

Meeting of Business, Employment, Transport & Infrastructure (BETI)
Focus Group



6th November 2015 at Trevelyan House. St Agnes.

Present: Alan Clark, Roger Radcliffe, Vince Falco, Mike Bunt.
Apologies: Roger Thorley.

Actions from previous meeting:

Business

Roger R had distributed to other members of the group a draft (1st) copy of the Economic Profile for St Agnes Parish produced by Peter Wills at Cornwall Council.
It was agreed that we would all have a look at the document and provide feedback to the author via Roger.
Also agreed to share with other Focus Groups.
Roger's initial thoughts on this document was that it would prove an excellent source of data and should help inform our questionnaires and subsequent policies.
One example of this was that the document highlighted the higher than average number of people in the Parish that worked from home. This might promote a policy that encouraged 'working space' and the necessary infrastructure in future developments.

He had also circulated some extracts from the 1996 Regeneration Study.
This was discussed briefly and it was noted that, although quite an old document, it still contained a lot of relevant information.
An example of this was the conclusion that the Parish was becoming more reliant on Tourism. It indicated that the main tourist attraction was the quality of the environment in our Parish.
It suggested that the way to encourage tourism was to implement a range of measures which help visitors enjoy the area whilst raising the quality of the environment.
It also highlighted that a growth area was the number of people employed in the professional services – this tied in with the Economic Profile report which confirmed a higher than average number of professional residents.

Actions: All to review both documents and provide feedback to Roger R.

Renewable Energy

Vince has produced a background document covering the essential rationale for renewable energy to date.

He has also found a County Council document entitled: "Cornwall Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning" which is an extract from "Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Onshore Large Scale Wind and PV Generation".

This report stated that there was very little existing large scale PV or Wind generation in the Parish due to our sensitive and iconic coastline and environment. This therefore meant that we would probably be restricted to small scale, micro generation (i.e. on rooftops) or to a community led scheme.

He had also had a meeting with Mike Field, Chairman and owner of local company Natural Generation. They had discussed Micro and community led generation and Mike Field was preparing a report on this.

Some of the salient points raised were:

- There is a lot of ignorance on the subject – therefore a questionnaire on the subject would prove difficult.
- People are not aware of the national problem of peak demands.
- The importance of addressing this problem with the younger generation who it would affect the most.
- The importance of community schemes.
- The whole subject is recognised as emotive and possible divisive.

Roger would see if he could find any contacts at County Hall (via Stephen Ford) who could help provide additional Data.

Action: Vince – Continue gathering evidence.
Roger R – Contact Stephen Ford.
All – To examine reports produced by Vince.

Public Transport

Alan had been in touch with Hopley Coaches and John Slater (Parish Minibuses) His discussion with Nick Hopley did establish that he was prepared to consider an upgrade to the service provision on the basis that he could make it a paying service. He was concerned though that in a bid situation against a big national i.e. First Great Western, he may find it difficult to compete. He had also obtained time tables for Hopley;s current services.

Discussions with John Slater noted that the two Parish Mini-buses are made available to locals for self-drive for a fee, and also that regular provision is made for transport of older residents to various activities and that subsidies are available for carrying elderly Category A and B disabled people. A regular service grant is available from CCC towards running these busses.

He is trying to determine the current level of public transport in the Parish and what was actually needed.

It was suggested he contact the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) at County Hall to see if they could provide any information. Roger also agreed to seek additional contacts, starting with Vicky Fraser at County Hall who may be able to provide traffic stats.

Actions: Alan – Contact PTU
Roger R – Contact Vicky Fraser.

Utilities & Communications

Mike had been trying to source a map showing current and proposed broadband coverage in the Parish. He was also looking into ways that the NDP could help utility providers such as BT. This was proving difficult ‘Superfast Cornwall’ seemed to be winding down and appeared to be uncontactable! He had spoken to BT but they could not provide the information other than suggesting we did a search by individual postcodes! Mike felt that this was an area that Toby Parkins might be able to use his knowledge and expertise to help and also provide some industry contacts. It was agreed to invite Toby to the next meeting.

Action: Mike – Speak to Toby

There was a brief discussion on what we felt were the objectives of the Focus Group and how we were going to achieve them. It was felt that at this early stage our priority was still the gathering of existing data and information.

It was decided that the next meeting should concentrate on the Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Bridleways and if Toby Parkins was available, some discussion on broadband etc.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 10th December at 1800. Wheal Quoit, 27 Trevaunance Road. (Mike's)