

*Zennor
Parish
Plan*

Contents

Zennor Parish PlanPage 3

Introduction to Zennor ParishPage 4

Projects and ActionsPage 5

- EnvironmentPage 6
- HousingPage 9
- EmploymentPage 10
- TransportPage 11
- Parish ActivitiesPage 13
- What Next?Page 14



Gurnard's Head

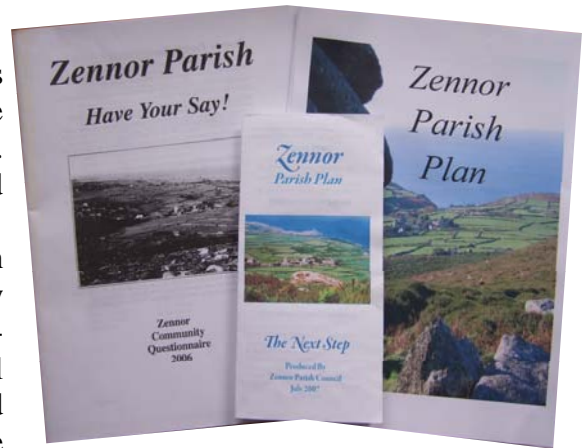
Zennor Parish Plan

Introduction

The Zennor Parish Plan project was set up in 2006 by the Parish Council in response to Penwith District Council's "2025 Vision" and the government funded local Market and Coastal Towns initiatives (MCTi), both of which emphasize the need for local consultation and grassroots involvement.

The Process

A Parish Survey - "Have Your Say!" – was produced in 2006 to identify issues that were considered important to the people of Zennor. The Survey was distributed to every household in the parish and the high response rate of 62% reflects the interest of the local community in Parish matters. Once the results of the survey had been analysed, a Summary leaflet was distributed and, in April 2007, the Parish Council held a 'roadshow' where residents were invited to make extra comments and suggestions on the main issues identified from the Survey. Two further Parish meetings were held in April and May 2008 when representatives from Penwith District Council and Community Energy Plus were able to offer advice and support on the issues discussed.



The Plan

The enjoyment that residents have in the beauty and peace of their surroundings, their love for the sea and moors that surround Zennor, and the strength of the local community were highlighted by the Survey. Parishioners want to protect the environment and character of the Parish, but would like to see improvements to services, infrastructure and the environment that will enhance life for everyone in our community.

The Zennor Parish Plan reflects these views and at the same time provides the mechanisms to inform and influence the decisions of statutory bodies, agencies, individuals and organizations with regard to community priorities and identified local needs. It also provides the evidence needed to support funding bids. The Plan, and subsequent actions and projects resulting from it, will need to link in with Penwith District's Local Plan (and with Cornwall Council's strategic plans) as well as St Ives MCTi, so that local residents can have more influence on issues affecting the Parish.

The publication of the Parish Plan is not the end of the process. The actions chosen by the community are not fixed for completion within a finite time but are part of the long-term future goals of the Parish. As some projects are completed, new challenges will undoubtedly appear. The Plan will need to be reviewed periodically to reflect these changes.

Finally, the community and the Parish Council will need to work together to move these actions forward so that future improvements to the Parish will be realized.

Zennor Parish



Zennor Parish is situated 5 miles west of St Ives, encompassing the coastal plateau with its ancient field patterns and the Penwith Moors behind. The coastal scenery comprises rocky coves, rugged headlands and dramatic cliffs. Along the coastal plateau are scattered a number of farms and small hamlets, connected by the ancient church footpath across the fields and the B3306 road to Land's End. The Parish is littered with many prehistoric sites, including Zennor Quoit (a Neolithic burial chamber) on the moorlands, and iron age cliff castles at Bosigran and Gurnard's Head.

The largest settlement is the village of Zennor (Churchtown), clustered around the twelfth century church of Saint Senara, famous for her mermaid. There is also the well-known Tinnars Arms pub, a recently refurbished village hall (the former school) and the Wayside Museum exhibiting local artefacts. The once popular Methodist Chapel is now a Backpackers Hostel and café. Two miles further west is the large hamlet of Treen and the Gurnard's Head pub/restaurant.

The Parish has a population of 217 (2001 census) and is predominantly an agricultural landscape, although the number of working farms has decreased as farms have joined together and enlarged. Several farms supplement their incomes with Bed and Breakfast and other local businesses also depend on tourists, as does the church. About half the working population work away from home or outside the Parish. Few services are available in the Parish and because of its isolation most people use cars to get to work and to the nearest towns of St. Ives, Penzance and St Just. Housing is very expensive (in part due to second home ownership) and the many protective designations preclude 'new build' so that there is virtually no affordable housing for young people or others. However, there is a strong sense of community and this, together with the outstanding landscape, is what the people of Zennor value most.

Projects and Actions

The Priorities



Zennor Churchtown

Environment

Zennor Parish is highly regarded, both nationally and internationally, in terms of landscape value and archaeological sites and is protected under a number of different designations such as AONB, Heritage Coast, SSSI, etc. A number of the buildings are Listed on their architectural merit by English Heritage, including the twelfth century parish church and the stiles on the footpaths leading to it. The village is a Conservation Area as designated by Penwith District Council, and the National Trust own, or have Protective Covenants over, significant parts of the coastal, farming and moorland areas. The importance of the environment is recognized by those who live here, as evidenced by responses to the Parish Survey. On the whole residents were happy with the parish as it is but the Survey highlighted the following concerns and issues.



Listed stile on the church path

Improving the Environment

Apart from protection of the landscape, removal of overhead cables was a top priority in responses to the Survey. Where this has already been carried out it was considered to be a great improvement to the surrounding area.



Unsightly overhead cables

Actions

- protect and enhance our built heritage and landscape
- identify and prioritize locations for removal of overhead cables and poles
- seek co-operation and support of utility providers of the above
- source funding if necessary

Partners:

BT
Western Power
AONB

English Heritage
PDC
Cornwall Council

Strategic Links:

Penwith Vision 2025
St Ives MCTi Community Strategic Plan -
St Ives 2025

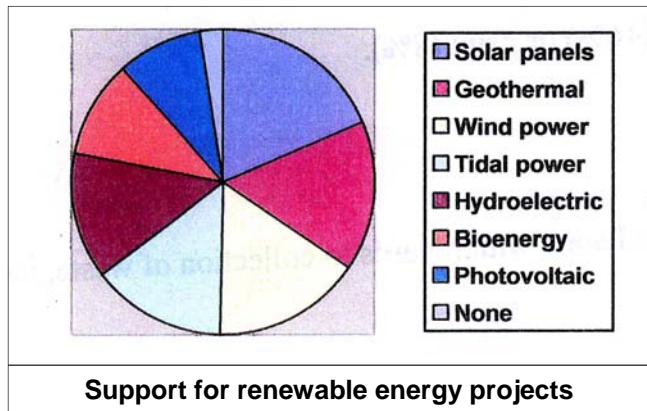
Renewable Energy

The Parish Survey showed broad support for small scale renewable energy projects.

“small renewable energy solutions (solar panels, micro hydro electrics, wind generators) with the long term objective of reducing our reliance on conventional electricity providers”

“wind power for the village”

“more renewable energy in the village”



Actions:

- in conjunction with others develop a Renewable Energy Policy for the Parish

Partners:

PDC
Community Energy Plus

Strategic Links:

PDCs Penwith Climate Change Strategy
St Ives MCTi Community Strategic Plan - St Ives 2025

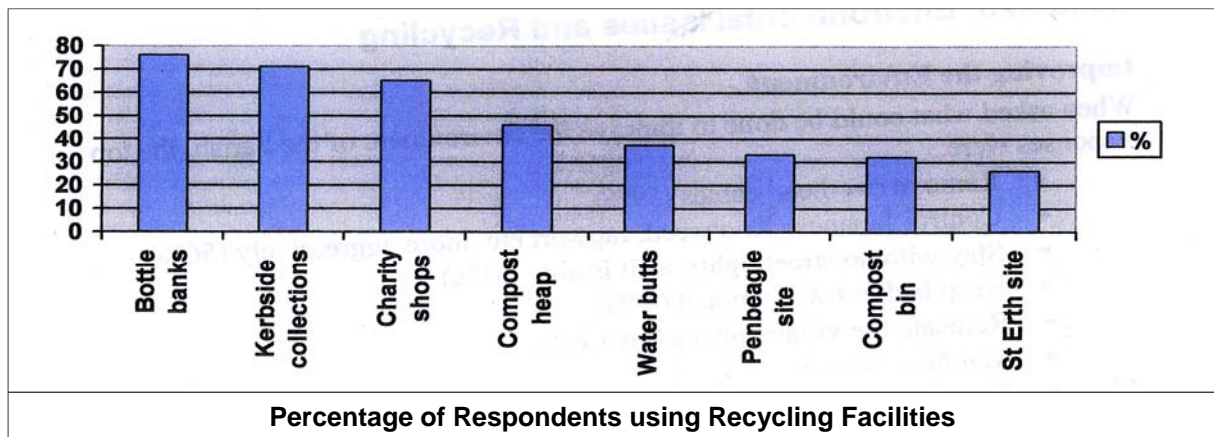
Penwith Vision 2025

Recycling

Many parishioners would like to see an extension of kerbside collections as well as the introduction of community recycling schemes.

“More facilities for recycling plastic, cardboard and garden waste”

“I have to go to the supermarkets as I have so much between the time of the next pick up”



Actions:

- find ways of promoting the positive benefits of recycling to local residents
- explore possibility of kerbside collection of plastics, larger recycling boxes and increased frequency of collections
- identify possible community recycling point in Zennor
- identify need for “Good Neighbour Scheme” for recycling, shopping etc and implement if feasible

Partners:

PDC Keep Britain Tidy
Biffa Cornwall Council
SITA Cornwall Waste Action

Strategic Links:

Cornwall CC Waste - Local Plan

Japanese Knotweed (and other invasive species)

Despite the identification of some sites, Japanese Knotweed continues to cause concern.

Actions:

- raise awareness of the problem throughout the parish
- promote solutions through education and information
- inform Invasive Weed Unit (Cornwall Council) of specific sites

Partners:

Parish paths Officer English Nature
National Trust Cornwall Council



Open moorland on Treen Downs

Housing

The settlement pattern within the Parish is based on nucleated and dispersed hamlets and farmsteads occupying the more sheltered sites, thus giving the appearance of a very sparsely populated landscape. Generally buildings are built of granite with slate roofs and thought to be ancient in origin. There is very little development within the open moorland.

The Parish survey identified the need for affordable housing to meet the needs of local workers and young people. The threat of continuing expansion of second homes coupled with planning guidance that does not allow for development of farm buildings for residential use, was identified as the greatest threat to maintaining a vibrant community.

Actions:

- continue to lobby government and planning authorities to discourage second home ownership through the increase of Council tax and other measures
- lobby government and planning authorities to enable the development of existing redundant farm building for conversion to full-time residential use only
- ensure that any new build is complementary in character and situation within the local environment

Partners:

Policy Officers from PDC and ultimately ‘One Cornwall’
Penwith Housing Association
Representative Member of Parliament
AONB
English Heritage
The National Trust

Strategic Links:

Countryside Agency Landscape Character Assessment Ref 156
Regional Spatial Strategy
PDC Sustainable Development Policy
Penwith Local Plan
Penwith Local Development Framework/Core Strategy
St Ives MCTi Community Strategic Plan - St Ives 2025



Example of a sensitive barn conversion for permanent residency

Employment



Making big bale silage, Trewey Vean Farm

The Parish has a wide diversification of employment activities. The main employment areas are farming and the tourism/leisure sectors. Outside these main areas employment is varied with mostly self-employed parishioners, many working from, or based at, home. The Parish Survey identified the need to support these sectors appropriately in a sustainable manner, benefiting as many local people as possible.

Zennor Parish Council has initiated a Directory of local businesses which will be regularly up-dated. The Directory has also been printed on the reverse of the Village maps thus promoting businesses in the Parish.

A desire for a local shop was expressed in the Survey and more than 90% of respondents said they would support a farm shop selling local produce.

Actions:

- annually update Business Directory
- support the introduction of informal local markets
- support the setting up of low-key sustainable businesses

Partners:

Policy Officers from PDC
Cornwall Council
SWERDA
Cornwall Enterprise
St Ives Chamber of Commerce



The Gurnard's Head

Strategic Links:

Penwith District Council Core Strategy 2006
PDC's Vision 2025
Regional Economic Strategy



The Tinnars Arms



The Old Chapel Backpackers

Transport

Roads

The B3306 from St Ives through Zennor to St Just is recognized as one of the most scenic routes in the country and, in 2005, was voted 'Best Sunday Drive in the U.K.' Apart from the dramatic scenery, this stretch of the coast road has been relatively untouched, which is part of its charm, and parishioners wish to keep it that way with no road widening. However the narrow, twisting roads do not easily accommodate large vehicles or the increased volume of summer tourist traffic and the Parish Survey highlighted residents' concerns about traffic jams caused by touring coaches. It was also suggested that, with the designation of the St Just mining area as a World Heritage Site, there could well be an increase of traffic along the B3306 between St Ives and St Just. Speeding traffic was another concern, but over half the respondents did not support traffic calming measures or an increase in signage, some of which they considered to be unsympathetic to the area. In several locations the road forms part of the designated footpath and this causes concern for pedestrian safety.



Scenic route past Carn Galva Engine House

Public Transport



An important link with local towns

Unsurprisingly, cars are the most popular form of transport. Survey responses indicated that residents would like to see more frequent buses at more convenient times. Since the Survey this has been addressed by the bus companies through the efforts of our Transport Liaison Officer, and some improvements have been made. Publicity via the Parish Council's maps and timetables project has helped increase usage of the local buses, particularly during the summer tourist season. Rising fuel costs, environmental concerns and accessibility of transport to older parishioners make bus services an important element of a sustainable community. For the same reasons suggestions were made for sharing arrangements for collecting and delivering newspapers etc.

Actions:

- B3306 – work with partners to re-establish voluntary one-way system for touring coaches
- monitor traffic movements between St Ives and St Just and respond to concerns of increased impact
- investigate least intrusive ways of reducing traffic speed throughout the parish
- investigate feasibility of re-routing footpath in Poniou/Boswednack/Porthmeor areas
- identify unnecessary and inappropriate signage and investigate possibilities of reduction or replacement with more sensitive signs.
- continue to promote bus service to local community and visitors to help ensure its continuation.
- investigate feasibility of sharing arrangements for collection and delivery of newspapers etc

Partners:

West Cornwall Rural Transport Partnership (WC RTP),
Sustrans
Cornwall Rural Community Council (CRCC)
Cornwall County Council Road Safety Unit
Cornwall Community Foundation
Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC)
Carshare Cornwall
Devon and Cornwall Police

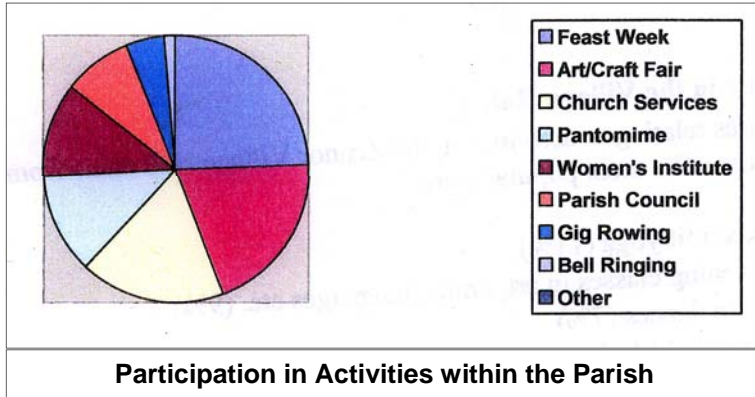
Strategic Links:

Cornwall Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2),
Cornish Mining World Heritage Site,
Cornwall Structure Plan,
Economic Development Strategy for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly 2006 – 2021 (draft),
Penwith Local Development Framework
Penwith Climate Change Strategy
St Ives MCTi Community Strategic Plan-St Ives 2025



The B3306 twisting through the hamlet of Porthmeor

Activities in the Parish



The Parish Survey highlighted the importance of the village hall and the parish church as key buildings that provide venues for social activities. The village hall is used regularly for meetings of the Women's Institute, Parish and Church councils and others, as well as by the Pantomime Group and for the annual Arts and Crafts

Fair. The refurbishment of the village hall in 2000 has enabled the development of more community generated activities. In the Survey other ideas were suggested and some of these have already been acted on e.g. weekly yoga classes. However, the Survey did identify the lack of outdoor facilities and the need for further development of youth participation in the village hall.

Actions:

- work closely with the Village Hall Management Committee and community groups to develop wider use of the village hall
- support efforts to develop outdoor recreational facilities in the parish and work with partners and local landowners to develop such facilities
- work with our partner organisations to enable funding applications to be submitted

Partners:

Cornwall Council
 National Lottery
 Cornwall Rural Community Council
 Youth Cornwall
 Penwith Community Development Trust
 Zennor Village Hall Committee



Zennor Carnival 2007



Brisk business at the Arts and Crafts Fair

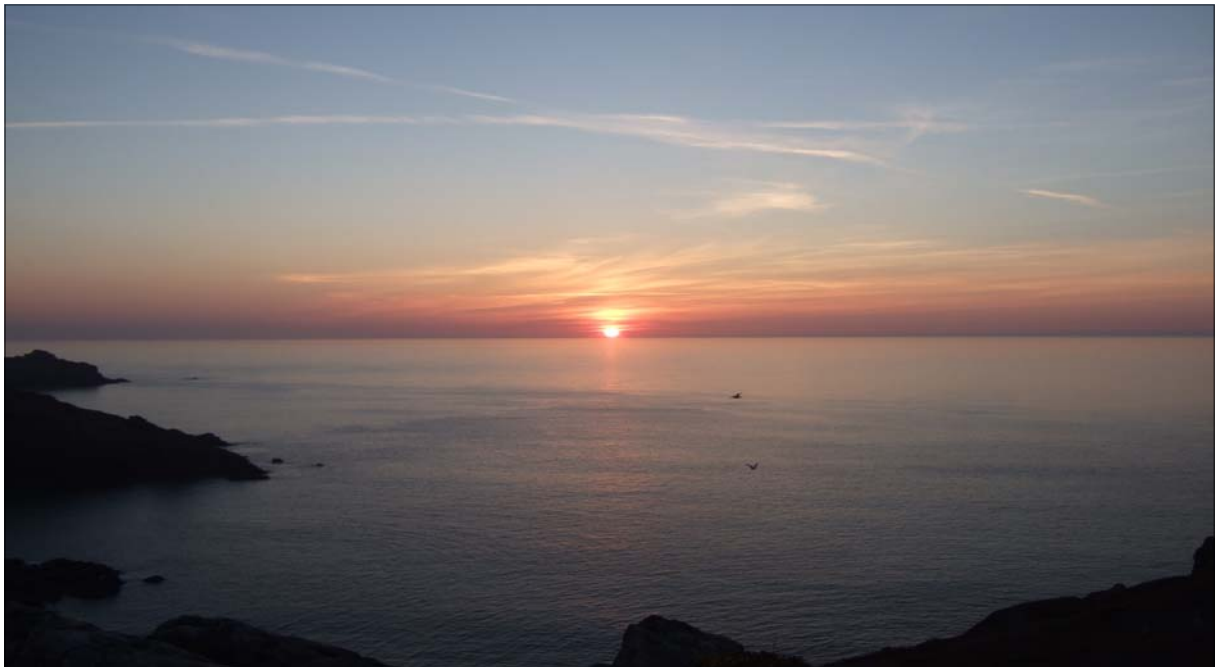
Strategic Links:

Every Child Matters
 Cornwall and IOS Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 PDC's Vision 2025
 Cornwall Corporate Parenting Strategy
 Cornwall Children and Young Peoples Plan

What Next?

The general message from parishioners, both from longer standing residents and from the newer members of the community, is to keep the parish as it is whilst improving where we can, and this is what the Parish Plan has set out to do. The Plan does not advocate any new developments or initiatives that will substantially change the character of the Parish but reflects the need to enhance the facilities that already exist.

The success of the Parish Plan Project will depend on the contributions made by the residents, not on outside agencies imposing their will on our community. The role of the Parish Council is an enabling one i.e. to advise individuals and groups and to help obtain funding through the many organizations which now exist for that purpose. It is up to parishioners and the Parish Council to work together for the benefit of residents and visitors, young and old.



Sunset from Zennor Head

Acknowledgements

Zennor Parish Council would like to thank:

Penwith District Council, and in particular Delia Webb, for help and advice throughout the Process of drawing up this Plan

All those parishioners who took the time to complete the Parish Survey

Former Zennor Parish Councillor Jennifer Gray for collating the Survey results and staging the Roadshow

Councillor Catherine Penhaul for photographs and the design and layout of this document

Councillors Geoff Osborne and Chunky Penhaul for photographs

and all those who contributed in any way.

Published by Zennor Parish Council November 2008

