

## 2. CASE STUDY

### Area Based Study - Bodmin

**The Bodmin Community Network Area covers a largely rural area<sup>2</sup> around the market town of Bodmin, and it has a combined population of 17,553. The Community Network Area is based around the 3 electoral divisions of Helland, Bodmin St Mary and Bodmin St Petroc.**



The main town is Bodmin with a population of 12,778 (2001), which lies along the western edge of Bodmin Moor. Bodmin is one of the oldest towns in Cornwall, and the only Cornish settlement of size recorded in the Domesday Book. The areas around Bodmin are exclusively rural in nature, and it is characterised by small and dispersed settlements. Bodmin Moor, which covers the North East corner of the Community Network Area, is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Some of the key demographic and socio-economic indicators are:

1. Nearly 70% of the population live in hamlets or isolated dwellings
2. 7 % of households have lone parents with dependent children
3. The key feature outlined in the Mosaic data set is 'ties of community<sup>3</sup>'
4. 20% of households have no access to a car or van

<sup>2</sup>See map on next page

<sup>3</sup>Ties of community: Young couples, children, family close by, older houses, small industrial towns, traditional, close knit communities, working family tax credit.

## 2.1 Localism in action: access, influence and participation

### Access

Within any rural area access to services is of paramount importance. There are naturally concerns regarding transport and isolation from mainstream service points that can often leave communities feeling isolated from decision making processes.

It is for this reason that the role of the community network areas is vital in tailoring services to meet local needs wherever possible.

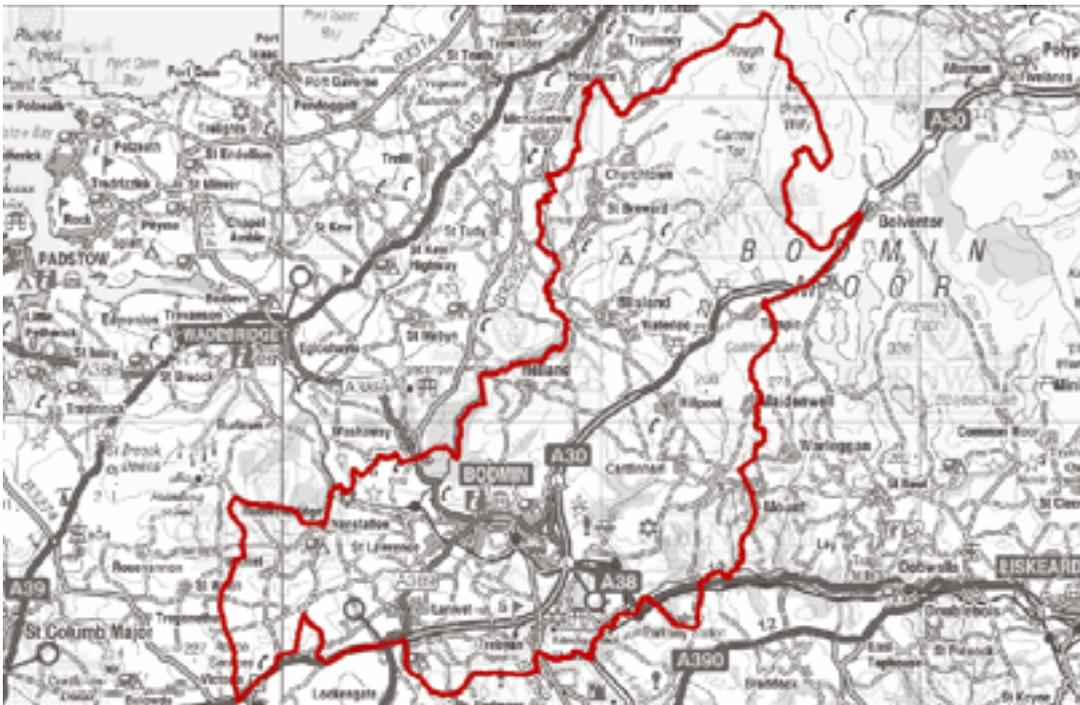
The Community Access Points will provide a crucial contact point for residents needing to access

information and request service provision. Within the Bodmin Community Network Area, the main community service point would be based at Bodmin Library.

However, as with the Helston and Lizard Community Network Area, it will be important to ensure that there are supplementary Community Access Points throughout the area in community facilities. While these access points will be part-time (or mobile) in nature, they will provide an important lifeline to communities that have previously had little or no direct local service contact points.

To this end, there could be 3 additional Community Access Points throughout the area based in the 2 most populous parishes outside of Bodmin, which are Lanivet and St Breward, and Blisland to give a greater access to people in the heart of the Community Network Area.

Map 2. The proposed Bodmin Community Network Area



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The combined populations for these parishes and Bodmin would be 16,170, and a mobile service could provide access for the harder to reach areas outside of these main service points. These access points would be manned by staff who would be able to assist community members with their queries and service requests in addition to the back up support of the 24hr call centre.

### **EXAMPLE**

*'Sarah Richards (72) lives in Cardinham, which is small village 5 miles north of Bodmin and 30 miles north of the county town of Truro. The total population of the parish is only 588, and the surrounding areas are rural in nature. She lives alone and is finding it increasingly difficult to get around. She relies heavily on public transport, and the recent reduction in the number of buses travelling to Bodmin has seriously reduced her mobility. She would like to complain about the reduction in services, and can do this by visiting the Community Access Point in Blisland, which is 3.5miles away. Alternatively, she can wait for the arrival of the mobile Community Access Point which arrives fortnightly in Cardinham. She speaks with a representative of the new authority at the Community Access Point and expresses her concerns about the cutback in services. This complaint is then referred to the local member, and if enough local support is evident the member will then lobby for additional services to be reinstated. Sarah is kept informed throughout of the process and the result is that additional bus services from Cardinham and its surrounds are incorporated into the Bodmin Community Plan. Once again, the complaint and solution remain local'.*

## **Influence**

As the example above highlights, there will be greater opportunities for local influence over certain service priorities. This will be achieved through greater recognition of local needs and requirements and the improved access to information and services through the Community Access Points. The 3 elected members within the Bodmin Community Network would then be in a position, in conjunction with their partners, to encapsulate these needs within the community plan. The community plan will represent the 'mission statement' for the area as a whole, and will be subject to local scrutiny to ensure that local development goals are being met.

## **Participation**

Public participation is crucial to the success of the Community Network Areas. The community network forums in the Bodmin Community Network Area would take place at the same 4 locations as the Community Access Points. These meetings will allow issues of concern to be raised as well as being a forum through which petitions can be raised. They are also integral to the formulation of the Bodmin Community Plan.

## **2.2 The role of Members**

Given the remote nature of the Bodmin Community Network Area, the role of councillors is absolutely crucial in ensuring that the communities that reside within this part of Cornwall have their views and concerns expressed at the decision making level. Given the increased remit that each councillor will have within their Community Network Area, including certain devolved services and greater scrutiny and oversight powers over 'strategic' service delivery within their area, their role in matching community plans to community aspirations will be of paramount importance.

The 'community champion' role of the 'frontline' councillors will develop over time into a position whereby people within an area will know both who their accountable representative is, but also what they can expect from them. The role of a councillor will no longer be that of a backbencher, who can sometimes be marginalised from the decision making process, but will be that of a strengthened community champion with genuine powers to make a positive impact on the wellbeing of the local population.

The local members will be required to attend the Community Networks, as well as local surgeries. The result of the community engagement and feedback will be the community plan, which will be a document outlining the key needs and requirements of the Bodmin Community Network Area's residents.

## 2.3 The Community Networks

The Community Network for this area will comprise of a convening board made up from the 3 local members, as well as representatives from important stakeholders from around the area who would constitute an advisory board.

The Community Networks will deal with the issues that have been raised either through petition, the Community Access Points, or through previous network meetings<sup>4</sup> and they will feed into the work of the Community Network Area committees and the final community plan for the area.

### Diagram: Example agenda for Bodmin Community Network Area Forum

**CORNWALL COUNCIL**

**BODMIN COMMUNITY NETWORK FORUM**

Date and Time of Meeting: **Monday 16 February 2009 – 7.00 pm**

Venue: **Shire House Centre, Bodmin**

**AGENDA**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – The meeting will commence with an informal session of questions from the public lasting up to 45 minutes**
- 4. ITEMS FOR DECISION**
  - 4.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 November 2008 (attached)
  - 4.2 Bodmin Library – Joint Usage with Citizen Advice Bureau (Library Manager/CAB Local Manager) (P1-P5)
  - 4.3 Highway Maintenance – Proposed Road Widen at Priory Road (Divisional Surveyor) (P6-P10)
  - 4.4 Community Area Agreement – Revision of 'Strong and Sustainable Community' Targets 2009-10 (Chief Inspector) (P11-P20)

**5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 Bodmin Transport Study (Divisional Surveyor) (P21-P31)
- 5.2 Installation of Flood Lights at Bodmin Rugby Ground (Council Planning Officer)
- 5.3 Off-Road Vehicle Usage on Bodmin Moor (Public Rights of Way Officer)
- 5.4 Effects on Retail Town Businesses on Proposal to Erect Out of Town Superstore (Chairman - Bodmin Chamber of Commerce)
- 5.5 Falling Rolls – Blisland Community Primary School (Head – Blisland Community Primary School/Chair of Governors) (P32-P34)
- 5.6 Proposal to Reduce Open Hours at Lanivet Post Office (Chairman – Lanivet Parish Council)
- 5.7 Outcome of children’s play strategy (Lottery proposals)

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 6.1 Update on Quarterly Crime Figures (Community Police Officer) (P35-P38)
- 6.2 Update on Extended Open Hours in Public Houses (Community Police Officer/Chairman - Licensers Victuallers Association)
- 6.3 Update on Proposals to Close A & E Overnight (Cornwall Primary Care Trust)
- 6.4 Summer Concert Programme - Lanydrock House (PR Officer Lanydrock House) (P39-P43)

**7. UPDATE REPORTS**

- 7.1 Feedback from Cornwall Council Meeting 23 January 2009
- 7.2 Feedback from Cornwall Strategic Partnership Meeting 3 February 2009
- 7.3 New Issues from Forum Members (maximum 5 minutes)

*(Please note Forum Members to provide written report 5 days prior to the meeting, no more than 500 words)*

**8. COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- 8.1 Bodmin Faith Network Meeting 23 February 2009 at 7.00 pm
- 8.2 Blisland Parish Council Meeting 5 March 2009 at 2.00 pm
- 8.3 Bodmin Youth Forum Meeting 9 March 2009 at 2.30 pm
- 8.4 Bodmin Chamber of Commerce Meeting 13 March 2009 at 7.30 pm
- 8.5 St Breward Recreation Committee 16 March 2009 at 6.30 pm

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE OF URGENCY**

**ALAN LEGAL**  
**Cornwall Council Solicitor**

NB: The meeting will be preceded by an information networks session commencing at 6.00 pm.  
Enquiries on this agenda to Anne Agenda on (01872) 322137 or at [anneagenda@cornwallcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:anneagenda@cornwallcouncil.gov.uk)

## **BODMIN COMMUNITY NETWORK FORUM REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Full Representatives**

CC Member Bodmin St Mary's  
 CC Member Bodmin St Petroc  
 CC Member Helland

Mayor of Bodmin Town Council

Chairman of the following Parish Councils:-

Blisland  
 Cardinham  
 Helland  
 Lanydrock  
 Lanivet  
 St Breward  
 Withiel

### **Co-opted Representatives**

Voluntary Sector Representation  
 Faith Representation  
 Economic Forum Representation  
 Local Involvement Network Representation  
 Housing Trust Representation  
 GP Locality Forum Representation  
 Cornwall Primary Care Trust Board Representation  
 Children Young People's Partnership Representation  
 Local Young People's Forum  
 Bodmin Chamber of Commerce Representation  
 Bodmin Licensed Victualler Association Representation

### **Support as required**

Community Development Officer  
 Divisional Surveyor  
 Heads – Bodmin College, local Primary Schools  
 Inspector Devon and Cornwall Police  
 Cornwall Primary Care Trust

Library Manager  
 Fire Service Divisional Officer  
 Other Council officers/partnership officers as required.

## **2.4 Partners**

The role of partner organisations, whether they are other public sector bodies or community based entities, is crucial in ensuring that all key stakeholders are part of the decision making process. Within the Bodmin Community Network Area, organisations such as the police authority, the Primary Care Trust, town and parish councils (both through their plans and participation at the forums), the North Cornwall Integrated Area Plan (IAP)<sup>5</sup> team, the Bodmin Town Forum, English Nature, school and youth representatives, and other local organisations that could contribute towards the development of the community plan. They would form part of the advisory board that would attend the Community Network forums.

## **2.5 Outcomes**

The community plan will represent the culmination of the work that will be undertaken by the key stakeholders outlined above, and will be a 'community goals' style document outlining the aspirations of the residents within the area. The plan will then, in turn, feed into the mini-LAA outcomes for the Community Network Area to ensure that measurable outcomes are incorporated into future strategy.

At a strategic level, the community plans and mini-LAAs will feed into the Cornwall-wide LAA and Cornwall's Sustainable Community Strategy.

<sup>5</sup> Integrated Action Plan

Part Three: **Case Studies**



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## 2.6 Devolved service delivery and support structures

As with all of the Community Network Areas, the Bodmin Community Network Area will have a specific set of needs and requirements that cannot be solved by a 'one size fits all' approach. As such, there will be different service requirements that will be linked to demographics, geography and socio-economic indicators.

The Bodmin Community Network Area is a largely rural area that benefits from the A30 running through it giving access to larger urban centres such as Truro and Exeter. As aforementioned, Bodmin Moor has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the rugged nature of the area is a tourist attraction.

Within the area, there is a high proportion of the population employed in manufacturing (29% compared to 11% for Cornwall), and average wages in Bodmin are below those for North Cornwall as a whole. Bodmin St Mary's ward is ranked the 15th most deprived ward in Cornwall out of a total of 134.

While there are many other indices that could be measured for this particular area, if one takes the above issues affecting the area as a starting point, the following services could be devolved or influenced at the community level to tackle some of the challenges:

**Public transport;** Some local discretion possible over the services operated and potential additional routes through locally managed budgets

**Countryside recreation and management;** Presently undertaken by local partnerships, there could be a local delivery element to nature conservation and parks management through a systematic and inclusive process

**Visitor information and centres;** Both could be delivered and managed at the local level

**Regeneration;** The Bodmin Community Network Area will have an economic development/regeneration plan specifically (although not exclusively) aimed at the most deprived wards in the area. This would take the form of a change document that sets out plans and actions in the area. Strategic guidelines would be set but there would be community teams dedicated to tailoring the plans to specific community requirements.

**Community and adult education;** Local discretion over delivery, hours, courses and location desirable in areas of need and deprivation. This would be delivered within a strategic framework.

**Environment;** Catchment sensitive farming and Water Framework Directive in partnership with other agencies could contribute towards sustainable environment targets for the area within a local framework.

**Childcare;** Evaluation of the provision of childcare for working parents in the area and the impact on employment levels. The Community Network would then be able to influence possible expansion of childcare opportunities within the area linking to children's centres and extended services.

## 2.7 Support structures

There will be a support network dedicated to supporting the role of the local members and facilitating the participation of the public and other partner organisations. The team will consist of a community development officer based in Bodmin, who would be supported by 2 administrative personnel. They would in turn be supported by member and professional services. The team would be responsible for supporting:

- The forums
- Developing community plans
- New Local Initiatives
- Partnership working
- Manage local grants
- Local capacity

Although the team would be based in Bodmin, the community development officer would be responsible for community engagement through the Network Area, and they would be available for surgeries at the 3 part-time Community Access Points in Lanivet, Blisland and St Breward. Along with the local members, the community development officers would become local champions for their area and would build up a local knowledge base of key contacts and community needs.

The community development officers will also have a key role in ensuring that each Community Network Area coordinates its work within the broad frameworks outlined through county-wide strategies. For example, it will be necessary to ensure that environmental management is coordinated with the Launceston Community Network Area and transport and economic development will incorporate areas such as the Wadebridge Community Network Area and many others throughout the county. This coordination work will be aided through the role of the 4 community development managers based throughout the county.

## COMMUNITY NETWORK AREA PROFILE

The 16 draft Community Network Areas are built from Electoral Divisions.



**PROPOSED COMMUNITY NETWORK AREAS**

There are 3 EDs & 3 Members in this area  
 Holland (Lib Dem)  
 Bodmin St Mary's (Lib Dem)  
 Bodmin St Petroc (Lib Dem)

**KEY STATISTICS**

**Population**  
 Population: 17553  
 Area (sq hectares): 18320

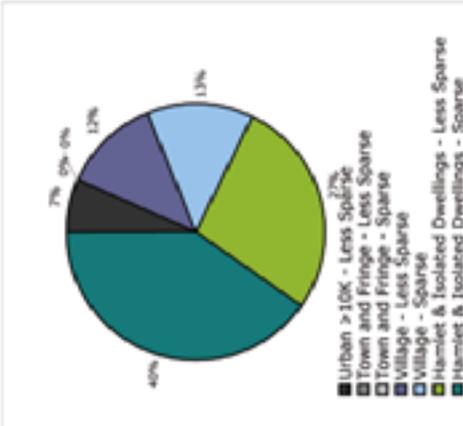
**Employment and Benefits**  
 % Full time employees: 69  
 % Part time employees: 31  
 Employment Sector (percentage):  
 Agriculture; hunting and forestry; fishing: 4.5  
 Mining & quarrying; electricity; gas and water: 1.9  
 Manufacturing: 11.1  
 Construction: 8.1  
 Wholesale and retail trade; repairs: 18.2  
 Hotels and restaurants: 8.6  
 Transport storage and communications: 5.2  
 Financial Intermediation: 1.3  
 Real estate; renting and business activities: 6.6  
 Public administration and defence; social secu: 4.9  
 Education: 6.3  
 Health and social work: 13.1  
 Other: 5.4

**Education**  
 % with no quals or level unknown: 12  
 % with degree: 41

**Housing and Services**  
 Number of Dwellings: 7,231  
 Housing Tenure:  
 Owned: 68  
 Privately Rented: 15  
 Social Rented: 3  
 Living Rent Free: 14

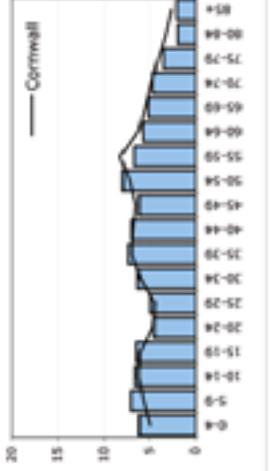
**Household Characteristics**  
 Lone Pensioner Households: 14  
 Lone Parent with Dependent Children: 7  
 Households without access to car/van: 20  
 Households with 2 or more cars/vans: 31

**Health**  
 People with a limiting long term illness: 65  
 People whose health was 'good': 21



- Urban >10k - Less Sparse
- Town and Fringe - Less Sparse
- Town and Fringe - Sparse
- Village - Less Sparse
- Village - Sparse
- Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings - Less Sparse
- Hamlet & Isolated Dwellings - Sparse

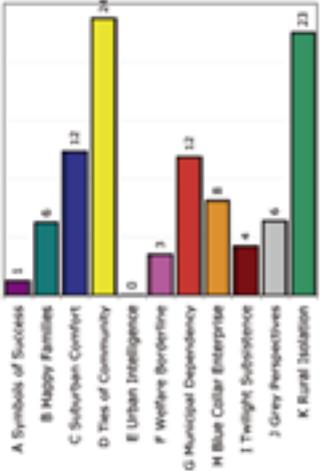
**2001 POPULATION (ACTUAL)**



**mosaic**  
 United Kingdom

Experian's Mosaic dataset is a consumer classification product that categorises households into 11 groups and 61 types, each of which has an associated profile.

**% Households by Mosaic Type**



**Key Features: D Ties of Community**  
 Young Couples  
 Children  
 Family close by  
 Older houses  
 Small industrial towns  
 Traditional  
 Close knit communities  
 Working family tax credit

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