

Objective 3: Open Spaces


October 2015

We have identified and assessed the open spaces in the parish that are accessible to both residents and visitors, and have evaluated their value to the community and to wildlife. Our wish is to maintain these assets for the good of our local flora and fauna, while encouraging public recreation that respects the environment.

We would like to see a public playing field re-established in the parish for the use of local sports teams, such as football and cricket, which until recently used to play in St Erth. We would like to think that the village will one day again be seen as a venue for regular sports events.

Open Spaces Strategy (OSS)

Open Spaces are of great importance in any area and through the consultation process so far, the need to protect and enhance these parts of the Parish is evident. Although Cornwall Council has produced a strategy for the county, this does not go into detail in most rural areas, so the Neighbourhood Plan Group has commissioned an assessment of our Open Spaces. Our Parish will thus have an adopted and recognised document to be used as a material planning consideration when new development arises within the Parish.

 **National Cycle Route 3** The Riverbank from the Village to the Causeway is designated as a footpath but the long-proposed Hayle Riverside Trail, promoted by the Parish Council, would enable walkers and cyclists on National Cycle Route 3 to have a safe route to the Causeway and Hayle instead of using Chenhalls Road. We support the recent proposal to construct a new pedestrian bridge on the north side of St Erth bridge as part of the multi-use trail from Hayle to Newlyn.

+ Hayle River and the surrounding area This will be given special status to protect and enhance its nature conservation, green space and recreational value. We will work towards obtaining Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) status.

+ School Field Our Community Primary School has a sports field which is well used; however the school is overcrowded and has no School Hall or Dining Room. Pressure will only get worse in the coming years with increasing development in the surrounding district.

Thought needs to be given about expanding the school's accommodation, especially for dining, and for indoor and outdoor sports, which are currently accommodated off the school premises. Proposals have been put forward to establish a sports field next to the school that would accommodate new sports activities and teams such as football, cricket and archery. An adjacent new school hall, also recently proposed, could serve as changing rooms and clubhouse, and school dining room.

+ Local Footpaths, Bridleways and Trails These promote healthy living, and should be protected and maintained.

✚ **Battery Mill Lane Playing Fields** - Land next to the established Play Park
Suggestions for use are welcome, although consideration must be given to any possible expansion of the adjoining Play Park, and that it is within County Wildlife Site and on the flood plain.

✚ **Allotments** These provide an important social and community function. The plan will include measures to preserve existing allotments within St.Erth, along with investigating opportunities for creating new allotments.

✚ **Children's play parks (equipped)** These fully equipped play areas provide a safe environment for children up to 10/11 years of age, and investment should be continued. There is a lack of play facilities for teenagers and we are planning to discuss options with them.

✚ **Open spaces:** Green Lane Park provides a youth shelter and Community Picnic area - this green space was recently reclaimed from scrubland and has been welcomed by the community and visitors since being opened in 2014.

✚ **Cemeteries** Our Churchyard and Cemeteries are important as they provide pleasant reflective spaces for people and are also an important refuge for wildlife.

 **Green area from St.Erth Bridge to Pitch and Putt** This needs to be protected as a wildlife refuge and a flood defence to the village.

Present parks and open spaces

Vicarage Gate Play Area (1) and

Vicarage Gate Football Pitch (3)

- **Battery Mill Lane Playing Fields (4)**

- Are used by local and visiting families
- Helps the fitness and well-being of the local community
- Bring families in the area to the village and encourages social cohesion
- Surrounding hedgerows are habitats for wildlife

Green Lane Park and Community Picnic Ground (5)

- Is used by local and visiting families, and teenagers in their shelter

School field (8)

- Allows the school to host events and enables the play and exercise of the pupils

Public accesses, sport and community games (striped)

Golf range (9), Fishing (10), Angling (11), Carting (12)

These facilities

- Bring tourists to the area
- Are used by local and visiting families
- Help the fitness and well-being of the local community
- Are habitats for wildlife

Woodlands (15)

- Are habitats for wildlife and ensure the village maintains its countryside aesthetic
- Are areas for walking, running and bike riding, so encourage physical recreation, health and well-being
- Bring tourists to the area