

ONECORNWALL

Parish and Town Council Communication

Issue 5: January 2008

One Cornwall Interim Joint Committee (IJC) and the Cornwall Association of Local Councils

The IJC agreed at its meeting on the 17 January proposals to involve town and parish councils more closely both formally and informally in the development of local working arrangements. This will be achieved through the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC). A representative of CALC is invited to meetings and allowed to speak on issues that affect town and parish councils specifically. Closer working between CALC and the One Cornwall Team will lead to a common vision of how town and parish councils can deliver front line services.

It is recognised that not all town and parish councils belong to CALC so there will be a robust communication plan to ensure that all councils are informed and engaged. It will also be important to reassure parish councils that they will not have to take on extra responsibilities or services if they do not want to.

Another issue of interest that was debated related to the Electoral Review with the IJC agreeing that 100 members be used as a starting point for testing the size of the new council.

The review is an administrative rather than political process and will be conducted by the Boundary Committee for England (although there is no absolute guarantee this will take place until the Cornwall (Structural Change) Order is implemented). Local authorities are encouraged to take an active role and to develop "in consultation with local interests" proposals for any changes to electoral arrangements. The IJC agreed to set up a working group to develop comprehensive proposals for electoral arrangements for the new council.

The next meeting of the Interim Joint Committee is due to take place at **10 am** on the **8 February 2008** at **Kerrier District Council offices, Camborne**. These meetings are open to the public with agenda, reports and minutes being made available on the County Council's website at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=41372>

Ask about ...

We want to hear from you. If you have any queries to raise or questions to ask please contact the Parish Liaison Team or submit a question by email to onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk

We will answer each query individually but include some of the questions and answers in our monthly communication with you as I'm sure your individual query will be of relevance or of interest to others.

Q: Parish and Town Council Survey – we've responded, what happens next?

A: Firstly, thank you to all who have responded. If you have yet to submit a response please do so at your earliest convenience.

The information you have provided in your responses will help us understand your council's aspirations. Your comments/issues will be fed through to

the relevant one Cornwall workstreams. Our next round of meetings with you will update you on the data received and how we propose to use it.

Q: We're doing great things in our council – how do we let you know?

A: Your responses to the survey will obviously give us a feel on the work you currently do or would like to do. As our team grows we will have greater capacity to truly be more proactive and engaging with all our parish and town councils. We see this engagement as both us informing you on where we are but also hearing your views and in particular learning from your best practice. We want to hear from you so please contact the team. If something works well in your local council – we want to build on it and share your great work with others!

Local Events

What's going on in your community?

Are there any local events that we could use to communicate the One Cornwall message?

If so, please contact the team at onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk

Funding Opportunities

The Community Planning Project Grant provides funding of up to £500 to support the development or implementation of projects identified within local parish or community plans. The fund is currently open to applications until 31 March 2008.

Eligibility states that projects must be linked to an action or issue within a parish plan, MCTi Community Strategic Plan or equivalent community planning document and must clearly benefit the community. For more information please contact: -

Nicki Mills of CRCC by telephone 01872 270206 or email nikki.mills@cornwallrcc.co.uk

Engagement Meetings

As outlined in our December communication we want to undertake further meetings with you and we are currently in the process of arranging them.

Areas of interest will include: - parish survey, best practice, pilots, electoral review, assets and customer access (one-stop-shops). These will also be a good opportunity to introduce the Parish Liaison Team.

When will these be taking place? During March - your invitation will be on its way soon!

Parish Liaison Team are you up to strength?

Almost... two appointments were made last week for Parish Liaison Officers. However, we realise the importance of being able to fully engage with all parish and town councils therefore further interviews will be held next week in the hope to make additional appointments.

The Parish Liaison Officers will be in place until March 2009. Their job is to manage the relationship between Parish and Town Councils and the new Unitary Council. They want to hear about examples of best practise in your council's work and also hear about things that aren't going so well between councils. They will promote the work of Town and Parish Councils so that the public have a clearer understanding of your role and the work you do in the community.

For your convenience contact information for the Parish Liaison Team (so far) is outlined below.



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