

## Chairman's Report 2014

Over the past year the full council has convened on twelve occasions, 2 finance committee (now working party), 2 staffing committee and 3 intermediate planning meetings have also taken place, which were supposed to enable the council to form a reply to all applications directly affecting the parish. With regret it was necessary to call one extra-ordinary meeting of the full council in December 2013. The sole item on this meeting's agenda was a motion for a vote of no confidence in our Cornwall councillor Mr Simon Rix, following his refusal of the councils request that planning application PA13/08209 for a 77 metre wind turbine be determined by the Strategic Planning Committee, thereby preventing the Parish Council presenting the case against and objections to the SPC. The motion was passed unanimously. I find it disappointing to say the least, that after four months and many opportunities to do so, Councillor Rix has still not found time to meet the council and explain this situation, or indeed justify the false accusations he made against the Parish Council in the local press. With less than 24 hours to go before the AGM, our ward councillor has, yet again notified us of his inability to attend today's meetings. With no sign of a report to read out at the meeting, and a complete lack of interest shown, is it any wonder that this council recently passed a motion of no confidence in Councillor Rix.

In previous reports I have expressed the hope that, with the introduction of the new Localism Bill, the views of both Parish & Town Councils would become more relevant to Cornwall Councils planning decisions. It is, with much regret that I now report the situation, notwithstanding the above mentioned vote of no confidence, has not only shown no signs of improvement, it actually seems to have deteriorated. We have for the second time been denied the right of response to a planning application concerning this parish, due to the planning authority sending the information to the wrong parish, this I might add, despite receiving our objections when we became aware of the error concerning the previous application. One would hope that we can put this down to just incompetence on behalf of the planning authority. It would certainly be disturbing to imagine any other reason. It has become plainly obvious that the views of parishes such as ours have been too readily ignored by councils in the past, and in fact continue to be so.

The council is pleased to report a healthy financial position, with the budget set, the required minimum reserves of three months running costs and possible election expenses in place. Donations from the Section 106 fund to a total of £13,000 have been made to Luxulyan C P School, Luxulyan Memorial Institute, Luxulyan Village Hall, Luxulyan Church and Gunwen Chapel. The Over Fifties Club and Luxulyan Football Club have also received a total of £400 from Parish Council funds.

The funds granted to the Memorial Institute, together with the 8 Kilowatts of Solar Panels on the roof and the long term income they produce will also go a long way to secure the future of this historically important building in our parish. The public enthusiasm for this project has been very encouraging. My thanks and appreciation

must go to Nick Legard, Claire and the committee members for all the hard work and effort they have given to this most worthwhile of projects.

Control of the Public Toilets has finally been passed to the Parish Council; this will put an end to all the uncertainty regarding their closure, and finally ensure the long term future of this important village facility.

Following the request for affordable housing highlighted in the Parish Plan I can report that ten of the affordable units at Beswetherick Fields are now occupied by people who have demonstrated strong links to the parish. The last 3 houses have yet to be built and there are still concerns as to the developers ability to complete the development, If this turns out to be the case, there remains a great deal of work for both the CLT and the Parish council in the near future to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank George Haywood our vice chair for the extra help and support he has given me in recent months, to all my fellow councillors for their continued support, and also to our clerk Christine, who although having been in post for less than a year has proved to be a real asset, and without whom the task of being chairman would certainly be that much harder.

My best wishes to you all for the coming year.



Chris Austin

Chairman

## Report to Luxulyan Parish Council AGM

We have 35 names on our Electoral Roll, and our small but enthusiastic congregation manages to keep things going and even to pay our Mission & Ministry Fund which comes to over £6000.

The past winter has been dominated by water pouring in through the tower, but our surveyor tells us there is little we can do about it and that many churches have suffered the same fate. Ironically, this came at a time when we were trying to get a mains water supply into the church, and to this end we are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for their donation towards this work. The latest news being that May Gurney should arrive on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to connect the supply. This is only to a standpipe in the churchyard, and when funds allow, we hope to build a small kitchen area in the church. The problem being, that when you get water into church, you have to find a way of getting it out again.

In an attempt to stop many rumours, Fr Malcolm has released a statement about his retirement. Although he is obliged to retire on the eve of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is Boxing Day, he has asked the Bishop if he can stay on until April 2015. In that way, he can get Annual Parochial Church Meetings out of the way, and he will be able to celebrate Easter with us before he leaves.

We have to share Fr Malcolm with St Blazey and Tywardreath, but he manages to be with us for at least two Sundays a month. On the first Sunday of the month we have a non-eucharistic service which we call Parish Praise, and on the third Sunday we usually have to call upon retired clergy, or, as is the case this month, I have asked Bishop Chris to come along.

We are extremely fortunate to have Anthony Trodd as our Organist & Choir Master. Our small choir leads the worship every Sunday, and is affiliated to The RSCM.

Regrettably, Friday Knights had closed due to lack of numbers, but we have introduced Fun, Friendship, Food & Faith, which is part of the "Doing Church Differently" initiative. We meet here on the third Sunday of each month at 4.00pm, and it is being well received by all ages. No need to make tea that day, as we feed you as well.

Our Fund Raising events include the ever popular Quiz Nights, along with Book & Bake Sales, and once again we shall be providing Cream Teas at weekends during the Summer.

To commemorate WW1 we shall be staging an exhibition in church called "Luxulyan Remembers". This will take place from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. This is mainly thanks to the efforts of Hazel Harradence, who has collected the details, and many photographs of men from Luxulyan who served during that war.

This and much more information is available in our Year Book which is available in church.

## Report to Luxulyan Parish Council AGM

The Luxulyan Valley is owned by Cornwall Council and managed by a partnership which includes Cornwall Heritage Trust, various local authorities and The Friends of Luxulyan Valley.

Membership of "The Friends" (which at present stands at about 300) entitles you to 4 newsletters per year, and attendance to the various events. Seven of these are outdoor events, and in the past year included a visit to Luxulyan Quarry, a woodland wildflower walk, Prideaux Castle, the perennial Fungi Foray and Mining in the Luxulyan Valley. We occasionally do things in conjunction with The Friends of Par Beach such as Watching out for Meteor Showers. In the winter months we retreat indoors at the Village hall to presentations such as The Par Canal, and a rather emotive talk on the Badger Cull. In the past year we welcomed our new ranger James Clapp who led a work party which involved setting fire to lots of timber which had been cut in an attempt to control Phytopthera. More recently James led us on a walk through the valley to explain his aims and aspirations for the future of the valley. We also saw some of the restoration work following the recent storms. Otter Surveys are also carried out in the valley under the watchful eye of Ed Harradence. The next one being on 11-14<sup>th</sup> July, which is followed by a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July to discuss their findings.

Pollution of the River Par caused the death of many fish and The Environment Agency carried out an investigation, but other than saying it was in the Bugle area, we were never told of the cause or source of the pollution. Possibly because there may be a court case pending. They have offered to come and talk to us about the incident. However, we did end the year with some good news, in that the Water Abstraction Licence has been granted.

I am sure you will appreciate the much improved Upper Tramway, and you may recall seeing a photo on the cover of Granite Towers, showing the opening ceremony which involved the children of Luxulyan School. More recently, two notice boards have been erected at Black Hill and Pontois Mill car parks. I can assure you that the one at Black Hill will be reduced in height to accommodate the "vertically challenged".

For the past year we have been running without a Chairman, but this certainly hasn't affected our events programme. As Vice chairman, I have been chairing the Board of Trustees meetings, which are held in this room which serves us very well.

Most recently we have embarked upon a project to obtain Heritage Lottery Funding for much needed work in the valley, not least repairs to the viaduct which leaks like a sieve and is consequently carrying no water at present. Needless to say that, if successful, the bulk of the money would be spent on the viaduct. (£2million)

Another aspect of this bid, is to mount a permanent display about the Luxulyan Valley in the church.

Jim Cleare      8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## **REPORT ON THE LUXULYAN COMMUNITY MINIBUS PROJECT-** for Luxulyan Parish Council meeting on 9 May 2014.

There has been a delay in moving forward with this project, due to health issues of two of the main instigators of the scheme; however I am pleased to report that a committee meeting took place on 28 April 2014, and I can advise you of the following outcomes:-

1. The company has been registered as a Business Charity, in the name of **LUXULYAN COMMUNITY TRANSPORT.**

Trustees have been appointed.

A bank account has been set up for the company.

The company is now being registered with the Charities Commission.

2. **The Trustees** are:-

Ed Gard	Chair	01726 850890	<a href="mailto:denisegard@btinternet.com">denisegard@btinternet.com</a>
Lyn Thomas	Secretary	01726 851059	<a href="mailto:lynforduk@yahoo.com">lynforduk@yahoo.com</a>
Dave Bunt	Treasurer	01726 852554	<a href="mailto:daveandwen@hotmail.co.uk">daveandwen@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Keith Stocker		01726 851107	<a href="mailto:krstocker@gmail.com">krstocker@gmail.com</a>
Steve and Sharon Lewis	Licensees at The Kings Arms, Luxulyan.		

3. **The aim of the company** is to purchase a new minibus, for use by the community, and to benefit residents in and around the Luxulyan area.

**In order to fund a new minibus the company needs to raise £35,000.**

This is to cover the following costs:-

- Cost of new minibus
- Training drivers and volunteers
- Registration paperwork and fees
- Running costs until the scheme runs at a profit.

4. **A lottery bid** is being made by the company, with the help of Volunteer Cornwall. In order to consider a bid, the Lottery needs to know –

- Bank account details
- Evidence that this is a project beneficial to the community.
- Details of additional funding – in the bank or promised - this must be at least £5,000

Funds of nearly £5,000 have already been received by, or promised to the project, from local community organisations and businesses

The bid is more likely to be successful if the company can show a high level of community involvement and of matched funding from the community.

The company will know by **the middle of June** whether or not the bid is successful to move on to the second stage, and at the second stage of the bid, it will need to submit a full Business Plan.

5. **The ongoing use of the** minibus:- various ideas have been put forward for this, with no specific decisions being made as yet; these include –

- Running regular community trips
- Bookings from local groups, especially the school
- Looking at undertaking school contracts or similar services
- Consideration of the issues regarding the local bus service

6. **Volunteers from the community** will be needed for the following:-

- Volunteer drivers (at least 30) - to be trained
- Bookings register (dedicated phone number and e-mail)
- Marketing/advertising/market research
- Minibus mechanical maintenance/ van cleaning
- Diary co-ordinator for van safety checks/insurance/MOT etc.
- Website/publicity (local press; parish magazines; flyers)
- Bookkeeping/accounts/auditing, etc.

### **Funding Request**

The Trustees had hoped to bid for a grant from Cornwall Council towards the matched funding required; however we now understand that Cornwall Council has no monies available for community transport funding.

The Trustees would like to make a request to Luxulyan Parish Council asking whether they would be agreeable to making a community grant towards the cost of the minibus, with the understanding that, if for any reason the project does not go ahead, the funds donated would be returned to the Parish Council.

**The Trustees of Luxulyan Community Transport would like to make a request of £5,000 as a community grant towards the cost of the minibus.**

We look forward to hearing your decision, and thank the parish councillors for their interest in this project.

**Lyn Thomas**  
**Secretary, Luxulyan Community Transport**  
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