

Key Issues In this Edition ..

- Electoral Review Update – Implementation Executive's Submission
- Developmental Work ... One-Stop-Shops, Community Networks and Service Delivery
- Bude Engagement Event rescheduled and further date added in Launceston
- Localism Charter – What is it and who do I contact to find out more?
- Training and Development Needs Survey

Engagement Meetings

As mentioned in last months newsletter the Bude Event has now been rescheduled as it was cancelled due to severe gales. We have also organised an additional event in Launceston and the dates are as follows: -

Friday 16 May - Parkhouse Centre, Bude
Friday 23 May - Eagle House Hotel, Launceston

Invitations have now been sent. If you have not received yours please contact the Parish Liaison Team (01872 322137/onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk)

Electoral Review

The One Cornwall Implementation Executive (IE) agreed to a submission outlining a council size of 130 elected members to the Boundary Committee. Copies of the final submission by the IE will be sent to parish and town councils shortly.

What happens next? The Boundary Committee for England will consider representations put forward and publicise their draft recommendations inviting comments in support or opposition. This is expected during the months of July and August which will trigger a second round of consultation.

Should you require any information on the electoral review please contact either Richard Williams (01872 322120/rawilliams@cornwall.gov.uk) or Malcolm Brown (01872 322621/mbrown@cornwall.gov.uk)

Public Roadshows

Further public roadshows have been organised as follows: -

26 May - St Agnes Victorian Fair
5, 6 and 7 June - Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge
14 July - Stithians Show

Localism Charter

What is it?

The existing Local Council Charter was agreed in 1994. This charter provides the basis for effective consultation between the principal councils and parish and town councils and highlights the services that can be taken on through an agency agreement with the principal councils. With the changes in April 2009 to one council for Cornwall a new charter is required and this is being reconfigured as a 'Localism Charter'. This will take into account the enhanced role for parish and town councils, the new local governance structures, and the role and remit of the community network areas. It will place emphasis on the nature of the relationship between local councils, community network areas and the new authority and will provide the framework within which we will promote the localism agenda.

What's going to happen?

The aim is to consult with a number of town and parish councillors and clerks, ward members and the Cornwall Association of Local Councils on how this charter should look. It is hoped that it will be formally agreed by the One Cornwall Implementation Executive in October 2008.

Who do I contact to find out more?

Sally Lewis (Parish Liaison Officer) by telephone on 07973 497432 or email at slewis@cornwall.gov.uk

Training and Developmental Needs

The work involving the identification of training and developmental needs for parish and town councillors and clerks has taken a step forward with Plymouth University and South West Lifelong Learning (SWLL) both agreeing to the terms of reference needed to achieve this. It is hoped that a survey will be developed over the coming weeks in consultation with Cornwall Association for Local Councils (CALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) that will be distributed to all parish councillors and clerks in Cornwall to get a better understanding of their training needs and requirements, especially in relation to the changing local government landscape in Cornwall.

The process of training and development is absolutely crucial to ensure that parish and town councils are well placed to take the localism agenda forward in partnership with the new authority over the coming months and years.

One Cornwall Implementation Executive (IE) Meeting Update

The IE debated a number of issues at its meeting on the 4 April. One of these related to the forward budgeting process for the new council with a sub group under the IE – Finance and Performance Group - being tasked with developing this matter.

The issue of the new Council's corporate identity was considered after taking on board the recommendations of the One Cornwall Scrutiny Committee. It was decided that a new corporate identify for Cornwall Council should be

developed and implemented by the internal communications unit.

The corporate management structure was debated with a decision being made that its model be determined as five corporate directors (not including the Deputy Chief Executive).

Special meetings of the IE were held on the 11th and 18th April to consider the electoral review. The outcome of these debates have been referred to in the previous page of this newsletter.

The next meeting of the Implementation Executive is due to take place at **10 am on Friday 9 May 2008 in The Guildhall, St John's Hall, Penzance**. These meetings are open to the public with agenda, reports and minutes being made available on the One Cornwall website at <http://www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=42436>

Developmental Work on ... Participatory Budgeting

One-Stop-Shops

Development work has begun to identify suitable premises in order to achieve the target of having a presence in each of the major towns by April 2009. Relevant local councils and other bodies will be consulted in due course.

Community Networks

Officers are in the process of identifying areas of best practice within Cornwall in terms of structured community development work. It is hoped that pathfinders, building on this best practice, will be identified soon in order to be able to test aspects of the community networks.

Service Delivery

Results from the responses received to-date from the local council survey have outlined a degree of variance in the appetite for taking on devolved services. The results are currently being reviewed by the relevant service officers. Once this is complete a number of local councils will be contacted regarding taking forward pilot activities.

Key officers who are developing these areas are:- **Martin Eddy (Parish and Town Council Lead)**, **Steven Ford (Senior Parish Liaison Officer)**, **Rob Andrew (Community Network Lead)**, **Ben Bolton, (Neighbourhood Management Lead)** and **Sophie Hosking (Partnerships and Stakeholders Lead)**.

One Cornwall Scrutiny Committee's Next Meeting - Tuesday 6 May 2008 at 2 pm to be held at **Cardon District Council Offices, Liskeard**. These meetings are open to the public with agenda, reports and minutes being made available on the One Cornwall website at <http://www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=43202>

What is it?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a local government initiative that brings local communities closer to the decision-making process. It gives the community direct and clear choices about how funding can be allocated in their area to meet local priorities.

PB allows communities to have the ability to take control of certain budgets or influence services through community-led debates, neighbourhood votes and public meetings. PB aims to enhance participation in local democracy whilst improving community cohesion and ensuring the delivery of cost-effective local services.

What is proposed for Cornwall?

We are planning a pilot (the first rural pilot in the country!) to investigate how communities can get more involved in the allocation of small community chest grants.

The pilot will be linked in with the development of community network areas. We hope it encourages engagement with local government, and gives the community a sense of ownership because they are involved in the decision making process.

The role of town and parish councils in supporting this initiative and promoting it to community groups is crucial if we want to make the pilot a success.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

Steven Ford (Senior Parish Liaison Officer) by telephone on 01872 322283 or email staford@cornwall.gov.uk or Ben Bolton on 01579 341025 or email bbolton@cornwall.gov.uk