

# Truro & Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan

## Meeting of the Leisure and Culture Working Group

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
at 6.00 pm in the Municipal Buildings, Truro

### Minutes

**ATTENDEES:** Councillor Loic Rich – Truro City Council  
Councillor Robert Ellis – Kenwyn Parish Council  
Councillor Ron Cooke – Kenwyn Parish Council  
Mr Mike Thomas – Cornwall Sports Partnership  
Mr Tim Webb – Technical Support, Leisure, Cornwall Council  
Mr Roger Gazzard – Town Clerk, Truro City Council

**APOLOGIES:** 1. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Alex Waite, Mid Cornwall Youth and Community Lead.

Item		Action
2	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held 15 November 2011 were approved as a correct record.</p> <p>Roger Gazzard reported he had not yet heard from the church group. U3A had accepted the invitation to be part of the working group, however they had yet to attend a meeting.</p>	<p>-</p> <p><b>RG</b></p>
3	<p><b>Report from Cornwall Council on current Leisure and Culture Situation</b></p> <p>Mike Thomas spoke about the focus of the working group, expressing the need to identify the current provision of leisure and culture facilities, what was missing, and what was needed, citing the usability of the Cornwall Council Play Pitch Strategy and the Cornwall Council Facility Needs for Community Sport in Cornwall report as current, evidence based information, and combined with a Sports Facility calculator which focused on non-pitch provision (e.g tennis courts, skate parks etc – identifiable as areas not used for football), would provide specific empirical and quantitative data for the Truro and Kenwyn area.</p> <p>Mr Thomas also highlighted national governing bodies of sport, such as The Lawn Tennis Association, could identify and help key areas of need not currently catered for (such as the need for indoor tennis courts in the Truro area).</p> <p>Finally, Mr Thomas pointed out the evidence collected would be used to seek avenues to enable the vision of the Neighbourhood Plan to be brought to fruition, and as an example, spoke about the Inspire Facilities Fund, who could provide grants to local clubs, and also to local councils with the view they would match fund.</p> <p>Current projects were discussed, including the proposed indoor sports hall at Truro School, and the stadium proposal, which may allow for an adjacent block which could provide facilities similar in scope to the current Truro Leisure Centre. Mr Webb</p>	<p><b>MT</b></p> <p><b>MT</b></p> <p><b>MT</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>

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	<p>impressed there was not any funding at present for a tack-on facility for the proposed stadium, and perhaps the site would not fulfil the need for easy access that most of Truro and Kenwyn’s population would demand.</p> <p>Tim Webb confirmed that the Facility report had been signed off, though the Playing Pitch Strategy had not.</p> <p>Mr Webb informed members ideally facilities such as those discussed above would be planned, however it was often found that builds were opportunistic as land presented itself.</p> <p>Mr Webb summarised the evidence in the Playing Pitch Strategy and reported the provision in Truro was currently about right, with possible slight surplus, however in the future, based on the projection of current population increases and the current demand for pitches, it was suggested another pitch would be needed in approximately ten to fifteen years.</p> <p>Based on the evidence cited in the Sports Facility report, Mr Webb summarised the current provision of facilities was also about right but using the Facilities Planning Tool provided by the Business Intelligence Unit at Cornwall Council, another 1.34 badminton sized courts and 46 square meters of pool space would be required in the next decade to fulfil the demand of the projected population based on the current population and its demand.</p> <p>It was also considered in a perfect environment, a small community-use hall would be provided.</p> <p>Roger Gazzard asked, since Truro Leisure Centre, located at Truro College, would no longer exist should the stadium be built, would it be wise to plan for a replacement in roughly ten years time. Mr Webb responded with the view that as the stadium proposal was currently only in its infancy, it wasn’t essential, and Truro College were in the process of developing some of their own fields. It was suggested Truro City Council, Cornwall College, and Truro College could discuss the situation should the stadium proposal be accepted, especially as the present arrangement at Truro Leisure Centre involved a specific payment split arrangement between Truro and Cornwall Colleges.</p> <p>It was queried, in the eventuality the working group came up with a number of items required in the Truro/Kenwyn area, was there any research that answered if they should be established on one site, or dispersed over the parishes. Mr Webb did not know of any current research able to answer the question, but he pointed out it was rare to find a single piece of land large enough to allow the establishment of all of the facilities required. It was clarified a judgement call was often needed on what was required vs the land available.</p> <p>It was agreed the evidence provided by Cornwall Council was a good template and could be compiled to give a good overall picture of Truro and Kenwyn, with predicted figures based on the principle of a specific number of houses equalling one pitch or one facility.</p>	<p><b>TW</b></p> <p><b>TW</b></p> <p><b>TW</b></p> <p><b>TW</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>RG</b> <b>TW</b></p> <p><b>TW</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
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<p>Play Space was also discussed, and it was agreed play value was often limited in these spaces due to their size. It was suggested Jo Howard, who created the Play Strategy for Cornwall, would be invited to a future meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p>Councillor Cooke spoke about the lack of access to leisure and culture facilities, as was the case with some schools that provided facilities for club or general public use. Mike Thomas added access should not just be considered with proposed facilities but also facilities already in existence, and although the Neighbourhood Plan could not dictate what private facilities, such as gyms, did with their buildings, their fees and their provision would often change to fit in line with that of public facilities, especially if they experienced a drop in clientele numbers/takings due to the establishment of new public facilities.</p>	<p><b>RC</b> <b>MT</b></p>
<p>The importance of communication with schools and clubs was impressed; it was vital to discover why certain shortcomings existed within school facilities so they could be addressed.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p>Current provision was discussed, and members agreed current sports facilities in Truro were excellent, however often had minor issues that could, and should, be easily addressed, such as drainage on pitches, changing facilities etc.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p>Councillor Ellis spoke about play areas he felt were well designed, in St Austell and Penryn, and asked who funded them. Roger Gazzard confirmed they were funded on a government scheme a few years ago, which provided forty separate play areas in total.</p>	<p><b>RE</b> <b>RG</b></p>
<p>Councillor Rich pointed out there are many things to do in Truro and not all of them needed specifically designed facilities, such as water sports on the Truro River. He felt the percentage of play space to houses in New Build sites was becoming smaller and in the long term it was likely to have a detrimental impact on children and their sense of freedom. Mike Thomas agreed, confirming houses being built with smaller gardens required larger public spaces to be provided.</p>	<p><b>LR</b> <b>MT</b></p>
<p>Councillor Cooke added topography of land could also be detrimental to the building of new facilities, and it wasn't always the case that available land was suitable to place play or sport facilities on.</p>	<p><b>RC</b></p>
<p>Councillor Ellis expressed he felt if leadership for clubs and sports was available then pitches would be fully utilised, and part of the problem was finding people who were willing to be the driving force behind the provision of leisure and culture events.</p>	<p><b>RE</b></p>
<p>Mike Thomas summarised much of the discussion, suggesting a vision statement would need to be agreed upon, and once this was established only then would it be possible to offer an official plan of action.</p>	<p><b>MT</b></p>
<p>Roger Gazzard asked if figures in Cornwall Council's reports allowed for extra participation numbers due to events such as the Olympics in 2012. Tim Webb stated assumptions had to be made but allowances for the increase in numbers were included. It was pointed out, however, that no host nations had experienced sustainable increases in participation numbers due to the Olympics, though it was</p>	<p><b>RG</b> <b>TW</b></p>

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	<p>worth speaking to sports groups to discover if they had contingency plans in place should they find an increase in desire to play following successes in the Games.</p> <p>As Julie Seyler was absent from the meeting, it was agreed to postpone the report on the current culture situation until the next meeting.</p>	
4	<p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <p>Councillor Cooke distributed an action plan to members which briefly summarised existing leisure, recreation, and arts provision. The plan suggested areas the group should be focusing on, such as what provision was good, which needed improvement, and what was missing; what was special about the current culture of Truro and Kenwyn; what evidence already existed and what was needed; what was the plan for the next twenty years and the rationale behind. All of the above would, in theory, translate into the finalised Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Councillor Rich spoke about culture in Truro, and he felt there was significant existing culture that evolved naturally. He questioned if it should continue growing organically or if there should be significant promotion, asking where the balance was. Councillor Rich also pointed out residents of Truro and Kenwyn were not the only people who needed to be taken into consideration in the plan, but also tourists, who would temporarily use local facilities.</p> <p>Councillor Cooke asked what the life of facilities was, and Mr Webb replied a 'Conditions Survey' existed which addressed the question.</p> <p>Mike Thomas suggested that regular events needed to be investigated, as they provided significant contribution to the leisure and cultural aspects of the area.</p> <p>Potential sites were considered, including schools, the area behind Cornwall Farmers, and the proposed 'green corridor' in Truro.</p> <p>Mike Thomas pointed out the 'Active Travel Strategy' was in progress, which was addressing the issue of transportation in and around the Truro area, with the hope to produce more pedestrian-friendly streets. It was suggested this was something that should be considered as plans were made, instead of addressed once facilities were in place.</p> <p>Taking the above into account, the following action points were agreed upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Webb to provide an electronic copy of his summary of Cornwall Council's evidence, to be circulated to members.</li> <li>• Mike Thomas to email Jo Howard and invite her to a future meeting.</li> <li>• Roger Gazzard to talk to Donald Martin about the Play Audit.</li> <li>• Roger Gazzard to invite Julie Seyler from Cornwall Council to the next meeting as it was now considered imperative to obtain evidence on the culture of Truro and Kenwyn.</li> <li>• Roger Gazzard to invite Julian Boast, from the Hall for Cornwall, who also sits on the Arts Council for the south east, to the next meeting.</li> <li>• Councillor Rich to combine, highlight, and condense information relevant to Truro and Kenwyn, from the three documents provided by Cornwall Council</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RC</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RC TW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MT RG RG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LR</b></p>

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	(Playing Pitch Strategy, Facility report, and the Sports Facility Calculator).	
5	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 3 January 2012 in the Municipal Building, Boscawen Street	

The Meeting closed at 7.20 pm

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CHAIRMAN