



Community Planning E-Newsletter



cornwall rural community council

www.cornwallrcc.co.uk

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CRCC - New Website, New Look!

The CRCC has recently been re-branded and as part of this we not only gained a colourful new logo but our website has also undergone a face-lift! However, this is not just about updating our image but about publicising and reflecting the services we provide and making sure these are known about, and easily accessible. Our services have expanded over the years and the 5 different colours in the logo banner are intended to represent the 5 main areas that we work in: voluntary sector support, inclusion work, carers' support, community development, and mental health services. In terms of the website, we hope you find this easier to navigate around - particularly as all our services are now contained on it - previously some of our projects had separate websites. We hope the improved website will provide a simpler way for you to access information and resources about our services. Why not take a look it:

www.cornwallrcc.co.uk

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Interested in knowing what parishes or towns have undertaken, or, are in the process of undertaking, a community plan?

Then take a look at our [Map](#). Please note that the map was up-dated at the beginning of the year.

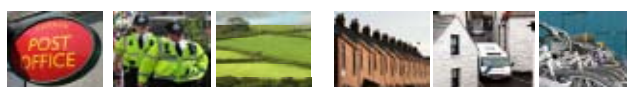


Community Planning Themes

There are lots of topics and themes that a group may wish to consider including in a community plan consultation exercise. The slide, shown on the right, is not an exhaustive list but may give you some ideas to help start you off as you consider what best suits your purposes. Many of the themes can of course be broken down e.g. environment may include: natural; built; energy; waste management/ recycling etc.

Theme Ideas.

Environment Housing Community Safety
 Transport & Access Health Governance
 Recreation & Leisure Community Facilities
 Business Education Shops & Services
 Older Residents Young People Children



Contact the Community Planning Team:

Tel 01209 614950 Email communityplanning@cornwallrcc.co.uk

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

CRCC - Our Community Planning Database

As mentioned in an earlier e-newsletter, here at the CRCC we have been continuing to work on our community plans database - which contains actions from all those parish and town plans that we have received. To date, there are over 80 plans in the database, which represents over 100 parishes (some plans covering more than one area).

The database was created for the CRCC to use as a tool to promote community planning as well as the views and/or concerns of communities to strategic bodies.

It is intended that the database will give a county-wide perspective on issues that arise, but also an overview of issues in specific Community Network Areas. As an organisation we are starting to use the database to illustrate the value of the community consultation that has taken place and the data that arises from this. We are engaging with partner organisations to establish how this information can feed into their work plans and strategies. Information from the database has also been provided to CRCC's LINK project, to assist them in their work that relates to informing, developing and improving local health and social care services.



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.

Cornwall Rural Community Council
(registered as Cornwall Community Development Ltd.)
Charity no: 1087550
Company no: 4144745
VAT no: 557448996
Main Office: 2 Princes Street, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2ES
Telephone: 01872 273952
Fax: 01872 241511
www.cornwallrcc.co.uk

Implementing Community Plan Projects?

....then you may be interested in these **funding opportunities**

The People's Millions

People's Millions gives people a real say in how lottery money is spent in local communities throughout the UK. Projects in Cornwall were extremely successful in last years programme. 3 out of the 5 awards made went to projects based within the county including Camborne Town Band, St Merryn Community Gardens and the RE:SOURCE project based in Bodmin.

People's Millions will fund 69 projects across the UK with grants of up to £50,000. The competition is seeking applications from voluntary and community groups; local authorities; schools; statutory health bodies; and social enterprises for projects that help people to transform or enjoy their environment or communities. The deadline for applications is the 15th May 2009.

Priority will be given to projects that also get people involved in their local community; help people in the community who are most in need; and are original and imaginative. Up to four awards (3 winners plus 1 bonus award) will be available in the Westcountry region. More details are available on the [Big Lottery website](#).

Grassroots

Grants for the benefit of small voluntary & community groups who are volunteer led and work in the community. Grants range from £250 - £5000. Grassroots Grants can be used to fund a wide range of activities including; the purchase of equipment, the costs of putting on a local event or workshop; staff costs; rent costs; the cost of attending a conference or event; training for volunteers; additional activities to expand an existing funded project; activities that support the local community; funding to support an organisation to achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities. For more information and details of the next grant panel and deadline visit the [Cornwall Community Foundation website](#).

To be eligible to apply for Grassroots Grants funding, groups or organisations applying must be a not-for profit, voluntary or community group, active in your local community for at least 12 months; have an income of less than £30,000 a year, taken as an average over the last 3 financial years (or over the life of the group if it is less than 3 years old); be volunteer led; and be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community.

BT Community Connections

British Telecom has announced that their 2009 Community Connections Awards is now open for applications. The scheme targets community and voluntary groups that could benefit from internet access and ICT but don't necessarily have the resources.

Through the scheme, community groups can apply for the award's package that consists of a multi-media internet-ready computer; a contribution towards one year's broadband internet access through BT Total Broadband; and a Community website. The package is valued at £1,300. For further details go to the [BT webpages here](#).

Since the launch of the awards, it is estimated that Community Connections has enabled over 5,000 groups to get online including silver surfers, playgroups, out of school clubs, pre-schools, cultural groups, local environmental initiatives and youth sports organisations. The next closing date for applications is the 9th June for postal applications and the 11th June for on-line applications.

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.



The Tanner Trust

Cornwall Calor Village Of The Year 2009

Cornwall Rural Community Council (CRCC) is looking for villages with a population of less than 5,000 to enter the Cornwall Village of the Year Competition 2009. Any village which has a strong sense of community spirit is encouraged to enter. Entries are invited from any organisation within a village. Entry forms must be received by 29th May, 2009.

So Why is this Competition So Different? This competition is about what makes a community tick, how they create a real sense of belonging, what gives a community that elusive vibrancy?

What do the Entrants Get Out of It? Villages reap real benefits from working together, creating a genuine sense of community spirit. By entering the competition villages have gained in a number of ways - improved morale, creating greater awareness and community cohesion, and stimulated project development. This year there will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize monies of £250, £150 and £100 respectively to go towards a project within the villages.

What's Involved: Entrants initially have to complete an entry form, and shortlisted villages receive a visit from our judges. The CRCC organises the competition on behalf of Calor, with support from the Cornwall Community Foundation and the Tanner Trust.

For more information or an entry form contact Sharon Davey, tel: 01209 614950 email: sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk.

Community Planning Case Studies

Towards the end of 2008, SWAN the regional body for Rural Community Councils across the Southwest asked each of its 7 member RCCs to do two case studies on parishes that had undertaken a community plan. This exercise was also undertaken in the other regions across England. In Cornwall, South Petherwin and Grampound-with-Creed kindly agreed to assist CRCC in putting together the necessary information and it proved to be an interesting and enlightening exercise. The case studies outlined the process that the groups had gone through, and some of the achievements, benefits and projects from this. To view case studies from across the country go to:

www.acre.org.uk/communityledplanning_casestudies.html

As environmental issues and green spaces often gets a mention in parish plans, this article by Peter Burton of CRCC, on churchyards as an environmental resource could prove interesting to many of you...

Your Churchyard as an Environmental Community Resource

With urbanisation eating up our countryside at an alarming rate, many people are worried of the loss of wildlife habitats and of the plants and animals that inhabit them. However, many communities have, in their local churchyard, a potential miniature nature reserve right on their doorstep.

There are many elements of an ancient churchyard that provide different habitats. Ferns, mosses and a variety of flowering plants cover the granite or slate hedges and small mammals and lizards – and the insects they feed on - take refuge in the spaces between the stones. A variety of shrubs and trees provide shelter and nesting sites for birds as well as useful shade in the summer months. The bell towers of churches are well known as homes for owls and bats.

With careful management, the value of these churchyards to wildlife can be considerable. They are also valuable to the local community itself, both as a place of tranquillity and as something people can get involved in through the Cornwall's Living Churchyards Project. With permission, schools can use churchyards as an educational resource and the creation of a local management group can help strengthen local community cohesion. The Cornwall's Living Churchyards Project is a joint initiative between Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Truro, to get involved or for more information contact Robert Moor on (01872) 272929. Article by Peter Burton, CRCC

Bigger Better Faster As Big Awards For All Opens

A BIG new-look Awards for All programme has been launched this week for England and Wales. The Awards for All programme will be the Fund's biggest-ever commitment to a small grant scheme supporting community projects, offering a more easily accessible programme with even quicker decision times. A total of £45 million is available in England offering Big Lottery Fund grants of between £300-£10,000 to grassroots groups including parish and town councils, community and voluntary sector, etc. The programme aims to make a difference to communities and the lives of those most in need and will focus on environmental and social projects that benefit local communities.

Application forms are available from www.awardsforall.org.uk or phone 0845 4 10 20 30 for all enquiries.

Quick Guide to Community Planning.....

1. Deciding to do consultation and doing the groundwork - Make sure that those that need to be are on-board e.g. in the case of a parish-wide plan ensure that the parish council and the community want to proceed, and will work together. A working group to take this forward can then be set up. Funding the plan will need to be considered at this early stage.
2. Consultation - Do the consultation in the best way for the area and, if needed, seek advice as to options. Often the traditional questionnaire is a really effective way of consulting, but this can be complemented (or replaced) by other methods suiting a particular target group or geographical area. For instance, if some of the consultation is about children's facilities think about how you might involve children eg. through art/writing a story, working with the school. Young people may wish to make use of media (eg. digital cameras, video diaries) or they may come up with other alternative formats. Try and involve as many people in the consultation as possible, and if necessary go to them e.g. lunch clubs, sports/activity clubs, businesses, schools etc. to try and engage with as many people as possible and to publicise what you are doing and why. You might also be able to link your consultation exercise to something else that is happening in your area.
3. Feedback and Prioritisation - Having done the consultation, you will have lots of data (the extent of which will depend on the method used) and it is then necessary to collate and sort the data. You may wish to group by theme but you can also consider sub-groups e.g. type of project (those that require funding; those that can be undertaken locally etc). At this stage it is useful to feedback the results to the residents and ask them to prioritise, or at least comment on the data. It is important to keep residents informed of what's happening. At this stage you should also be thinking about involving potential partners and key organisations - letting them know what you are doing and how you hope to work with them. Don't forget to involve local groups/organisations, as well as statutory agencies etc.
4. Writing the Plan - Having consulted, fed-back and prioritised you can now start to put together your Plan. This sets out your statement of how you see the parish in the next 5 years or so (some plans are longer), and how you hope to achieve the aims that have been highlighted. The Plan can include a range of information but as a minimum you should include core information e.g. the process, relevant results/charts/comments, and state the actions that are going to be instigated. The Plan may include a range of information but some points to consider are:
 - The content should reflect the views that you have gained;
 - You should keep talking to key partners to forge a 'working-relationship' and to ensure they know what is happening.
 - You should also make sure that you consult on the draft plan, before you print and distribute.
 - The main plan is usually distributed to key partners and organisations (but tell them why you have sent it to them and what help/input you would like from them) plus copies for local use and viewing.
 - Additionally, you may decide to produce a summary leaflet or newsletter for the community - to keep them up-to-date.

MONEY MATTERS

Please note that the Money Matters update will soon be available on the Cornwall Rural Community Council's website - see front page for the website link!



Community Network Areas - Cornwall Council

With the creation of the new Cornwall Council, we also have the introduction of Community Network Areas (CNAs), and your area (parish/town) will be included in one of the 19 networks. For details of the network areas and the relevant community network manager view the:

[CNA webpage](#).

Localism & Communities - Article Provided by Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council will work with town and parish councils to make Cornwall a better place to live

Cornwall Council wants to put the residents of Cornwall at the heart of everything we do, and make a council and county everyone can be proud of. The name for this new approach is 'localism'.

Mary Cooper, Head of Cornwall Council's Localism service, said "By giving communities the opportunity to have a say about how we deliver local public services and involving local town and parish councils more, we hope we can make our towns and villages better places to live".

Mary explains "I use the four I's to explain how localism can make people more:

- Informed about the delivery of public services.
- Interested in having more say in how these services are delivered to meet local needs.
- Involved in improving local services in the for example by joining residents associations or other voluntary organisations, or by becoming a local councillor or school governor.
- Influential by taking the lead in representing the views of their community and proposing solutions".

There aren't any new resources or more money to use; it's about making better use of the resources available. It's about everyone working together, to address the issues that are important to people where you live.

We want to open new areas for discussion and engagement with the community. We want to build trust by listening more and giving realistic responses; and we want to provide a more consistent approach in our responses and dealings. There isn't a quick solution to achieving everything and our long term plans for improving our services and making them more work better locally will develop over time.

We know that we can't solve all the issues that communities face on our own and will work with our elected members, local councils and other key partners such as the police and the local primary care trust to co-ordinate our activities. We will do this through our 19 new community networks which will bring together panels led by selected unitary council members. The panels will include representatives from town and parish councils, local and voluntary organisations, and other service providers like the police and health authorities. The panels will define and agree common, realistic objectives and targets that will satisfy strategic and local aspirations. We have nine community network managers in place who are already beginning to strengthen our relationships with towns and parish councils; and we hope to appoint four more managers soon. The managers will act as brokers between the panels and service providers to pool resources productively and turn the panels' targets into real outcomes.

Community networks are fundamental in giving communities a stronger voice and helping them to deal with complex issues. They will engage a panel of representatives from the community, voluntary organisations and public services. Cornwall Council recognises that because every area is different we need support from local communities to deliver services effectively.

Some of the issues that community networks could be dealing with include anti-social behaviour, economic development, the environment, community planning, regeneration, conservation, community safety and transport issues. Alongside this, town and parish councils will also be able to take on a variety of levels of responsibility for some local services, such as street cleaning, grass cutting, weed control or the maintenance of public conveniences.

The new 123 Unitary Members will constitute the 'front line' of the new council and will be a pivotal link between the council and the people of Cornwall. We will support them by holding surgeries in their areas and they will have a small delegated budget – a community chest – for projects to make local improvements. One of the main responsibilities of a members role in localism will be to help community networks work with local groups to prepare and implement local action plans, and to help co-ordinate community development. They will also monitor and be accountable for council service delivery and performance locally.

Members of the public will be able to have day to day contact with the council through our 22 customer information one stop shops and payment kiosks. Most of them will be open on 1 April 2009, with the others opening soon afterwards. Our out and about service will take the facilities available in the one stop shops to more isolated areas.

People can also contact the council by phone, email and on-line at www.cornwall.gov.uk

Actions relating to community buildings and the facilities/activities provided in these, are an important resource frequently highlighted in community plans. We hope that the following information may be of assistance to you.



Community Buildings Resource Pack

There are a number of issues which affect most, if not all, management committees responsible for village halls and community centres. To help provide a quick response to enquiries CRCC has developed a range of summary sheets relating to the more common issues. They aim to give you a brief overview of the topic and sources of further information. Topics currently covered include Project Development and Funding, Environmental Sustainability, Disability Access and Awareness, Governance, Fire Safety & Risk Assessment and Licensing. Please visit our website at www.cornwallrcc.co.uk/community_buildings.html to download a topic or contact Jon Teague on 01872 243551 to request a hard copy.

Make your hall sustainable

A day of support and advice to help you keep your hall vibrant and sustainable during these financially difficult times.

13th May 2009 9.30am - 3.30pm at Blisland Village Hall

The following topics will be covered:

- Fit for Funding - Anna Hoyle, ECCVS, explains how to be eligible for funding
- Reducing costs - Tips and advice to run your community building for less
- Awards for All - Big Lottery presents the new programme
- The value of networking - How the Caradon Community Halls Network members benefited by working together
- Energy micro generation - Community Energy Plus shows how to power your hall with renewable energy (to be confirmed)

Attend to receive your free copies of:

- CRCC's 'Community Buildings Resource Pack'
- Information for management committees
- CIPs 'Survive the Recession'
- Support for voluntary and community organisations

For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Jon Teague:

**Tel: 01872 243551 E-mail: jon.teague@cornwallrcc.co.uk
or by post: CRCC, 2 Princes Street, TRURO TR1 2ES**

This is a partnership event from Cornwall Rural Community Council and East Cornwall CVS

