



# Transition Falmouth and Neighbourhood Plans

## Sustainability Briefing

Transition Falmouth is part of the U.K. Transition Network which aims to address climate change by reducing reliance on fossil fuels, by conserving valuable natural resources, and by supporting a low carbon and circular economy.

We believe that if true sustainability is to be achieved local communities need to live within our Planet's environmental limits and seek to reduce carbon and other emissions wherever possible through pursuing the following activities:

- **Sustainable Transport**

- by encouraging the use of public transport, walking, cycling and car-sharing which would reduce emissions and promote healthier lifestyles.

Note: the benefits arising from the proposed integrated transport system for Cornwall and the recent introduction of a Car Club (Co-Cars) for Falmouth and Penryn - an initiative highly commended in the 2017 Cornwall Sustainability Awards.

- **Sustainable Homes**

- by promoting the construction of low carbon dwellings following good practice in both the design of new build and use of materials. Energy efficiency to be a priority in new buildings (including extensions) and in the renovation of older properties. Provision made wherever possible for green space and access to allotments for new developments.

The growth of Community-Led home development will be an important part of our sustainable future. These intentional communities whether co-operative self-builders, Community Land Trusts, or co-housing groups, encourage supportive resilient communities, that share resources and energy thus increasing efficiency and reducing waste.

- **Resources and Waste**

- by treating waste as a positive resource and conserving valuable materials through a variety of local reuse and recycling projects which would help reduce carbon emissions. Comprehensive waste reduction programmes would reduce pollution both on land, and at sea where the health of marine life is being seriously compromised by plastic and other waste materials

Note: the benefits arising from the current Resources and Waste Contract recommendations before Cornwall Council at present (based on the Welsh model) which would see considerably increased recycling across Falmouth and the Community Network Area.

Also note proposals being considered by central government to tax certain types of disposable single-use plastic items and introduce a deposit return system for drinks containers to help tackle unnecessary pollution and improve recycling rates

See also Transition Falmouth's Waste and Resources Action Plan (2014) and the Falmouth/Penryn Repair Cafe also highly commended in the Cornwall Sustainability Awards 2017

- **Food Production and Retailing**

- by promoting the role that local food and drink producers and retailers play in helping reduce food miles and stimulating the local economy: by highlighting the importance of keeping good quality agricultural land in production in order to meet the future needs of the local population.

Also by ensuring, wherever possible, organic matter is returned to the land to enrich the soil and lock up carbon which would otherwise be lost to the atmosphere

Note: practical projects like the Transition Falmouth Buy Local Guide which includes a section on community food initiatives

- **Renewable Energy**

- by supporting a mix of local community-led and owned renewable energy projects plus energy-saving and energy storage initiatives to help reduce carbon emissions and achieve energy security for the future

Note: the work of the Fal Energy Partnership and Community Power Cornwall - see links below

- **Flood Prevention Strategy**

- by drawing up a local flood prevention plan for Falmouth and the wider Community Network Area

Note: the work of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum - see link below

- **Biodiversity and Trees and Woodlands**

- by drawing up a biodiversity action plan for Falmouth and acknowledging the role that trees and woodlands play in stabilising the climate locally and globally and in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the local community

Note: the availability of advice and support from various nature conservation organisations in Cornwall, and the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People which was launched nationally on 6th November 2017

The Transition Falmouth Core Group recommend that in order to directly address climate change, embrace the circular economy, and protect the environment, Neighbourhood Planning Groups would need to apply most, if not all, of the above areas of activity to their Plans, either as headings in their own right or by using them as cross-cutting themes.

### **Useful Supporting Links:-**

"**Our Common Future**" The World Commission on the Environment and Development Report (Brundtland Report) 1987 produced the definitive definition on "sustainability"

"**Sustainable** development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

<http://www.sustainabledevelopment2015.org/AdvocacyToolkit/index.php/earth-summit-history/historical-documents/92-our-common-future>

### **Cornwall Council and the Nottingham Declaration**

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/sustainable-development/climate-change-and-energy>

**Sustainable Transport:**

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/sustainable-transport>

<https://www.co-cars.co.uk>

**Sustainable Homes:**

<https://csbt.org.uk> (Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust)

<http://ambos.org.uk> (Falmouth & Penryn Co-Housing Collective)

**Resources and Waste:**

<https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/ieIssueDetails.aspx?IIId=74074>

<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/buyersguides/drink/bottledwater.aspx>

<http://www.transitionfalmouth.org.uk/wp/groups/waste-recycling/waste-and-resources-action-plan>

**Food Production and Retailing:**

<http://www.transitionfalmouth.org.uk/wp/groups/food/tf-food-database>

<http://blog.nutri-tech.com.au/capturing-carbon-supporting-the-soil-that-will-save-us>

**Renewable Energy:**

<http://www.falenergy.co.uk>

<http://communitypowercornwall.coop>

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/renewableenergy>

**Flood Prevention Strategy:** <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/cornwall-fire-and-rescue-service-homepage/keeping-safe/flooding/cornwall-community-flood-forum/>

**Biodiversity, Trees and Woodlands :**

<https://treecharter.uk>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/biodiversity-and-geological-conservation/>

<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/>

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/hedges>

<http://transitionfalmouth.org.uk>

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