



# Community Planning E-Newsletter



**cornwall rural community council**

**www.cornwallrcc.co.uk**

**issue 3 summer (Aug 2008)**

We hope you find this issue of our newsletter helpful as we try to keep you up to date with recent developments and sources of help and information.

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## **New Funding for Community Groups in Cornwall - Grassroots Grants**

This is a new source of funding aimed at Cornish grassroots community & voluntary groups for specific projects. The eligibility criteria are quite broad with few restrictions on the types of projects the funding will support, although any group wishing to apply must have a turnover of less than £20,000 p.a. and must have been in existence for one year or more.

The fund was recently launched by the Cornwall Community Foundation charity and applications will be assessed by regular panel meetings.

There are two types of application form – one for grants above £900 and one for grants less than £900. Only applications completed on the correct form will be considered. The grant guidelines and application forms are downloadable from the Cornwall Community Foundation website:

[www.cornwallfoundation.com](http://www.cornwallfoundation.com) where you will also find dates for future panel meetings.

If you have any queries please contact the Foundation's grants team; Kirsty Martyn, Grants Coordinator or Donna Martyn, Grants Administrator on 01566 779333

## **More New Funding...Cornwall 100.**

Another fund also launched by Cornwall Community Foundation. Grants are aimed at small, community & voluntary groups throughout the county for projects which address any number of 7 themes – transport, poverty & crisis, older people, communities & local environment, young people, the disabled and minority groups e.g. migrant workers and travellers.

Awards will typically range from £500 to £5,000. There will be 2 panel meetings (the first with a fast approaching deadline of 26th August) to consider applications.

To obtain an application form and guidelines contact the Cornwall Community Foundation on 01566 779333 or visit their website: [www.cornwallfoundation.com](http://www.cornwallfoundation.com).

**Contact the Community Planning Team:**

**Tel 01209 614950 Email [sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk](mailto:sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk)**

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

## Community-Led Plans

Of late, there has been a move away from the term parish plans to the more generic term, Community-Led Plans. The reason for this is that it allows us to refer to other types of plan that have followed a similar process e.g. town plans.

However, whether we talk of Parish Plans or Community-Led Plans they still have the same function and importance; and their production allows communities to put across their viewpoint and aims. As we move towards the new Cornwall Council and the proposed Community Network Areas, these plans will provide a clear indication of local needs and views.

Please remember to pass on information in this newsletter to any local groups who may be interested. If a group or individual in your area wish to receive this e-newsletter direct, please ask them to forward their email details to:  
tracey.edwards@cornwallrcc.co.uk



This Newsletter is designed and produced by Cornwall Rural Community Council's Community Planning Team based at the Camborne office: 14 Chapel Street, Camborne, TR14 8ED.

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## Funding Success for Parish Plan Projects

In May of this year the CRCC were successful in securing additional funds through the Cornwall Local Area Agreement to issue as grants to groups implementing community plan projects. Twelve Community Engagement grants were awarded in July totalling £9,500 to community groups and Parish & Town Councils. The aim of the grant scheme was to support the implementation of projects identified within local parish or community plans and to raise levels of community engagement and interaction. A range of projects were supported including parish information boards, community websites, improvements to community buildings, an employment fair and a young people led community engagement project.

The Community Engagement Grant scheme replaced the Community Planning Project Grant, which unfortunately ceased at the end of March due to increased pressures on funding support for the voluntary and community sector. During the eighteen months the scheme was operational 30 grants were issued to support the implementation of projects or actions identified within community plans. Later in the year the CRCC plans to publish some case studies of completed projects on its website and will also use the success of both schemes to lobby for further funding to be made available to support the implementation of community plans.

## Planning Aid - Help with Understanding the Planning System

Planning Aid is a government funded service that provides free and independent professional town planning advice and support to communities and individuals who can't

afford the fees of a private planning consultant.

The service provides help in two distinct areas:-

- Planning Advisors give general planning advice and advice upon specific planning cases; and,
- Community Planners help to widen engagement in the planning process. Besides permanent staff, Planning Aid is supported by a network of volunteers, who provide assistance in both the above key areas.

Planning can be a bewildering and complex discipline. Not surprisingly, many people find the planning system difficult to understand and feel they are unable to influence the planning decisions that are made around them. Yet, these decisions have a vast impact. Community Planners seek to remove some of the mystique surrounding planning. They seek to achieve this by training groups and individuals on the basics of the planning system, and providing guidance on how to interact with it. With such skills and knowledge, groups can then go on to present their own community's views, and actively participate in the planning system.

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**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 as appropriate.**



During the course of their work CRCC staff often face questions from Parish/Town Councils and community groups about what the changes to local authority will mean to them and the projects that we are helping them with.

Naturally, there is much interest as the changeover (April 2009) approaches. The development of the new Cornwall Council's services is continually evolving as more detail is added to the plans and decisions are ratified.

The One Cornwall Team have, of course, been holding events to encourage debate and feedback on various aspects of their proposals. However, there is also the opportunity to access information from their website [www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk), so if you want to know more about the Community Area Network coverage; or as a Parish/Town Council want to read and comment on the Localism Charter, there is still the opportunity to do so. You can also find out about other developments such as participatory budgeting, keep aware of general progress, or find out who to contact with your comments on specific topics. Well worth a look!

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## Consultation: 10 Tips on Questionnaires

Whether you are undertaking a Plan or updating it; or carrying out a questionnaire consultation for a specific project there are a number of things to consider. Listed below are 10 tips to help you. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of the do's and don'ts but some suggestions that might help you on your way!

1. Make use of those questionnaires used for a similar project - but don't be afraid to incorporate questions specific to your project. Just as importantly, don't be afraid to discard questions that don't have a specific purpose. Every question in a survey needs to have a purpose - to provide key information that you need.
2. If the questionnaire is being drafted in sections by different people, make sure that the overall draft is cohesive and avoids duplication e.g. in a parish plan draft there is a risk that transport questions could appear in a transport section but also under a specific service such as health.
3. Get someone to look over the draft questionnaire and test it out - a fresh pair of eyes from someone unconnected to its production is helpful.
4. Depending on the topic, you may be able to get an external organisation to check through your questionnaire and offer feedback e.g. CRCC are happy to comment on draft questionnaires for parishes undertaking a parish/community plan but there are others who may also be able to support you.
5. At the start of the questionnaire make the purpose of it clear and realistic; and include contact details if people need help with completing it.
6. Give a reasonable time period for return (but not too long that people will forget about it) and consider offering incentives for completion.
7. Timing the questionnaire - bear in mind that holiday periods are usually busy times with family activities and those running their own businesses often putting more hours in at 'peak times'. Therefore the completion of a questionnaire may not be a priority at that time. Also, avoid clashing with other local initiatives.
8. Hand delivery (and collection if possible) by local people is visible and gives people an opportunity to talk - thus increasing responses.
9. Make sure you publicise in advance what you are doing and why. This will increase awareness and hopefully get people talking. As well as posters, newsletters etc., try and get local facilities and clubs to spread the word or involved, if helpful.
10. Ensure the questionnaire is formatted so it is 'easy on the eye' to assist with completion.

## Cornwall Calor Village Of The Year 2008

Cornwall Rural Community Council is nearing the end of the third year of running the Cornwall Calor Village of the Year. This Year, 2008, the Calor competition is co-sponsored by the Western Morning News.

The judges have now completed their judging. The following villages were visited by the judges following the shortlisting exercise: Coverack; Kingsand/Caswand; St Day; Week St Mary; and Wilcove. The winner of the 2008 Village of the Year will be announced on the afternoon of Friday 29 August 2008, and will have the opportunity of proceeding to the West of England heats and, if successful in that, could go on to the national competition, with the opportunity to win a cash prize.

Previous winners of the Cornwall Village of the Year competition have included Constantine (2006) and Grampound (2007).

## The Winner of Cornwall Calor Village Of The Year 2007 - Read about Grampound's experience and why they entered.....

"Three years ago when the Parish Council was sent an invitation to enter the "Best Village" competition, the reaction was a sigh of universal resignation. We had entered this for years and never got anywhere, no one is really interested and being on a busy main road was a real downer.

Further reading of the invitation revealed that this was not about the "Best Kept Village", the competition at which we had so significantly failed over the years, but the best village community – quite different.

The Parish Council decided to give it go, and set me, a relative newcomer to both the village and the Parish Council the task of completing the entry form. With the help of several others this was done and proved a steep learning curve about what actually does go on in a small village such as ours.

Interest heightened as the day for the visit of the judges approached; although it would be true to say that at that stage interest was confined to a relative few in the village.

To our amazed delight and surprise we came second. The feedback from the judges as to why we didn't actually win was most helpful. In particular they felt that our provision for our older residents in the form of social activities was poor. As a result the Tuesday Club meeting every other Tuesday for the over 50s was formed. It is now a thriving part of our community.

The positive aspect of this competition has been that each time we have completed the entry forms, we have to think about what the village could do to improve, this was particularly so with regard to our environment. This has led to improvements in our footpaths, and "Transition Grampound" but most excitingly, an improvement in the appearance of the village. It would also be true to say that each day of judging has been more impressive in its picture of a vibrant village..

Winning in Cornwall last year and going on to the South West Region has resulted in more and more villagers taking part. On the day of judging for the National Final, (yes, we won in the S.W. region) litter disappeared, the main street was swept, twice, people painted their houses and put out flowers and window boxes – it resulted in something the Best Kept Village had never really achieved, a desire to impress the judges with the appearance of the village. The Village Hall was so full of exhibits, stalls and people it was difficult to see the actual judges.

What else have we achieved? An awareness of just how many businesses we have in the village, yet another club this time for the younger age group and most important, a greater pride in our village. Finally but not least important the financial gain for winning the South West Region stage.

It was well worth entering, we are now awaiting the result for the English Final, we don't hear until December 2nd. What ever the result the competition has been good for the village and could be for any village, why not try?"

Joan Sloan, Parish Councillor.