**MINING VILLAGES REGENERATION GROUP MEETING**

**Held on Zoom 4th March 2021 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm**

**Present**

Chris Bell Chairman, St Day PC

James Biscoe Co-opted resident, Stithians

Philip Blease Chairman, Stithians PC

Charlotte Caldwell Community Link Officer, Cornwall Council

David Illet Portreath PC

Rob Knill Chacewater PC

Steve Leech Chairman, Chacewater PC

Carl Martin Carharrack PC

Danny Moore Clerk, Gwennap PC

Ian Stewart Chairman, Portreath PC

David Squire Lanner PC

Richard Williams Chairman, Gwennap PC

Ashley Wood Chairman, Lanner PC (Chair)

Elaine Youlton Clerk, Lanner PC

**Apologies**

Liz Allcorn Communities Support Assistant, Cornwall Council

Peter Chesworth Chacewater PC

**Welcome and Introductions**

All members introduced themselves to the MVRG.

**Background to the MVRG**

AW gave an overview of why and when the MVRG had been set up. This was originally to support regeneration projects under EU Objective 5b and then Objective 1 funding. Subscriptions from the parish councils were matched by Kerrier District Council but that match funding disappeared following the creation of the Unitary Council. The MVRG continues to focuses on regeneration and economic issues in the parishes mainly supporting various joint projects including its two websites, but also exchanging experiences to contribute to developing best practice.

**CPIR Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation**

AW raised the topic of the recently circulated GI Consultation for CPIR and asked what members felt about the MVRG creating their own version as was done with the Rural Status report.

AW said he felt that the Government will be putting money into GI and it would be good for the Mining Villages to have a plan.

RW said that it would be a missed opportunity if we don’t have a plan and suggested the MV should try and influence the existing document.

CB said that some of the CPIR pages do link into the MV green corridors.

RK said he has fed comments in to the CPIR plan and is 50/50 about having a separate plan entirely.

JB felt it could be an important way of ensuring that other agencies meet their obligations eg Water, Council, Cormac etc.

DS asked if there were special areas that were particular to the MV which needed to be added, as well as the trails and footpaths.

AW responded that the catchment areas and sphere of influence of the MV is not always the same as CPIR in that many of the parishes align with Truro and Falmouth, whereas others link more to CPIR.

JB said that the impact of climate change in the MV is also different to CPIR.

IS and DI said that Portreath was different again as it links more with Redruth, is coastal and more tourist focused, and is the terminus at the end of the trail. It has a somewhat different perspective, which Chacewater also concurred with.

RK said this was an opportunity to educate people about the MV and the rich heritage culture that are our assets.

**Action:** It was resolved that CC would go back to Cornwall Council GI team and explain that the MV would like to be the fifth arm in CPIR and have its own chapter in the Strategy.

**Action:** SL agreed to speak to the Chairs of Carn Brea PC and Illogan PC to see if they also want to have specific input as their more rural parts of their parishes are not as mentioned in the CPIR Strategy.

**Action:** PB and SL to speak with the two energy groups to get their input also.

**Future of the Websites**

AW explained about the two websites run by MVRG – he said that RK had kindly volunteered to be responsible for the Trails website which is regularly getting about 2,000 visits a month.

He said that the Historic Churchyards website is now at 300+ visits a month, with worldwide interest, which is quite impressive considering it is a “one subject” site and has been going for many years. He asked for a volunteer to take responsibility for that. CB agreed and all thanked both CB and RK.

**Treasurers Report**

EY had tabled the Accounts before the meeting.

She updated that there are ring fenced monies for the websites and that invoices to the other Town and Parish Councils have gone out recently.

IS asked where the Trails leaflets are, and did they ever get printed?

It was acknowledged that a final draft of the Mining Trails had been seen and that some Elected Members were asked and had agreed to contribute from their Community Chest.

After much discussion, it was agreed that;

**Action:** CC to contact Karen Willows at the WHS and EY to confirm what money has gone from account towards the leaflets from MVRG.

**Parish Reports**

Gwennap PC

AW asked about the status of the rum maturation plant application. RW said that they were expecting a scaled down application.

JB asked about Wheal Maid and the opportunities that existed on site. RW said that this is being discussed in May and that trial drilling was taking place.

Portreath PC

A discussion took place around LMP rates and Portreath have decided not to employ their own contractor, as the sum being offered would not cover the work.

St Day PC

AW asked about the friendly weedkiller being used – CB said this was still to be evaluated.

All other parish reports were taken as read.

**New Administration of Cornwall Council**

CC asked members for their views about support for the MVRG post the Elections in May and the new Cornwall Council administration which would see the number of Elected Members reduced. She noted the boundary changes and said that for the MV, this still meant 3 Cornwall Councillors!

RW said that in his opinion, the MV should use their collective muscle more and asked if there were more areas in which the MV could collaborate on contracts/ activities for example, newsletter printing, toilet cleaning contracts, and help identify more funding opportunities.

RK updated that he had attended the CPIR Place Shaping meeting earlier in the week and there will be a CPIR & Mining Villages Expo in October, at which there will be an opportunity for the MV to have a stand.

CC said that the Council were very keen to see where the Mining Villages could be further supported and she updated that she had had a meeting with Cllr Ian Thomas and Simon Mould, Head of Communities Service to see how the rural parishes could be more equitably served.

It was resolved that CC and LA would pull together another MVRG meeting after the Elections.

**AOB**

PB tabled a vote of thanks to AW as this was his last meeting and all echoed the vote of thanks to AW for all his hard work for the MV since the inception of the group.