Couch Helen

Subject: Information Bulletin for Town and Parish Councils

Localism and Devolution
Information Bulletin

Thursday 03 April 2014

CORNWALL COUNCIL

Quick links

• Mobile Library Consultation Update • Empty Property• Apprentice Opportunities

Dear Town and Parish Councils,

We hope you enjoy reading our news and updates plus many other issues we hope you will find interesting or useful.

Please use the quick links above to take you to any of the items you are particularly interested in or scroll down through the email to read them all.

Mobile Library Consultation Update

We are currently consulting on how mobile library and mobile one stop shop services are delivered in your community and have already received a good level of response.

The 12 week consultation was launched in February and alongside directly canvassing the views of current service users we have been attending all Community Network meetings across Cornwall to discuss proposals with communities, members and Parish/Town Councils.

The existing mobile service is facing a 50% budget cut and we are undertaking consultation on plans to either reduce the current number of mobile vans and frequency of stops or cease the current service, replacing it with a number of community based initiatives.

We are seeking the views of service users and community representatives as we consult on the possibility of delivering these services in a different way
Do you have any ideas on how this service could be delivered in a different way in your

village or town? Do you have some thoughts on where and how this would work e.g. community venues that could be suitable to host a 'micro' library?

If you haven't done so already, we would appreciate your views and ask you to take part in our survey. Its available online until 30 April at www.cornwall.gov.uk/libraryconsult

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in anticipation

Empty Property – New leaflet about reporting empty properties

The issue of empty homes is the subject of increased national and local awareness and action. Empty properties are a wasted resource which could be used for much needed homes. They can be an eyesore or cause other problems.

Cornwall Council's strategy aims to bring empty properties back into habitable use, thereby contributing to increased housing (including affordable housing) supply, with associated benefits of improving problem properties and removing any adverse effect on neighbouring properties and the area. The Council's objective is to pro-actively identify and resolve empty property cases through coordinated provision of advice and financial assistance (including referral to relevant loan, leasing or repair and lease schemes) and, where necessary (as a last resort), appropriate enforcement action.

The Council is able to identify some empty properties from available records, and communicates with owners in an effort to bring properties back into habitable use. But it is likely that there will be others which the Council is not aware of.

To enable people to report an empty property, the Council has produced a new leaflet including a cut-off section to fill in and post to us. We'll then make enquiries and try to get the property brought back into use. Another part of the leaflet can be dropped through the property's letter box to let the owner know about the help available. A supply of leaflets can be obtained by contacting the Empty Homes Team via email emptyhomes@cornwall.gov.uk or telephone 01726 223600. We'll then make arrangements for you to collect them, or we may be able to deliver. Empty properties can also be reported via email or telephone, or the Council's website www.cornwall.gov.uk/emptyproperties Or www.visitcornwall.com/content/consultation-give-us-your-views

Have you heard about the Cornwall Apprenticeships campaign?

The Cornwall Apprenticeships campaign is an ESF funded project designed to raise awareness about Apprenticeships with employers, young people and their parents in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Apprenticeships are a great way for young people to get on the career ladder and earn whilst they learn. Government grants of £1500 that are currently available mean there has never been a better time for employers to take on an apprentice to help their business grow. There are over 80 apprenticeship frameworks delivered in the county, so there is likely to be something to suit every business need.

Cornwall Apprenticeships would like all Parish Councils to display a poster on their noticeboards to promote the campaign with the residents in each Parish. If you are happy to do this, please contact Jason Sugden who will send you colour printed copies of the poster. info@cornwallapprenticeships.com

For more information about the campaign visit www.cornwallapprenticeships.com

General Information

We are always looking at ways to help Town and Parish Councils – if you can think of other opportunities that you would like us to investigate please contact us.

If you have any questions please contact:

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For general enquiries about the service:
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