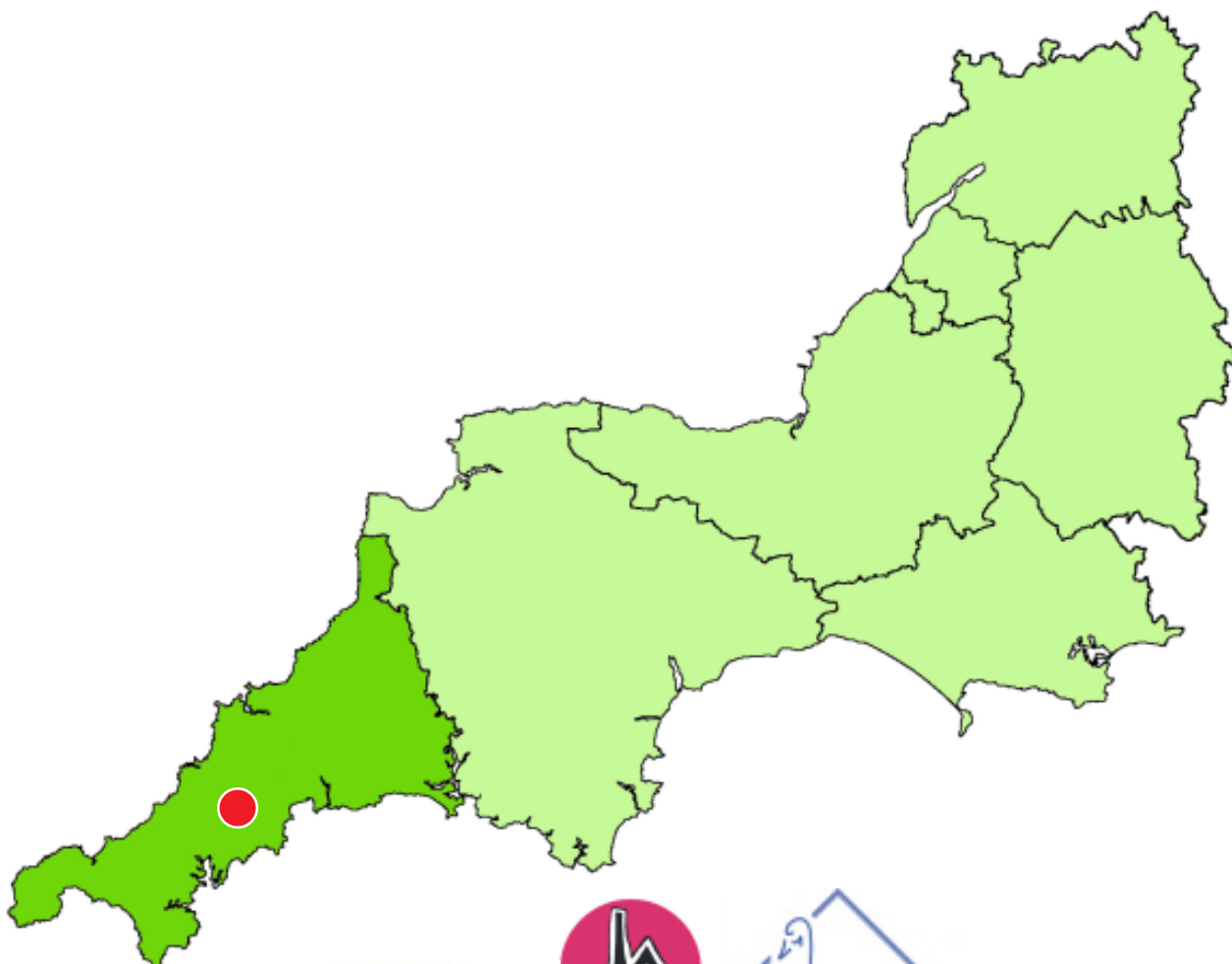


Grampound Community Plan

Completion Date: 2003



Compiled by Cornwall Rural Community Council
In partnership with the South West Acre Network (SWAN)

Grampound Parish Plan Case Study

Interviewees

Parish Council Clerk
Lead Judge, Calor
Village of the Year
Competition

Background

Grampound with Creed is a small rural parish with an estimated population of 570, (pop. 638 – 2001 Census) midway between St. Austell and Truro on the border of two districts – Carrick and Restormel. The parish covers an area of 1141 hectares.

Several problems encouraged the parish to undertake a community plan: the loss of shops, services and employment (3 shops in recent years, the garage and the tannery). Little wealth in the area as wages are low and house prices rising fast – resulting in young local families being unable to afford to live in the area (particularly when there is a significant number of listed buildings). This in turn threatens the future of the playgroup and school. There is also the issue of a by-pass (or lack of one) and if plans for a by-pass are not taken forward in the next 10 years it was felt that other actions would be needed to tackle the traffic problems.

Grampound with Creed has some key services: post office/shop; a pub; two churches (St. Creda and St. Nun's), Chinese restaurant, fresh fish shop, primary school, antiques shop, GP surgery, and a bus service (adequate by day but less so in the early morning and evenings).

There are a range of community groups within the parish (list attached), with a choice of meeting places: a new village hall and an ancient town hall.

Residents look to St. Austell or Truro for other services they require.

What is a Community-Led Plan

A Community Plan is a vision for a parish, or defined area, setting out aspirations and aims.

It covers a wide range of issues that affect residents (social, environment and economic) and identifies actions to take these forward.

Creating a plan gives residents the opportunity to have a say in how they want to see their area develop; recording what is good as well as what is not. It should provide a strategy for improvement and a tool for change – to be used with funding bids, lobbying and projects.

Plans need to be realistic and need to link with existing strategies and inform partner organisations. It should also provide a mandate for the Parish/Town Council or other accountable body. However the actions within a Plan are not just for statutory organisations, it is about local people/groups also taking responsibility for projects and/or working with partners to move these on.

The initial consultation (surveys, events etc.) is crucial to creating the plan. The more thorough and comprehensive the consultation, the increased opportunity to produce a robust and informative Plan.

The Process

The Grampound with Creed Parish Plan began in late 2001, when the parish council made some initial enquiries regarding parish plans. In January 2002, the Parish Council called an open meeting inviting residents to come along and hear about the Countryside Agency's Parish Plan Scheme (part of Vital Villages).

As the meeting generated interest from parish councillors and residents, a steering group was formed and a grant application completed. The application was successful and this enabled the steering group to develop their household survey, which was distributed in August 2002. The results were collated and a report produced. The findings were then presented at an Open Day held in the Town Hall in January 2003. The survey results and feedback from the Open Day highlighted areas of concern and were then prioritised and used to produce a Parish Plan.

*Photograph courtesy of
Grampound Parish Council*

What are your achievements as a community to date, as a result of the Community-Led Plan?

Achievements:

- **Education** Provision of playschool/daycare/adult education classes improved.
- **Employment** Improved advertising of existing services/shops and opening times. On-going initiative.
- **Tourism/Leisure** Obtained funding to create a heritage centre in the town hall. Produced footpath leaflets, with the assistance of a CRCC grant.
- **Environment** Creation of a footpath extension (although funding for a footbridge yet to be obtained). Publication of footpath leaflets. Heritage Centre created in the Town Hall and it is due to open in 2008.
- **Car Parking** Improved car parking for village (access to shops etc.) created at the new hall.
- **Housing** Working with borough council, housing trusts etc., to explore options for affordable housing. It is anticipated some affordable housing will be provided as a result of the planning application for the Manor Tannery, which has just been granted.
- **Recreation** Improvement to recreational/play facilities in progress, with some improved play equipment already installed.
- **Traffic** Some traffic management schemes implemented (speed limits, widening pavements etc.) but much of the problems will only be resolved by the creation of a by-pass.
- **Transport** Bus stop relocated and shelter installed. There is no room for a bus shelter on Fore Street itself, however, a site has been identified for a bench (which could be used by those waiting for the bus) and this is due to be installed shortly.
- **Youth** Working to encourage more junior facilities in sports clubs. There are a number of youth groups operating in the village - please refer to attached list.
- **Village of the Year** Grampound won the 2007 Calor Village of the Year competition for Cornwall.

How has the Grampound with Creed Community Plan helped you to engage with your local authority about services your community needs?

Organisations were made aware of the work on the parish plan and copies were sent out. County and District Councils as well as other organisations were sent copies. The plan has been used to influence planning and policy decisions and significant progress has been made in improving working relationships and co-operation. Elements of the plan have been adopted as additional planning policy.

What other projects have you got planned for the future?

- Would like to obtain funding to enable a footbridge over the River Fal to be taken forward.
- Still attempting to get a Farmers Market set up - having problems finding someone to organise.

Have the actions from the Plan brought any funding into the community e.g. lottery grants, trusts, Village of the Year etc.?

Funding from various sources (Heritage Lottery Fund, Restormel Borough Council, Sita) has meant that repairs and refurbishment to the ancient Town Hall has been possible. This has, in turn, enabled the creation of a Heritage Centre, which we hope to open later this year.

How are you keeping the process alive and advising progress to the community?

Parish Council adopted the Plan and it is therefore able to work to a community influenced action plan. In 2006 a questionnaire, funded by the Parish Council, was sent to every household in the parish. A copy of the questionnaire and report (outlining the outcome) are attached. It is the Parish Council's intention to repeat this exercise every three years.

Quotes

on the Community- Led Planning Process

How has this benefited the community?

The process has increased community spirit. The Parish Council profile has increased and there is more community engagement and involvement.

Calor Village of the Year 2007.

Community worked together and won the Cornwall competition in 2007. New councillors have come on to the Parish Council as a result of the plan; new community activities/ events have been started and the community have a better understanding of the Parish Council's role.

What lessons have you learned?

- Wouldn't have done anything differently but points to highlight are:
- That the speed in achieving outputs from the Plan can lead to frustration.
- Not all agencies are necessarily involved in the process e.g. PCT not engaged.
- Parish Plan is a living document and needs to be monitored, reviewed and used.

How does the Action Plan link into the Parish Council's future business planning?

As mentioned Plan needs to be reviewed and monitored, although events may sometimes make actions no longer necessary/relevant. The Council's Action Plan, is based partly on the Parish Plan and the subsequent response to the follow-up questionnaire.

One piece of advice for others

Believe that you can make a difference and you will be successful.

"An excellent process which must be delivered by the community and driven by the Parish Council. A parish Plan delivers a foundation for action and achievement."

Parish Council

"The parish plan process seems to have been inspirational for Grampound as many of the initiatives arising from the plan earned them extra marks in the Calor Village of the Year Competition. All the judges were impressed by the sense of cohesion and connectivity in the village and the sense of achievement in the village was palpable".

Pedyr Burdon,
Lead Judge.