

St Blaise Town Council Newsletter



Issue 9

Spring 2013

Introduction

Though the festivities will be no more than a memory by the time you read this, I nevertheless hope that you and your families enjoyed the Christmas and New Year.

As I write, we have at least a brief respite from the wet and windy weather that seems to have been with us for so long. I know that there have been one or two homes in St Blaise that have experienced flooding, and our thoughts are very much with those who have suffered – just as they are with our neighbours in Lostwithiel and elsewhere who have had such a difficult time.

Overall, we in St Blaise have been fortunate. The heavy recent investment in flood prevention works appears already to be showing rewards. Although there were a couple of near misses immediately before Christmas, so far we have been spared a repetition of the large scale problems of 2010. We owe a collective debt of gratitude to many people for the works that have been undertaken (and for those still to come). They include many at Cornwall Council, the Environment Agency, our stalwart Cornwall Councillors and a large number of others. I hope that they will forgive me for not naming them all here. But it would be invidious not to recognise the prominent and invaluable role played by Charles Richards, who has devoted so much of his time and effort, on a voluntary basis, to this task.

On a happier note, I much welcome the news that the Par Bay Local Partnership has now had their plans for the Big Local £1million approved by the central authorities, and are ready to make more of the money available to local projects. Full details can be found on their website (www.parbaybiglocal.org.uk). But in brief, they intend to hold two events each year – in April and October – at which awards of up to £1000 will be decided. In addition, they are looking for bids for projects costing up to £10,000 for bigger projects – especially those that could help address some of the unemployment difficulties our area faces, or that might improve some of the more unsightly parts of our area. Do get involved.

The Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan are working hard to begin developing what our area plan should cover, and what it should look like. This is not something we can do alone. We need the views and help of as many people as possible. So we will be approaching people to ask them what they think. And if we suspect that you have a hidden talent

that could help us make the plan even better, then please do not be surprised if we try to convince you to help us.

Finally, I am conscious that this is likely to be the last edition of this Newsletter to appear before the next town council elections. Whatever you may hear, being a Town Councillor is not a thankless task best left to someone else. It is an opportunity not only to help serve your fellow residents, but also to help influence the services we all need and receive. Doing the job properly does require some investment of time, but this need not be onerous, and indeed, the more energetic hands who come forward, the less demanding the task is. It has been a long time since an election in St Blaise was contested, and I know that not all of the current Councillors intend to stand for re-election. So if you have an interest in helping the community, do please come forward at election time, and have a go. If you should wonder exactly what being a Councillor entails, why not contact our Town Clerk, Gaynor Mamo, or any of the current Councillors. Contact details for all can be found on the Council notice board outside Alexander Hall.

From the Chair of St Blaise Town Council,
Councillor June Anderson

Neighbourhood Plans

St Blaise Neighbourhood plan steering group is being helped by architecture students from Plymouth College. A number of them have been to the Town and spoken with local people, either at consultation events around the Town or to local residents in the Street. This has provided the steering group with some interesting information with which to work.

There are also plans for more ambitious projects still. The Local Partnership is actively looking into the possibility of establishing a neighbourhood hub building, and a community farm, or market garden. If you have views on this, or expertise you would like to offer – or ideas for other substantial projects, we would love to hear from you.

Finally - the Local Partnership have developed their plans on the basis of consultations with local residents. They will continue to consult as widely as they can. They are very conscious that this is a unique opportunity for our area to do things that we the residents want to see, rather than having projects imposed from outside. But success will depend on the extent to which the local community are willing to become involved. If you could give up even a little of your time and your skills to help your community, please get in touch with us. There are many different ways in which people can help – and none of us has to be an expert to do so.

St Blaise Town Council web-site

As more and more people are using mobile phones and tablets to access the internet, the town council have altered their website to allow these users to view and use the website correctly. Please have a look at the new site where you will be able to provide your email address and receive regular updates via email for minutes, newsletters and other council business.

PAR BAY SKATEPARK PROJECT UPDATE

It's a long slow process, as people are discovering!! Funders won't give you grants unless you own the land or have the lease and various permissions. We have a letter stating that the lease can be transferred ... one obstacle overcome at least.

The Steering Group have high-lighted three areas which must be worked on from the beginning. These are: Greater Opportunities for learning, training and employment: Reconnecting with the environment: More Community Cohesion. The group are working on an approach to understanding, delivering community aspiration in St Blaise.

The Big Local is Looking for Bids

In November, Par Bay Big Local, the lottery project covering Par, Tywardreath and St Blaise become one of the first three areas in the country to have its plans for spending the £1million awarded by the Fund approved. This means that it can now go ahead and provide funds for projects that the community want to see funded. Full details of the vision and plan put forward by Par Bay Big Local can be found on its website (www.parbaybiglocal.org.uk).

The Par Bay Local Partnership, the committee implementing the project, have decided that in addition to other projects, there will be two rounds of funding each year for smaller projects, where groups are looking for up to £1000. These two rounds will be held in April and October each year. If your group have a project that could benefit from this sort of funding, or if you have a pet project and are willing to form a group, then please get in touch with the Local Partnership (biglocal@edenproject.com) and register your interest.

The Local Partnership is also interested in receiving bids for larger projects, with funding needs of up to about £10,000. They would be especially keen to receive ideas that could help address the problems of local employment, or that could help improve the general look of our area. Again, please contact them with your ideas.

We have to have proof that a wheeled sports park is needed and wanted. We have gathered proof in the form of surveys, but that alone is not enough. On **Sunday 17th March** we are holding a public consultation from 2pm till 5pm at the Par Running Track Pavilion. For this event we have various skatepark design and build companies coming along with ideas and information and it is an opportunity for the local community to get involved.

There will be a large mobile skatepark on site (weather permitting) which hopefully will draw the young people and other end users along to get involved and show off their skills. This is a free event open to all. At the event we will also have our WISH LIST where people can sign up to help the project ... anything from buying a square yard of turf to providing bins for rubbish and recycling, landscaping, work hours, and of course money. The basic park will cost anything over £90000.

On display on the 17th will be the selected finalists in the Par Bay Skatepark Logo competition. (First Prize £100) There is still time for the under 16's to enter an idea, the deadline is March 7th. Phone Gill Butler for information on 813442 and get entries to Gaynor in Alexander Hall by March 7th. The finished skatepark will be free to use and will incorporate disabled access. We are asking local residents to come and see us on the day, even if they can't help us.

Come to the event and help make it a remembered event.

Par Community Association

Par Community Association has released their 9th Newsletter; the newsletters continue to be informative. The group are purchasing Community Poster cases, the first of which has been sited opposite Par Post Office, just inside the Good Shepherd Church garden. The second case is to be put on the

wall outside co-op in St Blazey and the third on the wall outside St Blazey Post Office. These cases will be reserved for any community group publicity or event publicity.

St Blazey Reclaimed

St Blazey Reclaimed held their St Blaise Feast ceremony on Sunday 3rd February at St Blazey Church preceded by the Lantern parade from Polgrean Triangle to the Church. There was a reception at St Blazey Football Club afterwards. The Timelines exhibition, which included a photographic display and an informative display by The Tywardreath Battlefield Project, ran from 3rd February to 5th February. All of these events were thoroughly enjoyed and our congratulations go to all those involved in the organisation.

Precept

After careful consideration St Blaise Town Council have set the 2013/14 precept. The precept determines the amount paid to us as part of the community tax. The Town Council agreed a precept increase of 14p per week, based on a band D property. We believe this will protect the services that are under severe threat across Cornwall.

Central Government has changed the way the council tax base is calculated, resulting in those receiving housing benefit now having to pay a proportion of their Council Tax. Central Government have granted additional funds to Cornwall Council for the coming year which means that they will be giving us a Local Council Tax support grant. It is unlikely this will be repeated next year so we have decided to put the money into reserves which will avoid us having a huge rise next year.

LIST OF SITTING COUNCILLORS

Councillor George Allen	6 Bay View, The Mount, St Blazey PL24 2BY 815707
Councillor June Anderson	37 Rose Hill, St Blazey, Cornwall PL24 2LQ 813995
Councillor Richard Heyward	'Little Acorns' New Road, St Blazey, Par PL24 2SB 813060
Councillor Dave Hooper	Hillpark, Kilhallon, PAR PL24 2RL 815692
Councillor George Miller	3 Kilhallon Woodlands, PAR PL24 2RJ 815179
Councillor Amos Putt	55 Polgrean Place, St Blazey PL24 2LH 815444
Councillor Douglas Scrafton	Reynards Rest, The Mount, Par, Cornwall, PL24 2BZ 815770
Councillor Adrian Seel	145 Landreath Place, St Blazey, PAR PL24 2LA 815829

The Clerk can be contacted at Alexander Hall, Middleway, St Blazey, PL24 2JH. Telephone 01726 816595. E-mail townclerk.stblaise@virgin.net

www.stblaisetowncouncil.co.uk