**MINUTES OF MINING VILLAGES REGENERATION GROUP MEETING**

**Held on 2nd May 2019 at the Mills Hall, Carharrack**

**Present:**

Angie Beckham Chacewater PC

Chris Bell St Day PC

Philip Blease Stithians PC

James Biscoe Co-opted Member of MVRG

Peter Chesworth Chacewater PC

Richard Forrest Gwennap PC

Kevin Furnish (Vice Chairman) Gwennap PC

Rob Knill (Chairman) Chacewater PC

Steve Leech Chacewater PC

Carl Martin Carharrack PC

Peter Tisdale (Treasurer) Mabe PC

Ashley Wood Lanner PC

Liz Allcorn Cornwall Council

Mark Broomhead Cornwall Council

Charlotte Caldwell Cornwall Council

Paula Wellings Cornwall Council

Louise Wood Cornwall Council

**Apologies:**

Cllr John Thomas Cornwall Council

Cllr Joyce Duffin Cornwall Council

Cllr Mark Kaczmarek Cornwall Council

Fiona Barnard Gwennap PC

John Calvert Stithians PC

**Minutes of last meeting**

Approved as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising**

1. **Rural Status Report (RSR).** RK outlined the background to the RSR. AW reported that he had submitted to Simon Mould. RK shared a Western Morning News article with the group, which emphasised CC’s renewed engagement in rural issues with other Councils across England and Wales.
2. **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).** RK reported on progress since the 22nd Jan presentation by Mark Luxton and Zoe Hall to the CPIR CNP. Mark Luxton and Mark Brader were taken on a tour of the MVRG parish hot spots on the 20th Feb. Kevin Brader has suggested introducing a draft pilot study aimed at looking at how best ASB issues (e.g. Dog Fouling, Fly-Tipping, etc.) might best be addressed. Amendments to draft Pilot study have been passed back for inclusion. 90 anti-dog fouling stickers (15 stickers per parish) have been purchased by the MVRG (cost of £72.00) for deployment as deemed necessary. **Post Meeting Note (PMN).** Another meeting was arranged with Mark, Kevin and Zoe on the 23rd May (Lanner) to discuss related issues in further detail.
3. **Churchyards Website.** RK asked for feedback on the Streamline presentation at last meeting, which suggested a complete revamping of this website and a cost of £3900.00. KF raised the question of value for money for rebuilding the website as compared to a larger hosting company such as *GoDaddy*. CC expressed concerns with regard to monitoring site data and the ability to detect robots rather than people accessing the site. The frequency with which the site will need to be revamped was also raised. **Action.** RK asked all to submit their concerns before he met Paul Mahoney (Streamline) on 15/05/19. **PMN.** RK and CB met with Streamline, who agreed to provide a more complete justification for revamping website.

**Treasurers report**

It was agreed RK, KF, AW, CM and PT will be bank account signatories and we should move ahead as speedily as we can with online banking. A new template for presenting the account at future meetings was also agreed to manage the one bank account.

**Community Link Officers Update**

CC updated as follows:

* Community Chest celebration event 2019 taking place on Wednesday 16th October from 6pm-8pm at St Stythians Church. The Day Light group will be performing and hope St Stithians band will also be performing.
* Community Chest Grants are now available. Please contact Elisabeth Allcorn (elisabeth.allcorn@cornwall.gov.uk) or Charlotte Caldwell (charlotte.caldwell@cornwall.gov.uk) for application forms/more details.
* Details were provided of Cornwall Council’s 1 day traffic management course (for managing events, etc.), costing £35 pp.
* CPIR 12th March 2019. KF gave a presentation on Illegal Use of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and the associated 4-Point Plan being developed. Cllr Ian Thomas has written to Cllr Sue James, Portfolio Holder for Environment, in support of the ‘4-Point Plan. **PMN**. Letters of support have now been received from CPIR, North Coast Cluster and T7R CNPs in support of the 4-Point Plan.
* Next CPIR CN Panel is on 15th May 2019, Pool Academy 7pm-9pm and will cover: The Adult social care service at Cornwall Council, Climate Change, the Stroke Association and Pool Academy’s Community Engagement initiatives.
* DIY SOS. 3 schemes are going to be supported in CPIR Community Network Area; 2 in Lanner and 1 in St Day. Cornwall Council staff volunteer and give their time for community projects.
* A Community led Local development bid for a Furry Youth Café in Redruth for £210,000 has been awarded by Cornwall Development Company funding for the first 3 years.

**Action:** CC to circulate invitations once opening date for youth café launch is confirmed.

* RK advised that Danny Konik from CORMAC is also running a Volunteer Celebrations evening at the Eden Project in late Oct. If there is a volunteer group that needs recognition then submit the easy to complete form for an evening of entertainment and refreshments with like-minded people.

**Action:** RK to circulate details.

**Parish Reports**

Taken as read – Comments by exception:

* Chacewater – RK mentioned the A30 designated funds.
* Gwennap - KF updated on the new playing field play equipment.

**Agenda Items:**

**Paula Wellings, Casualty Reduction Manager, Cornwall Council**

RK welcomed PW. PW introduced her team and explained the focus of their role as being education and awareness, which is enforcement. Her brief covered:

Work with businesses around driver safety. 25-69 year olds are the group most commonly involved in all collisions; not necessarily as the casualty. The aim is to highlight driving fatigue, drugs and alcohol and speed awareness and emphasises the fact that driving in villages presents a different problem due to a lack of pavements. Allowing adequate safe overtaking distance for cyclists is also something covered by what is actually quite a small but generally effective Casualty Reduction team.

The team also fit home fire detectors and run *‘Learn to Live’* events for young drivers. *‘Learn to Live’* events target drivers and riders most at risk; follow the story of a collision and have speakers talking about their experiences of being in a road traffic collision.

PW advised that the over 70’s are the most vulnerable pedestrians in town and village centres (traffic coming from lots of different directions).

The scope of work also encourages businesses to sign up to cyclist friendly policies. This includes having stickers in work vehicles to remind drivers to check blind spots/ to inform cyclists where the blind spot on the vehicle is. Please visit Cornwall Council website for guidance on safe driving: [be a safe driver](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/cornwall-fire-and-rescue-service-homepage/keeping-safe/road-safety/be-a-safer-driver/)

PW advised that the current Casualty Reduction Strategy is being reviewed and for sign off in June. The reduction strategy covers – amongst other key issues- perception of danger. The team are also investigating sustainable transport, e.g. community transport schemes to support the health agenda by getting people out of their homes.

**Action:** CC to circulate Casualty Reduction Strategy to MVRG once signed off.

**Q&A:**

* KF asked about the Devoran transport scheme and identified that when someone retires from driving as no longer medically fit they lose their quality of life and so a lifeline – this is where a community transport scheme works.
* TL asked whether Paula’s team talk to farmers as at certain times of the year when heavy farm traffic is a real issue for dog walkers and cyclists. PW advised that the Fire Service target actions such as mud on road, vehicles driving into tractors. AW raised issues relating to the size of modern agricultural vehicles for Cornish roads.
* RK highlighted the positive impact that a previous *‘Learn to Live’* presentation had at RNAS Culdrose.

**Action:** If anyone has any queries/further questions please email PW direct at: paula.wellings@cornwall.gov.uk.

**Louise Wood, Interim Head of Planning, Cornwall Council and Mark Broomhead – Group Leader**

LW began by explaining the recent changes to the structure of the Planning Service. The focus now is to make sure that planners are familiar with the local area they are working in. Planning Officers also work on Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) and some have been working with MVRG parishes. They have also been working on the Climate Change Emergency, e.g. how to plan for houses, jobs, transport to integrate this.

Mark Broomhead introduced himself as the group leader for Areas 1 and 2 which covers the CPIR. Chacewater Parish is covered by Alan Mason, group leader for Areas 3 and 4.

Contacts can be found on the Planning website, which all were encouraged to use.

LW acknowledged that the Planning system is fluid, so it is vital that lines of communication stay open – it is important that we be honest with each other.

AW asked about affordable housing numbers for Cornwall and advice was provided by the MVRG which identified that St Day, for example, has had its affordable home figure halved and the numbers for Lanner have reduced from 100 to 46.

LW advised that the housing figure of 52,000 is what is in the Cornwall Local Plan. Government has decided all local plans have to use a formula. Cornwall is 1% of the population so approx. 3000 homes per year (1% of national allocation of 300,000) and that on average 2600/2700 new homes are being built per year at the moment. LW further advised that there are an additional 4,000-5,000 people in Cornwall each year but Affordable Housing is dealt with slightly differently. The Home Choice register has been data cleansed which is why numbers have reduced. But Cornwall Council expects numbers to increase again. LW confirmed that Cornwall Council carried out a recent study to look at housing need and this will be shared with the wider community in due course.

With regard to the Home Choice Register specifically, the Group was advised that the “where you want to live” field is not mandatory and so people don’t necessarily end up living where they want to live.

KF advised that whilst relationships with the Planning department are much improved and Planning Officers make the Parish Council part of the process (consulted on pre-apps), a bit more consistency is needed. ‘In confidence’ planning applications are not good and Parish Council’s would like to be alerted when there is such an application. We don’t need to know details of the application but just to know it exists. MB informed that the Planning Dept had made changes to the form but we can’t force people to do it. He advised that parishes might choose to use the FOI route to get more information on specific issues.

LW advised that Cornwall Council had taken advice on GDPR, which confirmed that too much info was being given away and effectively meant that people were easily identifiable. She confirmed that most reported planning breaches don’t result in an action and that half those that are reported do not constitute a breach anyway.

In response to KF’s question about when the Parish Council has reported the breach, LW advised that the Divisional Member is told about the breach and that if a breach has been reported then Cornwall Council will tell you the investigation is underway but no more. When the case is closed Cornwall Council will update the person who reported the breach.

**Action.:** MB/LW asked for any more specific questions /examples in relation to enforcement be sent to Louise Wood: louise.wood@cornwall.gov.uk or Mark Broomhead: mark.broomhead@cornwall.gov.uk

**Further Q&A:**

* KF. Planning receive 17,000 applications per year but Gwennap builds 1 or 2 houses per year. What about delegating power for specific cases, e.g. extensions to parishes as they might be better placed to make that decision. LW advised that if that was done, the Parish would still be bound by the same rules as Cornwall Council, but acknowledged that “theoretically” you could.
* JB. Who will buy these houses provided for under the Local Plan because the ultimate issue is not the availability of houses so much as the low level of incomes in Cornwall, still at less than 70% of the national average. In consequence it seems that this policy is not going to resolve local housing need in Cornwall. LW advised there is a need to meet statutory responsibilities and so there is a need to look at different ways of delivering affordable housing, e.g.( self-build where individuals own the land but don’t have a large income This was a separate issue) referring to the housing SPD where support is mooted for building individual houses where someone owns and land regardless of location etc Ousing SPD where provision is notw being provided Housin. Cornwall Council has also been looking at living rents, affordable housing programme and increasing security of tenure.
* CC warned that housing needs surveys can paint an inaccurate picture – younger people don’t necessarily want to remain in the village where they grew up, despite what their parents have said in Housing needs surveys.
* RF there seems to be a contradiction between development boundaries and being able to let villages expand. Recently appealed a planning case and it was over-turned so thank you.
* MB NDP’s can help with the Planning process (e.g. by specifying settlement boundaries or infill), but there is a need to ensure we are not making personal decisions.
* PT stated that the lack of credibility of the enforcement process is encouraging more people to try their luck.
* LW advised that Enforcement officers and pro-active enforcement of ‘untidy sites’ had identified an increase in vulnerable people living in caravans.
* RK suggested that cuts to the Enforcement team must be making it more difficult for enforcement and identified that it seemed that more people are siting caravans/ISO containers which Enforcement appears slow to pursue? LW advised that Enforcement do investigate and owners tell us the caravan/ISO container is being used for storage. Once the fuss has died down they then move people into the caravans. LW responded to a question from JB by saying that CC are aware of the recent High Court Judgement that Containers sited in the countryside do need planning consent.

**Action:** MB/LW to look at prioritising key issues i.e. caravans/ISO containers.

* RK asked what was the real weight of NDPs? LW advised that NDP’s are of true value to the process but also advised that a NDP might not necessarily suit every village/Parish and might not always be the answer to all issues.
* PB asked why Cornwall Council don’t notify us about Class Q pre-applications. It was confirmed that they are visible on the website portal.

RK thanked LW and MB for their time.

**Dates, times and Venue of next two meetings:**

Thursday 11th July 2019 at 2.00pm-4.00pm, Lanner Village Hall – no speakers.

Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 2.00-4.00pm, St Day.

**Action:** RK to write to Mobile Library Officer and thank them for working on a Saturdayin order to provide a service to MVRG Parishes when an arson attack had put one of the Mobile Library Vans out of action.