

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. We are very pleased to have Lee Bacchus, Head Teacher of our thriving village school, who will bring us up to date on all that is happening at St. Breward Primary School.

Ten years ago our school was failing, with declining pupil numbers and without the equipment necessary for a successful school in these hi-tech days. If you visit our school today, you will see a thriving, happy, modern primary school with an enthusiastic student body and dedicated staff. Our thanks should go to Lee and his team for making all this possible.

Did you know that Lee gets a mention by John Keats

“Away! away! for I will fly to thee,
Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,
But on the viewless wings of Poesy...! Look it up in Keat’s, ‘Ode to a Nightingale’.

Bacchus was the God of the grape harvest and wine making, so I expect to see a vineyard sprouting up on the school back field in the near future.

Two items I looked forward to last year have come to pass: The defibrillator is on the wall beside the shop; thankfully we haven’t needed to use it yet. St Breward First Responders are having an evening event where the defibrillator will be demonstrated; Everyone is welcome and a volunteer is needed. I am assured that it is relatively painless – we all need to know how to use it as you could be the only person around in an emergency.

Rylands Play area is up and running with all its lovely new equipment and we are still getting positive comments about the new play equipment. I get real pleasure from driving past our play area to see it full of happy children. I also take pride in the fact that your Parish Council quickly replaced the equipment without a long delay and that, despite borrowing £30,000 towards the play area, we didn’t have to put up the precept.

Unfortunately, the proposed micro library in the Inst & Mem Hall is now not going to happen due to foot dragging and intransigence by Cornwall Council.

Councillors have diligently worked on your behalf throughout the year, we have tried to be fair, equitable and inclusive in all our dealings with our community and those communities surrounding St Breward.

Councillors Jill Sutcliffe resigned during the year as her retirement plans had to be put on hold.

Our County Councillor, John Lugg resigned due to ill health. John represented St Breward on Cornwall Council since its inception in 2009. Unable to attend any of our meetings this year, John still gave financial support to St Breward organisations throughout the year. Our thoughts are with him in these difficult times.

Sadly, we lost Dennis Champion, who had served on St Breward Parish Council for more than one term. He will be missed for his acerbic comments and practical can do attitude. He kept me on my toes and I enjoyed his company. The absence of an outdoor memorial to St Breward’s war dead, had often been raised at Council meeting down the years, but was always put aside because of problems of situation, costs, etcetera. So when it was raised again at a Parish Council meeting and the probable cost being £4,000; most councillors were thinking that we couldn’t afford it; Dennis said straight away that he would take on the project – the £4,000 was raised in a couple of months. Once again as I drive past our striking war memorial I think of Dennis and his team who did such a wonderful job in commemorating those men of St Breward who gave their lives for us.

Mev Shelly, past chairman of our Parish Council died recently in St Tudy.

At the beginning of this year we co-opted Ben Fairman and Darren Wills onto the Parish Council.

Chyryn Drive is on the agenda, again. You may ask, "What is different this time? We have been promised affordable houses for the last 10 years."

The difference is, the Cornwall Land Initiative (CLI); comprising Cornwall Council, DCH (formerly Devon & Cornwall Housing) and Galliford Try, is developing council owned residential sites throughout Cornwall. There are eleven sites in total and the three most valuable sites are being used to provide funding for the remaining eight. These three sites are being built at present and are at Blackwater, Wadebridge, and Shortlanesend.

These sites will have a minimum of 30% affordable housing; the remaining 70% being sold on the open market with the profits used to build affordable homes elsewhere. The money is now available and there is an unseemly rush to get a St Breward scheme before planners by next month.

Your Parish Council has had two meetings with CLI, the second only yesterday. CLI have agreed to a public consultation, with Saturday 11th June being penciled in as a possible date. THIS IS TO BE CONFIRMED.

Current proposals are for 21 units with 40 parking spaces. Early indications are that all 21 units will be affordable and comprise 2 maisonettes (1B2P), 11 2-bedroom houses (4P), 4 3-bedroom houses (5P), 3 3-bedroom houses (6P) and 1 4-bedroom house (7P). A typical mix on other sites is 30% for rent and 70% shared equity.

We are told that the critical factor stalling previous schemes was the gradient of the estate road, the steepness of which contravened planning guidelines. This time they are proposing to enter the site from the top of Chyryn Drive. The existing bottom turnout, just above the Rural Workshops, will be pedestrian only.

The existing sewer in Chyryn Drive will be adequate for the new development, but a new surface water drain will need to be dug. The route of this has not been decided.

Staff from DCH will be at the Public consultation to give advice and to take details of anyone wanting to go on the register of applicants for this affordable housing. You will be able to view plans of the development, including details of how the scheme will look – artist impressions and to put forward your views or concerns.

Section 106 money has been lumped together for the CLI and we believe that none of this will be specifically earmarked for St Breward, although we will be asking Cornwall Council for guidance on this. The Section 106 money for the CLI is for schools and highways, so maybe Lee will be able to put in a bid for some of this money as 19 houses could equate to quite a few children of primary school age.

Finally, I would thank to thank all our councillors for their hard work and support throughout the year and our clerk for her deft touch in keeping us all on the path of righteousness.

Denis Lusby

Chairman, St Breward Parish Council 12th May 2016