

Town council to create 'shared vision' for future look of Portishead

North Somerset Times – PUBLISHED 30 June 2019

A plan for the future of Portishead is in the works, with hopes of building a 'sustainable' town and curbing the influence of developers.

Portishead Town Council has agreed to begin formulating a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) as its new representatives start implementing their manifestos.

The authority unanimously voted to commence work on a plan, which will be used as a framework for development in Portishead for years to come, at its meeting at the Folk Hall on June 19.

The previous administration, which was almost entirely unseated or stepped down at May's local election, was often criticised for failing to create an NDP - and the new town council has wasted little time in getting down to work.

Chairman Paul Gardner said there are 'a number of reasons' why an NDP will benefit Portishead.

He added: "We need a plan so we as a community have a shared vision for what we want to do with the town - not just for the next year but for the next 10 years.

"It's not a small piece of work, it generally takes two years to get to a conclusion.

"It will include choosing where new homes will be built, and where there will be shops, offices and other developments.

"It's going to look at protecting and conserving green spaces and what types of buildings you want.

"It will target some sites for specific development, but it's in a managed way - not the piecemeal way where the developer always decides.

"It's about promoting sustainable development - meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations."

Once the NDP is ratified and approved via a referendum, the town will also receive a greater cash boost from development.

Cllr Gardner explained: "It also enables us to increase the amount of community infrastructure levy funding which is available to Portishead.

"Every time a new house is built, a percentage goes to the community and you get a lot more if you've got a neighbourhood plan."

The town council will consult with other authorities to research the plan-making process before consulting people on what they want to see in Portishead in the coming decades.