

## **Cornwall Council Report**

### **Climate Action Plan and Forest for Cornwall**

Following its declaration of a Climate Change Emergency at Full Council in January 2019, Cornwall Council has produced a report outlining how to reduce carbon emissions and work toward becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The comprehensive report spans 63 pages, and was adopted unanimously by Cabinet. I can leave a copy at the Library if STC wishes, but here is a link to the online document:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/40176082/climate-change-action-plan.pdf>

Measures that Cornwall Council has already taken to tackle climate change include:

- Introducing England's first community energy revolving loan fund
- Delivering energy efficiency improvements in over 3,000 homes through Glow Cornwall
- Developing its own solar farm
- Supporting substantial transport service improvements, aiming to provide a joined up public transport system across rail, bus and ferry services
- Increasing the number of electric charge points in public car parks (Additionally, Cornwall Council was recently awarded £90K for five new charge points specifically for use by taxis)

The introduction of 92 new lower-emission buses, supported by the Cornwall Devolution Deal, has seen the number of bus journeys in Cornwall go up from 10.6m to 11.7m over the last year, at a time when public transport use has dropped nationally. Measures included in the Action Plan include:

- Powering all new homes with alternative energy
- Making energy efficiency improvements to existing Council owned housing
- Planting a Forest for Cornwall - planting 32 square miles (about 2% of Cornwall's land mass) with trees

The ambitious Forest for Cornwall programme is a natural way to tackle climate change and drawdown our carbon emissions by significantly increasing tree and woodland cover throughout Cornwall. The official launch of the Forest for Cornwall will be held at the end of November in a community space in Saltash.

### **Kresen Kernow**

Cornwall's new state-of-the-art archive centre built on the former Brewery site in Redruth has now officially opened. Protecting 850 years of Cornish history for future generations, Kresen Kernow brings together the world's largest collection of records, books, maps and photographs related to Cornwall.

Funded by Cornwall Council the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Kresen Kernow represents a local sense of belonging, distinctiveness and identity.

### **Suicide Awareness**

Sadly, Cornwall has a relatively high rate of suicides, greater than the average across England, so Cornwall Council's public health team are currently involved in a large programme of work across Cornwall to better understand why this happens, and to take steps to prevent people from developing mental ill health, preventing them from getting to the stage where they feel they have to commit suicide.

Training on recognising the signs of mental ill health is being offered to those people we all regularly come into contact within the community, such as sports coaches and staff in GP surgeries. A comprehensive guide for workplaces to offer support following suicide of a work colleague can be downloaded from Health Cornwall's website.

### **Empty Property Loan Scheme**

Cornwall Council is committed to delivering homes for residents in Cornwall and one of the policies that has been developed is a loan scheme designed to help owners bring empty properties back into use. There are around 3,000 properties in Cornwall classified as being empty and unused for longer than 6 months. Owners of an empty property are now able to borrow up to £60,000 for the conversion of a single dwelling and up to £210,000 for multiple dwellings.

### **Community Development Worker in Caradon Together for Families**

Following the integration of children's services with health visitors and school nurses in April this year, services for children and families in Cornwall are being further improved with the appointment of six Community Development Workers, one based in our Caradon Together for Families team. The Community Development Workers will work closely with the Early Help Teams, who work out of the Family Hubs.

The Community Development Workers will be engaging with local people to understand what they feel is missing in their communities, and to work on creating additional support and activities.

Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank