where a home that could be used as a normal home to live in (C3 use) is being used as a second or holiday home.

- Some data is available here Second Homes in Cornwall this includes data on the historic number of 2nd homes that used to benefit from council tax reductions as second homes but as the discount is no longer applied, the data is no longer gathered so is a bit out of date.
- You can also search holiday letting sites (eg Airbnb, Cornwall cottages, expedia, vrbo etc.) for holiday homes to let to give an idea of the number of properties available as holiday homes in the local area (be careful of double counting if using multiple sites).
- You could walk around on a winter's evening to assess how many homes appear unoccupied (unlit) and document your findings to support your numbers. (note that this could only be used as supporting information, not primary evidence)
- You can look at the occupancy data for your local area (the number of residents per home); if occupancy levels are significantly below the Cornwall average that could indicate that more homes are not occupied permanently.
- Census data for 2021 is available here – you should be able to get data that relates approximately to your parish (unlikely to be an exact match though) Number of vacant dwellings and second homes (with no usual residents) - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Call for Sites

Cornwall Council is currently exploring how the next Local Plan will deal with growth in Cornwall to 2050. Any revised plan will need to identify enough land to meet future requirements. This includes land for:

- new homes and employment space
- community infrastructure and tourism
- sites for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality mitigation and/or nature-based initiatives.

To understand availability of land, we are asking interested landowners to tell us about potentially available land for future development in a call for sites. We can make this information available to neighbourhood planning groups once the sites have been reviewed.

Landscape, environment and heritage

You can find useful data about your local environment using DEFRA's Magic mapping service here MAGIC (defra.gov.uk)

In addition, Cornwall Council's mapping service can show you the locations of protected trees, open spaces, ancient woodland and designated landscapes. sites/features (link in mapping section above). Please refer to the environment guide note on our guidance pages which outlines the designations you need to be aware of.

You can find more information about the different landscape character types in Cornwall here Cornish Landscape - Cornwall Council

Useful information about heritage assets, including listed buildings and scheduled monuments as well as non-designated heritage assets can be found here Heritage | Let's Talk Cornwall along with useful links to information about Cornish Distinctiveness. If your neighbourhood plan area is part of the World Heritage Site (WHS), you can find more information about the WHS, including the management plan, here Cornish Mining WHS - Cornish Mining WHS - Areas - Areas

Climate Change

This new tool, developed by Cornwall Council in collaboration with the University of Exeter, supports local decision makers across the UK to plan and adapt to climate change. You can use the filters to produce a parish level climate analysis, indicating how your local climate might change in the years to 2070. It gives valuable information on the different climate risks and impacts to individuals, to buildings and infrastructure as well as to coast and countryside. You can access the tool and user guide here Local Climate Adaptation Tool (lcat.uk)

Health data

This useful report will show data for your area on a wide range of demographic, housing, health and employment factors that can impact on good health. Local Insight (communityinsight.org)

Economy and Employment

We have useful information here on the picture for main towns and for Cornwall as a whole. It's more difficult to get a picture for smaller areas and you may want to assess the provision of facilities and businesses within your local area to get a better idea of commercial and employment opportunities within your neighbourhoods.

For main towns, this useful report shows how different towns compare across a range of key data points. Town Economic Vitality Index - Cornwall Council

This has a range of other useful information (mostly at a Cornwall level) which may be of use for your NDP Economic Intelligence - Cornwall Council

There is useful information on the employment status of residents in your parish available using the census link above.

Transport

Public transport routes are indicated on our mapping service. You can also find helpful information in our Transport Strategy Local Transport Plan - Cornwall Council

Walking and cycling routes are also on our maps and you can find useful information about local walking and cycling issues here Active travel: walking and cycling - Cornwall Council

Local Area information – Community Area Partnerships

Our 12 new community area partnerships (CAPs) will bring local organisations and people together. Their role is to tackle the issues that matter to communities, so everyone can start, live and age well. They serve as an influential voice for their communities. They will engage and involve the public. They will take action to progress community priorities and support communities to take action to help each other.

There are useful information profiles for each CAP area – access these through the CC website Community Area Partnerships - Cornwall Council by selecting the relevant CAP that your parish forms part of.
This page also provides links to health information and links to planned highway maintenance and construction works in your local area.

The views of your community

One of the most important pieces of evidence that you can gather is the views of the people that live in your neighbourhood area. Understanding what local people value and what they want to change is essential to ensure that you produce a plan and a vision for the future that is supported by residents. Regular communication and engagement is key and it is important to gather feedback at each stage and include it in your consultation statement, along with information about how these views have been reflected or considered in the development of your plan.

Contact

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