

Milly Southworth

From: Lisa Grigg <Lisa.Grigg@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 July 2023 16:48
Cc: Cllr Armand Toms; Cllr Colin Martin; Cllr Edwina Hannaford; Cllr Hilary Frank; Cllr Jane Pascoe; Cllr John Tivnan; Cllr Kate Ewert; Cllr Martin Worth; Cllr Nick Craker; Cllr Phil Seeva; Cllr Sharon Daw; Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd; Catherine Thomson
Subject: Reminder: Homechoice review
Attachments: Town and Parish Council Newsletter - 2 June 2023 (108 KB)

To: Town & Parish Clerks

Dear colleagues,

We've been asked to remind you of the current consultation on the review of Homechoice, which was featured in the June edition of the Town and Parish Council newsletter (attached for ease of reference).

Time is running out to get your response in to the current consultation on the review of Homechoice – our system for applying and allocating social homes to your residents. You have until 5pm on Friday 25 August and we would be very grateful if you are able to respond – [Take the Homechoice survey here.](#)

Thank you,
Localism team

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From: Town and Parish Council Newsletter <tpcnewsletter@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 June 2023 09:58
To: Stephen Foster
Subject: Town and Parish Council Newsletter - 2 June 2023

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2 June 2023



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A30 and A390 road closure from 16-19 June

There will be a weekend road closure from 16-19 June so National Highways can carry out work on the A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross upgrade.

During the closure, from 8pm on Friday, 16 June to 6am on Monday, 19 June, the A30 will be closed between Scorrier and Boxheater and the A390 closed between Chiverton and Langarth Park near Threemilestone. More information is available on [National Highways' A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross web pages](#).

Vexatious FOI requests

The Information Commissioner's Office has added the topic of vexatious requests to its [Freedom of Information \(FOI\) self-assessment toolkit](#). Public authorities can use the toolkit to assess their current FOI performance and provide indicators of where efforts for improvement should be focused.

The Freedom of Information Act includes a provision that a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if it is vexatious. When used correctly, it provides a balance between transparency and the protection of resources.

In addition to vexatious requests, the toolkit also covers:

- Timeliness
- Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Rural England Prosperity Fund

Town and parish councils, voluntary organisations and businesses in Cornwall can apply for new funding to improve their local area. The £4.6m pot from the Rural England Prosperity Fund is for investment into community infrastructure and nature-based solutions that maximise Cornwall's unique natural assets and complement wider aims around net zero transition and nature recovery.

Examples of schemes that can apply for funding of £200,000 up to £1m include:

- Development or improvements to local nature trails, information boards and visitor centres that encourage tourists to visit outside of the normal peak summer season
- Increasing accessibility and use of green and blue spaces such as community gardens, watercourses and footpaths

- Restoration, refurbishment or improvement of cultural, historic, natural and heritage assets and sites
- Active travel infrastructure, such as cycling and walking routes, in rural and remote communities, that link to existing networks and public transport

The [Rural England Prosperity Fund](#), awarded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), will be delivered alongside the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Fund](#).

The first deadline for applications for the Rural Fund is 24 July 2023.

Successful applicants will have until the end of March 2025 to complete their projects.

See the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Fund website](#) for details.

Crowdfunding opportunities for community projects

Cornwall Council and Crowdfunder have come together with two funds that could support community projects in your area. Town and parish councils can apply and so can constituted 'not for profit' community groups.

The **Social Inclusion Fund** can support small-scale projects that are helping people connect with their local communities, improving mental health and wellbeing and building self-confidence. Whether you want to help people to get out and about, access technology, or live independently in their own homes, you could get up to £5,000 for your project. [Find out more about the Social Inclusion Fund here.](#)

The **Community Chest Fund** supports projects that enhance local communities, increase resilience and support vulnerable people. Each Cornwall Councillor has a small grant fund to assist projects in the area they represent.

So whether you're supporting vulnerable people, improving a community space, or putting on a community event or festival, you could get up to £1,000. [Find out more about the Community Chest Fund here.](#)

See the [Crowdfund Cornwall page](#) on the Crowdfunder website for other crowdfunding opportunities (including the Climate and Nature Fund) and examples of projects already funded.

Homechoice review

Town and parish councils are invited to join a **Teams session about Cornwall Council's Homechoice review on 20 July at 10am**. If anyone from your local council would like to attend, please email Wendy.Williams@cornwall.gov.uk for the Teams invitation.

Cornwall Homechoice is the common housing register where local households can register and apply for social and affordable homes owned and managed by the Council and its partners.

Cornwall Council is currently reviewing Homechoice. Given the current housing crisis the Council wants to be more responsive to emerging needs and do more for Cornwall's most vulnerable residents as well as supporting local communities. Cornwall Council will review its approach annually so it can be more flexible. The Council will also be improving its IT system to make it easier to use and better reflect what applicants want to see.

Between 30 May and 25 August, the Council is asking for views from anyone who has an interest in social homes in Cornwall to help improve the system. This could be those who have used Homechoice themselves, those who support clients to use Homechoice, or local residents or organisations.

[Take the Homechoice survey here](#)

New Chief Officer's Advice Note: Providing Homes

Cornwall Council has produced a [new advice note on providing homes](#). It sets out all the ways that the Local Planning Authority can support the provision of new homes. It puts all of the content in one place to aid planners and those working on schemes.

The note also includes guidance for dealing with applications for new affordable homes where these may not comply with the specific requirements of the local plan. For example, when the traditional model of exception site delivery will not deliver community aspirations. It is essential that the local community either lead on these schemes, or that they have had the opportunity to comment and that any material planning impacts identified have been made acceptable. The guidance doesn't change existing policy or approach to dealing with such planning applications. Each case will continue to be assessed on its own merits.

You can find all of the Chief Planning Officer Advice Notes on the [Planning Policy Guidance](#) page on Cornwall Council's website.

St Lawrence Urban Extension Concept Masterplan

Cornwall Council adopted the [St Lawrence Urban Extension Concept Masterplan](#) on 3 May 2023 as a key material planning consideration.

The site at St Lawrence is an allocated housing site for Bodmin. It is site Bd-UE3 in the Cornwall Site Allocation Plan Development Plan Document and is expected to deliver 780 dwellings. Planning permission on the site will only be granted if in accordance with the masterplan for the entire site.

The document identifies the Vision, Concept Masterplan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and supports Local Infrastructure. You can view more details on the [St Lawrence consultation page](#).

Cornwall Active Travel Challenge

People across Cornwall are being encouraged to leave their car at home as part of the [Cornwall Active Travel Challenge](#) during June and do something for their well-being, wallet and the world. Everyone living or working in Cornwall can take part, either individually or by creating a team with colleagues and friends. The idea is to challenge yourself to walk, run, scoot, cycle or take public transport for more of your everyday journeys. Three of Cornwall's town and parish councils have already signed up.

The challenge is free to join, simple to take part in and runs until 30 June. Log any journey – whether it's your regular commute, trip to the shops, leisure activity or a business trip. There are [prizes to be won](#) and it's the perfect way to stay fit and healthy and create new habits for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Why not set up a team for your local council? Please tell people in your area about the challenge so they can join in too. The challenge is backed by Cornwall Council, Transport for Cornwall and Sustrans.

Shared Lives service

Please share this information with people in your area.

More people in Cornwall are needed to be [Shared Lives South West carers](#). Shared lives is all about one household sharing their lives, families, home, interests experience and skills with other people who need some help and support. Shared Lives South West is an alternative to supported living an

residential care for adults with learning disabilities, autism, mental health issues and dementia.

Cornwall Council works with Shared Lives South West to match and support people with a caring home in Cornwall. Find out more on the [Shared Lives page](#) on Cornwall Council's website. Or [read about the experience of a Shared Lives carer](#) who started the role to allow her to continue to earn money, help others and look after her growing family.



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