



Community Planning E-Newsletter



[cornwall rural community council](http://www.cornwallrcc.co.uk)

www.cornwallrcc.co.uk

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Thank You!

Many of you will have received our Summer 2007 Newsletter and we'd like to say 'thank you' for the comments that we have received.

Reassuringly, it appears that the varied nature of the articles meant that there was something of interest to you, irrespective of whether you are currently undertaking a community planning exercise or not!

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One Cornwall

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The Recent Launch of the Cornwall Calor Best Village 2008

Opportunity for Free Training!

The Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall

Community Planning Project Grant - Still Time to Apply!

Cornwall Calor Village Of The Year 2008 - Get Your Application Now!!

Cornwall Rural Community Council is looking for villages with a population of 5,000 or less to enter the Cornwall Village of the Year Competition 2008. Any village which has a strong sense of community spirit is encouraged to enter.

Entries are invited from any organisation within a village and entrants are judged on a number of categories that focus on all aspects of a thriving community including activities, services and general well-being. Cornwall Rural Community Council's competition organiser, Sharon Davey commented: "Entering the competition is a great way for communities to work together towards a common goal and can be extremely beneficial in helping them recognise their unique strengths and potential as a community." Completed village profiles will need to be returned to CRCC by 11th May 2007.

The Cornwall Village of the Year competition is sponsored by Calor and the Western Morning News.

For more information or an application (profile) form please contact Sharon Davey, Cornwall Rural Community Council, 14 Chapel Street, Camborne, TR14 8ED
t: 01209 614950 e: sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk.



Contact the Community Planning Team:

Tel 01209 614950 Email sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk

Write to The Community Planning Team, CRCC, 14 Chapel Street, Camborne, TR14 8ED

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a vision for a parish, setting out aspirations and aims. It covers a wide range of issues that affect a parish and identifies actions to take these issues forward. Having a Plan should ensure that residents have a say in how their parish develops, recording what is good about the parish as well as what is not. It should provide a parish with a strategy for improvement and be used as a tool for change. Plans should be realistic and they need to link in with existing strategies and inform partner organisations.

Why do a Parish Plan?

There are a number of reasons why parishes decide to create a Plan:

- To Provide A Strategy For An Area
- To Highlight Issues
- To Influence Policies
- To Attract Funding
- To Involve The Community
- To Record What's Good
- To Work Together
- To Kick-Start Action

For more information on Parish Planning visit
www.cornwallrcc.co.uk



This Newsletter is designed and produced by Cornwall Rural Community Council

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Parish Plan Impact Survey - UPDATE!

Following on from our article in the Summer 2007 Newsletter, last year we sent out Impact Surveys to those parishes that we were aware of having completed their Plan prior to November 2007. The aim of the survey is to establish whether parishes have found the Parish Plan process to be worthwhile; the advantages and disadvantages of producing a plan; the support they received and what they have had difficulty in taking forward.

We have already received just under half of the surveys back and we are hoping that more will still come in. All completed surveys will be entered into a Prize Draw, which will take place at the end of February.

We really do want to hear from you! Our partner organisations (including District/Borough and County Councils) are also keen to see the information from this exercise, so your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

Parish/Community Plan Database

As well as the work on the Impact Survey, CRCC has been busy compiling a database of information from parish plans. It is intended that the database will complement the individual Parish Plans by giving a county-wide perspective of the issues affecting you. Again, our partner organisations are really keen to have access to this information as it will help them identify trends, and could inform their work plans or be the starting point for discussion and debate.

Please note that where articles are contributed by partner organisations, (or by CRCC staff not within the Community Planning Team), contact details for further information or clarification are included.

Climate Change - So What? Conference Feedback

Last year, Cornwall Energy Plus, Cornwall Rural Community Council and Cornwall Interlink joined forces to organise a conference bringing the climate change debate to grass roots community groups in Cornwall and allow representatives of these groups the opportunity to listen to the experts and ask questions.

Held at the Eden Project on 31st October 2007, the "Climate Change - So What?" conference attracted over 150 delegates from parish councils, village halls and other local groups who left brimming with ideas about how they, as individuals and organisations, can take practical steps to cut carbon emissions and reduce the negative impact on the environment of our 21st Century lifestyles.

As delegates arrived, it was clear that this was to be a conference with a difference. People were greeted by smartly dressed usherettes who offered them cartons of popcorn and directed them to their seats in the "cinema" where the lights were darkened and three short films were shown. The presence of "Climate Change Priests" who extracted confessions of people's environmental "sins" added further to the novelty of the day as did a "barman" who compered a Climate Change "pub quiz".

However, the novel approach to the programming was balanced by the seriousness of the various speakers, who explained not only the theory behind climate change and peak oil, but also identified various ways in which we, as individuals and as representatives of community groups, could take positive action to reduce our environmental impact. A full report on the conference is currently being produced.

Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall

The Cornwall Strategic Partnership are in the process of developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall, further details – including how you can get involved – can be found at:
<http://www.cornwallstrategicpartnership.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=25077>

Themed Interlink Meetings

Voluntary and Community Organisations to have their say in the development of Cornwall's Sustainable Community Strategy.

Themed Inter-Link Meetings will be taking place throughout Cornwall February and March 2008 aimed for Voluntary and Community Organisations to have their say in the development of Cornwall's Sustainable Community Strategy.

'Make sure that the Voluntary and Community Sector get a Voice by attending one of these events!'

Area Date and Venue:

Restormel & Carrick 26 February 2008 - St Johns Methodist Church Hall

North Cornwall & Caradon 7 March 2008 - Millennium House Pensilva

Penwith & Kerrier 4 March 2008 - Penzance Astro Park

To view the event flyer/booking form visit:

http://www.cornwallstrategicpartnership.gov.uk/media/adobe/0/a/CSCS_Feb_March_08_Flyer.pdf

For further information on the events please call: Lydia Billson on 01208 75799 or Tom Jane on 01209 614909

We Would Like to Extend a Warm Welcome to the New East Cornwall Rural Transport Partnership Officer.

Sam Cleeve is the new East Cornwall Rural Transport Partnership Officer based in North Cornwall District Council offices. Sam will be covering three district areas: North Cornwall, Caradon and Restormel.

Sam is looking to help parishes/communities with their transport issues - providing a link to the County Council and also helping communities with implementing their own transport solutions; improving the availability of information etc. She is also working with community groups to bring more Shopmobility Schemes to Cornwall.

Please contact Sam for a more detailed explanation of how she can help you.

Sam Cleeve
North Cornwall District Council
3/5 Barn Lane
Bodmin
PL31 1LZ

Email: samantha.cleeve@ncdc.gov.uk
Tel: 01208 265693

Please remember to pass on appropriate information in this newsletter to any groups within your community.

If a community group in your area wish to receive this e-newsletter direct, please ask them to forward their email contact details to:

Tracey Edwards, Community Planning Manager
Tel: 01209 614950 or
Email: tracey.edwards@cornwallrcc.co.uk

CRCC Website

Have a look at the Community Planning Team's web pages where you can find information on Community/ Parish Planning, download Parish Plans and access useful resources.

There is also information on other services that the CRCC provides such as:

Carers;
Mental Health;
Other Community Planning & Development Services:
Post Parish Plan Development; Pro-Help, Community Enterprise, Community Buildings; Young People & Children

Visit CRCC's website at www.cornwallrcc.co.uk.

Empowering the Voluntary Sector Workshop 10th April

FREE PLACES STILL AVAILABLE - SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS!!



Empowering the voluntary sector to challenge unjust public body funding and consultation decisions

NAVCA to deliver an “Empowering the Voluntary Sector” workshop in conjunction with Cornwall Rural Community Council

Each workshop is designed to equip participants with the skills to negotiate effectively with public bodies on issues such as challenging funding cuts, failures to consult on policy changes, and local authority decisions concerning the provision of services.

Workshops are open to all voluntary and community organisations funded by, or seeking funding from, public bodies. We are sorry but we are unable to accept bookings from public bodies.

The workshops aim to help you to:

- develop an understanding of the principles of public law
- identify when a public body has not acted lawfully
- understand the solutions available to you.

The next opportunity to take part in this training in this area will be at Bodmin Shire House, 10th April 2008 from 9.30 to 4.30 including lunch and refreshments. The group will be limited to 15 participants, and Cornwall Rural Community Council is able to offer ten of these free of charge so we suggest you get your place booked as soon as possible.

To reserve a place, contact: Peter Burton at CRCC on 01872 273952 or email: peter.burton@cornwallrcc.co.uk

The free places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so hurry! The remaining five places will cost £25 per person; this includes VAT and a light lunch and should be booked direct with NAVCA via their website www.navca.org.uk

Support for Voluntary and Community Organisations Working with Vulnerable Adults

Are you a voluntary or community organisation based in Cornwall that is involved with supporting and enriching the lives of people who are elderly or have a disability? If the answer is yes, help might be at hand.

Cornwall Rural Community Council has recently introduced a service to help ‘build the capacity’ of organisations working in this field.

So what is capacity building? It is defined by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as “the right organisation, systems, partnerships, people and processes to deliver against a particular agenda or plan”, but in simpler terms it is about giving organisations the necessary ‘tools to the do job’.

This could include:

- help to identify suitable training needs and opportunities
- support regarding governance (including policies and procedures etc.)
- improving opportunities to network with other voluntary and community based organisations
- introducing groups to each other in order to complete joint funding bids
- assist organisations, where appropriate to work better together, in order to make the best use of limited resources.

Work is currently underway mapping and trying to meet the many voluntary and community organisations working in this very rewarding area.

If you would like to find out more please do make contact. You can get in touch by calling 01726 821974 or 07973 757718 or sending an email to dave.hocking@cornwallrcc.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Grant Funding to Implement Parish Plans Still Available.

The Community Planning Project Grant is still open to applications with funding for the grant confirmed until 31st March 2008. The small grant scheme which provides funding of up to £500 for projects costing £3000 or less has issued over 20 grants to Parish Councils and community groups to implement projects identified within their local community plan since the scheme was launched over a year ago.

The Community Planning Project Grant has been designed to be as flexible as possible, has supported a wide range of projects including the development of parish newsletters and websites, erection of a parish map and information point, small scale improvements to village halls and community open spaces or play areas. If your project helps to address an issue identified within a parish or community plan then the project could be eligible for support – below are some examples of the type of project the fund would envisage supporting:

- New local wildlife area
- Leaflets promoting local walks
- Parish welcome pack
- Local History Book
- Local heritage projects and heritage information boards
- Development of a village/parish heritage trail
- Small scale environmental improvements/planting
- Children and young people's play projects
- Equipment to enable establishment of local gardening group
- Equipment/training to support setting up of local walking group
- Production of a community directory
- Parish notice board and information point
- New fitness activities – i.e. table tennis or short matt bowls in village hall
- Feasibility work for larger projects i.e. village hall refurbishment or the establishment of a community owned shop

The grant which is financed by Defra through the Cornwall Local Area

Agreement was established by the Cornwall Rural Community Council to help kick start action once parish or community plans are complete and to help maintain the momentum built in the local community during the development of the community plan itself.

CRCC's Rural Services Manager, Nikki Mills, who administers the scheme would like to see as many parishes as possible benefit from this small grant scheme before the current funding ceases on the 31st March and urges all Parish Councils and community groups who have completed Parish Plans to look at their plan and see if there is a small project that could be moved forward or implemented over the next few months.

Further information on the grant is available from: **Nikki Mills at Cornwall Rural Community Council** by calling **01872 270206** or by emailing **nikki.mills@cornwallrcc.co.uk**.

Details are also available on CRCC's website: http://www.cornwallrcc.co.uk/community_planning_project_grant.html

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DAY

'Social Enterprise in Cornwall' has been launched on 15 November – Social Enterprise Day - as part of National Enterprise Week 2007 (12-18 November 2007). Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, officially launched the new guide at Blisland Community Post Office and Store at 10:30am itself an established social enterprise.

New Guide to Social Enterprise is published by Cornwall Rural Community Council



'Social Enterprise in Cornwall' commissioned by the Cornwall Rural Community Council, written by Steve Angove and designed by Cornish World Media aims to offer practical advice to organisations wishing to set up social enterprises. The guide also includes a series of case studies of successful social enterprises in Cornwall. Such businesses range from Falmouth Green Centre with a handful of dedicated volunteers to the Eden Project with over 500 staff. There is growing interest across Cornwall to develop social enterprises – businesses that trade primarily for a social purpose. This trend is being driven by the need to fill gaps in local services, concerns about the environment, consumer demand for ethical trade and the need to create sustainable communities. Cornwall Rural Community Council provides a bespoke business support service for social enterprises with a particular focus on rural communities.

Who? Key strategic partners and representatives from social enterprises in Cornwall, including Eden Project, Rezolve, Aquamacs, Calstock Development Trust, Falmouth Green Centre and Pensilva Health and Fitness Centre joined Lady Mary to officially launch the publication at Blisland Store and Post Office on 15th November 2007.

Bob Northey, Community Enterprise officer says 'Social Enterprise in Cornwall' couldn't have come at a better time. The new guide reflects much of the success of community enterprise over the past five years and offers rural communities considering setting up a social enterprise some excellent advice. The guide is offered as a toolkit for groups seeking support and made available to the wider voluntary and community sector and all relevant public sector organisations.

This attractive publication will be used to promote better awareness of social enterprise among rural communities in Cornwall and is [available either on-line www.cornwallrcc.co.uk/community_enterprise.html](http://www.cornwallrcc.co.uk/community_enterprise.html) or by contacting **Bob Northey: email: bob.northey@cornwallrcc.co.uk**

New Council for Cornwall

The Government has confirmed that there will be a new single council for Cornwall. This will mean the biggest change in local government in Cornwall for more than 30 years. It creates an opportunity for everyone to benefit from savings of more than £17 million a year, local communities having more say in decision making, strong leadership and excellent, customer-focused, cost effective services.

In practical terms it means that from April 2009 the services you currently receive from the District, Borough and County Councils will be delivered by a new single council.

A unified council for Cornwall will cover the whole of Cornwall. It will take the very best elements from the six existing District and Borough Councils (Caradon, Carrick, Kerrier, North Cornwall, Penwith and Restormel) and Cornwall County Council to create a streamlined and more efficient council.

So what will the new council look like?

From April 2009 everyone in Cornwall will continue to receive the same or a higher standard of services - they will simply be provided by a different authority. All public services will be delivered by one organisation – recycling, council tax and planning consents, social care, highway concerns, and school enquiries will be the responsibility of the new council. It is important that during the transition from the current system to the new unified structure, council services are not disrupted.

One of the misconceptions is that the council will just be based in Truro. This isn't true; there will be area offices across Cornwall to ensure the new council continues providing the services the seven councils did.

Finding information and making enquiries will become easier for you. 'One Stop Shops' will be introduced across the County. You will be able to walk in and get information, advice and guidance, and meet council staff and councillors face to face. A



telephone contact centre and website will ensure your enquiry is dealt with quickly and efficiently.

In your area local representatives of the new Council, Town and Parish Councils, the police, health, community groups and others will come together in Community Networks. Community Network areas are planned to cover the county. Open meetings will give local people the opportunity to express their views and suggest new ideas and solutions for their communities.

Local democracy is vitally important. Your local councillor will continue to be the person who represents your area and who helps make key political decisions about what happens, not only in your area but across Cornwall. Your councillor is part of the team who help to shape our communities.

There is concern about the number of councillors and the Committee of Members from all seven councils, who are overseeing the transition, have agreed to investigate that the number should be increased to around 100 if possible. Work is now underway to achieve this. The Government and the Boundary Committee have been called upon to carry out a review enabling this to be in place for the start of the new authority in 2009. Elections for the new council are expected in May 2009.

The new council is committed to working closely with the town and parish councils in Cornwall. It recognises the role of the 2,300 Parish and Town Councillors in Cornwall who play a valuable role in their communities. Over the next few months we will be investigating how the new council can work more closely in partnership with parish and town councils to provide better more local services.

"We want to create an organisation that delivers strong leadership, a strong voice for local communities and excellent, responsive, cost-effective services" said Councillor Janey Comber, Member of the Interim Joint Committee.

The benefits a new single Council could bring Cornwall can be clearly seen

in the experience of East Riding of Yorkshire. A largely rural area north of the Humber Estuary that includes towns such as Goole, Beverly and Driffield, it has a population of around 320,000 and is the largest unitary authority in England by area. East Riding of Yorkshire Council became an authority on 1 April 1996.

"Local government in East Riding has been totally transformed over the last eleven years" said Councillor Jonathan Owen, Deputy Leader of the Council "In 1996 the Council was seen as remote and inaccessible – now our residents find it very easy to contact us with 14 Customer Service Centres, 19 CitizenLinks, Citizenlink on 3 mobile libraries and a unique website which delivers personalised information based on postcodes. The combined customer service network manages more than 80,000 enquiries per month, with about 51% of residents having face to face contact and more than 220,000 residents being within 5 minutes of a customer service assess point".

The programme to transform the face of public services in Cornwall has begun.

An Implementation Executive has been given the task of leading the development of the new council. It is made up of 12 Cornwall County Council and 12 District and Borough councillors, representing all seven councils. Alongside this team of councillors is a team of staff drawn from all seven councils; The One Cornwall Implementation Team.

There will be similar changes in four other counties in England. The way in which each council will make the transition will vary. The proposals for Cornwall are the most ambitious and most radical, giving much more emphasis to community involvement. The transformation of local government in Cornwall is being keenly monitored by Government as a potential model for changes in other areas.

To find out more about the new council for Cornwall please contact:

Email: onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk

Phone: 01872 322000

Post: One Cornwall Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY

Web: www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk

The Village Hall Seminars

Cornwall Rural Community Council is pleased to announce that, in partnership with local experts and consultants, the Village Hall Seminars will provide the latest information on a range of issues as suggested by village hall committees.

The topics to be covered will include how to reduce the running costs of your hall, attracting new volunteers, understanding and minimising risk of liability, how to attract funding, how to make your hall as accessible as possible, and ensuring your hall is up to date with legislative requirements. Where relevant this will consist of practical sessions with a tour around the venue to help you get the most from the event. In addition a range of information regarding local and national funding sources, specific insurance providers to rural community halls, and a diverse range of guidance about the operation and legal obligations of community halls will be available.

These seminars will be relevant to any member of a village hall committee, or the members of any other committee responsible for the management of a community hall e.g. church or chapel halls, WI halls etc.

Seminars are organised across Cornwall for:

February: 15th, 22nd, 27th and 28th;

March: 4th and 7th

and will commence at 9:30am finishing with lunch at 1:00pm.

Should you have any questions or would like to reserve a place, please contact me, Jon Teague, Community Buildings Officer on 01872 273952. Alternatively, my e-mail address is jon.teague@cornwallrcc.co.uk.

Diary Date Reminders!

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| This month! | Return Your Parish Plan Impact Surveys | see page 2 |
| 26th February, 4th and 7th March | Themed Interlink Meetings | see page 3 (*) |
| 15th, 22nd, 27th and 28th February & 4th and 7th March | Village Hall Seminars | see article above (*) |
| 10th April | Empowering the Voluntary Sector | see page 4 (*) |

*** Remember to check whether places are still available and book up!**