

Highlights from the Altarnun Parish Council meeting on Wednesday, 1st April 2015

Chair Dowler and 9 of the Parish Councillors met at the Bolventor Reading Room. They were joined by Parish Grounds man Paul Smart and five members of the public.

The local residents present expressed their opposition to a proposal by Wain Homes to put 62 homes on land to the East of Fairfield Park estate at Five Lanes. The scheme included both open market and affordable housing homes as the site sat outside the current development boundary. As designed, it was felt by those present to be inappropriate for the environment. Housing was too densely packed; suggested finishes were out of keeping with character of Five Lanes. The new estate roads were too narrow and there was insufficient resident and visitor parking. The proposal had failed to satisfy concerns about sewage capacity; flood risks and room at the local school for new children. They pointed out that Altarnun Parish lacked the public services, the public transport, the work opportunities, the retail outlets and community amenities to sustain such a rapid expansion. The home owners from Fairfield Park were also concerned by the prospect of disruption, dirt and noise during the build process. All felt that a second site entrance was needed onto the old A30 to redistribute & balance the anticipated long term traffic increase and avoid worsening the already dangerous road conditions at the Kings Head junction, School Hill, and the Thorn Close/Fairfield Park mini round about.

The Council had received similar written feedback from residents and direct feedback via daily contacts with parishioners. The Chair, the Clerk and several Councillors had attended the public exhibition by Wain Homes on 16th March 2015. They had also participated in a closed Parish Council pre-application consultative meeting with a Wain Homes representative earlier that evening, as a pre-cursor to formulating the Parish Council response to the proposals. The Clerk explained that Wain Homes had modified their outline proposals since the 16th March exhibition. The revised scheme now showed 45 homes on the two lower fields. The prospective homes bordering on Fairfield Park now included more bungalows. They had also been moved further away from the existing estate boundary. The top field now incorporated the proposed estate play area and an open recreational space. The Council had explored many of the concerns raised by residents with the developer. In answer to a question from the residents, the Chair confirmed that the Parish Council would hold an open public meeting if, and when, a formal planning application is made. There followed an extensive exchange of views exploring the issues raised and finally the Chair thanked the residents for their input.

The Parish Council moved on to consider planning application **PA15/02466** seeking to demolish an existing domestic storage building and erect a self contained annex/holiday unit at West Trelin, Altarnun and raised **NO OBJECTION**.

After the approval of the monthly financial transactions, the Clerk briefed the Parish Council on the preparations for the external audit of the 2014/15 accounts which are due for submission to Grant Thornton on 15th June 2015. She circulated a draft copy of the 2014/15 Annual Report for comment prior to publication at the Annual General meeting, scheduled for May 7th 2015. The Parish Council formally signed off the prospective budget for 2015/16. This anticipated a projected income of £11,450 and projected expenditure of £10,150 (89%). This was broken down into £3220 (32%) for fees and administrative costs; £5640 (55%) for parish maintenance costs and £1290 (13%) to cover donations and sponsorship expenses. The remaining £1300 will be set against the scheduled projects amounting to £2500, with the balance coming from reserves of @£15K. Additional external funding will be required to fully fund the proposal to build a new information rest stop and public toilet service area in Altarnun Village centre.

Finally, the Parish Council ran through the monthly correspondence which included an invitation from Dan Rogerson to participate in an online survey about the lack of rural broadband and the formal Notice of the Election on 7th May 2015. There was also an enquiry from Top Gear about the possibility of filming a Christmas special episode between A30 & Halvanna plantation and a heads up about the popular Motor Cycling Club (MCC) Ltd 93rd London to Land's End Trial due to pass through the parish over 3rd & 4th April 2015.

The next Parish Council meeting and Annual General meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 6th May 2015 in the Altarnun Village Hall. All residents are welcome.

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council – April 2015