

TYWARDREATH & PAR PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Blue Green Workshop - summary of outcomes

Thank you to all who came to the event and to those who were unable to come, but who have asked for a summary of the outcomes from the workshop held on 04.07.18. The main points are immediately below, followed by an Appendix with quotes and more detail (towards the end of this document).

1. Representatives from 23 community groups and organisations attended the workshop as well as some invited individuals. Groups were well represented across a broad spectrum of interests ranging from community social groups and environmental associations to educational establishments and churches. Young Advisors, funded by Par Bay Community Trust and working alongside Kernow Youth, also assisted at the event. Other invitees included the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Groups from St Blaise and Fowey as well as county-wide organisations such as Ocean Housing, Inclusion Cornwall, Eden on Prescription and the Environment Agency. The latter is particularly active in our area, in part due to the St Austell Bay Resilient Regeneration (StARR) project.
2. Tywardreath and Par Parish NP Chair, Cllr David Hughes highlighted the importance of developing a NP in the context not only of its geographical position – the Blue Green Spaces of the Parish attract visitors from both near and far – but also in terms of its social and economic value. For example, any development at Par Docks in St Blaise, close to the boundary with Tywardreath and Par Parish, will inevitably affect Par Beach and Par Village. Cllr Hughes added that the aim of the NP is to create a vision for the Parish and that this vision should be shaped by the Tywardreath and Par Parish community. The Steering Group welcomes contributions from all, including invitations to speak with community groups.
3. Dr Ben Wheeler's gave a truly inspirational presentation which generated questions which were both astute and thought-provoking. (See attached) Issues raised included how to ensure that people feel safe accessing Green Blue Spaces; the importance and implications of the proposed Par Dock development; and need to manage the risk of "Green gentrification".
4. **Feedback from the event: comments, thoughts and suggestions**
 - a. **Community Assets** - "*Wish you were here !*" postcards

Results from the initial survey in Autumn 2017 showed that many residents really appreciate everything the Parish has to offer; and the “*Wish you were here!*” postcards told the same story, Community assets included: the post office, doctors, chemist, The New Inn, regular buses, good train access, good places to eat. Other assets (which were in the majority) were Blue and/or Green Spaces.

- b. We asked: **To what extent do you think Tywardreath and Par Parish offers a good quality of life to all generations?** (Lifetime Neighbourhood principles). Responses varied but the general theme was “I think it does offer good quality for all generations” but accessing the environment physically can be problematic.

c. **Housing and Development**

Some individual, mini Housing Surveys were completed. Everyone was in favour of building warden or other supported accommodation for older people. Most wanted to see houses designed with space at the front e.g. for seating, so as to encourage social interaction; and parking to the side of houses was preferred. Responses to the questions about Affordable Housing were much more mixed.

- d. We asked: **How are Blue and Green Spaces connected?** See the appendix for more detail on the following. Using parish maps, participants traced the routes, commented on how easy they are to access and made suggestions for improvements. One key outcome of this activity was that it showed how important it is to consider Blue and Green Spaces in the wider context. Those commenting often referred to areas outside of Tywardreath and Par Parish itself e.g. Spit Beach, or spoke of potential linkages – both for walkers and cyclists - throughout the area as a whole. For example, there is a strategic route that leads from the Luxulyan Valley through St Blazey and Par to Par Beach. Part of the route is National Cycle Route 2 which, when complete, will go through to Dover. Many comments were made throughout the event about the need to focus on improving inland footpaths. One suggestion was to try and raise the profile of The Saints Way which has many branches and links. If the Saints Way were seen to be as important to tourism as the Coast Path or indeed the Camino de Santiago in north western Spain, then this could potentially attract investment. Equally, if StARR funding is secured, flood mitigation measures might well offer significant opportunities for the area, not least by improving accessibility to Blue Green Spaces as part of the “regeneration of community green space and historic structures”: https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/32210457/1_starr-summary-infographic-6apr18.pdf

- e. We asked: **Should we support the sustainable growth of Tourism and Tourism related activities?** All the comments were in favour of this proposal. Some added that they would like to see, “year round tourism to give a vital boost to our economy and regular and good paid jobs”. A display relating to Par Beach

(which mainly gave outcomes from a previous consultation) and a display detailing specific tourism related policy proposals generated fewer comments. This was possibly because they were further round the room.

- f. A **Vision Statement** was posted for comment towards the end of the displays: **“In 2030 Tywardreath and Par Parish will be a thriving, welcoming and inclusive community, allowing local people of all ages to enjoy sustainable and active lives while protecting a distinctive landscape and coastline, environment and heritage.”**

The comments made in response to all the displays and activities were overwhelmingly positive and entirely in line with the proposed Vision Statement.

- g. And finally we asked: **Should the Health and Wellbeing Policy include Blue Green principles?** Participants gave their opinion by placing sea glass in a bucket. And the response was unanimous, with sea glass in the green bucket – yes!

Appendix: Where more than one person made a similar comment, only one comment is given below as a sample. An asterix * shows where this is applicable.

- a. **Community Assets** - *“Wish you were here !”* postcards

“Local people have access to a post office, doctors and chemist.” *

“The New Inn, regular buses * – “though the 24 ought to be half hourly in summer - good train access *, good places to eat.”

“Great place, lovely quiet countryside, friendly people, not commercialised”

“a good area, you can walk to activities, lots of clubs/societies.”

Blue Green spaces: “nature reserves”, “the beach”, “St Andrew’s pond and the field behind, the path parallel to the railway”, “the running track and recreation ground”, “the coastal path”, Marsh Villa gardens”, “public footpaths important for walking and visiting with children”. Most of these were mentioned more than once. *

Suggestions: “Recommend to developers the installation of water reclaim storage systems in all new builds”

- b. **Lifetime Neighbourhoods**

To what extent do you think Tywardreath and Par Parish offers a good quality of life to all generations?

On the positive side:

“Plenty of activities for the elderly and less mobile people – if they would only take advantage of what files on offer. Tywardreath the best ever !”

“Great environment for children.”

Suggestions for improvement:

* “Urgent Traffic-calming needed in Tywardreath”

“Access to Par Beach for disabled, young people, pushchairs” *

“control of weeds on footpaths for school children to use safely” *

c. **Housing and Development**

Apart from the individual mini surveys, comments from other displays included a request for “water reclaim storage systems” to be installed in new builds and: “Can more building work happen in ‘brown’ spaces to enable green spaces to stay green.”

d. **How are Blue and Green Spaces connected?**

There is a strategic route that leads from the Luxulyan Valley through St Blazey and Par to Par Beach. Part of the route is National Cycle Route 2 which, when complete, will link St Austell with Plymouth via Lostwithiel and Looe, and then along the south coast to Dover. (<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/route-2>).

Part of one of the routes of The Saints Way leads from Tywardreath Highway through Kilhallon and Lanescot to Tywardreath village and Polmear, and then to Fowey. (<https://www.visitcornwall.com/things-to-do/walking/saints-way-trail-padstow-to-fowey>)

Points for improvement within Tywardreath and Par Parish noted:

- Between Pontois Mill and St Blazey Bridge by Tywardreath Level Crossing: the path following the course of the Newquay-Par branch railway line is not suitable for wheelchairs, needs upgrading
- St Blazey Bridge to St Andrews Road level crossing: the path is very muddy in wet weather, and sometimes impassable because of puddles.
- Par Green to Par Beach: two paths lead on to the dunes at Par Beach; not made up paths, widen the paths and stabilise the surfaces for wheeled access. Can be overgrown. The dunes have got too big.
- There are tarmacked roads around Par Sands Holiday Park, so accessible for wheeled access
- St Andrew’s Bridge to Treemill, uneven, can be muddy, in very wet weather has been washed away, now repaired
- Around St Andrews Wetland Reserve, surface improvement needed for wheeled access

St Blaise NP area

- Car park by Skew Bridge to Spit Point has steps and a bridge over the China Clay Works, so wheeled access is difficult
- From Mountlea Drive to Biscovey could be upgraded
- Harbour Road to the Mount is muddy

e. **Should we support the sustainable growth of Tourism and Tourism related activities?**

Comments were strongly in favour: “it is important for the local economy” *

Suggestions included that we need to improve and increase the toilet facilities *, make certain that the area looks clean and safe; and increase the frequency of public transport in the summer. *