



**Hands Off
Our Schools**

ST. TUDY & ST. MABYN COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2
5th NOVEMBER 2009

PLEASE TAKE ONE

Welcome to our second issue! Over 300 copies of our first issue were distributed which is great news. Hopefully this means of presenting information is one that can reach all areas of both communities. We now have 155 supporters on our Facebook account and a growing email distribution list.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Our third committee meeting was held last Wednesday and turn out has been excellent. The meetings have been well structured with agendas and minutes taken. These will be available for all to view on our website which we will be launching shortly. More information will be available later on but here is a summary of what we've achieved so far:

- A constitution of how our action group operates has been agreed and signed.
- All names and address of people opting in to take part in the referendum have been collated.
- A detailed list of questions has been sent to the Diocese (available to view on each village web site).
- Contact has been made with the County Council and they acknowledge our presence.
- An invitation to take part in the referendum has been communicated to our Boards of Governors.
- Local and now potentially national press are involved in our campaign.
- Promotional material has been designed and printed (boards, T shirts, bags etc)
- Fund raising events have been organised.

FULL CABINET MEETING 11th NOVEMBER 2009 - DEFERRED

We announced in our first issue there was likely to be a full cabinet meeting held at County Hall, Truro on the 11th November 2009. It was at this meeting that a decision was going to be made as to whether the council would authorise and ring fence funds to continue with the feasibility of a new combined school. We have been informed by Officer Mike Peters that due to public feeling and the Council feeling there was insufficient information available to make their decision they have therefore postponed their decision until a December meeting. This means that we will NOT be arranging a coach party to County Hall in November. However, a few members of the committee will be attending the public meeting on the 11th November as a precaution. We will still be arranging transport once December is confirmed.

REFERENDUM

Organisation for our community referendum is now well underway. The Electoral Reform Society (ERS) are preparing ballot papers next week and will be dispatching them on Monday 16th November. All Registered Voters in St. Mabyn and St. Tudy and parents of children at both schools and pre schools will receive voting packs early during that week with instructions. Completed voting papers should be folded and placed in sealed ballot boxes situated in both village shops. The deadline is **Friday 27th November at 12:00 noon**. The ERS will declare the result early during the following week. Anyone who has not received a voting pack by **Friday 20th November** please contact **Chris Mugford** on **01208 851 067** or **chris@tamsquite.co.uk**.

The referendum is our principal opportunity to make our voices heard loud and clear. Please ask your neighbours and friends to make sure they vote. A low turnout will be just as bad as a "no" vote.

PROPOSED LONGSTONE SITE

Some may have heard the news that the Longstone site has been completely dropped. **This is UNFOUNDED**. The council has told us that whilst there may be problems, the site is still not ruled out. Nothing has been officially communicated to us as to the location of the number of sites under consideration.

DIOCESAN RESPONSE

Following our letter to the Diocese (available to view at <http://stmabyn.blogspot.com/> or <http://www.ststudy.org.uk/>) we have the following response:

“Dear Mr Slater,

Please acknowledge receipt of your letters concerning St Mabyn and St Tudy Schools.

At a meeting earlier this week it was agreed that there should be a single point of communication in order to ensure all parties receive the same information at the same time. Therefore a response to both letters will be sent to Helen Martin, Policy Officer for Cornwall Council, who will respond on behalf of the Diocese as soon as possible. Given the detail required in each letter Mrs Green will endeavour to get a response back to you via Helen Martin as soon as possible.

Currently Mrs Green is involved in other urgent matters across the Diocese, but rest assured you will receive a response through Helen as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

*Léonie Kirton
(Sue Green’s Secretary)”*

We will of course communicate the reply when it arrives.

WHITE PAPER

As part of our campaign we are constructing a document that consolidates and presents all our arguments centred around keeping schools in villages. We are drawing from official studies, case studies and our own research. The aim of this is to present a reasoned argument to all parties involved in the decision making process. Some school Governors have indicated this is a good idea and would be willing to read such a document.

FUND RAISING!!

As with any community organisation we rely upon the generosity of the communities we are working on behalf of. We already have some very generous donations from individuals from both villages and are organising a number of events to raise funds for the referendum, publicity and other costs associated with our campaign. If the group dissolves for any reason then once creditors have been paid back all remaining funds will be divided and donated to the schools.

PUB QUIZ!

**SAT 7th NOV. 7pm
ST MABYN INN**

Come and test the old grey matter at a fun Pub Quiz evening. Tickets are currently on sale in both St. Tudy and St. Mabyn village stores at **£5 per team of four**. There will be a raffle and a prize for the winning team. All funds from this event will go to supporting the work of the St.Tudy and St.Mabyn Community Action Group. **Hope to see you there!**

COFFEE/ CAKE & BOOK SIGNING

**TUES 10th NOV. 2:30pm until 4:30pm
ST MABYN MEMORIAL HALL**

Help keep St Mabyn and St Tudy schools in the heart of their villages. Drop in for a Coffee, Cake and maybe a Christmas present or two where best-selling children’s author **Jill Murphy**, author of **'The Worst Witch'** and **'The Large Family'** series, will be signing her latest book alongside other favourite titles. All proceeds from this event will go to the St Tudy and St Mabyn Community Action Group. We will have **face painting** for the children as well. **Hope to see you there.**

The Large Family is currently showing on the CBEEBIES BBC TV channel.

COFFEE MORNING

**SAT 14th NOV. 10am
ST TUDY CLINK**

Sue Dibble has kindly offered to hold a coffee morning with **bring and buy** and **raffle**. We look forward to seeing you for Coffee and a fab selection of cakes and goodies. All proceeds from this event will go to the St Tudy and St Mabyn Community Action Group. **Hope to see you there!!**

Ways to contact us



<http://www.twitter.com/HandsOffSchools>



<http://www.facebook.com>

Then search for our Hands Off Our Schools group

Email via:

matthew@matthewslater.com
chris@tamsquite.co.uk

Phone messages

01208 851 777