



## Community Safety



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## The Getting Connected Partnership

The Getting Connected Partnership is a multi-disciplinary group consisting of representatives from statutory and community/voluntary sector organisations with a remit or responsibility for the delivery of community planning. The partnership specifically focuses on community planning issues and sharing best practice work methods to empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision-making and the delivery of services.

Core members of the group include:

- Caradon District Council
- Carrick District Council
- Cornwall Association of Local Councils
- Cornwall County Council
- Cornwall Rural Community Council
- East Cornwall Council for Voluntary Service
- Kerrier District Council
- North Cornwall District Council
- Penwith Community Development Trust
- Penwith District Council
- Restormel Borough Council

The group also has a number of affiliated members which include Government Office for the South West, Market & Coastal Towns Association, Planning Aid, Interlink and Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership.

**Please Note:** For ease, the term Parish Plan will be used throughout this booklet to mean Parish, Town or Community Plans.

# Introduction

## This Booklet

This booklet is one in a series, produced by Cornwall Rural Community Council on behalf of the Getting Connected Partnership, that give information to help community groups create a Community/Parish Plan. This particular booklet focuses on the issues surrounding community safety. The booklet should be used in conjunction with the 'Creating a Parish, Town or Community Plan' booklet (GC001), which gives information on the Parish Plan process. For further information, please contact Cornwall Rural Community Council (details on page 11).

## Community Safety

Community Safety can be defined as an aspect of 'quality of life' in which people, individually and collectively, are protected as far as possible from hazards or threats that result from the criminal or anti-social behaviour of others, and are equipped or helped to cope with those they do experience (Community Safety Advisory Service, 2006). This booklet focuses on issues regarding community safety that need to be considered when undertaking a Parish Plan. It includes information on issues to consider, advice on which aspects to focus on, examples of questions that could be included in a questionnaire and important information regarding sustainability. A glossary of terms, organisations and initiatives is also provided, along with a list of contacts and information sources that may be of use both during and after the creation of a Parish Plan.



## Issues To Consider

There are a number of community safety issues that need to be considered when beginning work on a Parish Plan -

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Would residents be interested in setting up/further developing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

### **Neighbourhood Beat Manager**

Do you know who your Neighbourhood Beat Manager is?

### **Community Safety Co-ordinators**

Do you know who your district council Community Safety Co-ordinator is?

### **Issues In The Area**

What are the key crime and disorder issues in the community?

### **Emergencies**

How would you go about contacting the police in an emergency?

### **Non Emergencies**

How would you contact the police for a non-emergency?



### **Perceptions**

Is the perception of crime in the parish higher than the actual figures?

### **Fire Safety**

Would members of the community be interested in fire safety training?

### **Crime Hotspots**

Are there particular crime 'hotspots' in the Parish?



## Key Considerations

Below are some of the key considerations that you will need to think about and discuss throughout the consultation process. There will, of course, be other issues that will become apparent, that will also need consideration as you progress with any projects.



### Working in partnership

As with other issues that are highlighted in Parish Plans, crime and safety issues are usually best solved by adopting a partnership approach. Parish Plan groups should seek to involve local Police Officers, Neighbourhood Beat Managers and Neighbourhood Watch representatives in the consultation process. Groups should also contact the Community Safety Officer at the district/borough council for further advice and useful contacts. Many of the crime and safety issues raised in Parish Plans throughout Cornwall tend to involve issues such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism and petty crime. Such issues may be tackled most effectively by the community working in partnership on 'self-help' initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.



### Accessing statistics

There are a number of different sources of information on crime statistics. A good starting point is the Devon and Cornwall Police website ([www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)). See also the Further Information section.



### Accessibility

Many issues regarding accessibility also have a community safety aspect that needs to be considered. For example, if looking to locate a bus stop it may be necessary to ensure that the location is overlooked and well lit to ensure people waiting for a bus after dark feel safe. Similarly there is a need to ensure that there are well defined routes, spaces and entrances to housing, shops and community facilities etc. that enable residents to travel safely around the parish on foot. Road safety, including speeding and dangerous driving, is also an issue to consider when producing a Parish Plan. For more information see the 'Better Access' booklet (GC003).



## Environment

Ensuring that both the built and natural environment are well looked after and respected are key issues to feature in Parish Plans. Promoting a sense of ownership, respect, territorial responsibility and community, is key to promoting a safe and well looked after environment. Facilities/places need to be structured to enable different uses without causing conflict. Early consultation with stakeholders is therefore of key importance. Publicly accessible spaces (eg. a children's playground) should be overlooked to help reduce risk of crime and vandalism. Issues regarding security cameras in public places may also be applicable to your parish. Provision of necessary, well-designed security features can also help ensure a place/project is safe.

Level of human activity in an area is also another factor for consideration when looking at sites for facilities etc. and should be appropriate to the location and create a reduced risk of crime and a sense of safety. Evidence suggests that improving lighting levels reduces crime and the fear of crime. Surveying the local area at night to identify dark streets and alleys and undertake lighting level surveys could therefore be a useful exercise. Areas and facilities within a parish also need to be designed with management and maintenance in mind and in a way that will help discourage crime.



## Older People

Although older people are less likely to become victims of crime than younger people, the fear of crime can have an adverse effect on their health and well-being. Fear may lead to isolation and self-restriction, and prevent older people from living active and fulfilling lives, and engaging with their local communities. The manner in which the media report crimes against older people may reinforce older people's negative self-perception of vulnerability and risk, and increase fears. It is important that older people's fears and concerns about crimes are addressed in the Plan.



## Children & Young People

Young people's safety considerations should also be taken into account, including providing safe places for young people to congregate, ensuring that they can access facilities safely and feel safe when in the parish. One of the

biggest problems affecting communities in Cornwall is anti-social behaviour. Such thoughtless and inconsiderate activity, which is sometimes linked with youth issues, has the potential to disrupt community life. Investigation into ways to help tackle such behaviour could be included within the Parish Plan consultation.



## **Sustainability**

Sustainability needs to underpin any actions suggested within the Plan. The concept of sustainability encompasses: environmental, social and economic issues, and is often defined as ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. Ensuring that residents feel safe and secure in their neighbourhood is a key step towards developing a ‘sustainable community’.



## Consultation



## Community Planning Events

If you are holding a Community Planning Event, it is a good idea to invite along the local neighbourhood beat manager to the day, to allow residents to ask questions and voice concerns regarding community safety. Involving the local police at this stage in the consultation is also useful, as it will help ensure that they are aware of the Parish Plan development and the issues that are emerging for the consultation, and therefore should be more likely to take on board the views of the public once the Plan is complete.



## Questionnaires

If you are using a household questionnaire to consult the community it is advisable that you include a section on community safety. Below are some examples of the type of questions which have been included in other questionnaires.

- > What do you regard the police coverage of the parish to be?
- > What services would you want from your local police officer? (eg. greater visible police presence / to become more involved in local opinion forming groups, to receive more crime prevention education/advice, other)
- > Would you join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?
- > Is your Neighbourhood Watch Scheme working to its full potential? (eg. Yes happy with it / No, it needs improving / Not part of it but would like to be / Not a part of it and don't wish to be)
- > Is there a need for a good neighbour scheme in the parish?
- > How often would you be prepared to help with a good neighbour scheme? (eg. Once a week / Once a month / Occasionally / Never)
- > What are your views on the standard of the following services in our area? (Fire / Police)
- > Have you had any problems with crime in your area?
- > Do you know how to contact the community police officer?
- > Do you think there is an adequate police presence in the parish?
- > Are you worried or afraid of any of the following happening in the parish?

(eg. Drug related crime / Mugging or assault / Intimidation / Breaking-in or burglary / Careless or dangerous driving / Vehicles speeding on the roads of the parish / Bikes/Scooters etc on the pavement)

- > Have you tried to contact the police by telephone for any reason?
- > Were you satisfied or not with their response?
- > Are you in favour of CCTV being installed on the main road?

**Amethyst** - Amethyst is an information sharing system developed to map and share partnership information across Cornwall and Devon, helping identify patterns and trends and the underlying causes of crime.

**Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Community Safety Partnership** - Partnership that aims to reduce the incidence and impact of crime and disorder and the fear of crime, and to promote public reassurance in order to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The Partnership consists of: Cornwall County Council, District/Borough Councils, Council for the Isles of Scilly, Cornwall Fire Brigade, Cornwall Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Youth Offending Team, Devon & Cornwall Police, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust and Government Office South West.

**Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)** - Statutory partnerships with a duty to work with other local agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment as well as the misuse of drugs in their area.

**District/Borough Councils** - Under the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, District/Borough Councils have a statutory role with other local agencies in the promotion of community safety. The partners, including the Police and the County Council, work together on community safety issues. Councils are also required to consider the community safety implications of all aspects of its work. Some councils can provide detailed statistics on crime at Parish level which can assist in identifying issues.

**Good Neighbour Scheme** - A voluntary scheme that provides a service to those who need help and support. Good Neighbours can provide company to vulnerable/elderly people in a neighbourhood and help them with a range of tasks (eg. gardening, walking the dog, collecting pensions, going on outings, visiting the doctors or attending when workmen or officials visit.)

**Local Area Agreements (LAAs)** - Local Area Agreements are made between central and local government in a local area. Their aim is to achieve local solutions that meet local needs, while also contributing to national priorities and the achievement of standards set by central government. The block relating to Community Safety is Safer, Stronger Sustainable and the six LAA outcomes focus on key strategic priorities and measurable achievements for the next 3 years.

**Neighbourhood Beat Managers** - An officer placed in a locally designated neighbourhood, who will assist in bringing the police service and the community together in the fight against crime. Each Neighbourhood Beat Manager will have local knowledge of and a commitment to their area and this will help support the reduction of crime and disorder as well as contributing to public reassurance.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - A scheme whereby groups of householders come together under one co-ordinator, who maintains links with the local police. People are encouraged to remain vigilant and to report suspicious activities.

**Police Authority** - The Devon & Cornwall Police Authority has a total of 19 members; 10 councillors, 3 magistrates and 6 independently appointed members. It has responsibility for securing the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for the area. The Chief Constable has operational independence, but remains accountable to the Police Authority for the performance of the Force.

**Police Community Support Officer [PCSO]** - PCSOs are Police Authority-employed staff who can perform a high visibility, patrolling role providing reassurance to the communities they serve. They aim to complement the work of police officers.

**Youth Action Group** - A group involving young people, enabling and empowering them to become involved in the consultation and problem solving approach to reducing crime and the fear of crime.



## Further Information

### **Caradon District Council - Regeneration & Community Safety Officers**

Tel: 01579 341000 Email: [postroom@caradon.gov.uk](mailto:postroom@caradon.gov.uk)

Website: [www.caradon.gov.uk](http://www.caradon.gov.uk)

### **Carrick District Council - Regeneration Team**

Tel: 01872 224428 Email: [regeneration@carrick.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@carrick.gov.uk)

Website: [www.carrick.gov.uk](http://www.carrick.gov.uk)

### **Carrick District Council - Community Safety Team**

Tel: 01872 224216 Email: [communitysafety@carrick.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@carrick.gov.uk)

Website: [www.carrick.gov.uk](http://www.carrick.gov.uk)

**Crime Concern** - Website to help people in communities tackle the crime issues that affect them. Visit [www.crimeconcern.org.uk](http://www.crimeconcern.org.uk).

**Crime Reduction** - Website for practitioners, policy-makers etc. that provides guidance on good practice to which they can add new ideas and identify local solutions. Visit [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk).

### **Cornwall County Council -**

Tel: 01872 322000 Email: [enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk)

Website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

### **Cornwall County Fire Brigade -**

Email: [enquiries@fire.cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@fire.cornwall.gov.uk)

### **Devon and Cornwall Police -**

Crime Prevention Officer: 08452 777444

Neighbourhood Beat Managers: See website.

Neighbourhood Watch District Coordinator for District: Contact the Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

Website: [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

**National Statistics Website** - Website includes the results of British Crime survey. Visit [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

**Kerrier District Council - Regeneration & Community Safety Officers**

Tel: 01209 614000 Email: [customer.services@kerrier.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@kerrier.gov.uk)

Website: [www.kerrier.gov.uk](http://www.kerrier.gov.uk)

**North Cornwall District Council - Regeneration & Community Safety Officers**

Tel: 01208 893333 Website: [www.ncdc.gov.uk](http://www.ncdc.gov.uk)

**Penwith District Council - Regeneration, & Community Safety Officers**

Tel: 01736 362341 Email: [admin@penwith.gov.uk](mailto:admin@penwith.gov.uk)

Website: [www.penwith.gov.uk](http://www.penwith.gov.uk)

**Restormel Borough Council - Regeneration & Community Safety Officers**

Tel: 01726 223300 Email: [rbc@restormel.gov.uk](mailto:rbc@restormel.gov.uk)

Website: [www.restormel.gov.uk](http://www.restormel.gov.uk)

**Together** - Web resource for practitioners working to tackle anti-social behaviour across England and Wales. Information available on local contacts who can help with crime queries - [www.together.gov.uk](http://www.together.gov.uk)

**Up My Street** - Website providing information about local areas. Visit [www.upmystreet.com](http://www.upmystreet.com).

**For more information about this booklet and the other booklets available contact Cornwall Rural Community Council -**

Community Planning Team based in the Camborne office - Tel: 01209 614950  
Email: [sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk](mailto:sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk) Website: [www.cornwallinteract.org.uk](http://www.cornwallinteract.org.uk)

**Please Note:** The information in this booklet is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. While every care has been taken during the completion of this booklet, Cornwall Rural Community Council / the Getting Connected Partnership cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies. Should you notice any inaccuracies, or if you have any queries, please contact Cornwall Rural Community Council on 01209 614950 or email [sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk](mailto:sharon.davey@cornwallrcc.co.uk).





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