

## KEY ISSUES IN THIS EDITION ...

- Consultation on Parish Elections
- Initiative to support town and parish councils is launched
- Localism Charter and Community Networks– what's happening now?
- One Cornwall stand at Royal Cornwall Show (Stand 88)
- Survey Results and Engagement Event Feedback

## Parish Election Consultation

All parish and town councils would have received a letter at the end of May from the County Council's Chief Executive seeking their views on the Government consultation on parish elections. The four options being consulted upon are as follow: -

Options	Election Date	Notes on Options
1	May 2009	Parish and Town Council elections in line with Unitary elections if there were to be no European elections.
2	May 2009	Standalone elections for Parish and Town Councils in May but Unitary and possible European elections in June 2009.
3	June 2009	Parish and Town Council elections in line with possible European elections and Unitary elections (3 elections in one day).
4	May 2013	Parish and Town Council elections as outlined in the Cornwall (Structural Change) Order.

Responses to this consultation are to be sent to Martin Eddy [meddy@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:meddy@cornwall.gov.uk) by **Thursday 19 June** in order for the Implementation Executive to make a considered response to this consultation at its meeting on the 23 June 2009.

## Royal Cornwall Show

The One Cornwall team can be found in the Cornwall County Council marquee at Stand 88 on the 5, 6 and 7 June.

Should you be attending the show please do call in and speak with both staff and councillors, who are responsible for the transition to the new council, who will only be too happy to address your queries.

## Localism Charter

The first round of consultation is due to begin on the headlines of the new Localism Charter which will provide the basis for effective communication, consultation and active partnering arrangements between the new authority and parish and town councils.

Initially this consultation will involve focus groups in order to contribute ideas on the preparation of this charter. However after this stage it is envisaged that comments will be sought from all parish and town councils.

If you would like to be involved in the first phase of this consultation please contact Sally Lewis (Parish Liaison Officer) as soon as possible by telephone on 07973 497432 or email at [slewis@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:slewis@cornwall.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY NETWORKS

**What's happening?** Work is ongoing to develop an operational framework for Community Networks which will be shared with all parish and town councils in due course in order for them to continue to play an active role in this process. Should you wish to find out more the key officers involved in this work are Rob Andrew [randrew@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:randrew@cornwall.gov.uk) and Ben Bolton [bbolton@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:bbolton@cornwall.gov.uk) or telephone on 01872 324510.

**What is a Community Network?** This term describes a range of locally based processes providing the basis for local decision making and community engagement to influence local services. Community Networks will not deliver services; however, they will play a critical role in shaping policy and service delivery to reflect local need. Community Networks will bring the community together to influence, lobby, oversee, review, scrutinise and recommend to ensure local policy and service delivery reflects local need.

**What are the key principles of a Community Network?** Community Networks **must** .....

- Involve local people
- Empower Local Members
- Provide a focus for local partnership working
- Identify and represent local priorities
- Engage all parts of Local Communities
- Enhance the role for Parish and Town Councils

**Local Community Planning** Each Network will produce an 'action plan' to articulate the needs of the priorities of the local community. In some cases this could be based upon an existing plan. Community Network Plans will be used as a means to articulate a joint vision for the area based upon agreed priorities arising from existing community planning (e.g. Parish Plans). The connection between the Community Network Plans and the Networks will strengthen the role of the parish planning process by increasing the likelihood of community aspirations being achieved.

## ONE CORNWALL IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE

The Implementation Executive debated a number of issues at its meeting on the 9 May 2008 relating to matters around the staff transition framework, update on the programme plan and realising the benefits of reorganisation which included the Implementation Executive confirming its commitment to make at least £17.2 million financial savings per year.

The Implementation Executive held a further meeting on the 28 May to consider organisational structures and senior officer appointments.

The senior management structure will consist of a Chief Executive and five Corporate Directors.

The next meeting of the Implementation Executive is due to take place at **10 am on Monday 23 June 2008 in Trelawney Room, New County Hall, Truro**. 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>

## Survey Results

As you may recall at the end of last year a survey was sent to all parish and town councils seeking your views on issues such as devolved services, local asset management and ownership and the role of the community network areas.

In total 145 of the 209 Town and Parish Councils responded to the survey. It should be noted however that not all 145 respondents addressed all four sections of the survey. This survey has now been analysed with the results being used to influence service delivery. A copy of the report on this analysis can be viewed on the One Cornwall website [www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk)

## One Cornwall Scrutiny Committee

Councillors scrutinising the transition to the unitary council for Cornwall have extended an open invitation to the public to attend their meetings and take part in the discussions. At each meeting a time slot will be set aside specifically for members of the public to speak.

**One Cornwall Scrutiny Committee's Next Meeting – Wednesday 18 June 2008 at 2 pm** to be held at **Carrick District Council Offices, Truro**. 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>

The broad functions and main themes of these directorates will be: -

- Children Young People and Families
- Communities
- Adult Care and Support
- Environment, Planning and Economy
- Corporate Support

The Chief Executive's post for the new council is to be advertised nationally with a view to appointing in September 2008. Appointment of Corporate Directors for the new council will also begin as early as practicable, subject to legal advice on the position of incumbent directors.

## Training and Developmental Needs

On Friday 23 May a joint initiative between South West Life Long Learning Network, Cornwall County Council, Cornwall Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks was launched to look at the training needs and requirements of parish and town councillors, clerks and employees in order to support them should they wish to increase their capacity and capabilities in the future.

In order to help shape the training courses, which will be aimed at the local council sector, a survey to ascertain the requirements and views of councillors, clerks and employees throughout Cornwall will be sent out in June.

## Engagement Events Feedback

These engagement events took place during March and May and were a great opportunity for parish and town councils to meet with officers from the One Cornwall team and Members of the Implementation Executive. In total around 110 parish and town councils were represented.

A feedback report has been compiled based on all of the events and can be viewed on the One Cornwall website [www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.onecornwall.cornwall.gov.uk)

## Ask About ...

If you have any queries to raise or questions to ask please contact the Parish Liaison Team (01872 322127/Room 225, New County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY) or submit a question by email to [onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk)