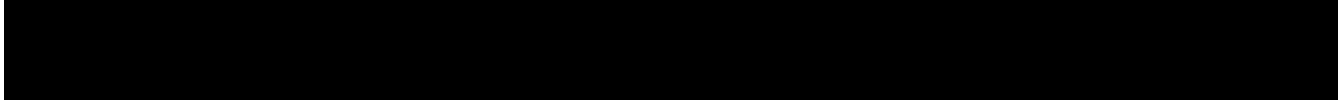


A Community Manifesto for Cornwall



***Community Manifesto
Proposals to make Cornwall
a fairer and more just place***







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Community Manifesto Proposals to make Cornwall a fairer and more just place

Introduction from Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans

In July 2020 the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) produced a report entitled A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall with expressions of hope for the post-Covid future written by key leaders in Cornwall from the Voluntary, Community, Business and Care Sectors. The report was well received and, in keeping with its vision for Cornwall as a place where local people and communities are the change that they want to see, CIPF has now built on this by encouraging grass root communities and individuals to express their hopes.

In the lead up to the Council Elections in May 2021 CIPF created The Community Manifesto. Based around eight key themes, it aims to articulate what a flourishing Cornwall might look like. Each theme includes examples from organisations and groups who are already making a practical difference. A list of the themes is given below and you can read more about these amazing groups and their work at www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum/communitymanifesto/

The Community Manifesto also invited individuals and groups to submit proposals on how Cornwall could become a fairer and more just place and 40 proposals were received. These have been gathered together here, and we now offer them to you, as one of our newly elected councillors, in the hope that you will read them and consider implementing them.

We hope you will accept this as an important contribution from Cornish groups and communities that are stepping up to meet current challenges. We would be delighted to introduce you to any of the organisations that are represented here, and to work with you as we all seek a fairer and more just future for the people and communities of Cornwall.



Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

Andrew Yates, Chair

Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum involves people with direct experience of poverty, in the development of partnerships between local, county and national organisations, working towards the reduction and eradication of poverty.

We seek to enable individuals suffering poverty, to regain control of their lives and to take their rightful place in society, utilising their talents for the benefit of their communities and ending their social exclusion.

Our work combines active, practical support to the homeless and disadvantaged, with raising awareness and campaigning about poverty issues. Examples of our projects include the Backpack Beds Project which provide a temporary, weatherproof shelter for those sleeping rough helping to improve their health, safety, self-esteem and wellbeing, and also the Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue Project. Our efforts to raise awareness of poverty issues in Cornwall include working with Church Action on Poverty and End Hunger UK, and we have helped with the establishment of End Hunger Cornwall.

More recently we produced the A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall report with contributions from leaders within the Business and Voluntary and Community Sectors to generate an important conversation on how Cornwall would emerge from the pandemic. The report had a special focus on lessons learnt from the responses made across Cornwall to this crisis as well as proposals to address the increasing gap between the rich and poor that resulted from the impact of Covid 19.

The Forum meets monthly and our meetings are open to all who are committed to the eradication of poverty within Cornwall. For information about joining the Forum please contact Rosey Sanders Rosey.Sanders@truro.anglican.org

Community Manifesto Proposals to make Cornwall a fairer and more just place

1. Address Climate Change

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where the recovery and growth of the natural environment are at the heart of a flourishing zero carbon economy"

2. End Food Poverty

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where no-one goes hungry"

3. Housing and Homelessness

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where everyone has a genuinely affordable home and where no-one is homeless"

4. A Sustainable Economy

"Our vision for Cornwall is having a strong sustainable economy offering secure work and a Living Wage"

5. Strong Distinctive Communities

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place defined by strong and distinctive communities which are open, inclusive, with equality of opportunity for all"

6. A Benefit System that works

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where everyone has access to speedy effective and caring welfare support when they need it"

7. Flourishing Communities for All

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where the public and voluntary sectors, faith and local communities are all enabled to play their part in building caring and flourishing communities "

8. Public Services for All

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where local people and communities have a full and active say in the delivery of public services that matter to them"



Theme 1 Address Climate Change

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Green Church Kernow
Finisterre
Green Infrastructure for Growth
Carbon Logic Project**

Existing works outside of Cornwall include:
**Nicky Scott Composting, Transition Town Totnes;
One Planet Council - Wales**

Theme 2 End Food Poverty

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Trussell Trust, Truro Foodbank
CTIPA Foodbank
Transformation Cornwall
Partnerships of referral agencies
Disc, Newquay
The Hive Cornwall**

Existing works outside of Cornwall: **The Independent Food
Aid Network; Surviving the Streets UK**

Theme 3 Housing and Homelessness

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Harbour Housing - Covid Secure Accommodation
Truro Homeless Pods - Carrick Cabins
Citizens Panel on Housing in Penzance
St Petroc's Crisis Worker**

Existing works outside of Cornwall:
**The London Accessible Housing Register;
Housing First Manchester**

Theme 4 A Sustainable Economy

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Kernow Credit Union
South West Mutual Bank
The Growth Hub
Acorn Falmouth and Penryn**

Existing works outside of Cornwall:
Living Wage Campaign; The New Economics Foundation

Theme 5 Strong Distinctive Communities

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Cornwall Advocacy
All Saints Highertown Church,
Racial Justice Sunday Toolkit
Cornwall Faith Forum
Drama Express**

Existing works outside of Cornwall include:
Black Lives Matter UK; Women's Aid

Theme 6 A Benefits System that works

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Christians Against Poverty
Counselling and Benefit Support Limited (CBS)
DIAL - disAbility Cornwall and IOS
Care and Support - disAbility Cornwall and IOS
Community Money Advice, Launceston
Citizens Advice Cornwall**

Existing works outside of Cornwall include: **Universal Basic
Income; Churches Housing Advising Team**

Theme 7 Flourishing Communities for All

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Konnect Communities
Volunteer Cornwall - Telephone Befriending
Newquay Orchard
Village Works
Digital Outreach - CRCC
MoyHill Farm
The Fisherman's Mission "Seafit" Programme**

Existing works outside of Cornwall include:
Caring Town

Theme 8 Public Services for All

Existing works in Cornwall:

**Active Plus
Cornish NHS Patient Participation Groups
Age UK Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly TAP (Transport
Access People)
Cornish Community Network Panels**

Existing works outside of Cornwall include:
**The Community Managed Libraries National
Peer Network; We Own It**



Project Proposals Theme 1 - Address Climate Change

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 1 **Promote Carbon Logic with a Climate Vision Toolkit**

To advance the objective of this theme it would be important to enable people to have a personally led, improved understanding of the climate and the need for resilience. In turn this will lead to better understand and provoke action to cutting carbon emissions and importantly, after this crucial foundational work, move onto greater innovation.

The aims of our theme be met in Cornwall by offering all communities a suitable simple toolkit, to follow, to alleviate the barrier to emissions being cut. The toolkit will enable the 10 pledges to be used to their full potential, for greater effect providing long lasting changes in behaviours.

People need to be able to access a clear single side A4 toolkit and the toolkit needs to provide easy access to the ten pledges. It will also be a good idea to have very short film introducing the toolkit.

Once people have used the toolkit, they might like to publicly share 4-5 sentences with a photo, to their own audiences. This will encourage others to take part.

here will be a number of practical considerations, such as costings:

1. Film – £300
2. Publicity – £100
3. Artwork – FREE
4. The ten pledges – FREE
5. Project Manager to organise toolkit – £500
6. Hosting/IT fees – £50.00

The 10 pledges have achieved their aims by promoting engagement with the issues of climate change using different words, stories and experiences and providing practical tasks about carbon emissions and resilience. Activism takes coaxing and nudging, and this is a tried and tested way to do it.

Luci Isaacson
www.climatevision.co.uk

Project Proposal No.2 **Hold Large Companies to Account, Not Just Individuals**

A lot of discussion about climate change focuses on lifestyle changes that individual people can make. While these are incredibly important and do have a place, a recently published report identified that 100 energy companies have been responsible for 71% of all industrial emissions since human-driven climate change was officially recognized.

And it's not just the energy or fossil fuel sector. According to the numbers, the top fifteen food and beverage companies generate nearly 630 million metric tons of greenhouse gases every year.

By changing consumption patterns on a large scale we might be able to influence companies to change their production patterns to more sustainable methods. However, only focusing on how individual people can fight climate change lets these big corporations off the hook.

The rhetoric of individual action, which suggests that we make more sustainable consumer choices like getting rid of plastic straws, suggests an individual solution for a wider structural problem. Businesses and governments themselves also need to take responsibility for curbing emissions, and not just blame the consumers that buy these products.

These companies are responsible for lobbying in favour of the carbon economy and for profiting from the death of our planet. Alongside campaigning for individual action, we must lobby and campaign for structural changes to the organisation of our society and for the companies that shape consumer behaviour to be held to account.

Daniel Roberts



Project Proposals Theme 1 - Address Climate Change

Project Proposal No. 3 More Disabled Electric Charging Bays

More disabled electric charging bays in public car parks to encourage and enable ease of use and promoting a low carbon alternative option which disabled persons can use without struggling to access.

I believe this is already being planned out but input on areas where these would be most beneficial and give widest access to areas which are currently inaccessible would be most beneficial.

In places with possible grants or future vehicles for hire etc to be moving towards electric or hybrid at affordable prices.

Amy Findlater, DisAbility Cornwall
www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 4 Stop Bonfires and increase cycle and walking routes

Bonfires are: Bad for the atmosphere, disastrous for small creatures and insects, break the food chain and neighbours do not like them either. We should legislate to stop them.

But: What to do with woody garden waste?

- Leave in piles to increase biodiversity in your garden
- Or chip into a large compost heap
- Or bury in Hugelkulture beds to feed your crops

Increase cycle and walking routes

Enable us to live more healthily

- Reduce traffic fumes and noise
- Encourage us to exercise safely for leisure and travel to work.

One new walking and cycling route might use the abandoned railway viaduct pillars to enable people to cross Truro on the level, safely and away from the city centre.

Anthea Lovelock

Project Proposal No. 5 Caring for Cornwall's Distinct Natural Environment

I would like to see Cornwall Council expressly commit to support projects which seek to care for Cornwall's distinctive and significant natural environment, such as the planned British Divers Marine Life Rescue Seal Hospital at Summercourt.

Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro
Diocese of Truro www.trurodiocese.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 6 Cornwall Council to commission the creation of an annual Citizens Assembly on Climate Change

The proposed Citizens Assembly on Climate Change would be composed of 40 local people randomly selected to reflect the demographic make-up of Cornwall.

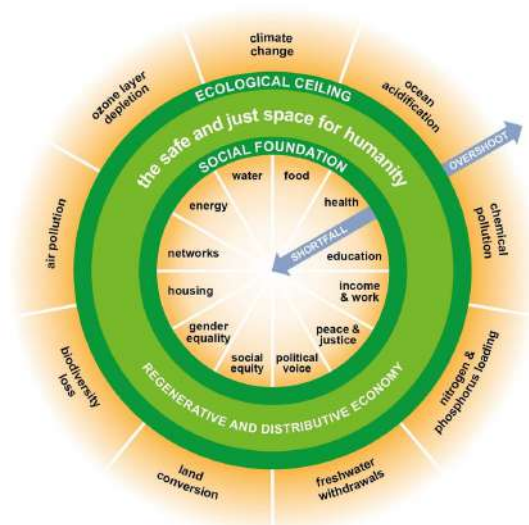
They would use the Doughnut Economics Model as a framework to structure their discussions and the outcome of their deliberations would be a report with recommendations that will cover one or more of the following:

- Review progress made towards zero carbon Cornwall, identify obstacles and make recommendations
- Review progress made by other key agencies such as South West Water to address pollution, promote biodiversity and reduce their carbon footprint
- Engage and challenge our MPs on progress made by this government on its Green agenda highlighting the gulf between rhetoric and reality
- Recommend additional legislative rights and powers required by Cornwall Council to facilitate a just and sustainable transition to a low carbon economy (devolution)

The lead organisation is the Cornish Constitutional Convention and they will seek to enlist the support of Cornwall Council, Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum, Volunteer Cornwall, and Cornwall Council among others.

For more detail, see the full document [here](#).

Gavin Barker





Project Proposals Theme 2 - End Food Poverty

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 7 End Food Poverty

A real solution to the two main reasons driving people to Foodbanks:

- (1) the low income economy in Cornwall and
- (2) the workings of the benefits system

Pre-covid data from Trussell Trust foodbanks confirms that low income and benefits issues were, and continue to be, the two main reasons for people needing help with food. Yes, Covid has increased the numbers affected but unless these underlying issues are addressed the issues of poverty and food crisis will remain embedded in Cornwall.

This manifesto calls for policy makers and decision takers in local and national government to commit to, and put in place, 'Cash first' solutions in order to ensure that:

- Benefit process delays must end;
- The welfare system must be easier for people to navigate and access must be quicker;
- The uplift to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to include those on legacy benefits;
- The status of 'no recourse to public funds' is ended;
- There is funding for local authorities to provide easily accessible and well-promoted cash grants directly to individuals and families unable to afford food and other essentials
- A real living wage is paid to employees.

Why are wages for many jobs 23% lower in Cornwall than elsewhere? Many people are on zero or low hours contracts; many rely on seasonal work; if people make a new claim for benefit or their circumstances change it takes weeks or months to resolve.

The solution to these issues lies with both public sector and private sector organisations but unless those with political influence constructively take the lead here there will be no prospect of addressing the root causes.

Jane Yeomans, Transformation Cornwall
www.transformation-cornwall.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 8 To end the need for Foodbanks

I believe that if we are to make Cornwall a fairer and more just place in the future we should together commit to work to end the need for food banks. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, more people than ever have been pushed into destitution, unable to afford the essentials that we all need to survive. This has led to unprecedented numbers of people needing emergency food.

However, these problems are not new. The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight and accelerated many of the issues that communities were already facing. There has been a 71% increase in emergency food parcels provided by food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK network between 2015/16 and 2019/20. This is not right.

As we come out of lockdown, now is the time to build a better future for our communities, one where people do not need to rely on emergency food provision. I call on this new Council to work together towards a hunger-free future.

To end the need for food banks and build back stronger communities, we need all levels of government to develop an action plan which:

1. Ensures everyone is able to afford the basics. People are forced to charities for emergency food when there isn't enough money for the essentials. Elected representatives should support a cash-first approach wherever possible, instead of relying on the distribution of emergency food. This means using your powers to improve the sufficiency, accessibility and responsiveness of cash-based crisis grants available in your area.
2. Helps local and national services work together to ensure people get the right support at the right time. Elected representatives should invest in the local support services that help to address the underlying needs in their communities. They should also commit to helping local services work together, to provide support which maximises incomes and ensures people do not fall through the gaps.
3. Involves people with direct experience of poverty and local food banks in shaping any plan to end the need for food banks. Elected representatives should work with people with direct experience of poverty in our community and work with food banks on how to deliver an 'exit plan' for ending the need for emergency food aid.

Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro
Diocese of Truro www.trurodiocese.org.uk



Project Proposals Theme 2 - End Food Poverty

Project Proposal No. 9 Take A Wider Political View

Accept that poverty, inequality and injustice in society is clearly present in Cornwall today and that the high income/low income gap is ever-widening. Therefore accept that food poverty is part of poverty generally and needs to be central to socio-economic and business policy making.

Accept that food poverty is interlinked with other vital areas such as climate change. There are huge benefits to seeing the food production and distribution chain as part of the climate change agenda: what we eat, how it is cooked, how many miles the food has travelled.

With acceptance comes ownership. If policy makers and decision takers in government and industry accept the relevance of food crisis to the above economic and climate contexts then actions MUST follow:

It should be a compulsory political manifesto pledge for all parties to actually address the issue. Rather than just giving out money to ladders and community groups to ease the problem there should be clear commitment to fixing the problem. Specific examples of actions to address the root causes identified in this manifesto should be required in all political party manifestos for local and national elections.

Whilst the need for focus is appreciated, it is not helpful to segregate food poverty issues from the bigger picture of shifting socio-political trends in the national and world order and the unfolding and all-embracing demands of the climate emergency. We need to change to keep pace and sustainability of communities and food sources are a fundamental part of the joined-up strategic response necessary if we are to address these big issues collectively and effectively.

Daniel Roberts

Project Proposal No. 10 Council support for Community Organisations

I think it is time for Cornwall Council to show some respect to the grassroots organisations who have shouldered much of the crisis response and done so robustly and safely. These organisations have prevented disaster and should be acknowledged as such, the Council needs to invest in what works, invest in supporting the incredible grassroots operations carrying vulnerable people through a crisis.

Here are some of my suggestions on how the council can support our community moving forward through a food crisis:

1. Visit community operations and find out what an effective crisis response looks like.
2. Provide funds for staff wages and volunteer support, training staff and volunteers in safeguarding, Equality and Inclusion, IAG and food hygiene.

3. Fund us to be able to pay our rent/bills/overheads/ building costs

4. Address the challenge of local groups competing for the same pots of funding and how this impacts on effective crisis response.

5. Address areas of systemic weakness within state welfare provision and commissioned services which leads to them relying on the good will of community groups to be able to respond to people in crisis

6. Support the establishment of local food security networks including community groups and local growers.

Jodie Tellam, Growing Links
www.growinglinks.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 11 Dependency at Truro Foodbank

The low-income economy: political bodies and businesses should end the reliance on zero or low hours contracts. Active Plus can offer support and help to people with mental health or wellbeing issues but they are not able to help anyone on any kind of work contract, so even a zero hours contract precludes that person from accessing help.

Transport: Poor transport links and high costs again hinder people wanting to get themselves out of low-income crisis. One training course I did was for a housing organisation in Camborne, they were taking on apprentices for grounds staff and wanted them to be there for 7.30. One young apprentice from Mylor had to leave because there was no public transport that could get him there.

Isolation: Covid has created many mental health pressures – isolation is one of them. It means some people who need help do not reach out. When you combine low income with poor transport and isolation there is a perfect storm. That's one reason why I see this manifesto as important...there are many interlinked needs and issues to be owned and solved. Not sure how you turn that into a proposal

At Truro Foodbank, and I expect many others, the two words being discussed most now are expectancy and dependency. Some customers have now developed embedded expectancy. It is not just about helping people in crisis we also have this now as a major challenge. The question is, how do we enable people to be weaned off this dependency? That is a very holistic proposal/demand but must be sorted if we are to end the need for Foodbanks.

Simon Fann, Truro Foodbank
www.truro.foodbank.org.uk



Project Proposals Theme 3 - Housing and Homelessness

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 12 More controls on Second Homes

In order for the housing situation to be improved in Cornwall there must be tougher restrictions on the purchase of second homes. According to [Cornwall Live](#), Cornwall has the most empty houses of any local authority area in England. Cornwall tops the list with its 18,621 empty houses, of which 13,642 are second homes mostly used as holiday houses.

When levels of second home ownership rise so too do average house prices, making entire areas unaffordable for working Cornish communities. For example, [in five parishes of Cornwall](#) where second homes account for more than 35% of all housing the average house price is 87% above the Cornwall average.

In 2016, more than 80% of residents in St Ives voted to reserve new homes for full-time residents. Despite consistent attempts to undermine the town's second home ban by estate agents, politicians, and other interested parties, the second home ban has not failed. The price of new homes in the town is [13% below](#) what it might have been if the previous growth rate had continued, and the price of existing homes has risen at a rate [consistent with the rest of Cornwall](#).

More work must be done to either crack down on second home ownership or ensure those that own second homes still contribute to Cornish communities when they are not occupying their properties.

Daniel Roberts

Project Proposal No.13 Rent Controls

A rent control is a government imposed limit on the amount that a landlord can charge for the rental of a property. There are a number of different ways to control rent. For example, you might cap rents, cap increases to rents, or temporarily freeze rents.

As part of their Renters Manifesto, Generation Rent has proposed the introduction of rent controls. Here is what they have to say:

Rents in England eat up household income and push people into financial hardship. One in four private renters in England lives in poverty. Over half of the families with children living in private rented accommodation are below the poverty line.

We need rent controls that bring rents down to 30% of median local income, following the accepted yardstick of affordability. Rent controls should be introduced incrementally, to prevent negative consequences for current tenants, and should be accompanied by a massive increase in public house building.

https://www.rentermanifesto.org/read_the_manifesto_full

Paul Green, Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum
www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com

Project Proposal No. 14 Additions of accessible housing and lifetime homes to the Local Plan

We want a commitment to amounts of houses accessible to anyone who has an extra need accounted for in planning and development as much as affordable housing.

The below links show how far behind the south west are on commitments to lifetimes housing and accessible housing.

https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/OtherOrganisation/Accessible-Housing-Impact-Assessment-Emailable.pdf

<https://www.habinteg.org.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n2151.pdf&ver=2575>

DisAbility Cornwall
www.disAbilitycornwall.org.uk



Project Proposals Theme 3 - Housing and Homelessness

Project Proposal No. 15 **The Children's Society Report - A Manifesto for Local Government**

These recommendations are taken from The Children's Society report A manifesto for Local Government. They are chosen as the most relevant to Local Authorities and to the particular needs of children and young people in Cornwall.

1. Local welfare assistance/crisis support

1.1. Local councillors should support our campaign to Strengthen The Safety Net for families facing financial crisis, by calling on Government to provide sustainable, long-term funding for local welfare provision.

1.2. Every local council should have a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme in place to provide emergency support to families facing financial crisis.

1.3. Local authorities should review their Local Welfare Assistance Schemes and ensure they are fit for purpose, able to provide rapid and dignified support to those in the greatest need in their areas.

2. Housing insecurity

2.1. Local planning policies should prioritise genuinely affordable, family-sized homes for construction in their area.

2.2. Local authorities should consider using their powers to introduce landlord licensing schemes to improve the quality and security of privately rented homes.

2.3. To limit disruption to children's lives, wherever possible homeless families should not be placed in temporary accommodation outside of their local authority area.

2.4. Areas in England should work together to develop homelessness strategies across Counties, Combined Authority or City Region areas. These strategies should incentivise councils to place families in housing locally and near to schools, and ensure that families aren't being placed in areas which put children at risk.

3. Children's well-being

3.1. Local councillors should commit to consulting meaningfully with children and young people around the decisions that impact them in their communities.

3.2. Local authorities should undertake regular assessments of children's well-being in their area- at least every four years (until national measurement is in place) and ensure that children's well-being is specifically considered when making policy across your council.

Local authorities should work with local partners to develop a Well-Being Strategy for the local area, with a focus on improving well-being of children and young people.

Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans
Diocese of Truro www.trurodiocese.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 16 **Affordable Housing**

Among many concerns, the main local one that stands out is the lack of affordable housing, not only for the disadvantaged and unemployed but also for key workers, including teachers, nurses etc.

It is far from easy to resolve, I realise, and building ever more houses will not in itself solve it, important though this is. We also need to make more of the existing housing stock. I would suggest, therefore:

1) an audit of the present housing stock throughout the county is carried out to identify empty properties and vacant flats above shops. Properties that have been empty for more than 6 months should be compulsorily purchased by the Council.

2) a serious plan to stop so many potential family homes becoming second homes or Air B n B. There needs to be a limit on the number of Air B n B properties in each locality and they need to be properly taxed - both income and business taxes. Second-home owners should pay double council tax to help make up for negative impact they are making on local communities (loss of shops and post offices, primary schools etc.)

3) when affordable houses are built as part of a new development, they must remain in the social housing stock (through some scheme of joint ownership) and not be allowed to be sold on the open market.

Anita Ballin

Project Proposal No. 17 **Housing and Homelessness**

Cornwall Council to be asked to introduce some kind of regulation to require that residential property for sale should be offered first (for one month, say?) to local people, with perhaps 2 or 3 years' residence? The pressure from developers and wealthy incomers seems to be increasingly excluding local people from the market.

Lesley Michell, Penzance

Project Proposal No. 18 **Extending the Pod Scheme**

I would encourage the Council to look carefully at the situation of homeless and potentially homeless men and consider extending the Pod scheme which has provided an effective bridge into better conditions for street homeless. Also it could provide emergency accommodation for men made homeless by job loss or relationship breakdown to prevent them sliding into street homelessness and give them a base from which to establish themselves again.

Keith Owen, Chair of CTIPA, the parent charity of The Penzance Breakfast Project and Food Bank
www.churchestogetherinpenzance.co.uk



Project Proposals Theme 3 - Housing and Homelessness

Project Proposal No. 19 House ownership and renting

The basic needs of shelter, warmth, food and security are essentials for family life and mental health.

House ownership

For too many years affordable housing has been on the agenda but action has been too slow. However, the situation is not the same as 20 or 30 years ago. House prices in general have rocketed. In recent times disposable income, resulting from high salaries, bonuses and pensions, for example in London, has been directed at the acquisition of second homes at inflated prices in rural areas. House prices which were two or three times the average salary are now well beyond the reach and affordability of 'local' families. Without a concerted effort by those in positions of influence ie, elected members of the County Council, the situation will not change. Initiatives that restrict 'selling on' the housing stock to the highest bidder must be implemented irrespective of political and re-electability issues.

Renting

For many 'local' people renting will always be the only option in an unfair and unequal marketplace. When renting out a property becomes a source of income as in 'buy to let', monthly rents are also become beyond those on basic wages or salaries in the county. Affordable rents are as contentious as affordable housing. The added extra that plagues the sector is a lack of security for tenants especially in a popular seasonally tourist county such as Cornwall. Clearly length of tenancy is a balance between owner and tenant.

House ownership and renting is one of the most urgent issues that should be tackled as a priority in an imaginative way by our elected representatives on Cornwall Council.

Dr. Nigel Haward and Mrs Jane Haward, Ludgvan

Project Proposal No. 20 Childhood Trauma and Homelessness

This proposal is based on the research undertaken by Evolve Housing and their subsequent report 'Breaking the cycle of trauma' in 2018. The Objectives of the research included; identifying the links between trauma and homelessness and understanding the impact of childhood trauma which may cause them to become homeless.

Issues that can be suffered in childhood are; separation and loss, violence and physical abuse, substance abuse and sexual abuse. These experiences can lead to multiple complex traumas in later life if left untreated. Trauma in childhood is directly linked to mental health issues and homelessness, later in life. What needs to be done?

- Counselling services should be embedded in all support services for those who are homeless
- Access to counselling after a traumatic event needs to be timely

- Psychologically informed wellbeing practitioners should be available to homeless people who experience multiple and complex traumas in addition to homelessness.
- Interactive approaches to therapy should draw upon a range of models, including those that address previous trauma
- Personal wellbeing should be taught in schools, youth clubs and community centres along with education about recognising types of trauma and homelessness.
- Connecting people to their community to ensure early identification and treatment of trauma can be put in place
- Positive mental wellbeing activities should be embedded in all services, to ensure that those experiencing trauma can get the support they need.
- Good practice around working with trauma and homelessness should be celebrated and shared between agencies.

Paul Green, www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com

Project Proposal No. 21 Storage Lockers for the Homeless

The Truro Homeless Action Group have now been operating for some 24 years by providing a regular and safe place for the homeless to meet whilst offering a warm welcome, tea, coffee, orange juice, toast, cereal and a full English breakfast at no charge. We also help out by providing hot drinks in flasks, gloves, socks, hats etc. and toilet articles whilst listening to any grievances they may have.

One of the main grievances seems to be the lack of anywhere to leave in safety, their bedding etc. during the day. Quite often these items are either stolen or binned, confiscated, officially or unofficially, or just disappeared and the homeless person is left without anything to keep him warm and dry throughout the night. Obviously, in winter especially, this can be dangerous to health. Time and again we have been told of bedding, tents etc. disappearing, which often amounts to a homeless person spending the night freezing cold.

We feel that full height lockers should be made available for the homeless in the middle of Truro, part of the pod system might be a good place where there is already some security. Lockers to have colour coded KEY and LOCK with the key presented to the homeless person on a lanyard.

We do not feel that it is realised by many people how important it is for a homeless person to know that their bedding, sleeping bag, tent etc. will be available to them that night and in a dry condition otherwise a very unpleasant night ensues. Therefore it is an absolute necessity for there to be somewhere where bedding can be kept dry during the day. At the moment where can the homeless leave bedding etc. during the day ?

Sue Warrillow, Truro Homeless Action Group



Project Proposals Theme 4 - A Sustainable Economy

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 22 The Need for Investment and Wealth Creators

Productivity is measured as the value of output per person, but in Cornwall's service economy, we need to find new ways of measuring it. Our productivity was 72 against a UK Index of 100; and our wages were 17% less than the national average. Not great for self-esteem, attracting investment or positive image. Some academic analysis needs to be done on lifetime productivity, low staff turnover, wellbeing at work and the value of one's connection with place, which would show Cornwall as a more progressive county to work in. Knowledge workers will prefer the life Cornwall can offer while leading their businesses and running digital projects, possibly elsewhere in the world.

The new industries emerging and that Cornwall was already developing, need to be financed and developed here with access to sizeable sustainable global funds and with local money following it into enterprises so that any upside benefits local people and businesses. Renewable and community energy, agri-tech, marine R&D, e-health, food & beverages, sustainable tourism, creative -tech all sit well with the Cornish psyche, with our sense of place and the skills we have and will be able to attract.

The opportunities that these more sustainable funds and industries create will allow market forces to lead what the Government calls 'levelling up'. Investors from traditional centres of wealth will wish to balance their portfolios with stakes in businesses that can flourish in places like Cornwall alongside those such as financial services and manufacturing that are better done in cities.

So we need wealth creators in forward-looking businesses who can create well-paid jobs, who train people with transferable skills and aspirations.

Kim Conchie, CEO Cornwall Chamber of Commerce
Extract from Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's – A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall Report

Project Proposal No. 23 Support Small Businesses as Foundation of the New Normal

Cornwall is perhaps one of the best examples of where businesses, communities and authorities have succeeded in working together, in this close-knit rural and coastal economy, to overcome difficulties together. Governments and Local Authorities were initially forced to step in to save the futures of thousands of firms and millions of jobs. Now, we are at a make or break moment and businesses will need very specific support to continue to be the foundation for our county's journey into a "new normal".

Despite the hit that small businesses have taken, the pandemic has revealed not just their resilience but the key role that they play in helping their communities and extending a lifeline to its most vulnerable customers.

Countless small businesses have come forwards to help each other, engaging in their local communities and doing their bit to get through to the other side of the crisis.

Proposals in the FSB Report New Horizons that apply to Cornwall:

- Help small businesses to support their local communities
- Strengthen the capacity of Business Improvement Districts to promote local trading.
- Double down on efforts to ensure public sector procurement is fully accessible to small businesses.
- HM Treasury should allow more funding to be used in the council discretionary grant scheme
- Incentivise small businesses to adopt new digital technologies.
- Deliver full fibre connectivity to all premises as soon as possible
- Enable smaller firms to reskill, retrain and upskill their workforce through the National Skills Fund.
- Support small businesses to hire young people with joint apprenticeships and employment schemes.

More information can be found at The New Horizons report by Federation of Small Businesses and can be downloaded here: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/resource-report/new-horizons.html>

Ann Vandermeulen, FSB Cornwall Development Manager, Extract from Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's – A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall Report

Project Proposals Theme 4 - A Sustainable Economy

Project Proposal No. 24 Every Customer Counts

Every Customer Counts will be a website we have designed and built as a kitemark for inclusive access.

Despite 24 years of disability discrimination legislation, we often hear of the difficulties our members experience in accessing goods and services. Our response was to develop a tool to enable businesses to obtain the information they need to put things right in a simple, easy and affordable way.

We appreciate that good access means different things to different people and is relative to their circumstance, whether a wheelchair user, having sight or hearing loss or a cognitive impairment, for example. So as a pan disability organisation we have taken the approach, incorporating best practice advice from impairment specific organisations.

Quite simply, Every Customer Counts requires three things:

Evaluate, Change and Commit

A business will be able to visit the website and take a quiz, comprising around 60 questions with multiple choice answers. This then generates a personalised access report for the specific business' premises, based on how they answered the questions, to tell them what they can change and how. They then sign up, receive the ECC logo to display on their website and literature to show their commitment and will be sent an ECC pack, which includes an Inclusive Customer Commitment Policy and a window sticker showing their rating.

It is anticipated businesses will be incentivised to fulfil all recommendations for improvements in their report over time, as they will see the benefits of increased, repeat and loyal custom.

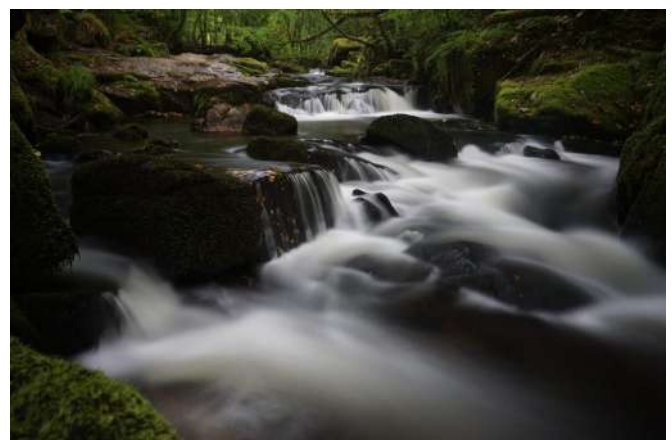
DisAbility Cornwall
www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 25 Employment

One of the big local issues for me in Liskeard is the lack of employment land.

We have businesses demand but are without the space to expand employment sites, our adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan is a key document to try to resolve this problem. I think access to good, local employment is so important for sustainable communities and the alleviation of poverty. I do of course appreciate that there is no single, silver bullet, that can solve all of our problems and working in collaboration with other organisations and community groups is really important.

Nick Craker





Project Proposals Theme 5 - Strong Distinctive Communities

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 26 **Encourage Diversity, Celebrate Difference and** **Recognise Intersectionality**

Promoting strong distinctive communities requires us to celebrate differences, not as something to be played-down or ignored, but celebrated. As Audre Lorde has put it, "it is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences." If we want to build a Cornwall that values differences, then we will have to focus on the strengths and gifts of each person. Valuing differences equips people with useful tools for appreciating the diverse experiences of others, respecting people's innate differences, and engaging in a mutually beneficial manner.

At the same time, we must recognise that the dynamics of injustice and social domination intersect in ways that means no one 'term' will ever capture the totality of a person's experience. Even in this manifesto, we have recognised that our categories overlap in ways that reflect the multi-layered reality of persons, groups, and experiences.

This understanding should lead us to think more carefully about the issues of privilege, power, and intersecting identities that affect the poverty and deprivation we see in Cornwall. For example, we should not think of food poverty as separate from the issues of class, race, or social location. All of these issues operate together to create the issues we face today, and ignoring any one aspect risks failing those whose experiences are more complex.

This manifesto therefore proposes that differences in people should be recognised and celebrated and that at the same time the ways in which these multiple identities overlap should be recognised and understood. For example, when considering the struggles of black women in Cornwall, it makes little sense to treat sexism and racism through a framework which understands them separately. Recognising the complex phenomena that shape social inequalities will help us affirm the experiences of others and challenge the systems of discrimination responsible.

Amy Findlater, disAbility Cornwall
www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 27 **Opportunities for those with learning disabilities**

Nicky Abrahams is Project Worker and specialist advocate for people with learning disabilities at Cornwall Advocacy. She discussed the Community Manifesto with the users and friends of the charity. This is what they had to say.

To make life in Cornwall better, we would like:

- More social opportunities.
- Everyone to have a better understanding of learning disabilities.
- Health and social care support to improve and for there to be more of it – especially from Cornwall Council.

Nicky Abrahams, Cornwall Advocacy
www.cornwalladvocacy.org.uk

Project Proposal No. 28 **Helping those living with HIV, their families and carers**

Research on people living with HIV, including family and carers, points to connection with an understanding and experienced community as vital to mental wellbeing. It is particularly necessary for those who are ageing with the condition and those who depend on benefits.

Those living with the condition can gain confidence and a sense of purpose though being mentors or guides, as well as sharing their own experiences to alleviate stress. Given the broad distribution of KPS service-users across Cornwall, we have identified isolation and fear of stigma as contributing factors to the common experience of social anxiety. We know that our service-users often find it hard to connect to the general community and benefit from meeting others living with HIV. Sometimes, the grip of social anxiety and the habit of isolation can prevent connection and activities that are fun and interesting can encourage breaking some of the barriers. Women in particular can feel more isolated and embarrassed.

Project Proposals

Theme 5 - Strong Distinctive Communities

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 28 **Helping those living with HIV, their families and carers** **(continued)**

We go into schools to give talks on HIV but would like to engage with mature and socially active groups who are open to advancing understanding, estimating that learning in elders will filter through to other family members and defeat stigma organically. Peer group support is vital for mental wellbeing, but to break the barrier we need to grow inclusive communities that do not judge each other on disabilities or income levels. We therefore see a connection with other groups, while not a replacement, nevertheless a fundamental requirement for social shifts and broader inclusion.

Helen Lewarne, Kernow Positive Support
www.ksdirect.com



Project Proposal No. 29 **Care Free Fostering Independence in Cornwall**

Young people in and leaving care in Cornwall would like to ask the new Council to remember that the Council represents their Corporate Parent, and that they would hope that Council members would constantly be asking themselves the question 'Would Cornwall's services to children in care and care leavers be good enough for my child?'

In Cornwall, young people in and leaving care work very closely with Council officers and Elected members to make sure that young people's voices are heard. In recent years they have identified that their needs include stability, having feeling that they are both understood and loved by the people who care for them, good support in school and with health, friendships and a sense of belonging.

Mari Eggins, Carefree Cornwall
www.carefreecornwall.org.uk





Project Proposals Theme 6 - A Benefit System that Works

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 30 **£WISE-UP! Citizens Advice Cornwall**

We would like local authority funding to expand a project giving people skills to manage their money and budget.

£Wise-Up! run by Citizens Advice Cornwall, is aimed at people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) who are experiencing difficulties handling money. The aim is to tackle one of the root causes of debt and benefits issues before they happen.

The project is funded by the European Social Fund, to December 2022 in North and South East Cornwall. Like many third sector projects, short term funding – while welcome – often means valuable work has been abandoned even when proving successful.

Participants receive one-to-one help with household budgeting and saving to prevent building-up debts in future. They are also signposted to support for debt, help with energy bills, grants, education and employment support where needed. Trained staff teach basic money skills and offers tips and advice on a range of issues, such as handling priority bills, making sensible purchasing decisions and planning for future needs.

Kerry, a single mum on Universal Credit, came to us because she wanted driving lessons and to buy a car to improve her job opportunities. Although she felt she was good at sorting out her money, she never seemed to have enough left to move forward.

We worked with her on making changes to reduce her outgoings. She has also had conversations with relatives about sorting their own finances out, as they had become used to borrowing money from her.

She is now building-up her savings and we have arranged follow-up meetings to see how it's going and if her goals are being met or need adjusting. She is on the way to taking driving lessons, widening her job opportunities, increasing her income and improving her future prospects.

We would like this successful scheme to have a future, once ESF funding ends, and for project to be extended across the whole of Cornwall.

Citizens Advice Cornwall
<https://www.citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk/>

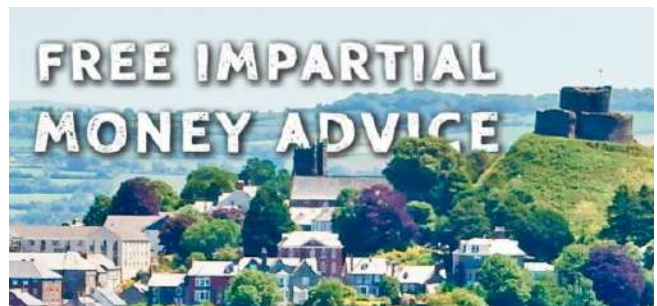
Project Proposal No. 31 **Launceston Community Hub**

Launceston Community Hub – CMA Launceston has a vision to explore, develop and deliver a community-centred support unit that goes beyond providing debt, benefit and budgeting advice and builds on the work currently in progress with the Launceston Community Project akin to what we have seen is achievable in Tiverton, Devon.

This would create a safe space to provide a comprehensive service to the local community where local public, private and third sector organisations would either be based in or come into on a regular basis to provide their specialist services.

We plan to hold an initial meeting with organisations we currently work with to explore and determine how best to proceed later this year.

Sarah Vinson, Launceston Money Advice Centre
www.launcestonmoney.co.uk





Project Proposals Theme 7 - Flourishing Communities for All

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 32 **The Chy-Sawel Project**

Chy Sawel, Cornish for 'House of Health Giving', is a project for people suffering from acute mental ill health. Currently offering information and signposting to beneficial holistic support, the project hopes to make a step-change to set up a Mental Wellness Retreat to be that house of health giving.

Chy Sawel believe that too often, in our time pressured world, acute mental disorders are medicalised and not supported by empathetic understanding of how the patient can be involved in their own treatment. World Health Organisation (WHO) studies have shown that recovery rates from a single psychotic incident, are higher in developing nations than in industrialised nations. This may be due to more supportive community care and cultures and less of a reliance on often expensive drugs treatments.

The Chy-Sawel Treatment Centre hopes to provide a template for a radical and systemic shift in how mental health is approached. With mental health being the cause of almost half of ill health for people under 65, the societal problem and financial burden on the NHS is enormous. Therefore, the pressure to medicalise a problem is attractive – a seeming quick and relatively effective fix. Except the people behind the Chy-Sawel Project disagree.

Through a programme of education, rehabilitation, innovation and research, the team hope to offer a credible alternative that puts the patients and their families at the heart of recovery. Offering respite, care and time, the Chy-Sawel approach aims to: lessen relapse rates; reduce hospital admissions; facilitate significant reductions in medication; help people manage their own recovery and find a way back to leading meaningful and fulfilling lives, where they feel accepted and secure.

The Project is currently seeking funding in the region of £2.25million.

Sandra Breakspeare, The Chy-Sawel Project
www.chy-sawel-project.co.uk

Project Proposal No. 33 **Dor Kemmyn, Field of Human Kindness**

Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF) promotes understanding and dialogue between faith communities. We bring together people from Muslim, Christian, Pagan, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i communities, the Humanist Association and everyone working for peace and fighting prejudice.

Sharing for Peace, Learning for Peace and Building for Peace.

Our vision under Building for Peace is to create Dor Kemmyn - an Inter Faith Centre for Peace. This will provide a sacred space for those Faith Communities who do not have their own dedicated building and a resource for the RE support we offer to schools and colleges.

We are grateful to Cornwall Council for the offer of an 'option to lease' a field at Penmount Crematorium as a site for Dor Kemmyn when we have raised sufficient funds. Dor Kemmyn is the Cornish word for Common Ground. Already our Field of Human Kindness has connected people who would never have met each other through events like: The Big Lunch, Thanksgiving for our Emergency Services, UN Peace Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Celebrations for Eid-ul-Fitr, Diwali, Baha'i New Year, Wesak, Pagan Lammas festival, Creationtide.

During the pandemic, we have met virtually and in very small groups at the field in order to send prayers and support to everyone in Cornwall. We plan to bring our communities together again on UN Peace Day (21st of September) with a "Human Kindness Event" asking everyone to do a simple gesture of Human Kindness on that day and then share a picnic in the Field.... Please count this as an invitation to come and join us!

Our proposal is that Cornwall Council continue to support the Dor Kemmyn project to help Cornwall be a place where the public and voluntary sectors, faith and local communities are all enabled to play their part in building caring and flourishing communities.

Rita Stephen, Cornwall Faith Forum
www.dorkemmyn.org.uk

Project Proposals Theme 7 - Flourishing Communities for All

Project Proposal No. 34 How Can the Help Continue and Look Post COVID-19?

Support projects can be rolled out in the community on the back of the great work that has taken place during the Covid-19 pandemic. Volunteers in the community have self-organised to support those who are having to self-isolate and are vulnerable, without family or friends who can help. This simple but effective way can reach a lot of people, offering help to many but delivering the support in a sustainable way:

- A private Facebook group is set up which is purely for volunteers wishing to help in the community, it's important to remember that this page won't be used by those in need but by those offering support.
- Someone in the community acts as the main point of contact, a coordinator.
- A flyer is designed, printed and delivered with the coordinators contact details listed, there can be other information on the flyer, perhaps what support and wellbeing activities are available in the in the community.
- When a call or text is received by the coordinator the request is placed on the private volunteer group, for example 'a lady in the area needs some shopping to be collected from the local shop, who can help?'
- When someone on the private volunteer group says they can help, the coordinator then gets in touch with the volunteer by private message or phone call, explains the need and facilitates. The use of private messaging or phone conversation means no personal information is shared publicly, even on the closed Facebook group with other volunteers.
- If people question the coordinators identity, the coordinator can say to the person requesting the help to call the Truro City Council mainline and ask for the Community Development Officer,

This model could be rolled out in many other Communities across Cornwall.

Damien Richards, Truro City Council
www.truro.gov.uk

Extract from Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's -
A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall Report

Project Proposal No. 35 Newquay Refugee Support Group

Newquay Refugee Support Group aim to provide a comprehensive support service to families with refugee status who have been granted asylum in the UK to resettle in the Newquay area. We will do this by:

- a) Raising funds in order to provide financial support.
- b) Providing a range of support across all areas of family life to ensure the family has the best chance of settling into a new landscape and culture.
- c) Partnering with other local groups such as local faith communities to ensure the family's religious and/or spiritual needs are met appropriately.

We propose to work with the local council to achieve the best outcomes for this vulnerable family and ensure their inclusion into our local society is supported in the best and most appropriate ways possible. We would like support from the council by their sharing their experience and knowledge to ensure we are making the best choices. We would like guidance from the council to those other agencies who have a statutory obligation towards refugees or who can help and support us in our aim.

Qudsia Ward





Project Proposals Theme 8 - Public Services for All

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

Project Proposal No. 36 **The future of social care**

The fight against corona virus has, in many ways, been a wake-up call. Health and social care colleagues have had to work collaboratively – meaning the boundaries once created to guard individual interests no longer apply and the playing field we've been trying for years to flatten is finally becoming more level. To free up beds in the current crisis, we have had to talk to each other and find solutions quickly.

When this crisis ends – which one day it will – we have to continue that process. Rather than competing for finite resources and arguing over protocols, we need to build on the relationships we've forged and start planning holistically I would like to see more seamless, integrated working....health and social care will be treated equally and a career in care will be prized and respected for the skilled and professional option it is.

It's easy to become entrenched in accepted ways of doing things without thinking laterally and more creatively. The Cornwall Care approach is to put the person being cared for at the top, with care workers on the tier below, managers next and directors at the bottom.

It can take over an hour to coax an elderly person to eat, especially if they are living with dementia? Infinite patience, compassion and skill are required and they are precisely the qualities that those working in our social care industry demonstrate day after day, week after week. Specialist care needs to be designed properly and responsibly and that's why I believe we need a national review into the way care is resourced and commissioned.

If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's surely that we're all human beings and community support is vital to our well-being.

Let's value everyone working in health and social care. And let's work together, not apart.

Anne Thomas, Cornwall Care
www.cornwallcare.com

Extract from Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's -
A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall Report

Project Proposal No. 37 **Wellbeing in the Workplace must be at the Top of the Agenda**

The fight against coronavirus has, in many ways, been a wake-up call. Health and social care colleagues have had to work collaboratively – meaning the boundaries once created to guard individual interests no longer apply and the playing field we've been trying for years to flatten is finally becoming more level. To free up beds in the current crisis, we have had to talk to each other and find. A retiring school nurse was asked recently how things had changed in her 30 years at the school. She replied that in the early days, most children coming to see her had fallen out of a tree, been hit with a stick or stone or cut their knees. Now, she continued, they are nearly all stress, depression, anxiety attacks, cyber-bullying – in other words, mental health has overtaken physical as the issue of our times. And the workplace is the same – not that we used to hit people with a stick, you understand. Working remotely, worries about technology taking your role or emasculating your independence, relentless pinging of devices connected to a million networks and not taking downtime, will continue to create mental health issues.

We need to work together in, what should be healthy, places like Cornwall to find health and life-based solutions our times. And the workplace is the same – not that we used to hit people with a stick, you understand. Working remotely, worries about technology taking your role or emasculating your independence, relentless pinging of devices connected to a million networks and not taking downtime, will continue to create mental health issues.

For example Cornwall Chamber of Commerce is working with Cornwall Council on the Beacon project, the Inclusivity programme and many other public and private initiatives to put wellbeing in the workplace at the top of the agenda. Without a happy team, we're not going to make the leaps ahead we're capable of. This is a global issue so a combination of local action, government legislation and tech giant regulation will be needed.

But, speaking as a businessperson, things won't change without collective effort and shared responsibility. It's important. Some bits are urgent. We need a plan.

Kim Conchie, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce
www.cornwallchamber.co.uk

Extract from Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's -
A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall Report



Project Proposals Theme 8 - Public Services for All

Project Proposal No. 38 Keep Our NHS Publicly Owned Cornwall

Mental Health

The pandemic was a dreadful time for everyone, with many facing complex bereavement issues and others spending many lonely hours isolating. Children and young people have suffered from lack of social contact, educational opportunities and loss of rites of passage. The effects of all this plus the economic uncertainty, fear of Covid and the long-lasting psychological after-effects must not be underestimated.

Recommendation: Cornwall's health and care system must ensure that community and hospital mental health and bereavement services have the resources to deal with an increase in mental health problems.

Homelessness

Cornwall Council, as part of a welcome national initiative to end homelessness during lockdown, found emergency housing for 230 people. They are also committed to find "move on" accommodation, so people don't end up back on the streets as lockdown lifts. However, there is no long-term funding for this from central government.

Recommendation: KONP recognises the contribution of homelessness to ill-health and premature death and demand the council's actions are maintained by adequate central funding.

Funding

Even before the pandemic, health and social care were underfunded, nationally and locally. Health budgets increased but at a far lower rate than needed, leading to constant pressure for cuts. Cornwall suffers from the current Health Funding Formula which fails to recognise the special challenges of a rural, peripheral area with a rapidly ageing population. In parallel to what are effectively cuts in health budgets, government has cut the rate support grant to Cornwall Council. The council has done its best to protect adult social care but other budgets including public health have been cut.

Cornwall Council has already spent £34 million on Covid-19, £1.6m on PPE alone, as well as major expenditure on homelessness and support to local businesses, while losing income from council tax, business rates, and car parking. Government grants to date cover about half of this expenditure. At the outset government promised to ensure local authorities' costs were covered.

Recommendations: KONP urge our MPs and all who speak for Cornwall, to press for the promises made by the Chancellor at the start of the pandemic to be honoured. We demand a national increase in NHS funding, urgent review of the current funding formula, and rapid restoration of cuts in government grants to local authorities.

We also demand that health and social care staff are paid to a level that reflects their value to our communities and that will attract young people into the sector and support the Ethical Care Charter already adopted by Cornwall Council.

These proposals are based on an article by Jane Bernal, Chair of Keep Our NHS Public-Owned (KONP), relating to the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, and looking at some ways forward for Health and Social Care in Cornwall.

Jane Bernal, Keep our NHS Public
www.keepournhspublic.com

Extract from Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's -
A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall Report

Project Proposal No. 39 For all Public Services to abide by the Public Sector Equality Duty

For all Public services to abide by the public sector equality duty so that everyone can have access to health, dental, council services. In Cornwall access to dentists is a major concern.

Buildings are not fit for purpose and do not adhere to the equality duty. If our public services do not consider how a function can affect different groups in different ways, it cannot deliver the minimum standard of service to the public.

By not being legally compliant public services in Cornwall are contributing to greater inequality and poor outcomes on the services they provide. It requires equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services, including internal policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.

Compliance with the general equality duty is a legal obligation and currently this is failing across Cornwall. We need to see commitment from all public services to deliver inclusive access.

Amy Findlater, disAbility Cornwall
www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk



Project Proposals Theme 8 - Public Services for All

Project Proposal No. 40 Veterans Provision

Being a veteran, being in the veteran welfare industry for 8 years and also completing a MSc in Military Veterans and Family studies, I noticed a distinct lack of support for military personnel transitioning back to civilian life within Cornwall.

Whilst studying I came across some great work involving Exeter city council. They have worked alongside an organisation to compile a one stop shop website and booklet that can vastly improve the likely hood of a successful transition for military personnel and their families.

The organisation is called THE HUB – Armed Forces Community Support. <https://armedforceshub.com/>

The site brings together a lot of information/contacts such as housing, education and health. Having all this information in one easy to find and use location could help to reduce stress, anxiety and financial issues during the transitional phase and in the veteran's future within Cornwall. They also look to provide community projects involving veterans. This in its self can help the veteran reintegrate back into a civilian society, build relationships and help create a support network.

My proposal would be that Cornwall Council look to provide similar provisions for military personnel and their families to help with a successful transition in starting a new life within Cornwall.

Marc Walsh, Active Plus
www.activeplus.org.uk

What's Next?

These proposals are initially offered to all those who were elected as Cornwall Councillors on May 6th 2021 and in particular to the new Council Cabinet and its Administration. We are aware that great challenges lie ahead for us all. We hope that the examples of the work happening at the grassroots will act as a showcase for the amazing work that goes on in our local communities and highlight the vision of so many and the commitment they have to those facing poverty.

We believe that the proposals contained in this Community Manifesto will offer practical actions that could be undertaken to make Cornwall a fairer and more just place, and we are willing to make connections with the individuals and organisations who have contributed to this document.

The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum is also open to work with anyone who would want to see the implementations of any of these proposals taken forward. We have experience of working in partnership. Please do make contact if you would like to take any part of this Manifesto forward.

We look forward to working with you in responding to the challenge of making Cornwall a fairer and more just place in which to live and work.

Andrew Yates, Chair
Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

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Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's main focus of work is around addressing poverty by raising awareness, project development and influencing positive change.

If you would like more information about us and the work we do, please visit our website:

www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com

'Tackling social exclusion in Cornwall'

(Charity No 1183177)

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