

Chairman's Annual Report 2013-2014

♦ Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Council:

- ♦ met 30 times in 4 differing venues in the Parish; of these there were:-
 - 20 Ordinary Committee Meetings
 - 6 Parish Plan Committee Meetings
 - 1 Annual Parish Meeting
 - 1 Annual General Meeting
 - 2 Special Meetings (of the Parish Plan Implementation Committee)
- ♦ considered and observed on 66 planning applications
- ♦ attended 2 planning site meetings
- ♦ received notification of 4 planning appeals; submitting additional representation when necessary
- ♦ received 1 appeal decision

- ♦ have representatives on 16 outside bodies & community groups:
 - i) Gwithian Green Advisory Group: Cllr Roberts & Cllr Pocock
 - ii) Connor Downs Residents Association: Cllr Homes
 - iii) Gwinear Hall Committee: Cllr Pascoe
 - iv) Gwithian Residents Association: Cllr Homes
 - v) Towans Partnership: Cllr Roberts
 - vi) Hayle Day Care Centre Trust: Cllr Slade-Elmes
 - vii) Gwinear School Travel Working Group: Cllr Roberts
 - viii) Rural Transport Partnership: Vacant
 - ix) Penwith Access and Rights of Way Forum: Cllr A Crocker
 - x) Over 50's Forum: Cllr Mrs Slade-Elmes
 - xi) Walkers are Welcome Group – Cllr A Crocker
 - xii) Cornwall Council Beach Management Advisory Group – Cllr Homes
 - xiii) Community Network Panel – Cllr Pocock with Cllrs Roberts & Slade-Elmes as substitutes
 - xiv) Pen Tye Residents Association – Cllr Slade-Elmes & Cllr Roberts
 - xv) Community Action Through Sport – Cllr Cupples
 - xvi) Wall Hall Committee – Cllr Roberts & Cllr Negus

- ♦ with members also attending:
 - ♦ Police Authority Liaison meetings
 - ♦ Cornwall Association of Local Councils meetings
 - ♦ Gwithian Church remembrance service
 - ♦ Gwinear Church remembrance service
 - ♦ Hayle & St Ives Community Network meetings
 - ♦ Cornwall Council Planning Forum Group meetings
 - ♦ Joint meetings with St Erth Parish Council
 - ♦ Gwithian Towans Community Group meetings
 - ♦ Neighbourhood Planning events
 - ♦ Towans Ranger project meetings
 - ♦ Cranford Development meetings
 - ♦ Cornwall Neighbourhood Planning and Landscape Workshops
 - ♦ Cornwall Community Flood Forum Conferences
 - ♦ Gwinear Primary School
 - ♦ Connor Downs Primary School
 - ♦ Cornwall Council Budget Consultation event
 - ♦ Code of Conduct consultation meetings
 - ♦ Affordable Housing Public Consultation Event (Ocean Housing)
 - ♦ Parish Council and Cormac project development meetings

- ♦ has received:
 - ♦ 12 Neighbourhood Beat Police Reports

- ◆ has responded to consultations on:
 - ◆ The Cornwall Local Plan – Strategic policies Development Plan Document – Pre-Submission Document
 - ◆ Gypsy & Travelling Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan
 - ◆ Cornwall Council Community Infrastructure Levy – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – Review of the Code of Conduct, one year on from its change
 - ◆ Gwinear CP School Community Consultation – 3 words that describe the School’s “Values Statement”
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – Community Network Review
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – Draft Licensing Act 2003
 - ◆ Renewable Energy Landscape Supplementary Planning Document
 - ◆ Mineral Safeguarding Development Plan Document
 - ◆ Allocations Development Plan Documents Scoping
 - ◆ NHS – Future use of Poltair Community Hospital
 - ◆ NHS Kernow – Childrens Health and Wellbeing Service Review
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – School Transport Service
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – Mobile Library and One Stop Shop Services
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
 - ◆ CALC – Local Audit and Accountability Act
 - ◆ Cornwall Council – Highway Adoption Policy

- ◆ has reviewed:
 - ◆ Parish Council Asset Register and Inventory
 - ◆ Parish Council Risk Assessments
 - ◆ Parish Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
 - ◆ Community Needs Assessment Document (Infrastructure Needs Assessment)
 - ◆ The procedure for displaying Receipts & Payments in Council minutes
 - ◆ RoSPA General Risk Assessment report for the Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field

- ◆ has approved & adopted:
 - ◆ Parish Council Asset Register and Inventory
 - ◆ Parish Council Risk Assessments
 - ◆ Parish Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
 - ◆ Annual Return Statement of Assurance
 - ◆ Parish Council Data Protection Policy
 - ◆ Policy for the “Handling of requests for information”
 - ◆ Registration with the Information Commissioner
 - ◆ Implementation of a Staffing Advisory Group

- ◆ received presentations from:
 - ◆ Stephens Scown Solicitors on behalf of CIB Plant Hire, for the proposed permanent operation of the Recycling Facility at Treeve Farm, Treeve Lane, Connor Downs
 - ◆ George Eustice MP - “Time for a catch-up” question and answer session
 - ◆ Jon Warner of the Homechoice Team, Cornwall Council
 - ◆ Anthony Bassett of Ocean Housing on Phase 2 of housing at their Horsepool Road site in Connor Downs
 - ◆ Andrew O’Brien, Affordable Housing Team Leader, Cornwall Council
 - ◆ Trand UK Ltd on a proposed housing development adjacent to Relistian Park, Reawla
 - ◆ Mr Galligan of South West Water to discuss the capacity and condition of the existing sewerage network for the Parish
 - ◆ Paul Stephens of THF on Phase 2 of housing on land off Arundel Court, Connor Downs
 - ◆ Martin Rule on the feasibility study that he is undertaking for the Towans

- ◆ has taken the lead in:

- ◆ securing a contractor to continue the Parish Council's commitment to provide a Community Pride Officer for the Parish; duties include litter picking, reporting fly tipping, broken signs, drainage problems and street cleaning, he is responsible for maintenance of parks and open spaces, maintenance and cleaning of bus shelters, litter/dog bins, benches and signs and grass cutting and planting within our Parish
- ◆ developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish which will set out policies for future development and future land use - the whole Parish has been designated as a Neighbourhood Planning Area, a lead Steering Group has been formed, evidence is being gathered and a questionnaire will shortly be sent to Parishioners to ascertain views
- ◆ consultation on future plans for Gwithian Towns; this has led to the formation of a design appraisal which in turn will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish
- ◆ pursuing the devolution in ownership and management of Reawla Park from Cornwall Council; undertaking tree planting at the park in conjunction with Gwinear CP School and the Silvanus Trust; upgrading the football pitch surface and providing new goal nets
- ◆ undertaking and responding to play safety inspections at the Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field and providing a new basket swing
- ◆ facilitating discussions for affordable housing within the Parish
- ◆ facilitating the campaign to provide a number of Public Access Defibrillators within the Parish
- ◆ a project to renovate the Parish Council's fingerposts and to provide new Parish boundary markers
- ◆ provision of a parish directory to support local businesses
- ◆ working with the Connor Downs Resident Association and the Carnhell Green Traffic Working Group to look at measures to mitigate issues with speeding traffic in the Parish
- ◆ looking at ways to establish a network of safer places to walk; investigating the permissive paths initiative
- ◆ providing both Connor Downs Primary School and Gwinear Primary School with Christmas Trees
- ◆ maintaining the lane serving the cemetery
- ◆ ensuring the Reawla Streetscape scheme continues to be maintained to a high standard
- ◆ working with both primary schools to look at finance and capacity issues
- ◆ facilitating the setting up of the charitable trust "Gwinear Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund;" the Fund received charitable status in its own right this year. GGSCF can receive grant funds from approved renewable energy planning applications for the benefit of the Parish and contiguous parishes
- ◆ has supported other agencies and groups in:
 - ◆ continued access to Public Rights of Way within the Parish through the LMP scheme
 - ◆ investigating the needs for provision of youth and community facilities in Reawla; supporting youth activities run by the Pen Tye Residents Association; initiating and facilitating improvements to Reawla Park
 - ◆ supporting the planting and restoration of open space at Horsepool Road, Connor Downs
 - ◆ securing the provision of improved facilities for local schools
 - ◆ prioritising enforcement issues with Cornwall Council Enforcement Team
 - ◆ working with Connor Downs Residents Association in maintaining and providing new play equipment for the ESPF
 - ◆ supporting the work of the community Speedwatch Team through the sponsoring of a prize for the Speedwatch poster competition
- ◆ has remained vigilant and sought improvements regarding:
 - ◆ unauthorised developments
 - ◆ planning conditions not being met
 - ◆ missing or damaged street signs
 - ◆ car parking issues on the Parish coastline and Nature Reserves
 - ◆ public consultation regarding road closures
 - ◆ antisocial behaviour throughout the Parish
 - ◆ speeding issues across the Parish
 - ◆ the condition of public rights of way

- ♦ monitoring the devolution of public conveniences by Cornwall Council
- ♦ monitoring developments for tin dredging in St Ives Bay and working with neighbouring Town and Parish Councils
- ♦ has made financial contributions to 6 different community groups
 - ♦ Gwinear School PTFA – books for the library
 - ♦ Wall Music Festival Society – running costs
 - ♦ Busy Bodies Pre-School – upgrade of Pre-School computer for use by the children
 - ♦ Pen Tye Residents Association – hall charges for the Youth Group
 - ♦ Gwinear Churchtown Football Club – upgrading of changing facilities
 - ♦ Gwithian Towans Community Group – setting up of a community website
- ♦ has been successful in securing
 - ♦ Section 106 monies towards community infrastructure projects within the Parish, having now received the second tranche of this money, proposed infrastructure projects, particularly to mitigate issues of speeding traffic within the Parish, are being pursued
 - ♦ Funding from the Big Lottery Fund for play equipment (basket swing) for the Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field
 - ♦ HLS funding for the Gwithian Green Local Nature Reserve
 - ♦ Funding towards the development of the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish
- ♦ in conjunction with local community groups, has applied and received funding from/for:
 - ♦ GGPC received funding from the Big Lottery Fund for play equipment (funds towards the new basket swing) for the Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field
 - ♦ Connor Downs Residents Association received funding from Comic Relief for the new basket swing for the Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field
 - ♦ the Pen Tye Residents Association has transferred the balance of their Big Lottery Fund award to GGPC for improvements to Reawla Park
- ♦ has supported:
 - ♦ our allotment holders – a presentation of allotment awards was undertaken this year
 - ♦ recognised Parishioners for their tireless work within the community through the presentation of the Kelvin Jenkin Community Achievement award
 - ♦ Vintage Rally
 - ♦ Connor Downs Residents Association
 - ♦ Pen Tye Residents Association
 - ♦ PAROW
 - ♦ GDFBA
 - ♦ Walkers are Welcome Group
 - ♦ GDVA – Newsletter for the Gwinear Ward
 - ♦ CDRA – Newsletter for Gwithian Ward
 - ♦ CPRE
 - ♦ Open Spaces Society
- ♦ has tackled the Local Member of Parliament on the following issues:
 - ♦ the Affordable Housing allocation
 - ♦ the New Homes Bonus – how funds received from central Government by Cornwall Council are reinvested
 - ♦ funding for Neighbourhood Planning
 - ♦ policies for renewable energy
 - ♦ securing rail services
 - ♦ road safety and traffic speeds within the Parish
 - ♦ the impact of proposed changes to Godrevy Lighthouse by Trinity House
- ♦ has responded to local concerns and tackled other agencies about:
 - ♦ mud, debris & litter deposited on roads and in hedges
 - ♦ youths, anti-social behaviour and vandalism throughout the Pariah

- ◆ surface water issues / flooding concerns
 - ◆ drainage issues and concerns
 - ◆ dog fouling in public areas and provision of dog waste bins
 - ◆ graffiti
 - ◆ fly tipping throughout Parish
 - ◆ missing or damaged public footpath, road and directional signs
 - ◆ speeding issues / speeding vehicles / speed related accidents
 - ◆ road surface issues
 - ◆ overgrown hedges on public footpaths and highways
 - ◆ noise issues and concerns
 - ◆ use of motorbikes in inappropriate locations
 - ◆ parking issues – Connor Downs
 - ◆ coastline issues – car parking measures and accessibility
 - ◆ stability of coastal paths following the adverse weather conditions experienced this year
 - ◆ footpath classification
- ◆ continues to:
- ◆ manage the cemetery and 22 allotment plots
 - ◆ support the Reawla Youth Group in their activities
 - ◆ endeavour to provide a permanent Parish office
 - ◆ secure funding for maintenance and implement annual works at Gwithian Green LNR
 - ◆ manage Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field in partnership with Connor Downs Residents Association
 - ◆ drive forward the aims and objectives of the Parish Plan
 - ◆ endeavour to provide community facilities for use within the Parish
 - ◆ drive forward the possible management of land within the Parish for development

So what else did we achieve this last year?

Firstly, it has been another year of exceptional activity and progress but has also been a year of understanding the enormity of challenges, both political and financial, that are facing the Parish if we are to provide exceptional value for money combined with good public service.

- The Reawla Streetscape Project was completed after some frustrations with Cornwall Council's contractor Cormac. The end result looks good and there has been a noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- Reawla Playing Field has seen improvements to the football pitch with drainage and a new net together with tree planting funded by Western Power Distribution through the Silvanus Trust.
- The Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field has a new basket swing with funding from Big Lottery, the Parish Council and the late Cllr Ray Tovey Community Chest.
- Education contributions from housing developments and working with schools to tackle financial and capacity issues.
- Neighbourhood Plan started – and the key consultation periods will be May – June, October-November 2014 and April- May 2015 followed by the Referendum post October 2015.
- New open public space at the Ocean Housing development, Connor Downs.
- Promoting the defibrillator project.
- Contributing financially to the CDRA Horsepool Project.
- Promoting the refurbishment of our fingerpost signs around the Parish.
- Supporting the speedwatch team and Carnhell Green Traffic working group.
- Working with Cornwall Council Highways team to develop road improvements and traffic calming at key spots around the Parish (using the balance of the £100k from the Rosewarne Section 106 funding); further consultation will be taking place.
- A "Can do Parish". We continue to forge links with Cornwall Council and to project the Parish as somewhere where Parishioners have good ideas and are willing to collaborate with CC.

Although this process is time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, it has led to a good working relationship with, for example, Highways.

- The continuing improvements to the website, community communication and sound governance will bring Quality Council status within our grasp in the next 18 months.
- Gwithian Towans planning. Major steps and lots of time has been spent on researching the optimum way to deploy the Government's new planning rules to benefit and conserve the unique quality of Gwithian Towans – a design appraisal and draft Design Guide has been commissioned which is nearing completion and will lead on to a community-based initiative to better manage building design and control in Gwithian Towans through Neighbourhood Planning.

Challenges for 2014/2015

- Continue to use and develop the website www.ggpc.org.uk , community groups and other organisations to build a unified but diverse Parish community.
- Continue to action the key elements of the 2010 Parish Plan and to begin the process of revising and updating the Plan for 2015 onwards by engagement with all parishioners.
- To continue to engage with Cornwall Council to ensure that as CC moves from a primarily delivery authority to a strategic authority, that devolved services that are appropriate and that would benefit the parish are picked up by the PC and efficiently run for the benefit of the community at optimum cost.
- To encourage Parishioners to be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan process (www.gwineargwithianplan.org.uk)
- To continue the process of consulting on and constructing a Neighbourhood Plan (within the Government's Planning Framework) to plan and control building development within the Parish yet encouraging job opportunities and commercial and agricultural development to shape the "look and feel" of the Parish as parishioners would want in 10-15 years time.
- To develop plans to control traffic speeding within the Parish and to commence implementation.
- To take the final steps to attain Quality Council status.

Finally, a view from the Chair.....

Having now completed 4 full years as Chairman, some thoughts

Firstly, to all parishioners who have given time, energy, ideas and contributed generally to all the achievements above – a really big Thank You!but we would like to see more of you attend PC meetings!

Secondly, to all our Councillors and the Vice Chairman, Stephen Rowe who all work tirelessly behind the scenes – researching information, meeting people, doing zone planning visits, actively implementing the plans – another big Thank You – you are the "engine-room" of the PC!

Thirdly, to our Divisional Elected Member, Lionel Pascoe – a big thank you for supporting us at Cornwall Council and promoting the Parish's interests there.

Lastly – and unarguably most importantly – a huge Thank-You to our Clerk, Vida Perrin and Administration Assistant Claire Thomson – both of whom run a really "tight ship" with impeccable administration and solid advice – even if the content does not thrill us sometimes! The role of Parish administration is changing. Historically, it was a back water of local government – a genteel role – but not anymore. Councils have choices now – get involved, take on services for community benefit and (dare I say it) additional cost from Cornwall Council – or drift along. To do the former gives us control over our services, to do the latter means diminished service. My vision is that in 10 years there will be 2 classes of Parish Council services – the have's and the have not's. Our Parishioners deserve to be amongst the Have's, don't you think?

So let me remind everyone of

Our Vision for the Parish of Gwinear-Gwithian

- **A place where people take pride in where and how they live**
- **A community with good quality housing for all those wishing to live here, and with a local connection**
- **A community where we see a leveling out of built development to enable us to elevate areas historically over-developed and suffering social consequences**
- **Villages that develop to meet the needs of a wide mix of people**
- **A Parish that has vibrant village centres, with thriving shops and post offices, and is innovative in supporting new and existing businesses**
- **A community that embraces tourism to our collective advantage**
- **A community that is safe: from anti-social behaviour, speeding traffic, and the fear of crime**
- **A community that engages and supports its young people**
- **A connected community- physically; and mentally: addressing problems of spatial distance and the very different nature of our diverse community groups**
- **A place where the Parish Council is at the heart of the community, shaping and driving change**
- **A community that has access to quality local health care services**
- **A healthy-eating community, enjoying opportunities to grow their own produce**
- **A community that has good local access to a variety of quality sporting and leisure facilities**
- **A community that responds positively to the challenges of climate change**

Meur ras hag oll an gwella

Brian Pocock (Chairman) April 6th 2014.