

ONE CORNWALL

Parish and Town Council Communication

Issue 6: February 2008

Engagement Meetings

Each Parish and Town Council has been sent an invitation to attend one of the following engagement events. The invitation was addressed to the Chairman and Clerk, being the first point of contact with parish and town councils, however, if unavailable please do send another representative/s from your Council.

The events have been arranged on a whole day basis in order to be able to be as engaging as possible. Each event will commence at 9.30 am for registration and coffee with the programme commencing at 10.00 am. Lunch will be provided.

Monday 10 March - Parkhouse Centre, Bude
Tuesday 11 March - Brookdale Hotel, Truro
Thursday 13 March - Liskeard Town Hall
Monday 17 March - Kingsley Village, Fraddon
Thursday 20 March - Berlewyn Building, Pool

We look forward to seeing you at one of the events so please confirm your attendance as soon as you can. Any queries please contact the team on either 01872 322137 or at onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk

Public Engagement

A number of public roadshows have been organised at various locations throughout Cornwall. These are usually on a Saturday and are staffed by officers from the One Cornwall Team from 10 am until 4 pm. Future dates are:-

1 March - Co-op Car Park, Wadebridge
8 March - Tesco Car Park, Helston
15 March - Somerfield Car Park, Newquay.

A leaflet has also been produced outlining various issues relating to One Cornwall which is being handed out at these events. Should you require copies of these leaflets to display at your council offices please contact the team on either 01872 322137 or onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk

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: I recall mention that aspects of the One Cornwall localism agenda such as, devolvement of services, community networks will be piloted. When will this be taking place?

A: You're right in your recollection. It was mentioned at an early stage of One Cornwall that aspects would be taken from the localism agenda

to be piloted. Decisions relating to when, where and what will be made by the Implementation Executive in the coming months.

Q: Why are the Parish and Town Council Engagement Meetings being held all day?

A: We do honestly understand that a number of clerks and Councillors do have other full-time commitments outside of their parish and town responsibilities. However, it was considered that at this stage a full engagement day was required in order to be fully updated on progress made to-date. It was also felt that linking in with other areas, such as the Electoral Review would avoid further meetings having to be arranged thus taking up more of your valuable time. All day events also allow for greater engagement with you with us being able to schedule workshop sessions in the afternoon to address areas of interest to parish and town councils.

Parish Liaison Team – Latest News

Sally Lewis from North Cornwall District Council has been appointed to the One Cornwall Team in one of the Parish Liaison Officer roles. Furthermore, Sally Newby from Penwith District Council will also be acting in this capacity in the Penwith area.

Over the course of the coming weeks you will be contacted by your own Parish Liaison Officer who will act as the key officer in linking your Council to One Cornwall.

Implementation of the Cornwall (Structural Change) Order – What does it mean for Parish and Town Councils

After much anticipation The Cornwall (Structural Change) Order was made on the 25 February 2008. This now means that the official start date for the electoral review is the 26 February.

The Order provides the legal framework under which a unitary council for Cornwall will be established on 1 April 2009. Now that the Order has been made the Interim Joint Committee (IJC) will now be known as the "Implementation Executive" with its membership remaining at 24 (12 from the County Council and 12 from the District Councils) being the same membership of the IJC. This will allow for the Implementation Executive to have the power to make key decisions about the new council; the organisational design, the senior management structure and budget recommendations. Further regulations on staffing and finance will follow.

With regards to elections the Order outlines that elections for parish and town councils will not be held in 2011. Instead they will take place in 2013 and every four years thereafter. This will align with the new council.

One Cornwall Interim Joint Committee (IJC) Meeting Update

The IJC debated a number of issues at its meeting on the 8 February. Particular areas of interest for Parish and Town Councils were the consideration on a paper entitled "The New Cornwall Council – A Strong Voice for Local Communities".

The principles set out in this paper were agreed as a basis for conducting further work (including the testing of appropriate models) to define the new Council's approach to localism; and consultation with the wider elected membership, staff and stakeholders.

The paper outlined principles in respect of an enhanced role for the local member, a new

relationship with parish and town councils and community networks.

A Member from the IJC, Sandy Angove was nominated to sit on the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) Executive in order to establish a Member link between the IJC and the CALC's Executive.

Strategic groups were also formed, membership of which being drawn from the IJC to undertake work on specific areas of interest. These include localism, governance, customer focus and service re-design. The work from these groups will be fed back through to the IJC.

The next meeting of the Implementation Executive (formally Interim Joint Committee) is due to take place at **10 am** on the **12 March 2008** in the **Trelawney Room, New County Hall, Truro**. 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>

Electoral Review Update

A working group was established by the IJC drawn from its own membership. The working group will be asked to consider the criteria which will influence the most appropriate size for the new Council and specifically to test the appropriateness of a council of 100 Members.

The first meeting of the working group was held earlier this month with the Boundary Committee attending to give a presentation on their role and what will happen when the electoral review goes ahead.

The whole process must be completed by the end of October 2008 and be undertaken in four stages: submission of proposals, Boundary Committee to consider draft recommendations, publication of draft recommendations and final recommendations are made.

The electoral review will be explained and your views will be sought during the morning session at each of the engagement events in March. A workshop will also be taking place in the afternoon.

Any queries relating to the Electoral Review please contact the Boundary Review Team on 01872 322120 or by emailing rawilliams@cornwall.gov.uk