

CARN BREA PARISH COUNCIL

BEST VALUE REPORT

**MAY 2006
TO
APRIL 2007**



INTRODUCTION

Carn Brea Parish

The Parish of Carn Brea, which is also known as the electoral area of Illogan South, lies between the twin towns of Camborne and Redruth. The boundaries include several villages, hamlets and rural areas as well as the urban area of Pool and Illogan Highway. The southern boundary is the village of Four Lanes, to the east Carnkie and Carn Brea Village, to the north Pool, West Tolgus and to the west part of Tuckingmill and Brea.

The Council owns approximately 22 acres of land. This is made up of a park at Wheal Fortune, heath at Carn Brea Hill, land at Moorfield Road and an historic well at Carn Brea Village. It also maintains an area of land in Four Lanes. There is an electorate of 5721.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council has sixteen elected members, consisting of five members who represent each of the wards of Barncoose, Pool and Four Lanes and one member who represents the East Hill ward (Tuckingmill) The Council was last elected in May 2003. The present Chairman is Cllr. Malcolm Moyle.

The Parish Clerk is Mrs. Sue Parker who can be contacted at Treloweth Community Hall, Moorfield Road, Pool, Redruth, TR15 3QB.

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The Parish office at Treloweth Community Hall is open between 9.00 a.m. and 12 noon daily.

The Full Council meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month, with a recess in August. The Planning Committee meets on the last Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at Treloweth Community Hall and commence at 7.00 p.m. Agendas for all meetings are put on the parish notice board on the Friday before the meeting.

The Reason for this Report

In 1999 the Local Government Act laid out a requirement for all councils with an income over £500,000 to fulfill the duty of Best Value. These duties include the annual publication of a Best Value Performance Plan, carrying out a rolling programme of service reviews and submission to Best Value audit and inspection. However, the Government has recognised that the duties of Best Value would not be cost effective for smaller parish councils, but it has encouraged such councils to adopt the Spirit of Best Value. In order to secure continuous improvement Best Value requires parish councils to look at their function in terms of the '5 Cs'. These are: -

Challenge - why, how, and by whom a service is being provided

Compare performance with the performance of other parish councils and organisations providing similar services

Consult local people and key partners, including local businesses and voluntary organisations in setting council priorities

Use fair and open **Competition** wherever practicable as a means of securing efficient and effective services.

Collaborate with other authorities and public service providers, particularly in developing, delivering, monitoring and improving services.

Carn Brea Parish Council believe that the principle of the council examining the services that they provide is a sound one, which should provide value for money for the taxpayer. They have therefore published this report reviewing the services that they have provided and hope that the publication of this report will lead to a better understanding of what the Parish Council does and how it spends the ratepayer's money.

Services Provided

1. Dissemination of Information & Consultation with parishioners
2. Liaison
3. Consultation Responses
4. Council Representation
5. Planning Representations
6. Support financially of local burial grounds
7. Maintenance of council owned open spaces
8. Maintenance of Public Rights of Way
9. Regeneration projects within the Parish
10. Public Highway representations to Cornwall County Council
11. Provision of a Parish Hall
12. Promotion of Public Transport Systems & provision of Bus Shelters
13. Financial Support

Each service will be described and then reviewed to see if the service has been provided efficiently, effectively and economically. Aims and objectives for the future will then be set out.

1. Dissemination of Information & Consultation with parishioners

1.1 **The Rural White Paper** stressed that '*a quality council is that which is representative of its community. To demonstrate that, it will actively engage its residents, businesses and surrounding landowners and managers in its work through regular meetings, events, newsletter, surveys, working groups, youth councils etc.*'

1.2 What we have achieved

During the year the Parish Council has consulted with, disseminated information to, and been available for the parishioners on the following occasions: -

- Annual Parish Meeting
- Has always allowed the public to speak at meetings
- Has advertised all parish meetings on notice boards, in library, at local post offices
- Published a quarterly Parish Newsletter
- The Council office is open to the public from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon daily
- Published the Annual Report and circulated it to all households in the Parish
- Established a web site
- Sent out a Parish Plan Questionnaire

1.3 Objectives for the Future

- Attempt to achieve better representation at the Annual Parish Meeting
- Publication of a Best Value Report so that parishioners are better informed on what the Council does
- Continue with the quarterly publication of the parish newsletter
- Use the parish notice board to disseminate information
- Councillor surgeries
- Continue to update the web site and use it to disseminate information
- Collate information from the Parish Plan and hold consultation events

2. Liaison

2.1 As outlined in 1.1 liaison is being increasingly considered a very important and integral part of the decisions and activities of a Parish Council.

2.2 What we have achieved

- Throughout this document examples of liaison with the District Council, County Council and other Town and Parish Councils are evident. Partnerships and liaison will increase as these councils are under the same obligation to consult as the Parish Councils.
- Carn Brea Parish Council joining the Rural Net intranet scheme has also improved communications with the wider network of parish councils. This has helped greatly with the dissemination of information between councils and with the notification of consultation documents that are available on the intranet. The speed of communications between the Clerk, Councillors and other outside bodies has now greatly improved with the use of e-mail.
- Our County & Kerrier Councillors report back to the council
- Liaison with the Carn Brea Regeneration Advisory Committee has increased with several Councillors and the Clerk attending the meetings
- Liaison with the CPR Regeneration team to discuss the Public Realm bid and the Pool Masterplan
- The Community Liaison Police Officer endeavors to attend a Council meeting at least once every three months and visits the office at various times
- Councillors report back at Full Council meetings on attendances to outside bodies meetings. Copies of minutes from outside bodies are circulated to all Councillors in their Full Council report

2.3 Objectives for the Future

- To maintain and improve our liaison with all of our parishioners

- To maintain and improve contacts with the District Council, County Council, their representatives and other parishes
- To increase the use of the e-mail facility for contact with as many Councillors as possible
- To increase liaison with other bodies and groups within the parish
- To continue a close liaison with the local constabulary

3. Consultation Responses

3.1 The number of consultation documents being received by the Parish Council has multiplied this year and will continue to increase, as District and County Councils have a duty to consult as part of their Best Value regime. The Rural White Paper stresses that there is a greater need for partnership between all types of authorities and a greater willingness to work together. For a parish council to be effective and a 'quality council' it must play a meaningful role in consultations.

3.2 What we have achieved

During the year the Council have been consulted on

- Kerrier Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation on Submission to the Secretary of State (Regulation 28) Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations,2004.
- Cornwall County Council 'Cornwall waste Development Framework Report on Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal.
- Local Authority Byelaws in England: A Discussion Paper from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- DEFRA 'Getting to grips with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006 -2026
- English Partnerships 'Trevenson Road (Pool) Implementation Plan proposals'
- Local Government White Paper on Strong & Prosperous Communities
- Kerrier Local Development Framework: 2005-2026 Notification and Consultation re: Kerrier Vision, Strategy and Core Policies Development Plan Document; Camborne Pool Redruth Area Action Plan Development Plan Document
- Kerrier District Council Play Access Policy
- Kerrier District Council Draft Statement of Principles, re Gambling Act 2005
- Draft Kerrier Local Plan (Pre- inquiry Changes) Consultation on Interim Transient Workers Planning Policy
- Kerrier District Council – bi lingual nameplates
- Cornwall County Fire Brigade IRMP Service Plan 2007/08
- Communities and Local Government Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

The response rate to consultations is not always as high as it could be. This is due to several reasons:

- Insufficient time for all 16 Councillors to read and comment on documents
- The consultation period is frequently very short
- Trying to compile responses at a Council meeting can be very time consuming
- Not all Councillors are interested enough or have sufficient time to read all documents.
- There is no facility for the wider community to read and comment on those

documents that directly affect them.

3.3 Objectives for the Future

- To respond to all documents that are of direct relevance to our area or the Council
- For nominated Councillors to review the document and compile a suggested response if time is short.

4. Council Representation

4.1 The Parish Council receives many invitations to meeting and seminars called by various bodies.

4.2 What we have achieved

- Councillors are appointed as representatives of the Parish Council to outside bodies
- The representatives report back to either Full Council verbally or with a written report
- Councillors claim no expenses for attending such meetings
- A member of the Planning Committee usually attends site meetings with CCC Highways and Kerrier District Council
- Copies of minutes of all outside bodies meetings are circulated to all Councillors.

4.3 Objectives for the Future

- That another member of the Council will attend the meeting whenever possible if the appointed member cannot attend
- That a written report will be submitted if the representative is unable to give a verbal report at Full Council.

5. Planning Representations

5.1 The Council has been consulted on 155 planning applications. We have also had the opportunity to make representations on entertainment and alcohol licenses. The majority of planning applications have been advertised on agendas prior to meetings. Letters have been received from parishioners and representations have been made at meetings on several applications and the Parish Council has carefully considered these. Any letters have been copied and forwarded to the District Council.

5.2 What we have achieved

- Observations have been made on all consultations.

5.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to represent the interests of the parish and its parishioners.

6. Support financially of local burial grounds

6.1 There is an active burial grounds in Carn Brea Parish at St. Illogan Church.

6.2 What we have achieved

- The Parish Council makes an annual contribution to the cost of maintenance.

6.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to make annual contributions to the cost of maintenance of St. Illogan Church.

7. Maintenance of council owned open spaces/parks

7.1 The Council maintains areas of land at Four Lanes, Moorfield Road, Wheel Fortune Park and Carn Brea Village Well. The maintenance is put out to tender and the contract is reviewed on an annual basis ensuring that the work is efficiently and economically executed.

7.2 What we have achieved

- 17 cuts of the grass on maintained land
- The maintenance of trees and plants at Moorfield Road
- Planting of bulbs at Moorfield Road
- The mending of fences and wire at Wheel Fortune Park

7.3 Objectives for the Future

- The continued maintenance of the trees and plants at Moorfield Road

8. Maintenance of Public Rights of Way

8.1 Carn Brea Parish Council maintains the Public Rights of Way in the parish under an agency agreement with the Countryside Access Department of the Cornwall County Council, this agreement is known as the Local Maintenance Partnership (LMP). Under this scheme Cornwall County Council provide 90% funding up to a limit determined by the length of Rights of Way (ROW) and the parish provide 10%.

8.2 What we have achieved

- The routine maintenance of paths (strimming of soft weeds) is put out to tender and the contract is reviewed on an annual basis ensuring that this work is efficiently and economically executed. The Council's Handypersons carries out minor clearance and improvements.
- There is regular liaison with the County Council regarding paths where no co-operation is received from the landowner to allow full accessibility. There has also been a consultation on the diversion to footpaths.
- A Parish Review of the footpaths is in progress

8.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to maintain the paths at an economical rate for strimming and clearance. This includes effectively using the 90% grant from CCC
- To liaise with CCC to improve signposting
- To continue with the Parish Review
- For two Councillors and the Clerk attended the annual conference on the Local Maintenance Partnership.

9. Regeneration projects within the Parish

9.1 Carn Brea is at the epicentre of Camborne/Pool/Redruth regeneration and the area will see substantial changes in the next fifteen years, bringing benefits to the inhabitants of the parish. The Council is involved in the consultation process on such schemes as the Barncoose Link Road, the Trevenson Road Improvement Plan (TRIP), Robinsons's Shaft & Pool Village Centre and the Heartlands project.

9.2 What we have achieved

- Liaison with Carn Brea Regeneration Advisory Committee, the CPR and other regeneration groups to ensure the Council's input into schemes for the area
- Liaison with Kerrier District Council to promote the Listing and Preservation of local sites of important historical value
- Consultation on the Heartlands project
- Financial support for the Mineral Tramways Project
- A representative on the Camborne/Pool/Redruth Public Realm Regeneration Working Party
- The Pool in Bloom scheme has been extended.
- Established a third Parish Trail for the Four Lanes area.

9.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to liaise with Carn Brea Regeneration Advisory Committee, CPR and other regeneration groups to ensure the Council's input into schemes for the area
- The continued promotion of the Preservation and Listing of Historical Buildings in the Parish.
- The continuation and expansion of the Pool in Bloom scheme.

10. Public Highway representations to Cornwall County Council

10.1 The Parish Council liaise and consult with Cornwall County Council over local road safety schemes. The schemes may be initiated by the Parish Council, due to concerns raised, or by CCC.

10.2 What we have achieved

- Consultation on Cornwall County Council's introduction of various traffic regulation measures at Carn Brea Lane/Avenue, Druids Road & Station Road, Pool

10.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to liaise with the CCC Transportation department and others to try to improve the safety of the roads in the parish.

11. Provision of a Parish Hall

11.1 Treloweth Community Hall contains the Parish office (open from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon daily) and a hall, which is available for hire to the local community. Several community groups use the hall on a regular basis e.g. Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change, slimming club, religious meetings. The hall also houses a collection of historical prints and photographs of the area.

11.2 What we have achieved

- Increased hiring of the hall to community groups
- The use of the foyer for the dissemination of information on items of local interest.
- Additional historical prints have been added to the collection

11.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to make the hall available to community groups and the local community
- To add to the collection of historical prints/photographs

- A book of Remembrance of Parishioners who have fallen during conflict to be made available for viewing.

12. Promotion of Public Transport Systems & Provision of Bus Shelters

12.1 The Parish Council has long been aware of the difficulties with the public transport system, and that if it is not used, it will be lost. It is aware that a greater number of people would use the public transport system if it met their needs.

12.2 What we have achieved

- To seek information from Parishioners through the Parish Plan Questionnaire
- The liaison with Cornwall County Council for four new bus shelters – two in Agar Road and two (replacement) outside and opposite Cornwall College

12.3 Objectives for the Future

- To support the re-opening of Carn Brea Halt.

13. Financial Support

13.1 Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers a local council to spend up to a product of £5.44 per head of electorate, each year, on anything which, in the council's opinion, is in the interests of its area or part of its area, or in the interests of all or some of the inhabitants of that area.

13.2 What we have achieved

Many requests for grants and donations are received and the Parish Council have to consider whether these are for the benefit of all or part of the community. The Council requests annual reports, financial records etc. from the applicants to help assess if the donations are being used effectively and economically. The information that is requested has been reviewed during the past year.

13.3 Objectives for the Future

- To continue to give donations to those groups and charities that operate within the community or are available for those in the community.
- To continually assess whether the best use is being made of these donations
- To consider any other requests for donations that are made.

Feedback

Your comments on this report would be appreciated.

- Has it told you what you want to know?
- Do you agree the Council's objectives?
- Is there anything else that you think that the Council should be doing?
- Do you believe the Council are using your money efficiently, effectively and economically?

Please send your responses to the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Sue Parker, Treloweth Community Hall, Moorfield Road, Pool, Redruth, TR15 3QB, or e-mail them to: s.parker@ruralnet.org.uk