

Context and Statistical Evidence

1 Regional Context

Bude is a pilot of a project run by the South West Observatory. The Observatory (based in Taunton) conducted a statistical survey of the area and this will generate a data base for use by the community of Bude. ***The quality of our local environment (where we live, work or play) can have a dramatic effect on our quality of life.***

1.1 South West population

In mid-2005, the South West's population stood at 5,067,800 people, the 4th highest of the English regions. The region's population accounted for around 10% of the English total (50,431,700). Between 1971 and 2005, the South West's population increased by 23% (from 4,112,000 to 5,067,800 people). Population projections reveal that the South West's population could grow to 5,823,000 by 2028. With a potential increase of almost 16%, the South West could have the 2nd highest projected increase of all the English regions, just behind the East. During this time, the South West will also have the highest percentage of people over 65 moving to the region with almost 26% compared to the national average of 22% .

1.2 Dwellings & population density

In 2004 there were over 2.2 million dwellings in the South West, an increase since 1991 of almost 14% or 268,000 new homes. This was above the English average of 10% and was the highest recorded in any of the English regions. The number of ¹households in the region is expected to increase from just over 2.2 million in 2006 to almost 2.75 million in 2026. The average household size is also expected to decline by almost 9%, from 2.25 in 2006 to 2.05 by 2026. The South West is the least densely populated of the English regions with just 2.07 people per hectare (compared to an English average of 3.77). This low population density and the high percentage of people living in rural areas make the South West the most 'rural' of the England regions although densities vary considerably across the region. In North Cornwall there is only an average of 0.7 people per hectare second only to the Cotswolds in sparsity.

Population density in South West districts

Highest population density (top 5)	Lowest population density (bottom 5)
Bournemouth UA - 35.4 people per hectare	West Devon - 0.4 people per hectare
Bristol City UA - 34.7 people per hectare	West Somerset - 0.5 people per hectare
Plymouth UA - 30.2 people per hectare	Torridge - 0.6 people per hectare
Gloucester - 27.10 people per hectare	North Cornwall - 0.7 people per hectare
Exeter - 23.6 people per hectare	Cotswold - 0.7 people per hectare

¹ (ODPM, 2005)

²Between 1994 and 2004 the density of dwellings in the region increased by 56%, from 25 to 39 per hectare; this trend is very similar to the national picture. More people live in rural areas in the South West than in any other English region (about 54%). The 31 rural districts have all seen a higher rate of population growth than the 14 urban districts in the region, with almost an 18% increase between 1983 and 2003. This was more than double the 8% increase in urban districts.

Around 64% of the South West's population live in urban settlements, the lowest percentage of any English region and below the English average of 82%. More people live in villages, hamlets or isolated dwellings in the region than the English average, 17% compared to 8% respectively. With almost 4%, the region also has a higher percentage of people living in remote locations than the English average of just over 1%.

The fastest population growth in the South West has been seen in predominantly rural areas. Plymouth was the only area in the South West to decline in population recently. Projected population growth rates for 2004 to 2014 place North Cornwall, Restormel and Torridge in the fastest growing 10% of local authorities in England.

There are 8 principle urban areas in the South West: Bristol, Bournemouth & Poole, Plymouth, Swindon, Gloucester, Torbay, Cheltenham and Exeter. These areas include more than a third of the region's population. Bristol Urban Area has a population of more than half a million people and is the 9th largest urban area by population in England & Wales.

1.3 Happiness Index in the South West

A YouGov questionnaire determined out how happy people are in the different regions of England: Middle class people in the South West had the highest number responding 'very happy', whilst the South East had the lowest with just 28%. The chart of 'happiness' (with the happiest highest) is as follows:

1. South West
2. West Midlands
3. East Midlands
4. East of England
5. London
6. North East/West
8. Yorkshire and The Humber
9. South East

YouGov quizzed more than 2,500 people from social classes A, B and C1 across England, asking them four questions about happiness at home and at work, work-life

² Source: ONS, 2005

balance and stress. It is thought that the key reason behind the high levels of happiness in the South West region is the less frenetic lifestyle in rural areas compared with urban areas. More industry and large populations do not mean that people talk to each other.

Cary Cooper, professor of psychology at Lancaster University, said the sheer physical glamour of the South West's environment - from its beaches to the moors - helped produce a feeling of well-being, but that was not enough. "The key is that people like to live in a community and that's not possible in a big city. There's everything in urban areas - films, theatre, public transport, but there is an anonymous feel to the big urban area."

When compared with the rest of England average, people in Cornwall reported higher levels - up to 4% - of well-being at home (37%) and at work (18%), work-life balance (12%) and lower stress levels (27%).

The South West also enjoys one of the lowest stress figures. Business leaders hope it will encourage more to relocate to Cornwall, which while being apparently happy, is also the poorest county in England. The current annual gross domestic product in the region is just 65% of the UK average.

1.4 The Working Population

The income of people in the South West is lower than the national average, and that of people in North Cornwall is lower even than the regional average. This is partly due to hourly rates of pay but also to the high availability of part time jobs and the scarcity of full time posts.

1.4.1 Income: Employment

There is a significant gap between Cornish earnings and national earnings.

In 1990/91 men in Cornwall earned 18.2% less than the national average. In 1995/6 this went up to 21.3% less and then the difference dropped slightly to 20.3% less in 2003.

In 2003, full time earnings in Cornwall were £362.46 per week - the third lowest in the UK. The average gross earnings were £16,523 compared with £22,183 for England.

1.4.2 Part Time/ Full Time Employment

Based on the findings of the 2001 Census, 13.1% of workers in North Cornwall work part time: this is slightly higher than the regional average (13.2%) and significantly higher than the national average (11.8%). On the other hand, the percentage of workers who work full time in the South West region is 39.1% compared with only 30.3% in North Cornwall. The national average is 40.8%. Interestingly, while there are slightly less unemployed people in North Cornwall than the national average, there are more in North Cornwall than in the region as a whole.

Economically Active people: Figures from the Census 2001

%	Part Time	Full Time	Self Employed	Unemployed	Students
North Cornwall	13.1	30.3	15.3	3	1.7
Cornwall	13.3	32.3	12.3	3.3	2
South West	13.2	39.1	10.1	2.6	2.6
England	11.8	40.8	8.3	3.4	2.6

1.4.3 Unemployed: Claimants

In 2003, research showed that a higher percentage of the population (3.5%) claims benefit in the Bude area than in the region as a whole (2.3%). There are four 'travel to work' (TTW) areas in North Cornwall and the Bude TTW (Bude, Poughill, Grenville, Penfound, Stratton and Week St Mary) has higher percentages of claimants among men and women than the Launceston TTW, and Cornwall as a whole (see overleaf).

Claimants by Travel To Work (TTW)

%	June 2003			Sept 2003		
	men	women	all	men	women	all
Bude	3.5	1.8	2.7	4.4	2.5	3.5
Launceston	2.2	1.1	1.7	1.9	1	1.5
Cornwall	2.8	1.1	2	3.1	1.3	2.2
SW	2.3	1.3	2.5	3.4	1.2	2.4

2 County Context

2.1 Unified Council

The Government has now agreed that all the Cornwall District Councils and the Cornwall County Council will be combined into a single Unitary Council. The new Unified Council to be established from April 2009. It is suggested that this will give local people the opportunity to influence decisions taken about their community and deliver improved, community focused services, with local communities being given more say in decision making. It is hoped that this will provide Cornwall with a stronger voice with which to lobby the Government.

The current plan is that the Council will not just be based in Truro but will have centres in every community, and it is proposed that one of these will be based around Bude. Each Community Network Area (CAN) will bring together local representatives of the new Council, Town and Parish Councils, the police, health, community groups and others who will help shape the community. Bude and the surrounding parishes will be a Community Network Area in the new unitary authority; Community Networks will be a focal point for devolved decision-making, consultation, monitoring performance and local place-shaping. The Bude Partnership is in discussion with One Cornwall with a view to the partnership being an active part of the Community Network.

2.2 After Objective One; Post 2006 Programmes: Convergence

In 2006, work was completed on the review of "Strategy and Action" – the long term overarching economic development strategy for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Strategy and Action encompassing the full range of economic regeneration activity for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – for the period 2007 to 2021. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum is the over-arching economic development partnership for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and is recognised and funded by the South West Regional Development Agency (SW RDA) as its Strategic Economic Partnership (SEP), and by the County Council as its economic development partnership.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum has also been accepted as the economic arm of the Cornwall wide Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) charged with creating the Community Strategy. It is charged with delivering and monitoring the economic development priorities set out in the Economic Development Strategy for Cornwall. It exists to support, and more importantly influence and guide, the County Council and the South West RDA and other regional and sub-regional bodies, in their actions and initiatives so that the maximum benefit may be gained for the sustainable prosperity for Cornwall.

On 23 October 2006 the Government published its response to the consultation on the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), outlining broad priorities, management arrangements and funding allocations for ERDF and ESF Programmes 2007-2013. This allowed development of the new Programmes to commence.

It is clear that the programmes for 2007-2013 are very different from the previous Objective One Programme. Rural and fisheries investment (for example) are part of mainstream programmes and the Convergence European Social Fund will be part of a national programme with a specific European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Convergence Operational Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

2.2.1 Convergence: ERDF Programme

With approximately £31m of ERDF support, the Convergence ERDF Operational Programme will invest in a number of new initiatives, although the scale of investment available will mean that careful prioritisation will be needed to ensure the economic outcomes are realised. The new Programme is also required to focus investment on competitiveness and this restricts the types of investments which can be funded. After extensive consultation the Convergence ERDF Operational Programme was concluded in May 2007, it was then endorsed by Whitehall and sent to Brussels to allow negotiations to begin.

The South West RDA is taking the lead in the management of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's ERDF Convergence Programme. However, the details of the management and delivery arrangements have yet to be fully clarified.

2.2.2 Convergence: ESF Programme

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will benefit from a new seven year programme for skills and training through the European Social Fund (ESF). The new Convergence ESF Framework, which runs for the first three years, is taking forward the Convergence Priorities set out in the England ESF Operational Programme which was sent to Brussels in March 2007. With approximately £133m of ESF support, the Framework sets out a major programme of activity to support those who are not-in-work and those in work to address key skills issues. The interventions will be relevant to the business community with support to up-skill the workforce and address skills shortages. The Framework was consulted on until 1 June 2007. The intention is for Co-Financing Plans to be developed in summer 2007, issued in the autumn, with new project activity commencing in January 2008.

In 2007, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) indicated that, in addition to whatever may come to North Cornwall via Convergence/ European Social Fund (ESF) there is some available LSC Local Intervention and Development funding (£10k) earmarked for North Cornwall being led by Enterprise Tamar, to develop a model approach – to be business led but including a range of providers and MCTi partnerships.. The Bude Partnership was actively involved in bidding for this funding and will be represented on the Steering Group determining priorities for the Convergence Funding for North Cornwall.

The North Cornwall Cluster Pilot Project (delivering training to SMES in a flexible way) has been recognised as successful and there are plans to roll this out across Cornwall (including further funding for North Cornwall) via the European Social Fund (co-funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC)). There is some limited funding which has been made available for skill development interventions to Market and Coastal Town Partnerships (Launceston, Bude, Camelford and Bodmin) from the SW Regional Development Agency. A priority for North Cornwall District Council (NCDC) is to promote the growth of quality jobs, training is recognised as a vital ingredient in this. The Council is also very keen to engage more fully with the Combined Universities in Cornwall, Further Education and other training providers (particularly those contracted to deliver ESF programmes) to support business growth and workforce training in North Cornwall. These partnerships will be in place to hand on to the new unitary authority when it takes over responsibility for the Convergence Programme.

The NCDC Business Forum meets to discuss workforce development issues were discussed in some depth. Three main actions arose from that meeting and the Forum has agreed to the need to raise the awareness of job and career opportunities offered by local employers; establish local centres of learning based close to clusters of businesses that can be used for the delivery of training, particularly encouraging a CUC presence in the district; and establish a gateway for local businesses to find out quickly what level/ type of training is available – with links to specific people who can help. The Bude Partnership is working closely with the Business Forum and the NCDC in pursuing these actions.

2.3 Combined Universities in Cornwall

The Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) has a major role to play in reinvigorating Cornwall's economy and bringing the well-paid jobs we need and deserve into the county. We have already achieved a great deal and are widely regarded as a beacon of excellence in collaborative university provision. Now we want to build on our successes, ensuring that we reach right across Cornwall. We will also place even greater emphasis on boosting Cornwall's economy, with a strong focus on working with business. The CUC is seeking support from the EU Convergence funding programme* for the three key areas where we can do most to bring about a more prosperous Cornwall:

- Supporting Inward Investment and New Business.
- Developing an Enterprise Culture.
- Developing People and Communities.
-

CUC is playing a key role in the transformation of Cornwall's economy. According to an independent study commissioned by CUC, the initiative will create more than 4000 jobs by the year 2025. Spending by students and staff is also providing a welcome boost to the local economy. In the years ahead the combined effect of a larger graduate workforce, expert support for local businesses and the creation of new businesses as a result of academic research will play a very major role in the development of the kind of knowledge-based economy which can ensure Cornwall's future prosperity.

The Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) is a partnership initiative formed to provide a wide range of higher education choices across the county.

The CUC is a partnership of all the universities and colleges offering university-level education in Cornwall.

These are:

- The University of Exeter
- The University of Plymouth
- University College Falmouth
- The Open University
- The College of St Mark & St John
- Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Cornwall College
- Truro College
- Penwith College

The CUC wishes to make higher study a realistic option for people living throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and to ensure that people from all walks of life feel able to benefit from university-level education. The CUC want to raise ambition in Cornwall's

young people and to show the world that Cornwall has an enterprising and skilled workforce.

The CUC intends to do this by:

- Learning Centres - delivering university-level education and training through video conferencing, supported by local mentors. Probable sites for these small centres will be the Isles of Scilly, Penwith and North Cornwall. The Bude Partnership is working to ensure that one of these learning centres will be in Bude.
- Work-based learning - helping people in employment to develop their skills whilst they work, building on our successful Foundation Degrees and employer links.
- Bite-sized courses - very short, university-level programmes which allow learners to try out higher education without committing to a long course. Also attractive to employers who want their employees to gain specific knowledge quickly.
- Raising ambition - work with schools, colleges, employers and communities to encourage more learners to enter Higher Education and to continue learning throughout their lives.

3 North Cornwall Context

3.1 Local Plan

The North Cornwall District Plan sets out the Council's policies and proposals for development and use of land in the District. The Plan aims to control and influence the use of land in the public interest by identifying areas where development can and can not take place, the criteria against which proposals will be judged and the standards they should achieve.

The Plan comprises 2 parts. Part 1 sets out the overall strategy of the Plan which is then carried forward through objectives, policies and proposals in chapters which deal with Housing, The Economy, The Environment, Services and Facilities, Transport and Utilities, and Development Standards. Part 2 comprises six sections dealing with different areas of the District. These sections broadly reflect the catchment areas of the six towns. Part 2 contains specific policies and an Inset Map for each town and main village.

3.2 Local Development Framework

The NCDC published the Local Development Framework (LDF) in 2006 and this details the preferred options for planning for the whole of North Cornwall, including a section specifically addressing Bude and Stratton. The LDF is intended to deliver quicker, more flexible and transparent plan preparation, to assist with the provision of a responsive planning service to meet the needs of the community, including community involvement and engagement. The consultation on the issues and options for the LDF took place in 2004. The LDF is now to be combined with the other LDFs from districts

throughout Cornwall, into a single LDF for Cornwall to be taken forward by the new Cornwall Council.

The consultation focussed on broad areas around Bude and Stratton that are already built-up and have been put forward for consideration for future development. In particular three 'areas of search' were presented to the community as being the right areas in which to look for future development opportunities. Area A (the land south of Stratton Road) and Area B (the land north of Bude-Stratton Business Park) were most strongly favoured. For area A 69% of the people who responded favoured housing to be the most appropriate use, whereas 87% favoured Area B for employment use. The land south of Kings Hill was favoured for housing by 61% of respondents but 27% did think that employment might be the best use.

Further broad areas were proposed for protection from further development and these were widely supported by respondents – particularly the areas of Summerleaze Down, Crooklets and open areas between Bude and Stratton/Flexbury/Poughhill. A number of specific issues were raised in relation to the provision of adequate infrastructure and social and community facilities in Bude-Stratton. The resulting LDF specified overall policy for development of three specific areas known as SABU1, and SABU3. SABU1 is the land (opposite the Morrisons store) between the A3072 and the Kings Hill Industrial estate 'well defined within a strong boundary provided by the A39' to the east and this was the NCDC's preferred option to meet the Bude-Stratton medium- and long-term housing needs. It is designated for housing and community use with appropriate infrastructure improvements: at least 410 dwellings, about 90 of which would be built between 2006 and 2016. 155 would be built between 2016 and 2021 and a further 155 in 2021- 2026. 50% of these are planned to be affordable housing.

These houses are to be accessed from the A3072 / Stratton Road and an area adjoining the same road is to be safeguarded for community use. The council also recommend the provision of footpaths and cycle routes throughout the site and to adjoining facilities. Links to the site to the south, which is undeveloped are to be safeguarded.

SABU2 is the existing Kings Hill Industrial Estate and this is defined for employment activity. SABU3, to the north of the Kings Hill Industrial estate is defined for employment development in line with 'the required development rate' to be developed by the new unitary authority and the private sector. It is not yet clear how these plans may change as a single LDF for Cornwall to be taken forward by the new Cornwall Council in 2008/9.

3.3 Strategy and Regeneration Service

The North Cornwall District Council has a Strategy and Regeneration Service that aims to make a positive difference to local communities, their environment and economy. The service is made up of eight teams: Coast and Countryside, Conservation, Design, Economic Development & Regeneration, Estates Management, Forward Planning, Sustainability (Local Agenda 21) (see above), Tourism.

In terms of regeneration, the service offers project leadership and management of economic development and community regeneration schemes, and countryside and tourism projects. They also manage the Community Chest Fund which offers small grants for local projects and gives advice on guidance to community groups on a range of matters from grant applications to sustainability. The Design team provides an architectural and project management service.

4 Public Consultation

Comment Boxes: Throughout 2007, at various events and venues, boxes have been available for people to write and insert their ideas and suggestions. These comments are shown in the appendix.

Public Consultation Events: Public consultation events took place on 26th October and 10th November 2007.

Survey: Questionnaires and survey forms were handed and sent out throughout the autumn of 2007 to gather thoughts, ideas and aspirations from local people. Many questionnaires were taken into the Budehaven Community School and were completed by children aged 11 to 16.

Business Survey: A survey of the views of local businesses was carried out by the Bude Chamber of Commerce in 2004. The results of this survey have been incorporated into this plan.

Youth Consultation: Those responsible for arranging facilities for the youth of the town carry out continuing consultation and the results of this are that young peoples expressed needs are: better public transport, a local cinema, a youth café, under 16 discos, and better access to further and higher education and training – and Jobs to go to!

LDF Consultation: Public Consultation also took place during the NCDC consultation on the Local Development Framework. Bude-Stratton is defined as a Main Town by virtue of its population, its established role in serving a rural hinterland and 'well developed transport nodes'.

The comments received focussed on the need for healthcare, education and other community facilities (including water supply and sewerage) to keep pace with a growing population, and in particular the specific need for the provision of new doctors' surgeries (or expansion of existing surgeries).

People were eager that employment opportunities that were not seasonal – and additional employment land - should be developed, while protecting the tourist base and the infrastructure that supports the visitors. The need for more affordable housing was emphasised. A desire to keep Stratton physically separated from Bude was notable, as were comments on the shortage of shops and facilities in Stratton and need for a skateboard park in Stratton.



Nicky Chopak, Chair of Bude Partnership, engaged in public consultation in 2007.

5 Summary of Feedback received from Public Consultation 2007

Public consultation events took place throughout the autumn of 2007 to gather thoughts, ideas and aspirations from local people. The major results were as follows:

5.1 Economy , Employment and Skills

The comments in this area may be summarised by the comment received by the Partnership 'make more use of local talent'. This theme was emphasised in suggestions around the need for support for small businesses, particularly to enable them to take on apprentices, which is seen to be expensive, when time taken to train young people costs money.

Action was also asked, to encourage more firms which can attract computer technology with 'specialities and nationally important services,' that require a 'higher skilled' workforce and encourage jobs that are on more than the minimum wage; and encourage high quality craftsmen into the town.

There was also a call for Bude to be linked more closely with North Devon and Ruby Country (Torridge) which are as important to the town as Cornish links, which are emphasised because the councils involved in Bude are Cornish.

There was a call for the Bude Partnership to apply for RDA and EU money to promoter skilled, sustainable jobs.

It was suggested that Bude should move away from concentration on tourism that is seasonal and poorly paid, and move into the retirement industry which is 24 hour and 365 days per year.

A reduction of business rates for small businesses/shopkeepers was called for to support the Chamber of Commerce, and free advice service to potential start up and existing small businesses.

'Small and beautiful' rather than 'bigger is better', was a theme of many comments. Light industry was called for and certainly not MacDonald's, Travel Lodge, etc. Though there were some calls for MacDonald's too.

The sparcity of employment land allocated to Bude was commented on.

5.2 Town Centre

Toilets

Many comments were received that remarked on the lack of, both of which group find it difficult to 'make it' to the toilets at the beach.

General

Bude was described as scruffy. Photographs were enclosed with one survey reply, showing how dirty the streets of Bude were. In particular, the pedestrian right of way behind Wroes and Grenville Hotel was described as filthy and not having been cleaned at all through 2007.

It was noted that speed bumps damage vehicles and do not reduce the speed of 'joy riders'.

Several people suggested Wi-Fi (wireless) for the centre of Bude/ Bude area.

It was noted by several respondents that all towns are beginning to look the same, that there is a need to retain the unique character of Bude, with better shops. Bideford was said to have been turned around. People asked for improved lighting and cover - like the new centre in Exeter. There were calls for a MacDonald's, KFC and a shopping centre with a wider variety of shops. The proposed Retail Park was rejected by all who commented on this subject – a typical comment was 'We need a retail park like a knock on the head!'

There were calls for what was referred to as a 'dummy third arch' on Nanny Moore's Bridge [in the space where the tide mill wheel was located](#) and for the war memorial area to be tidied up.

There was also a call for a covered area to draw people in with fun hours, including a rest area and advice on sun exposure – and assistance following exposure.

The empty building opposite the Coop (the old cinema) was commented on. It was suggested that it might become a covered pannier market.

Bude Light

Respondents found it very disappointing that the Bude light all too often has no light and 'I see visitors in the evenings wandering around it confused'. It was highlighted that there was a need to maintain the Bude Light.

Strand Hotel

The single biggest response received concerned the Strand Hotel especially as it is the first view of Bude on entry to the town. The comments – all negative - might be summarised by one comment: Redevelop the Strand Hotel- anything is better than this derelict site! - The strand Hotel is generally an eye sore. One constructive suggestion was that it should become affordable small units.

Planting

There a number of comments about the need for an improvement in the quality and amount of planting around Bude. For example one person asked: ‘What happened to the idea of planting on corner of Spar?’ There were calls for imaginative planting (*‘not the usual council issue plants! But the baskets look lovely’*.) Others suggested an overhaul of the Morrisons roundabout – ‘looks hideous’ – and continuity into the town could be provided by good planting to give Bude more individual look

Signage

Signage was a popular topic. Several people commented on how scruffy tourists’ signposts have become and others called for an up-date of this sign and for more use of the Cornish language. There were calls for better signage for pedestrians to find museum, beaches, toilets, castle, canal etc - to encourage walking - and one person suggested signs with a phrase summing up Bude - written in Cornish. ‘We only have the tacky welcome to Bude sign’.

Information signs were called for, for example it was suggested that there could be information boards at the Triangle highlighting key points of Bude with a suggestion that it could be interactive.

5.3 Transport

Public Transport – Bus

There was an overwhelming call for more - and more reliable -public transport. Buses running from villages into town – and returning as a sensible time for those wanting to spend time in Bude. It was suggested that more but smaller buses might be the answer, and a survey of who was using buses and how far they have come was called for. The need for timetables was highlighted.

The last bus to Okehampton and Exeter was reported to be at 3.20 which ‘does not encourage people to visit Bude’. The general comment was that bus times should be for the convenience of customers not the bus companies.

Buses were called for to specific destinations; these included Brooks Garden centre, going through Lancells, past the old persons home; buses to Morrisons. Buses were

reported to be needed to Camelford and Wadebridge, for work, to colleges and universities and hospital appointments.

The lack of direct bus services to Truro and Bodmin were commented on - changing at Boscastle and St Colum was not welcomed, especially by those taking their children to clinics in Bodmin. Rover bus tickets were suggested.

It was pointed out that older people alighting off buses at Somerfield have no firm surface and the bus should be re-routed to allow them to alight onto a hard surface.

The central bus stop was commended but people were concerned about the buses having to turn around.

Buses to colleges and universities were called for as were buses back to villages for children staying to after school clubs.

Public Transport – Other

Many people called for the railway to be re-opened. It was pointed out that this would only need to go 28 miles to Okehampton. The proposed ferry to South Wales was highlighted as an opportunity to bring more people to Bude.

Walking and Cycling

Many respondents were eager to promote walking and cycling in the Bude area, and were keen to see more footpaths and cycle tracks. In particular there was a call for serious consideration to be given to the cycle track from Stratton to Bude and lockable cycle storage was also requested, as was the re-instatement of the Stratton Footpath to the Coop, once the Broadclose development is complete.

More public benches were sought along all tracks, paths and along the canal.

There was a call for cycle tracks to be properly set out – just putting signs on winding lanes (it was said) does not make a cycle track, because cars drive too fast down the lanes. Cycle tracks should also be wide enough to allow pedestrians to enjoy them without being at risk from cyclists – who were encouraged to use their bells.

Routes and Roads

It was considered that it would be useful for a survey to be done of routes to identify what is missing, and what needs improving. Maps of paths and cycle tracks were also called for.

There were also calls for new roads, such as a link road from Poughill to Stratton and a new road from the A39 via Flexbury to Crooklets.

A popular scheme was for the development of the path from Flexbury to the Coop which is used as a path anyway.

People were keen on a cycle track from Flexbury to the school, to eradicate the tortuous school run every day.

5.4 Built and Natural Environment

There was a theme that developed around Bude looking shabby, signs etc needing re-painting.

The overall feeling expressed was that Bude's assets should be promoted, including the Countryside, castle, sea, canal, while also increasing the number of outside activities connected to local attractions. The town trail and history of the town should be marketed and publicised better, as should the Cornish culture.

It was suggested that there could be a DVD of town history/heritage wildlife etc. and leaflets and guided walks. .

Sea front

People asked that the beaches should not be spoiled, and Bude should promote its peace and quiet which should not be spoiled. People asked for more beach huts to be made available to locals for them to use all year around.

There was one proposal for access onto beach below Maer Down next to Crooklets to walk dogs. People can clamber down, but not possible for older people and disabled. The proposal is for a path to improve access to beach at Mear Down now that access for dogs at Summerleaze is restricted. This was described as being low cost but great for visitors and residents – especially dog lovers

There were several suggestions for 'heritage coast information areas' with bird spotting and seashore code, displaying information on natural and historical features and wildlife, at Crooklets or Summerleaze, or on the cliffs.

It was suggested that Bude would benefit from environmentally friendly lighting along cliff path to Summerleaze and to Crooklets, and bollard lighting from Crooklets to Life's a Beach, to enable people to enjoy the 'fantastic walk' all year around, at all times of day and night.

Crooklets

There were strongly held views that Crooklets beach could be improved, with the re-development of the beach café to provide more dining facilities and a view, like the 'excellent' facility on Summerleaze. The café there at present was described as being a missed opportunity 'people love a view'. The 'scruffy' piece of land inland of the surf

club was described as a real eyesore. There was a request that money should not be spent on more plans that will not be implemented – such as a plan for Crooklets ‘that was not carried through.’ *[Note: A sub committee of the Bude Partnership has now been formed to take forward work, with partners, at Crooklets.]*

Summerleaze

There were requests to maintain the sea pool, and a suggestion that this could be enhanced with a summertime snack bar/coffee shop on the top, with seating and excellent sea views.

Downs

Strongly held views can be summarised with the comments ‘No flats on Summerleaze downs!’ and ‘Leave the downs alone!’ and ‘the downs should be kept for the enjoyment of everyone – visitors and locals alike’. The dog mess problem was raised as disgusting and dangerous for children. More specifically there was a request that the development on JJs site should only be 2-story with a pitched roof. ‘Don't model future developments on the ugly Westcliff building!’

Heritage

It was reported that the Old Bude Society have nowhere to store their records and a question as to whether these could they be held at the Castle. Another person suggested a building could be located for parish archives.

Canal

The canal is seen as being a great asset to Bude of which the tranquillity should be kept intact.

Concern was expressed about the regeneration project: it was reported that the Higher Wharf is being re-paved with granite pavers. ‘Has anyone studied the effect on the elderly, the very young?’ This surface was described as being un-necessary and ‘totally unsuitable prams and wheelchairs’.

It was suggested that if the Falcon Bridge could be made moveable again, trip boats could then be used on the canal, and the lower wharf would be more viable.

Binhamy Castle

Those who commented on Binhamy were concerned that the site should be made into a special site, opened up, and not be lost or buried. ‘It is a heritage site’, someone commented ‘and should not be turned into a retail development.

Stratton

The development and loss of trees in Stratton was blamed for a loss of birdsong and increase in traffic noise, and the loss of two football pitches was noted – ‘open spaces are needed’. A strong community identity was called for, for the town, but another person had added ‘how?’

Poughill

People considered that Poughill is being allowed to die. The road is dangerous and cars are not slowed by the humps. – footpaths are required and the hall needs a car park, housing development was called for on land owned by the Council since 1976.

5.5 Education

Schools

There were no specific comments on the quality of existing schools - except that they are doing a great job and should be supported - but there was a call for more community use of them. One respondent asked for the community school flood lights to be turned off when they are not in use and there were calls for promotion of Cornwall's culture, history and language and Celtic dance, music and theatre.

People thought that the schools are ‘choc-a-block’ and would not cope if yet more houses are built. One person suggested two new schools, leaving the Budehaven School as a sixth form and vocational college.

Breakfast and tea clubs were called for, as were buses back to villages for children staying to after school clubs.

Respondents called for an increase in the teaching of local trades, and there was a general call for an increase in the number of apprenticeships for school leavers to ensure they can train in local jobs. The fact that Connexions can only support people up to age 19 was commented on, with this age-group requiring more support that can be given by the Job Centre, which was described as giving a ‘stigma’.

Higher and Further Education

Many people felt that Bude needs access to further and higher education with the main view being that training needs to be more local and that all colleges are so far away. Improvements are also required in access to advice, information and guidance.

There was also a request that the North Devon College link should be developed so that there are more courses available locally: ‘Barnstaple is a long way away! (As are Duchy or St Austell colleges.) Buses to colleges and universities were called for

5.6 Emergency Services

Several respondents suggested that emergency services could be improved with the provision of a site for them all together on the outskirts of town. One site (opposite Morrisons) was put forward. This was linked to a request for more ambulances based nearer Bude with a comment 'it can take AGES for a full ambulance to arrive (though the paramedic service is great!)

People asked to have a fire service that is appropriately equipped and staffed for a vastly increased population during the summer months, with staff that are 'properly paid and equipped'.

Adequate community policing was seen to be important to maintain low levels of crime, reduce social divide, to encourage a sense of identity and community and 'to stop a minority spoiling it for everyone else'. There was a request for 'more police officers on foot - and on duty during evenings and opening hours'.

There were calls for improvements to out-of-hours services. One person reported waiting twice for 3 12 hours for an ambulance that had been called by staff at Stratton Hospital.

Bude Partnership were asked to find the funding for the van that the 'Police need to take services to surrounding villages'.

5.7 Health

The comments on healthcare service can be summarised by the comment 'Prevent the community from our impoverishment of healthcare'. The Partnership was asked to press the Health Service to provide a medical centre suitable for the number of people in the area. It was reported that the Stratton Health centre is totally unsuitable - access is described as being 'awful' and 'a sick pedestrian would have real difficulties climbing the entry to surgery'. There has been wide publicity about the possibility of a medical centre in a new retail park, but one person commented that a new medical centre is '*much more urgently needed than that*'. A One Stop Shop is seen as more essential in Bude than anywhere else in Cornwall, because of the vast distances to all four "local" acute hospitals in Barnstaple, Exeter, Plymouth, and Truro. There is a feeling of resentment about the people of West Cornwall, who live close to an acute hospital, but have shouted long and loud to get themselves even more health facilities. '*We are too nice in Bude - perhaps we need to revolt and make ourselves thoroughly unpleasant like them!*' One person suggested that the PCT should inform Westminster that their schemes do not work in the county of Cornwall.

The distance from acute hospitals makes life difficult and there was a call for more health services in Bude, to prevent the long journeys that others in Cornwall do not have to undertake.

GP Services

Those who were happy with the Stratton Medical Centre described themselves as being satisfied with personal service at present but were concerned about future growth. There was a call for a new medical centre closer to town centre; one comment being that there is a need for a 'decent health centre in Bude'. More mobile examination units were called for.

Suggestions included splitting up the Stratton Practice and setting up surgeries for a permanent doctor in 'big villages' like Killkhampton and Marhamchurch, so there would be less people trying to get into the Stratton practice.

There was a request for more book-able appointments with a report that currently it is 'only emergencies that get seen quickly' and a request for 'more phone lines to receptionists - how do you get through to Stratton to make an appointment?'

The lack of free parking for patients at the new Neetside Surgery was commented on.

Community Hospital

The continued existence of the 'cottage hospital' was seen as being imperative to the people of Bude, it was described as being 'cost effective' and as providing a good standard of care, but the lack of parking was seen as a problem, questions being asked about why the medical centre spaces could not be used when the surgery is closed.

Access to acute hospitals is difficult, involving long journeys and it was suggested that Stratton hospital should be equipped to handle more hospital situations to save the long journey to Barnstaple, 'when the patient doesn't need to stay overnight'. More consultants' clinics at Stratton, it was suggested, would help enormously with the cost of travel to the district hospitals. The return of Rheumatology was welcomed.

Health - Transport

Better –and free – transport to district hospitals was requested, and people commented that people who do not live in rural areas have direct access to hospitals by local bus. 'What will the PCT do about transport to district general hospitals in Devon – the current arrangements are inadequate and expensive'. Elderly people who fall just outside the scope of free hospital transport have real difficulties, especially since the 'seated ambulance' service ceased. People who cannot travel in an ordinary car (e.g. post hip replacement) cannot travel to hospital appointments. One family reported having to take their child to a clinic in Bodmin every three months and this is a journey requiring

three buses, starting at 7am and home by 7 pm. 'This is 'ridiculous for a 30 minute appointment' they said.

Community Care

There was a call for more support for people with chronic illness and terminal illness, but the care given by "Cornwall Care" and St Hilary's was described as being excellent.

The CPN services (Community Psychiatric Nursing service) was commended, but thought to be limited. There were calls for 24 hour cover by district nurses and local stand-by doctors. It was reported that there is a need for more volunteers to assist with adult social care.

Dentists and Pharmacy

The only and overwhelming view on dentists was summed up in the comment: 'We need a National Health Dentist in Bude NOW!' The information that there is now a NHS dentist in Bude at April Lodge seems not to have reached many of the population. People asked for clear information to be provided about where they could find NHS dentist services. The local pharmacy services were described as excellent.

5.8 Housing

There was an overwhelming call for increased numbers of affordable housing, including 'council house' type accommodation for rent for locals, particularly to 'keep youngsters in the town'. One respondent reported having to leave town because she could not afford to buy a property in Bude.

Shared ownership was welcomed provide ways could be found to ensure that such properties would remain in shared ownership when sold on and could not be extended. However there also recognised to be a need to ensure that housing development is appropriate to existing adequate health provision. Broadclose was welcomed but adverse rumours had been heard that room sizes in phase 2 were too small. Someone suggested a vote of thanks to the people responsible for Broadclose.

Greater use of terrace housing and flats at affordable prices was suggested.

Many people suggested an emphasis on the need for eco-housing to reflect sustainability solar panels, and small wind turbines and the need to avoid gated developments that exclude local people 'from valuable resources'.

Play areas were called for, for small children who cannot get to the beach – especially at Broadclose etc.

Feelings run high on the question of second home owners and the comments may be summed up by the comment 'All second home owners to be charged full community charge decided by number of bedrooms.'

5.9 Youth and Community

Youth

There was an overwhelming call for increased facilities, youth centre and youth clubs for young people, or a Youth café run by young people and used as training venue, and there was reference to a 'foyer as already planned by NCDC'. While one person wrote: 'Encourage, respect and value the young people of Bude, above the need for developments and profits' another commented that 'youth has been a problem throughout recorded history the main problem is discipline in the home'.

A need for networking of all groups involved in working with young people was recognised.

It was suggested that Bude needs a Youth Centre with activities for evenings and holidays and provision of table tennis, badminton, computer games, DVD swap shop, coffee shop etc. Space for dirt track bikes was also requested.

One respondent suggested child fun days like trails or activities in and around Bude and another was concerned about the safety of the large number of young people around the Castle at night.

Community

It was suggested that there could be a support centre for local clubs - for committees, record keeping, etc - to encourage more involvement.

More play areas for small children – especially at Broadclose etc were called for.

Older People

There were requests for more daytime activities for the over 50s, including exercise, discussion groups, open gardens, and a social place for the old folk like the Betjeman Centre in Wadebridge.

Sport

There were requests that the Astroturf should be re-developed and improved for greater community use, a plea to bring back the raft race and to start a croquet club. (The castle lawn was previously used for croquet. Croquet sets can be hired.)

It was suggested that there should be a subsidy for the Bowling and Splash for teenagers and families. More subsidised events and activities were asked for.

There was a call for more encouragement for sports such as tennis, and another respondent suggested that the council tennis courts should be made all weather/all year courts; with the erection of a 'balloon' over two courts.

Junior football pitches were sought and a 'centre of excellence for juniors.' Modern facilities and changing rooms were a common theme, especially for the football pitch next to Broadclose, behind Morrisons.

Arts

Numerous people called for a cinema in Bude. Many suggested that there could be a combined theatre and cinema, or a combined arts centre 'like the Plough in Torrington'. Another suggestion was that investment in 'stacker seating system' in Ivor Potter Hall would allow the showing of films and shows, 'like we did in Witney, Oxon'.

One suggestion was for an arts or literary festival with known authors; perhaps later in year to attract tourists.

It was suggested that there should be better central promotion of local events in Bude and outlying areas. A contributor reported that s/he 'went to Knee-high theatre in Kilkhampton but no-one knew about it'.

Other suggestions included a community café that could be used by young mums and dads, a centre for 'creativity and innovation' and a well-organised art gallery.

Allotments

There were several calls for allotments and/or community gardens for the community and perhaps for young people.