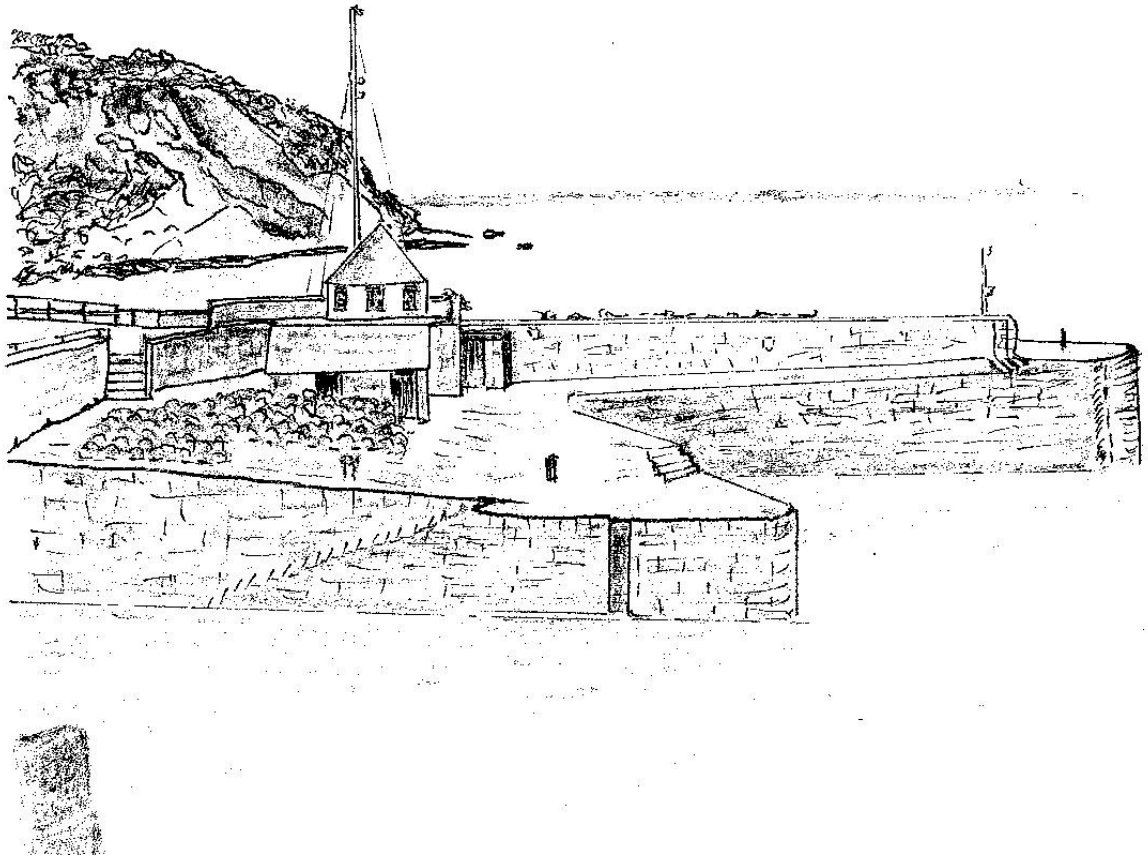


# **ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Serving our community – preserving our heritage**

## **PARISH PLAN 2014-17**



## *AIMS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL*

St Austell Bay Parish Council aims to work in the best interests of the parish and all members of its community. In support of this it will:

- Be a welcoming, non-political, open and listening council which acts effectively for the common good
- Work with all of the various groups which make up the daily life of the parish
- Keep a balanced view, support the participation of all parties, and promote the best long-term interest of the whole parish
- Represent the best interests of the parish when working with central government, the unitary authority, other agencies and local councils
- Ensure services and future development are responsive to the needs of local residents
- Care for our unique coastal environment and preserve the culture of the parish, being particularly mindful of Charlestown's World Heritage status

In order to deliver the above, the parish council will:

- Meet its legal obligations as a parish council
- Manage its staff and contractors properly
- Keep its procedures under constant review to ensure that they are effective both for councillors and parishioners
- Set and manage the budget of the parish in order to deliver best value for the community
- Publicise its views, meetings and decisions on its local noticeboards and through its website [www.staustellbayparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.staustellbayparishcouncil.co.uk)
- Maintain a parish plan which is based upon individual responses to the parish survey together with views expressed by residents' associations and other local organisations

## THE CONTEXT OF THE PARISH



St Austell Bay is a very rural parish, although the construction of two housing estates in Duporth and Charlestown has seen the number of houses rise from 594 to 952 in the last four years. The electorate, which stood at 560 in 2009, has risen to 1032 (August 2013) and is projected to increase to 1342 by October 2018. All three of the wards border St Austell Bay, a beautiful and extensive bay which is enclosed by the Gribben Head and Black Head, and which contains stunning yet secluded beaches, some of them private. It is a peaceful and private locality, yet one with a strong sense of community, and many thriving local organisations. Central to it is the historic World Heritage Site of Charlestown, famous for its harbour and tall ships, used as a location for many film and TV programmes, and justifiably popular with holidaymakers. The Cornish coastal footpath runs right round the seaward boundary of the parish, and many ramblers, both local and visitors, enjoy using this while taking in the panoramic views of Cornwall's coastline at its best. An official cycle route now links Charlestown, via Duporth, with the Pentewan valley, and this is proving popular with tourists. Others enjoy fishing, sailing, gig rowing, golf, or simply relaxing in the best of what rural Cornwall has to offer.

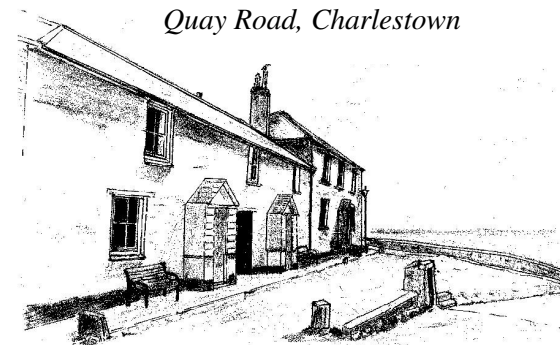
There is almost no local industry apart from some agriculture and fishing, and only a small number of shops and businesses are located within the parish. However, residents are within easy reach of St Austell, which caters for most needs, and the county town of Truro is just 30 minutes away.

## THE WARDS

### Charlestown

In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century West Polmear, as it was then known, was a tiny fishing hamlet of some nine inhabitants making a living from pilchards.

Towards the end of the century the mines and china clay pits around St Austell were thriving, and it became clear to Charles Rashleigh that a safe, local harbour was needed. In 1791 he began construction, and within 10 years the port and much of the village had been built and named after him. In order to keep his inner harbour full at all tides, he brought water from Luxulyan by constructing a 7 mile leat and 2 holding ponds. He also built a gun battery to protect his port from the French.



The port flourished with increasing numbers of ships using the harbour. A shipbuilding yard developed, together with all the associated trades. Cellars were built for the processing of pilchards and cooperages for the casks in which they and fine clays were exported. Then early in the 1800s vast deposits of copper, to the east of St Austell, were found and mined. The ore was shipped to S. Wales for smelting, and cargoes of coal, timber, limestone and hemp, for rope making, came into the port.

Rashleigh died in 1823 and his family relinquished control of the village to the Crowder family in 1825. By 1850 the local copper mines were in decline, and by the early 1900s the fishing industry had collapsed. Charlestown, though, continued to prosper with its handling of china clay, and in 1907 clay slurry was being piped direct to the Lovering dries in the village.

Competition from the railways, the decline of the Cornish clay industry with easily worked deposits being found in Brazil, together with the increasing size of ships, resulted in Charlestown saying goodbye to its last clay boat in 1999.

Since 1986, when the Crowders sold the estate, the village has had several owners, most notably 'Square Sail' which bought the harbour in 1991, from where it operated a fleet of 3 'tall ships' which have been used for numerous film and TV productions. This has enabled Charlestown to retain some of its vigour and identity as a 'working port'.

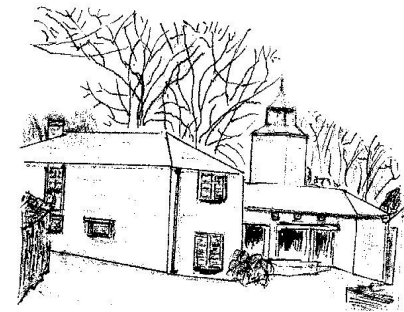
Charlestown is now predominantly a residential seaside settlement and tourist centre. Much has changed and a great deal has been lost over the last 2 centuries but much has remained unchanged, illustrated by the following extracts from the 'Charlestown Historical and Archaeological Assessment' 'It is one of the best examples of late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century harbour works in Britain' ... 'Nowhere else in Cornwall is it possible to step so immediately into the ambience of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century working port'. It is sad to note, therefore, that in 2013 two of the ships were sold and at the same time Square Sail put its assets, including the harbour, up for sale, thus rendering the future of this lovely harbour somewhat uncertain.

In 2006 Charlestown was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site as part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape in recognition of its 'universal value'.

## Duporth

The Duporth Ward is based around a beautiful bay comprising two privately owned sections of beach. The larger area from the eastern end of the beach almost up to the large concrete steps is owned by a limited company whose shareholders are the residents of the Duporth Bay estate. The remainder of the beach is owned by the residents of the new estates, An Arvor and Two Coves, which are still under construction.

Prior to 2005, Duporth consisted only of the Duporth Bay private estate and a holiday park composed of more than 250 caravans and holiday chalets. This was sold in 2006 and planning permission granted for over 300 homes. Building is well advanced and the new estate provides a very attractive mix of properties, from single bed flats to 5 bedroom, three-storey landmark houses. The extensive woodland area to the west of the new development forms a natural boundary between Duporth and Porthpean, another Ward of the St Austell Bay Parish. Because of the anomaly in the drawing up of ward boundaries a small area of Porthpean, Ridgewood Close, is actually included in the Duporth Ward, although residents naturally gravitate to their geographical neighbours.

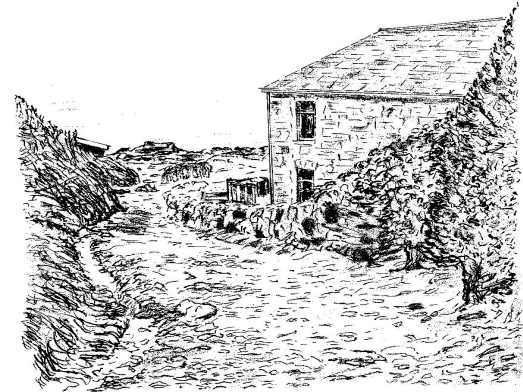


*The Clock Tower, Duporth*

Duporth Road, often called Brick Hill, is a very attractive, narrow, tree-lined road linking the three Wards of Charlestown, Duporth and Porthpean, which together with Trenarren make up the St Austell Bay Parish.

## Porthpean and Trenarren

Porthpean means “Little Cove” in the Cornish language. In ancient times it was a thriving fishing port, with fish cellars and a malthouse, although now it is best known for its safe bathing beach, with cafe and toilets. It has an old village square and lovely church, a sailing club, and a golf club. Porthpean Outdoor Centre is widely used by Cornish schools. Above Porthpean, just outside the Parish border, are Cornwall Croquet Club, St. Austell Community Hospital and Mount Edgcumbe Hospice. A local farmer donated a piece of land just outside the Parish boundary for a Children’s Hospice, “Little Harbour”, which opened in December 2011.



*The Mill Cottage at Hallane, Trenarren*

## **THE DEMOGRAPHY OF THE PARISH**

While there is a full age range of people within the parish, the distribution is skewed to the older generation, with many residents being retired or nearing retirement. Many are long term inhabitants who have a deep-rooted love of the area and its traditions. The predominant ethnicity is white British, although some are indigenous Cornish.

## **PARISH INFRASTRUCTURE**

### ***Housing***

St Austell Bay Parish comprised 952 homes at the time of the last census in 2011: the number has risen sharply in the six years since the formation of the parish council and will continue to do so as major building developments in Duporth and Charlestown move towards completion. Property prices are substantially higher than the neighbouring town of St Austell and well above the average for Cornwall. They range from around £180,000 to more than £1,000,000, with the higher prices being for properties with sea or coastal views. Local housing associations manage most of the affordable homes within the parish. There are increasing numbers of rental properties available, either for private or holiday lets.

The latest figures show the homes are split between the three wards as follows:-

Charlestown 405 (on completion of The Foundry)

Duporth 361 (with another year of building in Two Coves/An Arvor still to be completed)

Porthpean and Trenarren 186

It is estimated that nearly 22 % of these are second homes or holiday lets, with the percentage in the heart of Charlestown being higher



A major concern of local residents is the scale of building throughout and around the parish.

Current levels of affordable housing in the separate wards are:-

	<b>Charlestown</b>	<b>Duporth</b>	<b>Porthpean</b>	<b>Trenarren</b>
2007 – 2008	1			
2008 – 2009		10		
2009 – 2010	3	22		
2010 – 2011	21	5		
2011 - 2012	3	3		
2012- 2013	9			
2013 - 2014	3			
Homes with planning permission yet to be completed	7			
Planning permission granted for homes within extra care unit		42		
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

*(Data correct as at 21/07/2014)*

### Summary

If the extra care facility (or alternative) in Duporth is completed there will be a total of 129 affordable houses in the parish, which should then total approximately 952 homes i.e 13.5 % will be affordable.

### ***Educational Provision***

Most of the children within the parish attend the local Charlestown primary school, which has academy status, though as this school is currently at capacity many Duporth children have to go to Mount Charles instead. At 11 in the main they transfer to Penrice Academy (just outside the parish) with a small number opting for alternatives within the state provision, or the private sector schools in Truro. Local schools are well-regarded and of a high standard, as are the colleges of further education at St Austell and Truro to which many students transfer post-16. Pre-school provision in the parish is through the Naturally Learning day nursery in Charlestown. There is a thriving outdoor education centre in Porthpean, used by a range of students from across the UK and abroad.

### ***Medical Provision***

There are no GP practices, dentists, pharmacies or hospitals within the parish, although St Austell Community Hospital (which has a minor injury unit) is situated in Porthpean Road, literally across the road from the parish. Local people attend a variety of GP surgeries, mainly in St Austell and Mevagissey. Our parish shares the same lack of NHS dental provision as much of Cornwall, and many residents pay privately for dental treatment. There is one residential care home for the elderly in Charlestown, while an extra-care facility is planned for Duporth. Mount Edgecumbe Hospice and Little Harbour, a children's hospice, are both in Porthpean but just outside the parish boundary.

### ***Roads and footpaths***

Traffic from all wards of the parish decants on to the A390 by a variety of routes. This is a very busy road which is often heavily congested and approaches gridlock in the summer months. A number of "rat runs" through the parish, some of them dangerous with fast-moving traffic through narrow roads, have resulted as commuters attempt to find alternative routes. This is seen by many parishioners as one of the biggest problems facing the parish, and many feel that there should be no further development until the A390 is relieved.

The Southwest Coastal Path runs along the clifftops through the parish and is hugely popular with tourists and locals alike. This path has been subject to coastal erosion in both the Porthpean and Duporth wards.

There are many other public footpaths throughout the parish, and in 2012 the parish assumed responsibility for cutting the vegetation on them.

The increasing use of the “rat-run” down Duporth Road resulted in many requests to the council for the continuation of the footpath from Duporth Bay into Charlestown, which was eventually completed in 2013, funded by Linden Homes as part of their Section 106 contribution to the parish.

### ***Public Services***

Most but not all of the parish has mains water and drainage, refuse collection and re-cycling services, street-lighting, and adopted roads, but not all is served by mains gas. The Duporth Bay estate is notable in that it does not have adopted roads or surface water drainage. There is a regular bus service through Charlestown and Duporth but not through the Porthpean/Trenarren ward.

### ***Community Services***

Charlestown Coastwatch Station, operated by the National Coastwatch Institution and manned by several parishioners, is situated just outside the parish boundary.

The parish has its own Coastguard Station, housed below the Square Sail offices in Charlestown.

Both estates in Duporth have active Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and Charlestown has recently revived its scheme.

Our PCSO, Julie Carpenter, provides a friendly, helpful police presence throughout Duporth and Charlestown.

### ***Places of Worship, Shops, Clubs and Facilities***

There are two Church of England churches, St Paul’s in Charlestown and St Levan’s in Porthpean. Each has an associated church hall. Campdowns cemetery and Chapel of Rest is in Charlestown.



Except for the gift shops and galleries in Charlestown and the Orange Farm mobile shop open in high season, there are no shops in the parish. The closure of Charlestown Post Office and Stores was strongly resisted by residents, and all would wish to see it restored for the benefit of the whole parish. The parish council has been successful in negotiating the establishment of a part time Post Office in the new parish community hall when this is completed.

There is a thriving Shipwreck and Heritage Centre in the village.

There are also several pubs, restaurants, cafes, refreshment kiosks, a beauty salon and hairdressers within the village.

The following clubs, societies and facilities exist within the parish:-

### **Charlestown**

Regatta Committee

Rowing Club

Appletree Club (social group)

In addition, the church hall is used by 700 to 800 people a week for various clubs and activities from car boot sales to zumba and ballet classes for children. It is also used for various charitable fund raising events, as a polling station, and for blood donor sessions.

Charlestown has a public telephone box.

Charlestown has public toilets, currently with no disabled access. However, a new toilet block including disabled access is to be built in the main car park during 2014: a result of working with Wainhomes to provide a much needed community benefit.

Another community benefit for the parish will be the conversion and refurbishment by Wainhomes of the Foundry Pattern Store to create a parish community hall (mentioned above). The church hall car park has also been re-surfaced by Wainhomes in cooperation with the parish council and the hall trustees.

### **Porthpean/Trenarren**

Golf Club

Sailing Club

Cornwall Croquet Club (just outside the parish boundary.)

Porthpean has public lavatories (no disabled access).

### **Duport**

2 Residents' Associations

Duport Residents Ltd

Duport Management Company (CIC)

### ***Public and Open Spaces***

The Southwest Coastal Path runs throughout the parish together with a variety of footpaths, including a new (amended) footpath in Trenarren. Since the re-opening of the Charlestown – Duport section of the coastal path, it has been well-used and there has been a corresponding rise in the number of walkers using the sections through Porthpean and Trenarren to Pentewan.

All wards enjoy outstanding beaches. Porthpean beach is owned by Cornwall Council: Duport beach is owned by the various residents' groups: Charlestown beaches are owned by Square Sail but generally open to and used by the public.

The World Heritage Site of Charlestown has a famous harbour and quay which is home to the Square Sail Tall Ships company (now up for sale.) Charlestown Battery, accessible via the coastal path, was built to defend the harbour. Additionally in Charlestown there is the recreation field (Regatta Field) which has a children's playground and is open for general recreation and picnics, regatta and charitable events. A small area of land in Church Road is used for ball games.

Within the new Duporth estates there will be, on completion, a number of small green recreation areas for public use and the local woodlands which separate Duporth and Porthpean will be managed by the CIC management company.

Carrickowel Point at Porthpean provides a picnic, family and adventure area and in this ward there is also the iron age settlement of Castle Gotha.

## **BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT**

There is no one large employer within the parish, but as in many Cornish villages there is a wide variety of small and medium enterprises (SME.) Most noteworthy, and attracting considerable attention, is Square Sail, who own Charlestown Harbour and its environs and operate and maintain a square-rigged ship, which is used for film and TV work.

There is extensive use of land for farming throughout the parish, principally as grazing, and also a market garden.

The old Charlestown Foundry site, which occupies a total area of 4.2 hectares, is scheduled for completion in 2014. In the original plans 1.7 hectares were allocated as employment space for commercial development and 1.5 hectares for residential development with the remainder to be open space. Unfortunately, because of economic pressures, all the employment land has been lost to residential development.

Amongst the variety of SME are architects, commercial fishing, a local coal merchant, a driving instructor, a museum, a number of pubs, cafes and restaurants, arts and crafts galleries, gift shops, beauty salon and hairdressers, and a wide variety of holiday rentals, camping, and bed and breakfast establishments. There is a nursery and a home for the elderly within Charlestown. Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre, the seasonal beach café at Porthpean, and Porthpean Golf Club also offer local employment.

The majority of residents, many of whom have professional backgrounds, are retired. Amongst those who work are managing directors, lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers, consultants, police officers, accountants, clergymen, occupational and physiotherapists, civil servants, administrators, health executives, land agents, farmers, market gardeners, fishermen, builders, workers in the tourist industry, as well as a variety of other occupations. Most of these, especially those in a profession, work outside the parish. A significant minority work from home.

## **LAW AND ORDER AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

The parish is fortunate in having a low level of crime, and is well policed, having 2 Police Community Support Officers, one covering Charlestown and Duporth and the other Porthpean and Trenarren, with regular reports given to the monthly parish council meeting. There has been some opportunistic crime, particularly in Charlestown, a number of domestic incidents within the new development at Duporth, and all three wards of the parish suffer during the summer months from activities, including binge-drinking, on the beaches during the evenings. Recently there has been an increase in flytipping in Trenarren, and opportunistic thefts from cars have previously been reported there.

There are a number of neighbourhood watch schemes within the wards, whose representatives are proactive in keeping residents informed of dubious or potentially criminal behaviour. Most importantly, the villages within the parish continue to exercise a community spirit and most residents look out for each other in an unobtrusive and neighbourly fashion.

Local people continue to highlight a number of social issues which concern them, including litter on our roadsides and beaches, dog fouling, lack of public transport, and road safety issues.

There is considerable concern amongst established residents that the dramatic increase in building throughout the parish may lead to a change of ethos and a failure to recognise that the maintenance of a “nice place to live” requires community commitment and a common vision. The parish council will need to be cognizant of this possibility, and act accordingly in order to maintain the character of the parish.



## EVALUATION OF PARISH PLAN 2010-13

TRANSPORT	CURRENT SITUATION	AIM	PROPOSED ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMESCALE	EVALUATION
a) The A390 needs urgent relief through a northern distributor road or other means of allowing all but essential local traffic to by-pass St Austell. Minor roads through the parish become dangerous as they are used as rat runs, despite traffic calming measures	This road is frequently heavily congested from St Blazey through to St Mewan. This congestion reaches near gridlock throughout the summer months. It is exacerbated by the close proximity of two major supermarkets, and will be worsened still further as the new housing developments at Duporth, Charlestown and Carlyon Bay are completed.	To improve traffic flow and road safety in and around the parish	Continue to lobby politicians, developers and Cornwall Council (CC)	None to parish	All developers e.g. Eco-town, possible northern extension, Carlyon Bay Beach development through Section 106	On-going	We have lobbied at every opportunity but have made no real impact because of Cornwall Council's policies on building. Highways continue to insist that the road is not, with the exception of the Holmbush junction, over-capacity
b) Public Transport	No bus service for significant portions of parish, especially Porthpean/Trenarren. The bus service is	To obtain a bus service to all parts of the parish	Discussions with bus company, developers and CC	None to parish	Bus company plus developers	Duporth within 12 months – others 3 years	Problems with rights of way in Duporth and the adoption of the road have led to

	<p>still not routed through the new estate in Duporth, although this was promised to coincide with the first householders moving in.</p>						<p>a delay. There were also problems agreeing sites for bus shelters. The most recent hold up is because of a disagreement between CC and the bus company over the 106 agreement. The service through the new estate is scheduled, but with no start date as yet. No progress on Porthpean/ Trenarren</p>
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<b>FOOTPATHS AND OPEN SPACES</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>
a) Duporth Road to Charlestown	This is currently a dangerous pedestrian route down a road carrying fast- moving traffic. It is also a route for children walking to school	Construction of a footpath down Duporth Road to Charlestown	Negotiations with developers and County Highways	None to parish - £80,000 to developers	Developers	12 months	Footpath constructed June 2013
b) Public footpaths	The variety of footpaths is currently managed by Cornwall Council, who are seeking to outsource their management	To decide whether to accept the management of public footpaths throughout the parish	Discussion at PC meetings; establish costs to parish; make decision	Unknown at present - awaiting costs from CC	Delegation from CC to PC	12 months	PC now responsible for the management of its own footpaths
c) Coastal footpath	There have been major landslips at Duporth and Porthpean, and sections of the coastal path have been closed for three years	To reinstate the coastal path throughout the parish	Continued dialogue with CC	None to parish	CC and grant monies (Natural England and European)	6 months	Coastal path fully re-instated and formally re-opened February 2012
d) Open spaces	There are a number	To preserve,	Monitoring of	Maximum	Duporth CIC,	On-going	All woodland

	of wooded areas and play spaces (some of which are privately owned) which provide leisure areas throughout the parish and help maintain its rural character.	maintain and improve woodland and open play areas throughout the parish	situation; contact with the Duporth CIC, residents and landowners	£1,000 to parish in any one year	residents' associations, CC and private landowners		and open areas currently maintained. Trees planted in Regatta Field: other improvements in the pipeline
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>
	There has been considerable development, particularly in Duporth and Charlestown, including the provision of a high percentage of affordable homes	Opposition to further large scale developments in Duporth and Charlestown and careful monitoring of developments elsewhere in the parish		None to parish	None	On-going	The PC has maintained its opposition to such developments within and bordering the parish, including seeking support from our MP and the Secretary of State. Our representations are on-going.

<b>WATER</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>
	The heavy rains of November 17 2010 created drainage problems and floods in Charlestown (Barkhouse Lane and Duck Lane), on Porthpean Road Duporth, and in Porthpean itself	To improve drainage and prevent flooding	Work with South West Water, CC Highways dept, local residents and landowners to prevent further flooding	Maximum £1,000 pa to PC	SW Water, Highways, residents and landowners; parish council	3 years	Flood defence in Barkhouse and Duck Lanes improved; Charlestown now part of a Flood Watch Relief Scheme. The main drain on Porthpean Road at its junction with Duporth Road has been replaced
<b>ESSENTIAL FACILITIES</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>
a) Post office/store	There is no post office within the parish and local stores (except for tourist- based ones) are almost non-existent	To re-establish a post office/store within the parish	Discussions with Post Office and potential shopkeepers	None to parish	Post Office; shopkeeper; community	5 years	Discussions so far unsuccessful but ongoing

b) Dental provision	Poor access to NHS dentists within the local area	To increase access to NHS dental provision	Discussions with NHS	None to parish	NHS	5 years	No progress
c) Schools	The high level of housing development will create a greater demand on school places at all levels from pre-school to post-16	To ensure adequate school places	Monitor school admission levels and liaise with Local Authority	None to parish	CC	On-going	The PC has supported Charlestown and Penrice Academies in their expansion of classrooms and facilities
d) Digital infrastructure	Current broadband speeds are low and prevent effective working from home	To improve internet provision and speed	Discussions with BT and internet service providers (ISPs)	None to parish	BT and ISPs	3 years	Superfast Broadband introduced in the parish January 2012
EMPLOYMENT	CURRENT SITUATION	AIM	PROPOSED ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMESCALE	EVALUATION
a) Tourism	Tourism is a major industry in this parish	To encourage and support appropriate tourism throughout the parish	To liaise and support as appropriate	Notional	Private, CC and parish council	On-going	Discussions over the future of Charlestown (harbour and tall ships in particular) on-going

b) Businesses	There is only limited employment within the parish	To support existing and encourage new employers into the area	To work with business and industry to support and facilitate appropriate enterprise	None	Private and public finance	On-going	The PC has supported planning applications for new businesses whenever apposite
<b>WORLD HERITAGE STATUS</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>
	Charlestown has been awarded World Heritage status	To ensure that all developments are in line with the draft Charlestown Conservation Area Appraisal and the Charlestown Village Statement (see Section 1)	To work with planners, owners, and the Conservation Officer to ensure compliance	None to Parish	Private and public finance	On-going	Charlestown Area Appraisal Document approved and adopted by CC. All planning applications considered in line with Conservation Officer's advice

WEBSITE	CURRENT SITUATION	AIM	PROPOSED ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMESCALE	EVALUATION
	The parish council is developing a website: <a href="http://www.staustellbayparishcouncil.co.uk">www.staustellbayparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	To ensure that the website provides a complete record of parish council activities and links to local organizations	The parish clerk to work with the web design team to this end	£1,000	Parish council	2 years	PC website established 2010 and updated regularly



## **ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Serving our community – preserving our heritage

Achievements 2009 – 2013

St Austell Bay Parish Council has, in conjunction with its Cornwall Councillor and parishioners:

- Established its own website which is regularly updated
- Succeeded in getting the Charlestown Area Appraisal document approved and adopted by Cornwall Council
- Established the local affordable housing need through a survey carried out in conjunction with Cornwall Council and Carlyon Parish Council
- Supported applications for new businesses in the parish whenever appropriate
- Secured the re-opening of the coastal path between Porthpean and Charlestown
- Taken over responsibility for cutting back vegetation on all footpaths in the parish
- Supported local schools in their plans for expansion and development
- Partaken in discussions over the future of Charlestown, with special reference to the harbour and tall ships
- Agreed with Wainhomes and Cornwall Council the provision of a new Parish Community Hall as a ‘community benefit’
- Established a footpath between Duporth and Charlestown
- Successfully moderated Cornwall Council’s policy to change the operation of Campdown Cemetery
- Established a seagull egg removal scheme for affected householders
- Lobbied South West Water about sewage issues in Charlestown, and effected a new flood relief system in parts of the village
- Secured improvements to drainage at the junction of Porthpean Road and Duporth Road
- Worked with Wainhomes to build a new toilet block in the car park (to take over from the old block, the lease on which Cornwall Council has not renewed)
- Secured the resurfacing of St Paul’s Church Hall car park (another ‘community benefit’)
- Funded the provision of ‘historic’ streetlighting in Quay Road, Charlestown
- Run litter-picking clear ups in Charlestown, provided new bins there, and dealt with a fly-tipping issue at the Ledrah
- Supported improvements to the Regatta Field in Charlestown, together with the provision of new trees in the area
- Assisted with a scheme to improve the entrance to Chandler’s Walk (to the north of the parish)
- Created a Marie Curie Field of Hope at the entrance to Charlestown
- Assisted Charlestown Rowing Club in its successful establishment of a new gig shed

- Supported the Duporth Community Interest Company in its efforts to obtain information from Cornwall Council about its decision to grant public access to a private beach
- Tried hard to preserve the character of the parish and represented local people's views against further development in the area
- Campaigned tirelessly for the renovation of the former Chapel in Charlestown
- Worked to ensure that planning permission is granted in line with local opinion and with the requirements of the Conservation Officer where appropriate
- Supported the introduction of superfast broadband to the area
- Liaised with residents' associations and community groups
- Been represented on various policy-making and liaison forums such as the St Austell Town Framework, Cornwall Flood Forum, and Carlyon Bay Community Liaison Group
- Supported with grants more than 8 charitable bodies with a connection to the parish

## **PARISH PLAN 2014-17**

The following plan has been constructed from the returns made by residents in response to a questionnaire circulated by the parish council in the spring of 2014. Additionally, councillors have talked with parishioners in their respective wards, visited both schools to speak with students, held a series of drop-in meetings, liaised with residents' associations, and worked hard to ensure that the plan represents the concerns and aspirations of the majority of the people living in the St Austell Bay Parish.

Progress towards the plan will be evaluated annually.

**The parish councillors wish to point out that by maintaining the lowest possible precept there is only very limited funding for capital projects. They would also remind residents that they have no powers to act in regard to land in private ownership.**

### **KEY FINDINGS**

We sent out a total of 746 questionnaires and received a 32% response, which is high for this type of survey. 10% of responses were filed online. Many thanks to all of you who took the time and trouble to give us your views. The majority of replies were from householders or from those who both live and own a business in the parish. Only a few were from businesses with owners resident elsewhere. The age profile of the parish appears to have reduced since the last parish plan.

## **TRANSPORT**

Most parishioners use their own car or walk. There are some issues with public transport especially in Porthpean. Cycling is a recreation rather than a mode of transport. Speeding, the amount of traffic, the condition of the roads and parking are all a concern.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

People are happy with the local education provision but concerned about capacity. Comparatively few pupils walk to school.

## **MEDICAL SERVICES**

Most people are broadly satisfied with local provision. There are fewer concerns about dentists and chemists than in 2008.

## **HOUSING**

An overwhelming majority feels the parish does not need any more new homes because we have had two major new developments within the parish and the infrastructure is already overstretched. Any new building should be on brownfield sites. There was a very small degree of support for a limited provision of sheltered accommodation, homes for retirement and affordable housing. A small majority would not support new building even in return for community benefit. The parish clearly shares the parish council's concerns about large scale developments outside the parish in the St Austell area.

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

Residents wish to have more services in the parish, with particular support expressed for a post office and general store/newsagent. There was good support for more specialist food stores such as an artisan bakery, delicatessen or fishmonger, and the residents of Two Coves/An Arvor would support a facility such as a café or bistro on their estate. Much interest was expressed in a community shop, with some people also volunteering to work in it. A

bicycle co-operative was broadly supported. Parishioners would definitely like to see more planting of flowers and trees around the parish. Although only a small percentage have taken part in parish council activities to date, many more would be prepared to do so in the future. The importance of early notification was stressed. Many parishioners suggested additional community activities.

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES**

Parish council noticeboards are frequently read: the website less often. There is clear support for occasional “drop-in” sessions with both parish and Cornwall councillors.

### **CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The majority are satisfied with the service the police provide, especially with the PCSO, although there is a need for a greater presence in certain areas during weekend evenings. Contact numbers for relevant people and services are not widely known.

### **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND GREEN SPACES**

Unsurprisingly, residents of most wards use their own local beach most frequently but all three main ones are well used, as are all the footpaths, in particular the South West coastal path. The Regatta Field and especially the Church Road field are comparatively under-used at present. By far the most common leisure activity is walking, with swimming second. Canoeing/kayaking and cycling are both popular too. There is good support for a community garden, and for opening up the wooded area containing the ponds for walking, though some sounded a cautionary note about development there. 10% of respondents would like to have an allotment. Activities in the Church Hall are well-supported, especially by Charlestown people, and generally the parish is happy with the recreational provision, although there were some interesting suggestions for additional activities. An overwhelming majority wish the parish council to fight to preserve the green spaces in and around the parish. There are some issues about woodland maintenance and some concerns about rights of way.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

A huge percentage of respondents commented adversely on potholes, dog-fouling and litter, with a pressing need for more bins and regular emptying especially in good weather. Overgrown hedgerows and footpaths create concern, and there are some issues about signage, advertising, public toilets and fly-tipping. Most people would not be prepared to pay more council tax to address these concerns, although a significant minority would.

## **FACILITIES FOR THE YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG**

There is a strong lobby for the Regatta Field to be upgraded, and a widespread recognition that young people of all ages need more recreational provision. The retired/semi-retired often travel outside the parish to clubs and classes (though they do attend those at the Church Hall) and there were some good suggestions for possible facilities for this age-group.

## **BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT**

Most of our working parishioners are employed outside the parish, whether full or part-time. There was general agreement that the parish council should try to promote local employment opportunities, particularly by supporting small and medium enterprises and encouraging the creation of more jobs by existing employers. Supporting tourism was regarded as very important, with the exception of caravan and camping sites, which a majority felt should not be extended. Employers who responded mostly employ a small number of staff (the exception being schools and nurseries.)

## **REGENERATION OF CHARLESTOWN**

Almost everyone agrees the harbour needs renovation, and there was a clear recognition that a degree of commercial intervention will be necessary to allow this. The parish council has a definite mandate to explore all options and enter into discussions with potential purchasers. The general consensus is that a fine balance needs to be struck to maintain the character and charm of the village while allowing it to be commercially viable. There

was a high level of support from all wards for exploring such concepts as a weekend of music, subject to practical difficulties being sorted out, and with the caveat that a reputable company would need to organize it.

### **AND FINALLY**

In the general comments section, parishioners spoke of their appreciation of the natural beauty of the area, the friendliness of the people and their desire to preserve the character and relative peace of all three wards. Some thanked the parish council for the opportunity to give their views.

## PARISH PLAN 2014-17

The following plan has been constructed from the returns made by residents in response to the questionnaire circulated by the Parish Council in the spring of 2014. 746 questionnaires were delivered and we had a 32% response rate which is very high for this type of survey. Additionally, councillors have talked with parishioners in their respective wards, visited both schools to speak with students, held a series of drop-in meetings, liaised with residents' associations, and worked hard to ensure that the plan represents the concerns and aspirations of the majority of the people living in the St Austell Bay Parish.

Progress towards the plan will be evaluated annually.

**The parish councillors wish to point out that by maintaining the lowest possible precept there is only very limited funding for capital projects. They would also remind residents that they have no powers to act in regard to land in private ownership.**

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE	CURRENT SITUATION	AIM	PROPOSED ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMESCALE
a) The A390 needs urgent relief through a northern distributor road or other means of allowing all but essential local	This road is frequently heavily congested from St Blazey through to St Mewan. This congestion reaches near gridlock throughout the summer months. It is exacerbated by the close proximity of	To improve traffic flow and road safety in and around the parish	Continue to lobby politicians, developers and Cornwall Council (CC)	None to parish	All developers e.g. Wainhomes, Eco-town, possible northern extension,	On-going



traffic to by-pass St Austell. Minor roads through the parish become dangerous as they are used as rat runs, despite traffic calming measures	two major supermarkets, and will be worsened still further as the housing developments at Duporth, Charlestown, Carlyon Bay and Porthpean Road are completed.				Carlyon Bay Beach development through Section 106	
b) Public Transport	No bus service for significant portions of parish, especially Porthpean/Trenarren.	To obtain a bus service (public or private) to all parts of the parish which require it	Discussions with bus company and CC  Investigate community bus share for Porthpean	None to parish  Subsidy to be discussed - up to a maximum of £2000 pa Max £5000	Bus company plus developers  Users	3 years  3 years
c) Speed control	Widespread concern about speeding vehicles on Porthpean Road, Charlestown Road and	To investigate effective speed control measures on	Discussion with Highways and police	Max £5000	Cornwall Council	1 year

d) Road improvement at the bottom of Duporth Road	Duporth Road  Widespread concern about dangerous corner at the bottom of Duporth Road	these roads  To implement safety measures	Discussion with Highways and police	None to parish	Cornwall Council	1 year
e) Parking opposite Penrice Hospital	Additional training courses at the hospital have greatly increased traffic, and many vehicles park on the roads causing obstruction and endangering road users and pedestrians	To work with Penrice Hospital to provide additional onsite car parking facilities	Cornwall Councillor to negotiate with health service personnel and local landowners if necessary	None to parish	NHS/CC	3 years
f) Parking in Charlestown	Issues with parking on Church Road, and Charlestown Road	To work with Cornwall Council, police and local residents to improve parking and safety issues	Discussions with police, and residents	None to parish	Cornwall Council	On-going
g) Condition of roads	Many potholes on roads throughout the parish	To improve condition of roads in the parish	Notification to Highways and lobbying for repairs.	None to parish	Cornwall Council	Ongoing

<b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
Concerns about school provision	The primary and secondary school serving the parish are both at capacity, and local children cannot get places	To work with local schools to increase number of available school places	Support moves to increase the number of school places available	None to parish	Cornwall Council/ Academy boards	1 year for Charlestown primary school: 3 years for Penrice Academy
<b>MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
	There is a perceived need for extended facilities at Penrice Hospital, especially A&E provision	To increase the medical facilities in St Austell	Lobby to increase provision through patient participation groups and the clinical commissioning group	None to parish	NHS	3 years
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
	A substantial majority of parishioners feel there is no need for additional houses in the parish. Any development which	To retain the character of the parish by monitoring building and	To resist large-scale developments To support suitable	None to parish		On-going

	<p>occurs should, according to responses, be on brownfield sites</p> <p>A small percentage would support new building of sheltered accommodation, homes for retirement or affordable housing</p>	<p>planning requests</p>	<p>brownfield developments</p> <p>To work with relevant bodies to consider essential housing needs</p>			
	<p>A very large majority wishes the parish council to resist large scale developments outside the parish</p>	<p>To retain the character of this part of Cornwall</p>	<p>To resist developments which would impact negatively on the parish and its infrastructure</p>			
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
a) Post office/store	<p>There is no post office within the parish and local stores (except for tourist-based ones) are almost non-existent</p>	<p>To re-establish a post office and a general store within the parish. A possible site for the post office</p>	<p>Discussions with Post Office and potential shopkeepers</p>	<p>Within running costs of new parish hall</p>	<p>Post Office; shopkeeper; community</p>	<p>1 year for post office; 3 years for general store</p>

b) Parish hall	The parish council does not have a parish hall and Charlestown Church Hall is fully booked most of the time	is within the new parish hall when available  To build, equip, staff and run a community parish hall for the use of local organizations within and outside the parish To provide an office base for the parish clerk	Liaise with Wainhomes; suppliers; appoint and train staff; publicise to local clubs and societies	£3,000 in year 1 (set-up costs) £7,500 thereafter	Precept	On-going
c) Community facilities in An Arvor	Residents would support a café, bistro, or other community facility in this estate	To establish a community focus in An Arvor/Two Coves	Work with interested parties, the developers, CIC and the DCRA in support of this	£1000 max	CIC	3 years
d) Bicycle co-operative	No such provision currently exists	Investigate the viability of a bicycle co-operative	Commission the proposer to see whether the numbers of	None to parish	None	1 Year

e) Parish Council community activities	The parish council has held a number of litter picks and planting sessions	To increase participation in such events and to increase the planting of flowers, trees and shrubs in communal areas	interested parties make this a viable scheme  Increase the number and variety of such community activities: publicise them more and further in advance: plant up further suitable areas within the parish	Within parish budget	N/A	3 years
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<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
a) communication with parishioners	Parish noticeboards are regularly read; the website less frequently.	To increase the effectiveness of the website as a channel of communication	Appoint new website host. Create links to other organizations within the parish. Publicize website. Ensure it is regularly updated.	£675	None	1 year and on-going
	Many parishioners have expressed interest in occasional drop-in sessions to talk to councillors	To increase interaction with parish members and promote mutual understanding	Hold drop –in sessions where parishioners can discuss matters of concern and items which are not on the monthly agendas	Within parish budget		
b) Community participation in	Many parishioners say they would participate in	To increase participation in	Increase the number and	Within parish	None	On-going

parish activities	events if they knew about them further in advance	parish council activities within the parish	range of such activities and publicise them well in advance	budget		
<b>CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
	Most parishioners are happy with the current service but are not aware of relevant contact numbers	To publicise local contact numbers  To increase contact between PCSO and parishioners	Create clear links to police and Neighbourhood Watch on the website. Liaise with police and PCSO over particular days and times when extra cover is needed. PCSO to hold regular “drop-in” sessions in the community building when available	Within parish budget  Within parish budget	None  None	1 year  1 year



<b>RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND GREEN SPACES</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
	The Regatta Field and Church Road Field are both under-used at present	To increase recreational provision in the parish	To work with the Regatta Committee in support of the regeneration of the Regatta Field. To investigate other recreational uses for the Church Road field.	£1000 p.a.	Regatta Committee: Wainhomes	3 years
	No community garden nor allotments within the parish	To increase recreational provision in the parish	To investigate the viability of potential sites for both, and do further research on demand for allotments	None to parish		3 years
	Area by ponds on Duporth Road in private ownership and not accessible	To consider whether this could be opened up for recreational access	Investigate options with the owners	None to parish	Wainhomes	3 years

	A good programme of recreational activities in the parish, but some age-groups consider there are gaps in the provision	To support new activities wherever possible, especially for the young and over 60s	To react positively to suggested new activities	None to parish		3 years
	Green spaces in and around the parish and in gardens are at a premium and are highly valued	To preserve existing green spaces in and around the parish	To respond to planning applications in light of this aim	None to parish		On-going
	Woodland within the parish is being subject to inappropriate felling and is not well managed by the landowners	To monitor and improve woodland maintenance within the parish	To request updating of TPOs on all trees within the parish. To request TPOs on unprotected trees of significance. To investigate other measures for protecting the parish woodland	£1000 pa	Cornwall Council	2 years

ENVIRONMENT	CURRENT SITUATION	AIM	PROPOSED ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMESCALE
	Major concern about dog-fouling in all areas	To reduce this problem	Alert dog warden to specific areas/ times of problem and ask him to take action	None to parish	Cornwall Council	3 years
	Need for more litter bins in all wards	To reduce litter problem	Provide more bins and arrange emptying	£1000	None	3 years
	Concerns that signage is intrusive	To reduce signage where possible especially in Charlestown	Monitor proposed signage. Modify in light of parishioners' concerns	None to parish	None	3 years
	Street cleaning inadequate especially in autumn	Improve state of paths for pedestrians especially when leaves have fallen	Organise additional cleans from Cornwall Council	£3000 max	None	3 years

<b>FACILITIES FOR THE YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
	<p>A widespread recognition that the Regatta Field needs updating to provide facilities for young people</p> <p>Young people, especially those under 5 and teenagers, need more recreational provision</p> <p>Over-60s need more organized activities or facilities within the parish</p>	To improve the provision of recreational facilities for the young and over 60s	<p>To work with the Regatta Committee in support of the regeneration of the Regatta Field and to support developments which will favour these age groups.</p> <p>To investigate possible sites for the provision of a football or multi-activity pitch.</p> <p>To investigate provision of sites for bowls and badminton.</p> <p>To offer the community building as a</p>	£1000 pa	Regatta Committee	3 years

			possible venue for new activities.			
<b>BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
a) Tourism	Tourism is a major industry in this parish	To encourage and support appropriate tourism throughout the parish, but to be wary of extensions to caravan and camping sites	To liaise and support as appropriate	Notional	Private, CC and parish council	On-going
b) Businesses	There is only limited employment within the parish	To support existing and encourage new employers into the area, especially small and medium enterprises	To work with business and industry to support and facilitate appropriate enterprise	None	Private and public finance	On-going

REGENERATION OF CHARLESTOWN		AIM	PROPOSED ACTION	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMESCALE
		To sustain Charlestown as a World Heritage Site and maintain the character of the village	<p>To ensure that all developments are in line with the Charlestown Conservation Area Appraisal document</p> <p>To work with planners, owners, and the Conservation Officer to ensure compliance</p> <p>To negotiate with potential purchasers to try to ensure a viable yet sympathetic renovation for the harbour</p>	None to Parish	Private and public finance	On-going

			To consider potential projects that would increase the income from tourism, while being mindful of the concerns of residents closely affected			
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Duporth Beach

*Illustrations by Mrs Elizabeth Neill*