



A Manifesto for the Future

We are at a turning point in our history. We know the challenges that face us. Climate change on an unprecedented scale; a continuing, and irrevocable reduction in fossil fuels; a world financial and economic system under stress and threat of collapse; an unsustainable world population.

The choices that face us are equally well known. We can deny it's happening; we can pretend it's not about us; we can carry on with our old ways, regardless.

Or we can turn and face the challenge.

This manifesto is one of hope. Hope that we can galvanise action, enthuse, be radical and creative, harness our talents in Cornwall and redesign our future. These are fine words. With your support we intend to turn them into actions.

Our intentions are

- To reduce carbon emissions in Cornwall by 15% by 2012
- To reduce Cornwall Council's carbon emissions by 25% by 2012
- To prepare ourselves for outside shocks in energy supplies and prices
- To tackle fuel poverty
- To strengthen our local food infrastructure
- To strengthen local communities and the bonds between them

The paragraphs that follow set out our broad principles in each area, with some suggestions about detailed actions. We do not propose to be prescriptive: events are moving fast, and the best approach is to be ready for the unexpected, and to build resilience (however that might be described) into all our policies.

Some priorities for One Cornwall

Employment and small business

Traditionally so self-reliant, we have surrendered our ability to make things, to create wealth ourselves within our communities, to conserve what we have and to use our own creativity within Cornwall for our own future. Globalisation will be no good to us once the going gets tough. So we shall need to work, urgently, on measures to provide employment and support small business as change comes to Cornwall.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will promote the reintroduction of successful schemes from earlier recessions - such as manpower service commission employment for community benefit and enterprise allowance schemes for small businesses
- We will introduce Council apprenticeships for local people to improve their work opportunities
- We will invest in and promote truly green businesses
- We will seek ways to rebuild the local agricultural infrastructure
- We will prioritise insulation and energy efficiency programmes, investing in local employment
- Our promotion of village shops and other local services will protect local jobs, and developing new services from them will provide new jobs
- We will reverse the misguided love affair with the big and brash - Cornwall is a place of small communities, settlements and businesses providing thousands of jobs with local firms and enterprises
- We will withdraw support for airport expansion, which takes jobs and wealth out of Cornwall.

Housing

There is still a housing crisis in Cornwall. Thousands of local people are unable to afford to buy a house, and are on council housing lists with no chance at present of being housed.

Our priority will be to provide homes for these people. The only really affordable houses for them are council and housing association houses to rent. These will be rented to local people. Building to provide such homes will not be providing homes for people living out of the county, or for people to have second homes, as other housing developments would. We will therefore aim that the majority of houses built in the county will be of this type to meet local needs.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will permit developments only close to existing services and to jobs or the likelihood of future jobs
- We will insist on low carbon construction methods for any new housing
- We will rapidly expand the home insulation programme, using existing local firms backed by a major advertising campaign. The programme prepares us for the approaching energy crisis, creates valuable jobs and helps to reduce energy bills in cash strapped households
- In villages where there is demand for public housing for rent, but no possibility of building new houses, the council will purchase houses for this purpose
- We will set housing policy so that in any one parish a ceiling can be set on second home ownership
- We will resist, in whatever way we are able, the Government and SWERDA's targets for housebuilding, based not on Cornwall's needs but on taking trends from the boom and assuming all will continue as before
- We will ensure that communities take control over Section 106 agreements (where developers provide funds for local investment in exchange for building new houses), raising charges for high environmental impact homes
- We will promote and assist in the development of Community Land Trusts.

Children's services and education

The principle we follow is that it is our children, and their children, who will have to adapt to and survive in a world very different to ours. Our responsibility is to give them the tools to do the job - not just physical tools, but skills and attitudes that allow them to be adaptable and resilient in the face of rapid change.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will build rapidly on the links already established between schools and their communities through joint exercises, shared experiences, pooled talents - we already have many examples to build on
- We will seek ways to influence the curriculum so that children can have freer expression, can have the chance to experience the environment around the school in a more integrated way, and can appreciate value above scarcity
- We will incorporate growing, maintaining and caring for fruit and vegetables into the curriculum, seeking partnerships with local farms and horticultural businesses
- We will build on services to cared for children, the intention being for them see and realise their value, both to themselves and to us
- We will strongly encourage the food for school meals to be sourced locally
- Schools are a major source of CO₂ emissions. We will work with them to help them become exemplars of CO₂ reductions. Our aim will be to reduce school emissions by 25% by 2015.

Adult services

The last 30 years of the global economy have left many people on the margins. The principle we will follow is that everyone has their worth and can make their contribution. As the economy falters and weakens, more and more people will lose their work and the danger, with that, that more homes and families will be broken.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will promote One Cornwall employment programmes
- We will press for the reintroduction of a modern Manpower Services Commission
- We will press for the introduction of a Green Enterprise Allowance Scheme
- We will ensure that the social work profession is valued by us
- We will reverse the decline in adult education, our purpose being to reduce isolation and build a new sense of community
- We will support mutual aid between Cornwall's communities.

Food and farming

Always central to the Cornish economy, food and farming are set to become the cornerstone of our survival. Central to our purpose is to rebuild local farming and food infrastructure, promote horticulture and community supported agriculture, and protect and promote food from Cornwall.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will promote and defend the county farms
- We will provide support for the rapid expansion of allotments around all our towns and villages
- We will plant nut and fruit trees and shrubs on council properties, and urge other public bodies to do the same
- We will promote the reintroduction of market gardens
- We will support the reintroduction of training in the management and use of draft animals before our remaining expertise is lost
- We will fund programmes to establish local food outlets in all villages where provision does not currently exist (either through shops or markets or the multi-use of existing buildings)
- We will encourage a programme by which local people can supply home grown food to these shops
- We will support and introduce schemes to spread the understanding and knowledge of cooking and food and the benefits of eating healthy local produce
- We will argue within government for greater support for the family farm and small producer
- We will work for the reintroduction of local slaughterhouses
- We will seek to provide the environment for the reopening of butchers and greengrocers shops
- We will support organic production and both the principles and practice of permaculture
- We will introduce a Fresh Start scheme, helping large farmers reduce land holdings (unsustainable in the long term anyway) by either renting or selling land to new entrants. Farming is an aging occupation and desperately needs new entrants
- We will support the introduction and production of foods that use less energy, less land and less chemicals.

Post offices, banking, and other local services

Local shops and post offices are the backbone of local communities, in towns as well as in villages. Their importance will grow as conditions change and as we adapt to a new and different future.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will build on the services offered by post offices in a partnership with Cornwall Council
- We will work with credit unions to get a basic bank account available to all who need it, through their local post office
- We will support local retailers, farm shops and farmers' markets so as to ensure the continuation and growth of local access to food supplies
- We will recognise the central importance of pubs to the life of local communities
- We will resist any sale of local open or public space and will seek to reintroduce it wherever possible. There will be no further sales of 'surplus' land attached to schools
- We will support the reintroduction or extension of mobile services
- We will work together to develop alternative currencies such as Time Banking to ensure wealth circulates locally and is retained in Cornwall.

Getting around in Cornwall

Moving around Cornwall by public transport has always been difficult, unless you live in one of the main towns (and are going to another one). Yet we did it effectively before the motorcar; and as motoring becomes more expensive we should start to plan for life after it. The principle to follow is about *effective* public transport.

These are some of the measures we will take:

Buses

- We will plan to subsidise bus travel for all children (although funding will need to be identified for this)
- We will work with bus companies to provide a useable bus service to all local communities, make it feasible to live in a village without a car.
- We will work with coach operators to develop a county wide express service with parkway interchanges on the edge of towns so that people can actually travel around the county without a car and without having to make numerous changes on local buses
- We will look to introduce new north-south services

Cycleways

- We will build cycleways into all plans for road modifications on the basis that pedestrians and cyclists must in future be the priority for investment
- We will introduce cycle locking posts at bus stops

Pathways

- Cornwall's roads are death-traps for pedestrians. We will make a priority of safe walking between villages and along major roads

Cars

- We will extend the good work already carried out on Park and Ride schemes
- We will reduce speed limits all over the county on main roads, country roads and in towns - to reduce carbon emissions and make a more tolerable and safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists

Roads

- Road maintenance will take priority over road improvements, and the budgets for maintenance for minor roads will be protected
- We do not need multi-million pound projects to develop the A30 any more. Where local traffic has problems crossing the A30, we will put in simple low cost bridges or other means of safely crossing the road

Trains

- We will work with Railtrack to identify improvements to the network in Cornwall, including the reopening of halts and changes to Truro station to allow through trains to Falmouth

Waterways

- We will work long term to maximise the use of the rivers and coast for transporting good around Cornwall.

Getting out of Cornwall

Roads

- We will not support any further development of the A30

Newquay Airport

- The plans for expanding Newquay Airport are already in deep trouble. The plans for its future will be urgently reviewed. If it cannot be sustained the land will be allocated for renewable energy - providing skills, jobs and energy to Cornwall
- We will support flights to the Isles of Scilly, by plane but not by helicopter

Trains

- The train link to the rest of the country is undermined by the subsidised travel from the airport - yet many, many more people use trains than planes. We will work to protect the rail service in Cornwall
- We will press for the highest priority being given to improve the railway from Cornwall to Exeter

Waterways

- We will work long term to maximise the use of the rivers and coast for transporting good into and out of Cornwall.

Waste

Two principles operate here. The first is that we apply ourselves urgently to reducing waste, maximising the re-use of materials, and, finally, recycling. The second is that 'waste' from the system should be dealt with as closely as possible to where it is produced.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will seek a partnership with local business to work together on reducing packaging and waste, setting ourselves targets and making sure we achieve them
- We will resist any further moves towards mass incineration and refocus on reducing the volume of waste, and its complexity, and extracting the maximum for reuse and recycling
- We will research and promote ways to re-use materials, working with private industry and the university
- We will research a programme for the introduction of local waste management schemes at community level
- We will seek to introduce combined heat and power schemes
- We will work to see how residual waste can be disposed of at a local level in order to maximise its use as a resource, via community energy projects or soil enhancement.

Energy

The supply and use of energy is one of the critical issues of our time. Our principle will be to reduce the 97% reliance we have on imported energy, and maximise the transfer to renewable technologies within Cornwall. Our priority will be to encourage R&D into renewable energy technologies so as to put Cornwall at forefront of a green industrial revolution, leading the way to sustainable local businesses and jobs.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will seek land for alternative energy systems
- We will strongly promoting the introduction of community/locally owned wind turbines
- We will carry our R&D into hydropower and tidal power, using Cornwall's great resources of water and past expertise
- We will provide research, advisory support, grants and interest free loans to householders seeking options for alternative energy supplies
- We will encourage the further development of geothermal energy
- We will support the development of Cornwall owned Energy Service Companies
- We will expand and accelerate moves to reduce energy demand and light pollution by a programme to turn off streetlights at midnight.
- We will promote projects that support energy generation on farms.

Tourism

The largest single sector in our economy and the provider of thousands of jobs in attractions, accommodation, services and general retail, we have to pay close attention to the needs of the tourist industry. Our principle will be to work closely with the industry to minimise its carbon footprint and show to the world that tourism can survive in an energy hungry and low carbon world.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will promote 'stay in Cornwall' holidays
- We will support (truly) green tourism initiatives
- We will approach our marketing with care to ensure that only low carbon holidays are promoted
- We will introduce new ideas for holidaymakers to enjoy Cornwall without recourse to cars
- We will improve coach services from cities to the tourist hubs in Cornwall
- We will refuse any further development of tourist attractions where access has to be by car
- We will encourage longer stays to reduce the environmental impact of tourism
- We will introduce marketing campaigns on litter and waste recycling.

Art, culture and community

Cornwall has a unique and important history, dialect, language, literature, culture and artistic tradition. It holds its own place in European, Celtic and British culture. We honour and celebrate the distinctive Cornish culture and way of life, as we do other cultural influences and the contribution of other minorities to life in Cornwall.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will support the teaching of Cornish history and promote the language within schools and colleges
- We will seek to influence the curriculum to provide accurate information and a sound education in all matters relating to Cornish identity and history
- We will support cultural projects that respond to the environmental challenges we face
- We will support local communications - specifically parish and town newsletters run by local groups, assistance with practical help like access to council printing services, and community radio stations, including support for programmes involving spoken Cornish
- We will use Cornish language names when naming new roads, streets, electoral divisions etc.
- We will support community and sports halls - especially with the installation of insulation and renewable energy schemes and rainwater harvesting schemes as a way of cutting down running costs
- We will introduce a presumption in favour of street closures for local events

One Cornwall

The principle we shall follow here is: do as you preach.

These are some of the measures we will take:

- We will instruct staff to cut claimed miles by at least 25% in first year (by car sharing, using public transport, not making the journey etc.)
- We will introduce incentives for employees who cycle to work
- We will impose an absolute ban on first class travel for staff and councillors
- We will introduce mileage allowances that penalise the use of high CO2 emitting vehicles and incentivise low emission vehicle use
- We will ban the use of air travel for distances under 400 miles for councillors and staff
- We will ban bottled water on county premises
- We will expand working from home to cut down on travel to and from council premises by employees
- We will impose a four year freeze on all staff salaries over £100k subject to inflation
- We will impose a four year freeze on councillors' allowances with no increase from current levels for new council
- We will turn down the heating in County Hall and other council offices reviewing internal housekeeping to obtain the maximum energy reduction
- We will build on the practice of buying food locally for all One Cornwall events
- We will re-evaluate the location of council buildings in terms of their ability to deliver local services whilst incurring minimum need for public and staff travel
- We will investigate opportunities for renewable energy development on all Council owned land
- We will ensure that climate change implications are formally evaluated in all Council decisions, policies, strategies and action plans
- We will ensure that environmental implications are understood in procurement processes by specifying appropriate standards in tender documents and evaluating the environmental impacts of submissions
- We will make a public and irreversible commitment to open government and reverse the current practice of obstructing access to information.

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