

Presentation to Millbrook Parish Council for the meeting of Tuesday 21st September 2021

We look forward to presenting a quick overview of the Trust's activities to the parish council meeting of 21st Sept 2021, and here summarise the main points we will bring to the meeting.

Local Support work

In April this year, the parish council gave us a very generous £5000 towards our costs for this service, with the suggestion that we should ask again later in the year if the need continued. The situation is:

- Since launching in May 2020, we have supported 99 parish households (just on 10%, one in ten households), comprising 112 adults and 22 children.
- The number of cases is still rising, and we expect a large surge this month and next, because of the end of furlough and the reduction in Universal Credit.
- The main problems we are dealing with are:
 - Financial crisis. We provide small cash grants, access to other funds, foodbank parcels and food from our Rame Community Kitchen.
 - Housing. The existing crisis on rented housing is getting worse fast. We can help sometimes with arrears, debt etc, but the core problem is lack of places.
 - Mental health / domestic abuse. These are linked; numbers are rising. We are a key contact for the professional services.

We have attached the latest full Local Support report that gives the detail on our work.

Our service costs £32,000/year to run, for wages, training and support. We currently have no income to support this cost, though we are looking for grants and starting to see some community donations coming in.

We believe that this is a vital bedrock service for residents, providing really high-quality support at a parish level. ***We ask the parish council for a further grant of £5000 to help us keep the service running, and we now ask that the parish council considers putting this service cost onto the precept for future years.***

New social housing in the parish

We have now completed our project at Coastguard Cottages, Cawsand, and have housed three local families in high-quality, secure homes at low rents. This is a major win for the Trust and the community – we want to now push on and do the same in Millbrook:

- We are currently refurbishing a three-bedroom flat at our Rame Centre premises. This should be ready for letting in October – we will run a full Tenant Selection process once it the work is done.
- We are in discussion with the Millbrook Methodists about buying the church and hall, to create 5 new houses and a new centre for older people.
- We want to find further opportunities in Millbrook, preferably refurb/rebuilds, maybe infill. We will not consider green-field sites.

The Trust and Cornwall Council's housing work

We know that Cornwall Council are actively working to find and build new homes. This is great, very much needed, and we hope to work closely with Cornwall. There is one complication:

- By its very nature, Cornwall Council's programme must prioritise those in greatest housing need, even if they come from outside the area. Local connection is a factor in their decision-making, but is not decisive.
- The Trust has a different priority. Our main effort is to house local families with deep connections here. Once that is proven by an applicant, we then look at housing need – so realistically, only those born here will get our houses.

We ask that the parish council actively engage with and support us. This is not a money request – it would help very much to know that the parish council backs our efforts and will offer Letters of Support etc when needed.

Local publications

We are working on two ideas, just proposals at this stage:

- Continue our Covid door-to-door newsletters ("Stay Calm" etc) to go to every home in the area, most likely on a quarterly basis. This method reaches those not online, provides key information and has been very well received. Would the parish council like to use it as a platform for your news?
- We have an idea for a new Rame Community Directory, probably an A4 folded booklet, listing community groups and businesses and delivered to every household in the area. It would include a comprehensive Green Guide and could have entries from the parish council. If we go ahead, we would set it up in the winter for publication in spring – again, would the parish council be interested?

We have no costings yet for either idea. If we go ahead, we would ask the parish council for a contribution.