

“Thank You” Altarnun Parish

Report back on the Altarnun Parish Council Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th November 2013

Over 70 people dropped into the Altarnun Village Hall through Saturday morning, 16th November, to meet with the members of Altarnun Parish Council and over a free bacon butty, homemade biscuit and cup of tea or coffee chatted informally about the workings of the Parish Council; Parish Council hopes, aspirations and plans; the successful 2012/13 Parish Audit; the construction & operation of the limited Parish Council budget; the Planning Approvals process; the management of the Parish Cemetery. The Parish Council minutes book, the Parish Cemetery Burial book, the actual Audit submission & budget folders were all open and on display amongst other official material. Current parish issues (traffic calming, wind turbines, dog fouling & flood prevention); parish projects (new toilet block, cemetery drive re-surfacing, children’s play area, adult fitness trail & gym, closure of original A30 spurs); potential opportunities (co-operation with school for a community sports hall, a community benefit sustainable energy scheme, affordable housing for local people) were also displayed and visitors were encouraged to provide written input on these matters and put forward further suggestions on what they thought might also improve the quality of life for those living in this welcoming and active community. Ideas ranged from “we need a KFC” to “provide a community bus, cyber cafe, launderette, Trewint bus shelter” to “the creation of fish pools in Penpont Water”, “excess water holding ponds” to several ideas around investigating opportunities to benefit from anaerobic/bio digesters for the generation of electricity.

The input collected will help inform decision making within future Parish Council meetings and assist the Parish Council to formulate the 2014/15 precept funding submission to Cornwall Council in December 2013. Parish Council income consists of direct precept funding from Cornwall Council (2012/13 this amounted to £8100), Cornwall Council Grants and burial fees. Around 30% of this is locked into fixed costs such as Insurance & Audit fees; 40% is spent on required parish maintenance & upkeep costs such as grass cutting & scheduled footpath clearance. 10% is discretionary spend on such things as community group sponsorship & miscellaneous requests for support donations. That leaves @ 20 % for kicking off large parish projects or small improvement initiatives. It is in this area in particular that the feedback received will help the Parish Council to shape the parish plan agenda and re-prioritise or redefine discretionary project plans for the coming 3 years. Over 230 points were collected throughout the morning and the Parish Council members were delighted with the response. These have already been catalogued, typed up and circulated to the Parish Council members and they will be discussed in forthcoming monthly Parish Council meetings to which all members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Altarnun Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa Baker-Pannell and Carole Smith for their excellent work on the refreshments and to give a special thanks to all those who took time out of their normal, busy Saturday morning to pop in and chat.

To all across the parish it wishes you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Clerk to Altarnun Parish Council – November 2013.