**Gwennap Parish Environmental Group**

4th October 2021

Present: Andrea Freeman, Lucy Richards, Jo Hunt, Donna Hansen, Ann Gazzard,

Apologies: Jan Hallet, Lou Hitchen, Jo Picton, Michelle Barber, Cat Allen, Helen Dyer

**CIPR Feedback**

Local Parish climate action group.

Three priorities identified

* Waste and recycling – generally reducing waste and increasing recycling rates.
* Becoming plastic free – Redruth almost there, Portreath doing quite well. Could start with Parish Rooms here.
* Air Quality – rural areas assumed good but car dependent transport affects a surprising amount

Sustainable tourism – trying to put pressure on Cornwall Council to encourage or introduce initiatives to improve performance of all businesses within the sector.

**Climate Action Plan**

No Climate Action Plan in the Parish – previous PC declared a climate emergency but now need to come up with short and medium term action points that can be monitored, for the PC and the wider community, AF requested those PCs who have done theirs to share so we don’t waste time reinventing the wheel. E.g. use of weedkillers

**Ideas for GPEG led community projects**

Directory of green business incl support for businesses who would like to become greener without dictating, more a central resource.

Encouraging local suppliers in Parish Rooms.

Using printed materials sparingly – look to have an opt in for hard copy newsletter alongside use of social media to share information.

Applying the sustainability parts of the NDP as much as possible when considering planning applications.

Community composting scheme – look at how Carharrack are doing theirs. Other way around look at centrally collecting harder to recycle materials but only if to recycle them delivers greater benefit than burning at St Dennis. Business in Falmouth that breaks down hard plastic and makes things like garden furniture and signs.

Spring Greens Market – early spring event at Parish Room / Playing Field, focus on local businesses with eco aspect, need help coordinating and promoting (Cat?)

Home Composting bins – available from Cornwall Council (AF)

Find somewhere that takes anything that can’t be recycled to reuse and upcycle such as Scrapstore and the business on the way to Portreath (AF) - Upcycle Kernow

PC idea – water refill station at Parish Rooms. AG pointed out that the tap by the gate is drinking water, potentially just get some sort of wash stand and signage around the Field to promote it. (AF)

Simple nudges and reminders in Parish newsletter (LR)

Long to medium term target to explore walking bus idea for school, collecting in the pub with community volunteers to lead (DH)

**National Trust Blossom Project**

LR introduced concept – National Trust promoting an annual Blossom Watch as a community activity and alongside are supporting creation of Community Blossom Circles across UK. Within Gwennap the idea is to use primarily native species, or ones with a relevance to the area, with blossom and additional wildlife interest. These would be planted in a series of locations around the Parish, one central larger hub at the Pulla Cross Playing Fields using a slightly more formal style given its location, possibly a couple of other larger sites such as Bostol’s Field which could be more informal habitat creation led projects, and a series of smaller ‘nodes’ at key Parish locations such as the Chapel (already have a garden project, considering including a small variety of an appropriate species that would connect to the bigger project, also suggested green to front of Chapel overlooked by older residents LR liaising), Cemetery, Pub / Frogpool ‘Green’, Cusgarne School, Morley’s Bend, United Downs, Crofthandy etc. All locations would use trees / shrubs from the core list to ensure a coherent project. Potential to grow as an intergenerational community local history project collecting stories of routes and special places around the area and working with landowners to plant along Gwennap Trails (similar to the Feock Parish Trails).

Cornwall Wildlife Trust Autumn Seed Hunt -Registered interest in seed search, could use findings to grow on trees for use within planting around Parish spaces.

Also to plant up planters around Playing Field with wildflowers – see Piet Oudolf / Nigel Dunnet for ways wildflower planting can be used in a more controlled style.

**Paynter’s Pond, Higher Goongumpas and Bostols Field**

PP seasonal waterbody, good wildlife value, limited maintenance requirements, rare habitat. CWT advised may not be the best option for community value.

BF on United CWT advised important habitat as is, couple of acres, potential to plant some trees. Grassland which should be kept with overgrown scrub, knotweed etc that could be cleared to create habitat creation. Funds would come with transfer of land.

**Autumnal Parish Gathering**

Possibly Sunday 7th November

Leaf Scarecrows

Leaf raking and mulching pile by compost bins

Willow dome repair

WI Teas and cakes

Youth Group activities – hedgehog

Pumpkin recycling

Parish beginning of December lights, carol singing, local heroes

Boules Night – Pasties

LR to speak to Charlie Penna to try and establish a contact with the wider farming community to see how land management practices can be made more environmentally conscious in line with revisions to farm payments.