

St Blaise Town Council Newsletter

Issue 21 - Spring 2016

Introduction by the Mayor of St Blaise Town Council. Councillor June Anderson.

Since our last Newsletter, the Town Council have been in talks with Devon and Cornwall Police regarding their plans to close St Blazey Police Station.

The Police Authority announced last year that various police offices were to close as a money saving measure. St Blaise Town Council then negotiated a purchase price for the freehold of St Blazey Police Station for an agreed sum subject to contract.

The intention being that it would provide an additional facility for the use of the TC and other residents while enabling the retention of a police base in the town. Thereby giving comfort to residents from the police presence and maintaining the policing hours that would otherwise be lost in travelling to and from St Austell.

The agreement between the council and the police specified that the police would retain the use of two rooms with the remainder of the building being used by the TC. Subsequently, joint use of the toilet facilities was accepted.

More recently the police requested use of the existing kitchen facilities that are in one of the rooms that were to be used by the Town Council. As this was well outside the original agreement and would cause disruption for anyone using the room this was rejected by the Town Council. It fundamentally undermined the plans the TC had for the building and would have meant we were buying a property that was of little use to the town.

On Thursday 18th, the Town Clerk received a telephone call from a representative of Devon and Cornwall Police stating that they were withdrawing from the sale to the TC.

This will be a disappointment to residents and will involve the Police in additional costs. We have to ask whether the police were serious in considering the sale to the Town Council. At the very least their plans were ill thought through and impractical for their own officers.

We held our Annual Carol Concert at St Blazey Church on Sunday 13th December at 6.00 pm followed by a reception at St Blazey Football Club where Mulled Wine, Hog Roast & Mince Pies were enjoyed. This year's

turnout was a little disappointing and so the Council will be looking into holding it at an earlier time and also consider an earlier date next year.

I would like to thank our Cornwall Councillors Roy Taylor and Doug Scrafton for their efforts to reverse the decision to close the A390 at the Tywardreath Highway / Bridge Street level crossing for the ten days at the end of January, beginning of February. Although they were not successful, they did arrange the drop in session at the Football Club.

Due to their efforts, they did manage to minimise the damage by arranging for Cormac to install advisory diversion signs using the local back roads and avoid many motorists having to use the long diversion. They also persuaded parking enforcement not to enforce the yellow lines on the approach to the level crossing from Tywardreath Highway for the ten days the crossing was closed to enable people to park and cross on foot and go about their business.

Many of you will appreciate the new lighting in Piggy Alley, this lighting has not worked for many years. When the Town Council took over responsibility for the land, we wanted to fix the lights but until now have been unable to find anybody to do the work. After a wide search we found a contractor on our doorstep and would like to thank All Connections Electrical Ltd who are based in Station Road for their assistance.

Regrettably we have had to raise our precept this year due to undertaking services from Cornwall Council that they are no longer able to afford to carry out due to Government cuts.

We are now responsible for the Public Toilets, Piggy Alley, Dog Warden patrols and roadside weed killing and we expect other services to be devolved to us and unfortunately we have not had funding provided.

If you would like to know more about the Town Council's responsibilities, I would encourage you to attend a Council meeting. They are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at Alexander Hall. If you wish to address the Council, this can be arranged by contacting the Clerk. A minimum of 24 hours' notice is required. We are always happy to see local people.

Lastly I would like to bring to your attention the new bus shelter in Middleway, we see that is well used and would like to thank Cornwall Council for the grant that they provided meaning it was just a small cost to the people of St Blazey.

St Blazey Roundhouse Project

St Blazey Roundhouse Project are a group of people working together to restore St Blazey Roundhouse and turntable for the people of St Blazey and Cornwall.

They are not a group of train spotters, they are a small group of local citizens, who see an important, iconic local building in disrepair and wish to change that. They see the importance in the railway heritage, but wish to use that for modern educational and other uses - for the general benefit of St Blazey and Cornwall.

They have established Cornwall Roundhouse Ltd for the purpose and intend to operate as a not-for-profit company to achieve their goals.

They have been fortunate enough to obtain funding from the Coastal Revival Fund to conduct a feasibility study to ensure our ideas can be brought into existence.

Their goals:-

- *A Roundhouse and turntable restored and proud*
- *A facility to provide engineering and technical education and apprenticeships for people in Cornwall*
- *An attractive space for the community to meet and interact*
- *A high class tourism offer to sit alongside other local attractions*
- *A museum and gallery*
- *A thriving and vital centre for St Blazey*

St Blazey Roundhouse and turntable are rare remaining examples of semi-circular Roundhouse with a working

turntable. Both are Grade II* listed buildings and they are on the heritage at risk register because of the state they have been allowed to get in. They want to put that right. They need help and as much as they can get.

This project is run by volunteers. If it is to succeed, they need the help of everyone. They need expertise in the commercial and academic fields, help with information technology, and help from those with administrative and financial skills.

If you can help in any way, whatever you can do, please contact the Town Clerk who will forward your details on.

St Blazey Warden

Our Warden is always busy working improving the appearance of the Town, recently he has found a lot of fly-tipping which is reported to Cornwall Council to clear. It would help the Town Council if you see any abandoned rubbish you could report this to Cornwall Council or the Clerk who will make arrangements for it to be cleared away.

Burrows Centre

The Burrows Centre in Lamellyn Road, St Blazey has spare sessions for room hire. The centre is available for repetitive bookings if you need somewhere to hire on a

regular basis. Currently there are Yoga classes, An Art group, Salsa classes and an over 55 club that meet at the centre regularly. Computer classes for beginners have been held recently and will be beginning again soon, so if you think you may be interested give us a ring. If you would like to hire the centre for a one off booking for a meeting, party or any other reason this can also be arranged. Please ring the Burrows Centre on 01726 816595 and they will try to accommodate you.

STARR Project

St Austell Resilient Regeneration (STARR) Project wants to work to reduce the risk of flooding and contribute to the regeneration of the area. Starr is a partnership of the Environment Agency, Cornwall Council, South West Water and others who aim to work on the area from the A30 to St Austell Bay. They are preparing an application for Euro funding of £20million.

The successful project would affect 500 homes, 200 businesses, reduce flood risk to roads and the rail line and therefore encourage investment. 7 km of river corridors would be restored by working with nature and increase the wellbeing of the affected local communities.

STARR will be holding an engagement event soon and if the application is successful the work would be carried out within 4 years.

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 Rob Blackie	3 Ash Grove, Biscovey, Cornwall PL24 2HE 814658
Councillor George Miller	3 Kilhallon Woodlands, PAR PL24 2RJ 815179
Councillor Jenny Moore	1 Meadow Drive, St Blazey PL24 2HL 816849
Councillor Amos Putt	55 Polgrean Place, St Blazey PL24 2LH 815444
Councillor Adrian Seel	145 Landreath Place, St Blazey, PL24 2LA 815829
Councillor Jenny Taylor	40 Chyandor Close, St Blazey PL24 2LP 816867
Councillor Roy Taylor	Palm Garden House, Tywardreath Highway, Par PL24 2RW 816112
Councillor Stuart Wheeler	56 Moorland Road, PAR PL24 2LF 815370

Council meets in Alexander Hall at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of every month bar December. The Clerk can be contacted at Alexander Hall, Middleway, St Blazey, PL24 2JH. Telephone 01726 816595. E-mail

townclerk.stblaise@virgin.net