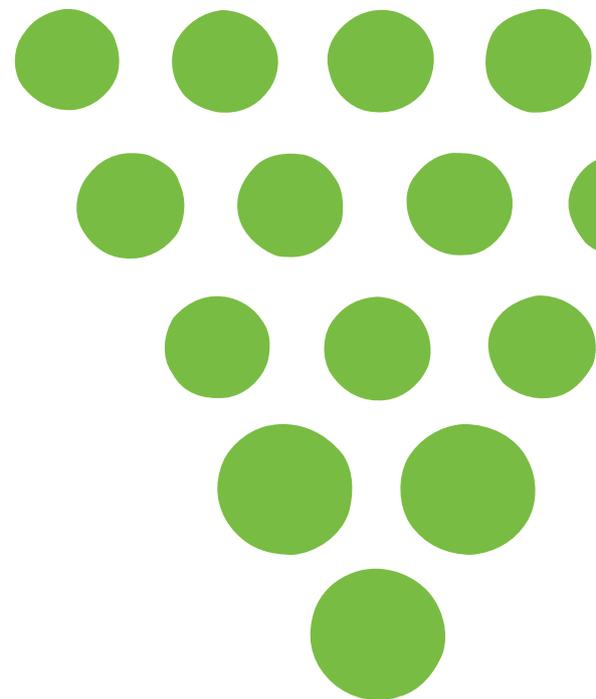




# Camborne Pool Illogan and Redruth Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation Feedback Report

June 2021



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# Introduction

1. Residents in Camborne, Pool, Illogan and Redruth (CPIR) were invited to have their say on plans to invest in ‘green infrastructure’ in the area. In collaboration with the local community, Cornwall Council has prepared a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the CPIR area which aims to support and invest in infrastructure that promotes reduced car use and increased activity levels among residents, in turn helping to promote a sense of community and connect people more with nature.
2. ‘Green infrastructure’ is the network of green spaces and the links between them within towns, villages and the countryside, with the aim of helping people to move around without the need to use a car. The links connect where we live to other parts of an urban area and then to the countryside and coast. The strategy for the CPIR area identifies what links are already in existence, sets out how these could be improved and looks at where new links are needed to help create a wider interlocking network.
3. The strategy considers cycle routes, urban green spaces, parks and play areas, sports and leisure facilities, youth provision, allotments and community gardens, churchyards and natural green spaces.
4. The strategy sets out a number of priorities for green infrastructure in the CPIR area for the next nine years. Developed through a series of working group meetings, which involved stakeholders from across the area, it identifies projects that offer most value to communities, so that when funding is available it can be made best use of.
5. Barbara Ellenbrook, Cornwall Council member for Redruth South, and a member of the GI working group, said: “Providing the community with a functioning network of links throughout the CPIR area and beyond is so important. “If this strategy allows us to improve a neglected green space or create a new link joining up two existing routes, then that’s got to be a positive thing. “There has to be a real alternative to leaving your car behind and travelling by foot or bicycle. It’s better for us, it’s better for the planet. “Whether it’s a short circular walk for exercise, some play time for children or a visit to a destination further afield, an enhanced green infrastructure offers that. “It also provides communities with a tangible link to nature. Sowing the seeds now will ensure a greener future for our children and their children’s children.”

Green infrastructure not only looks at green spaces, it also includes rivers, waterways, lakes and beaches. Over the past year, during the Covid-19 pandemic, these connections have never been so important. In the CPIR area they allow us to access the countryside and help us reconnect with nature.

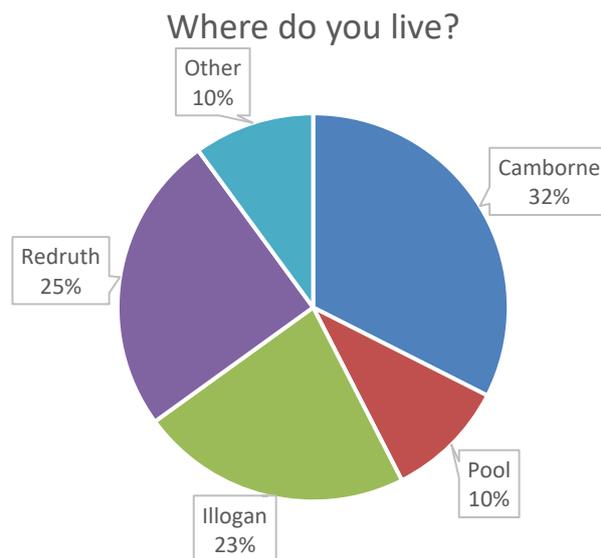
## Our consultation process

6. We asked people to give us their thoughts on the draft CPIR Green Infrastructure Strategy between 10 February and 23 March 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, the consultation was entirely online (although paper copies of the strategy were available on request). People were asked to complete a short survey on the 'Let's Talk Cornwall' website and tell us what they thought of the strategy.

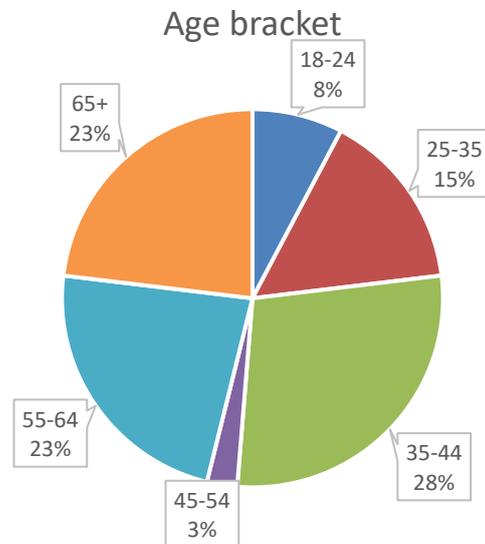
90% of respondents supported the vision, principles and ambition set out in the strategy and thought that it would be of benefit to them or their community.

7. There were a total of 434 visits to the page, of those visitors, 156 downloaded the strategy and 53 completed the survey.

8. Of those that completed the survey, there was a good geographical spread with respondents from across the local area, including 7 responses from local groups and organisations to the online survey and a further 7 local or special interest groups that sent us comments by email.



9. We also had a good mix of ages of respondents, demonstrating that the strategy has wide appeal.



## Key Messages

10. We gave people space in the survey to tell us what their longer-term priorities were for green infrastructure across the CPIR area. There were a lot of different responses, but some common themes kept recurring. We were pleased that the most commonly mentioned aspect was the improvement of walking and cycling routes across the CPIR area and beyond, confirming that this should be the priority area for future investment in green infrastructure.

## Cycling and Walking

11. The majority of comments we received (mentioned by 41 out of 53 respondents) were in support of improved walking and cycle routes.

“We need more schemes to encourage people to get out cycling, walking, running, as means to get to work as well as a pastime.”

12. Key points raised included:

- Joining up routes
- Providing urban to coastal links and urban to countryside links.
- Providing safer routes/ more cycling lanes and off-road provision of cycle routes
- Schemes to encourage more walking and cycling for either commuting or as leisure/ health activity
- Improved/ new urban connection routes
- Circular routes
- Better connections to the mining villages – St Day and Carharrack

13. Work on the trails is continuing and can be very complex and lengthy at times. Once finalised, it will offer a safe pedestrian and cycle route from the urban area to the coast and countryside.

14. Many respondents identified that the signage for walking and cycling routes was poor in places and that improvements to signage (including identifying suitability for disabled users and electric bikes) would likely increase usage. Improving signage is already identified as a priority in the strategy.

## Other issues raised

15. We had comments from surrounding parishes that the strategy did not fully include them. This is true, the strategy was intended to focus

“There should be a balance between developing spaces to benefit the area and also maintaining the quiet spaces and tranquillity that currently exists.”

upon the larger urban area and although the strategy prioritises spending on cycle routes out to the coast, to Portreath and Gwithian, it does not prioritise routes linking further out to the mining villages. We are pleased

that there is an intention by the mining villages to produce their own green infrastructure strategy and we hope that the mining villages green infrastructure approach will complement and reinforce the priorities in this strategy, further strengthening any bids for funding. We have taken the opportunity to reinforce the importance of connections from the urban area to the surrounding rural neighbourhoods in the document.

16. The area in the document identified as having potential for significant tree planting is outside of the CPIR area and would be subject to investigation and consultation before any large-scale planting takes place. There was significant support for tree planting and rewilding; several respondents would like to see more trees providing food.

17. There were several comments about the long-term maintenance of green spaces and other green infrastructure; we will ensure that where new GI is not to be adopted by Cornwall Council, there is a robust long-term approach for ongoing maintenance. We will reinforce this message in the text.

18. There was general support for more biodiverse planting, particularly wildflowers. Several respondents thought that we should reinforce in the strategy how it will help to deliver Cornwall’s Climate Emergency response – we will amend the text in the document to make this clearer.

“Widen paths in green spaces to allow social distancing and to better accommodate families with young children”

## Site Specific comments

19. In light of comments made about King Edwards mine and the nearby cycle routes, we will include the site in the strategy. We will reinforce the importance of Gwealan Tops Adventure park to the local community.
20. Several respondents commented on the need for improved play and youth facilities; the strategy identifies several sites where new or improved provision is required, and we hope that these will be delivered over the period of the strategy.
21. We have included the site known as The Nursery in Penponds in response to consultee comments; this is a valued community asset and we hope that this may assist the local community in any funding bids.

## Written responses received

22. In addition to the responses to the survey via the Lets Talk pages, we had several written responses to the consultation from other interested parties, including Natural England, Historic England and local town and parish councils and other local interest groups. These comments have also been taken into account and where appropriate, they will be reflected in the strategy.

## Out of scope comments

23. Other issues were raised which are outside of the scope of this strategy, including the location of new development, the use of renewable energy, more dog poo and recycling bins and green roofs. These issues are out of scope for the purpose of this strategy and have not been included.

## What changes do we propose making to the Strategy?

24. Having considered all of the comments received, we propose the following amendments to the text of the GI Strategy:

- a) Reinforce the two-way benefit of cycle routes – not just from the urban area out to coast and countryside but also the benefits for surrounding communities who will have easier access to the urban area. The importance of good non-car access from the mining villages should be highlighted, particularly where these can be safe (off-road) routes – these can be used for leisure and commuting, reducing the number of car journeys. Where new cycle and walking routes are delivered, steps should be taken to discourage motorised vehicles (for example through the use of ‘kissing gates’), including trail bikes which can cause harm to other users (although electric bikes would still be welcome). Also, although outside the scope of this strategy, several respondents commented on the lack of a safe commuting link from CPIR towards Truro and the benefits that this could bring to the area.
- b) Put some more text / explanation around the area for tree planting to the north of the urban area. (We’ll need to get some additional information from the environment team around why this location is preferred.)
- c) We need to reinforce the importance of long term maintenance of all green infrastructure. Make reference to the CE DPD Natural Climate Policy which requires long term management plans for all GI created as part of new developments. But just as important for adopted GI.
- d) Include the site known as The Nursery in Penponds in the strategy as a priority site for local residents.
- e) Explain more prominently that rewilding areas and increasing biodiversity is an important part of this strategy. Emphasise the benefits of biodiverse planting in encouraging wildlife
- f) Emphasise the health benefits of everyday activity and the importance of making it easier to be regularly active.
- g) Include the cycle trails around King Edward mine in the strategy and mention that they have plans to plant 400 more trees on the site.

- h) Emphasise the way that the CPIR GI Strategy will help to deliver CCs Climate Emergency ambitions and the policies in the DPD. Also include the Nature Recovery Strategy and the way in which this strategy helps to deliver those objectives.
- i) Correct the description and age range comments relating to Gwealan Tops adventure play park and reinforce that this is a well-used and valuable community facility.
- j) Include reference to the mining villages trails website which is a valuable local resource, identifying valuable GI, including walking trails and churchyards.
- k) Refer to the work being done by the mining villages to produce a complementary GI Strategy which may be incorporated into a future edition of this CPIR strategy. Include comment to the effect that Portreath parish could be part of this strategy.
- l) Strengthen the importance of the section on signage in the document, including the importance of indicating the suitability of trails for different types of user, including wheelchair accessibility.
- m) Highlight the importance of food sustainability and the difference that planting a development, /or edible trees can make to local communities. Food security is part of the climate agenda and productive varieties of trees should be considered as part of any tree planting initiative.
- n) The strategy focuses mostly on the benefits to people and the benefits of improved green infrastructure for nature and the environment are not emphasised enough.

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