

ST MINVER PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The St Minver Parish Plan is being updated, and it is important that the residents should be aware of its contents before it is printed. The Parish Plan Steering Group has arranged an open Parish “Drop In” to view the draft Parish Plan Update; at the Perceval Institute, St Minver on Friday 5th October 2012 5.00- 8.30pm and Saturday 6th October 2012 10.00am-3.00pm ; also, at the Rock Institute on Friday 12th October 2012 5.00-8.30pm.

A summary of the update is as follows;

“This update comprises the collective views of the two parishes of St Minver; the first Parish Plan was produced in 2006, and this Update has been compiled from information gathered in 2011.

The original Parish Plan was supplied to statutory bodies as well as being widely available to the general public; it is now the main statement of local views that should be considered by Cornwall Council and other statutory bodies, and there is evidence that such organisations are referring to the Parish Plan. A group of Architecture students carrying out research on Polzeath as the site for their Community Generator Centre project used the St Minver Parish Plan, found on the shelves of the university library, a valuable resource.

In the absence of a local forum, and with the rise of localism, the Parish Plan is the only voice of the local people. There are visible signs that changes have occurred since the original Parish Plan, indicating that the needs expressed in 2006 were real, and that the Parish Plan was addressing the concerns of people and groups within the parish; although the Parish Plan has not in most cases initiated these changes. Examples include the building of a pre-school playgroup; the addition of a conference centre to a local hotel; and the provision of an indoor skateboard facility.

The views of the parishes, as contained in the St Minver Parish Plan, may be summarised as follows:

The wider effect of any change in the nature and development – including private housing – within the St Minver peninsula should be considered so as to avoid upsetting the balance of this community.

A strategy of self-support for the communities of the parishes should be developed, and applied to all situations where change is taking place, particularly in respect of commercial and private building projects.

Within the parishes` areas of scientific and natural beauty, as well as other educational topics with potential for adding to the richness and attractiveness of the area should be developed with the help of enthusiasts and experts from the wider UK community. Examples include marine exploration in the VMCA, and the Dark Sky Area over Pentire Point; the latter needs careful planning now, as reversal or change would be almost impossible once uncontrolled nighttime lighting becomes established as the norm.

Further development of the local agricultural, commercial and industrial (including leisure) infrastructure is needed, in order to support a local community.

A financial review is needed to ensure that a percentage of the monies now paid by developers to the County Council is returned to the Parish Councils in which development has taken place, for the benefit of the local community.

Other ways of generating a community fund should be explored, to support development.

If the thoughts expressed in the Parish Plan are to influence future developments, copies of the Plan should be available not only to statutory bodies and commercial organisations, but also to every resident or would-be resident.

The Parish Plan articulates local views in sections covering Councils and Contacts – History of the Parishes – Environment and Waste – Health and Social Services – Housing and Development - Leisure, Clubs and Facilities – Shopping – Transport, Roads, Traffic and Parking – Employment –Crime and Disorder – Primary School Children – Secondary School Children – Style/Character of Villages in St Minver parishes. The latter is an additional section to the 2006 Parish Plan, in response to the need to characterise the individual nature of the built environment of the villages within the parishes.

The update of the Parish Plan presents the current views of residents, community groups and commercial enterprises; a forward look to 2016: and a vision beyond 2016. It represents information obtained from response forms, meetings, and individual conversations.

The Future:

The Parish Plan Steering Group has gained some understanding of the community within the St Minver peninsula through the production of the 2006 Parish Plan, and its 2011 update. In order to continue monitoring the evolution and vision of this community, it is suggested that this group – or its successor - records achievements and re-evaluates the community's feelings with an appropriate survey in 2016 or before if the community or political environment demands it."