

# **Objective 4**

## **Community Buildings and Facilities**

**October 2015**

We believe that social interaction is important to the health and well-being of the whole community. We wish to retain and enhance buildings with a community focus which are significant assets that underpin the vitality of the local community.

We are lucky in St Erth to still have a local shop/Post Office and a village pub, the Star Inn: both located at the heart of the village. Responses to our initial questionnaire confirm that they are central to daily village life. The weekly Farmers' Market, in the Chapel Hall on Saturdays, provides an outlet for local enterprise and draws customers from the surrounding area.

Community spirit is strong in the village and the people of St Erth village benefit from a thriving social network. There are a great many organisations and groups, embracing old and young alike, which meet in the village's community buildings and spaces.

## **St Erth Parish Church and The Old School Rooms**

Both the Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel have loyal congregations, and both reach into the wider community by hiring out their premises, which are central to the social interactions in the parish for all ages, and need to be supported.

- We support the preservation of St Erth Parish Church and The Old School Room buildings to maintain their community use and to conserve their intrinsic historic and architectural significance.

## **The Methodist Chapel, Hall and Higher Vestry Room**

Like the Parish Church, the Methodist Chapel is a fine listed building which has a loyal congregation, and reaches the wider community by hiring out its Chapel Hall.

- We wish to conserve and protect the Methodist Chapel buildings as venues for community activities.

## The Parish Vestry Rooms

The Parish Vestry Rooms are an historic building given long ago to the Parish for the Council to administer. They are currently in need of extensive repair and refurbishment, and are underused by the community. It would be beneficial to modernise the interior and perhaps provide a modern office space upstairs.

- We support plans for the Parish Vestry Rooms that preserve its historic heritage, whilst updating the building for future use by the Parish Council, social groups and business enterprise.

## Public Toilets

Since Cornwall County decided no longer to service St Erth's Public Toilets, the Parish Council has paid to keep them open and maintained.

- We believe that they are an essential asset for the community, and our visitors, and we support their permanent retention.

## St Erth School

St Erth Community School, confirmed as a 'Good' school by *Ofsted*, is a valued asset. The number of pupils is increasing, but its buildings are inadequate. Provision of P.E. takes place in the Methodist Hall, a ten minute walk from the school. The lack of space is compromising the delivery of the full curriculum. A new dedicated Sports Hall in the school grounds is required, which could also provide more physical activities for the whole community out of school hours.

- We will support St Erth School in its whole education of every child, enabling full delivery of the National Curriculum now and in the future by ensuring that it has the necessary facilities.
- We would facilitate the provision of a Sports Hall which will satisfy the requirements of the school, and enhance the provision of sports facilities for the wider community.

## **Sustainable building policy**

- We wish to ensure that the construction, furnishing, and refurbishment of all community buildings will minimise energy and water usage as much as possible.
- We wish to encourage the installation of alternative energy sources, such as solar panels, for all buildings in the parish for economic and sustainable use.

## **High-speed broadband**

- We will work to develop the provision of high-speed broadband technology in all community buildings for the benefit of all.