**Information Gathering Template**

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| **Area** | **St Stephen-in-Brannel** |
| **Sub Area** | **St Stephens Coombe (or Coombe)** |
| **Local Style** | Coombe, near St Stephen, is a small village consisting of 120 dwellings, just 2 miles off the A390 and nestles in a valley situated between St Austell and Truro. The River Fal runs through the village. Houses are of individual style and are a mixture of bungalows, houses, of which some are split level, cottages and some social housing, consisting of two storeys and being mostly detached, semi-detached with some terraced properties. Older properties are typically constructed of granite and stone with slate roofs. Newer constructions being of block, slate with some adding cladding. Gardens in the main are at both front and back of the properties with some front gardens being given over to parking. No working commercial properties are present within the village with agricultural buildings being present on the outskirts. |
| **Scale** | Coombe consists of around 120 dwellings that form a linear/ribbon development along the sides of a wooded valley. Buildings do not project beyond the skyline and it is important that this is maintained so that the visual impact of the environment is not compromised.  |
| **History** | The Methodist Chapel and former village shop are now private dwellings. The village Sunday School building, later used by the Methodist/Wesleyan Society until 2014, was built by villagers in the early 1900s. The lease was taken over by Coombe Community Trust in 2010 and was opened as a community hall in October 2011. It is the hub of a variety of activities in the village. The Old Stamps and the remains of the old tramway and mining buildings are evident at approaches to the village and need to be retained as this forms the history of the former mine workings evident around the surrounding area – The Dowgas Adit, Wheal Marshall Lode etc. The Boconnoc Estate have had a long connection with the village and still retains properties therein. The Great Western Railway line runs through Coombe and there are three historical railway bridges and the viaduct present within the environs. In the centre of the village is the Coombe Playing Field which, in 2012, in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, became a QE11 PLAYING FIELD. This means that it is legally protected from development and will remain a playing space for the community forever. The Playing Field has a large grass area, children's playground and toilet block and is the venue for the annual Village Fete. There is also a tennis court with a hard playing surface in an adjacent field. This court is open for public use and is used by residents from the surrounding villages. These amenities are crucial to community life. Running along the base of the valley floor is a long meadow that is important for wildlife and has been the venue for the annual Horse Show – a tradition that has been in practice for well over 30 years. It is a beautiful meadow that is the physical heart of the village, surrounded by properties, some of which are historical (i.e. former Mine Captain’s House and The Old Stamps) but also under which are historical mine workings. This land should be not used for building or development and be protected and preserved for future generations. |
| **Setting, Skyline and Views** | As mentioned above, Coombe is a rural village nestling within a wooded valley. The views are of trees, fields and country lanes with a variety of footpaths/bridleways. The River Fal runs through the village. Any new building must be contained within the linear/ribbon development of the village but should be restricted due to the lack of services available – there are no shops, public transport links etc. |
| **Green Space** | Gardens in the main are at both front and back of the properties with some front gardens being given over to parking. Any new construction should include a garden so as to provide continuity. As already mentioned in the ‘History’ section, Coombe has an important community resource in its Playing Field and Long Meadow. The area is surrounded by footpaths and bridleways which should be maintained. |
| **Commercial Buildings** | There are no commercial buildings within the village. Most businesses being smaller enterprises and run from home.  |
| **Connectivity** | No public transport links at present. They disappeared around 2005 and the nearest bus links are either in St Stephen, Grampound or Sticker, all around 1.5-2 miles away. Although the main line railway runs though the village there is no stop/platform (either request or otherwise – could this be explored?). Superfast broadband is available within the village providing excellent connectivity and it is essential that this be maintained. |

**What do you like about this part of your area?**

The rurality, views, sense of community, sense of place and peace – being at one with nature but not too far from local amenities.

**What do you dislike about it:**

Lack of transport links – you really need a car to get around

**What needs to be Improved:**

Public Transport links