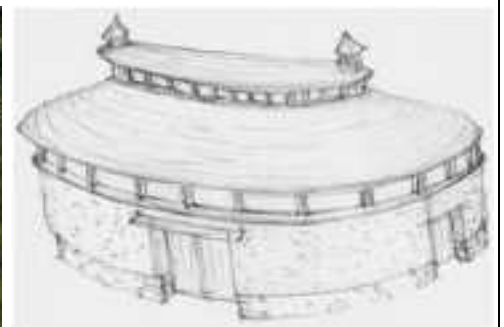


DOR KEMMYN OVAL

**A Building for Peace and Faith,
Penmount Crematorium, Truro TR4 9AA**

PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2022



Dor Kemmyn

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Cornwall Faith Forum

Dor Kemmyn Oval - Project Proposals for 2022

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Chairman's Introduction

As Chair of Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF) I am delighted to have this opportunity once again to offer our thanks on behalf of Cornwall's Faith Communities to Cornwall Council for the use of the Field at Penmount and the way that it continues to support the three core strands of our organisation - Sharing for Peace, Learning for Peace and Building for Peace.

Our special thanks go to Susan Cannan and her team for their practical support for the various activities such as the regular Faith festivals that have been celebrated at the site - particularly as I know these past two years have had many extra pressures because of the pandemic and the additional emotional costs on those who have lost loved ones and the knock on effects this has had on all those involved in caring for the bereaved.

The Covid Pandemic has also had a lasting impact on all of the Faith Communities with worshipping congregations in Cornwall. Government regulations meant services could not be held inside buildings and so each Faith has had to develop ways of worshipping together on-line and finding ways of maintaining fellowship via phone contact or using zoom!

On one level the on-line worship has lacked the spontaneity of being physically involved and connected at a sacred space, but on another level it has brought together a much more diverse geographical group than ever before and has allowed people with health concerns to take part in worship, when increasing infirmity might have confined them to the loneliness of isolation.

As we continue to emerge from the Covid Pandemic, many of our Faith communities remain unsure of the final legacy of the pandemic.

Some groups are back in their churches and mosques; others are still meeting on-line and some are doing hybrid. This mixed economy has influenced the CFF Trustees as they establish their aims in the future and as they reflect on the results of a recent survey of the CFF membership.

There is still a strong commitment from a large majority to the original vision of Dor Kemmyn, an Interfaith Centre for Peace, which will provide a dedicated sacred space for the many groups without their own synagogue or temple as well as providing a well resourced venue for the CFF faith-awareness training for schools in Cornwall. But there are some voices which are more cautious saying because of the Covid Pandemic we need more time to be certain of our future plans.

So CFF is looking for permission to undertake work on Phases 1 and 2 of our project proposals that would allow us to continue to develop and grow our current portfolio of activities while assessing the need for a substantial sustainable structure (Phase 3).

From the quotes that are included in our report it is very clear the field at Penmount which many of us now refer affectionately to as the 'Peace Field' has become a significant spiritual place. Those people whose communities do not have a dedicated worship building are especially grateful for such an inspiring site for their observances such as the Festival of Eid celebrated in May. The openness of the site means there is a lot more sharing at faith and emotional and social levels.

It is hard to think of a similar place anywhere in Cornwall that enables such a diverse group of people both those of faith and those who are not believers - to meet on an equal basis and to be

so fruitful. Cornwall Council deserves credit and thanks for allowing its property to be used so as to have created such a unique place. CFF trustees and members very much hope that the venue can continue to be accessible for such gatherings and give such a positive inclusive message to the members of many of our minority communities.

About Cornwall Faith Forum and Dor Kemmyn

The Cornwall Faith Forum (CCF) was established in 2006 and provides a voice for the worshipping faith communities and also for those without faith. Through a range of meetings and wider public consultations, it was evident that an Interfaith Centre would provide a much needed resource to the people of Cornwall. The need was to create a shared space for promoting mutual understanding, respect and dialogue about faiths between different faith groups and within communities

Discussions have identified the need to create a shared space for promoting mutual understanding, respect and dialogue between different faith groups and the wider community, including those of no faith. For most Faith Groups an Interfaith Centre would provide a designated prayer space for worship, as well as faith related community activities.

Interfaith Centres have developed over the past 30 years in the UK, and make a valuable contribution to interfaith understanding and support teaching and learning in schools and the wider communities. They provide a space for different groups to hold events and celebrations and provide opportunities for local groups to work together on areas of common need.

In Cornwall, it was thought that a shared prayer and community space was needed. The project name of Dor Kemmyn was established, in 2008, Cornish for Common Ground. A Dor Kemmyn Task Group was set up to identify the main services that would be needed. The Task Group looked at the details of Interfaith Centres in Plymouth, Derby and Coventry, and proposals were put together based on existing good practice elsewhere.



It was decided that there will be three strands to the work of the Dor Kemmyn Project:

1. Spirituality – providing a safe and quiet place for groups and individuals to worship and contemplate.
2. Education - allowing a [place for children, young people and adults to learn about different faiths and their spiritual, moral social and cultural values
3. Celebration – affording a space for sharing good food, creativity and fun for the well being of everyone.

Vision, Mission, Values and Aims of Dor Kemmyn

Vision

A spiritual place bringing together different faith communities and individuals for worship, meditation and celebration and where understanding between cultures, traditions and practices of faith, find future well being for all.

Mission

To be a space and resource in Cornwall for people of faith, and of no particular faith, to work together, to share knowledge and experience, to learn about and respect differences and promote understanding.

Values

Dor Kemmyn will be primarily for people of faith but will also have a wider community influence

Aims

Dor Kemmyn will be a place where:

- Individuals and groups worship and contemplate in a safe space
- Religious and cultural festivals and activities can be celebrated
- Children, young people and adults learn about different faiths and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural values.
- Events are provided to deepen inter faith understanding and co-operation
- Faith groups come together to establish friendship between people of different faiths and seek to break down religious prejudices and stereotypes.

The work of Dor Kemmyn

Dor Kemmyn will be a shared sacred space for individual faith communities to use for their own worship, for interfaith celebrations and for sharing stories, experiences and customs. Dor Kemmyn will support the community to build a better understanding of each other's faiths and beliefs and of each other as individuals. Most faith groups have no place of worship of their own

Dor Kemmyn will be a positive example of people working together as a community with the benefits that come from encouraging diversity and countering narrow minded and prejudicial views that lead to intolerance and discrimination

Dor Kemmyn Task Group

The Task Group has a membership drawn from the various faith groups in Cornwall. Consultation events have taken place and questionnaires have been used to establish the need. A number of events have also been organised, including Faith Walks and different celebrations relating to the various faith traditions.

The Task Group has also identified the resources needed, including the land required, the type of building that



would be suitable and the funding required. The group, in 2011, looked at various sites to build a spiritual/prayer space, one site being a 28 acre site at the Penmount Crematorium site at Truro. The prayer space has been designed as an oval building which will be acceptable to all of the different faiths and will be a symbolic and prestigious structure. Part of the Dor Kemmyn site will involve tree planting relating to the various faiths and a Peace Garden

In 2012 the Task Group agreed with Cornwall Council to locate Dor Kemmyn at the Penmount Crematorium. The prayer space will be called the Dor Kemmyn Oval and will be a Building for Peace and Faith

The Role of Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has provided help and support over the past 10 years with particular help from the staff at Penmount and the members of the Bereavement Committee Advisory Group



In 2012, Cornwall Council offered a site for Dor Kemmyn at Penmount Crematorium, Truro.

Ideas for the Dor Kemmyn site's development include the Dor Kemmyn Oval, as well as tree planting, a peace garden, a labyrinth and a performance area or amphitheatre.

On the site of the proposed Dor Kemmyn Oval, in 2012, 16 wooden posts (a woodhenge) were positioned to represent the location of the Dor

Kemmyn Oval, and over the past ten years this location has been used for prayer and sharing, every month, comprising between 30 and 50 people from all different faiths. Events over the past ten years have been organised by all seven faiths, as well as a range of community projects

Planning permission was granted and in 2020 an Agreement for Lease for the land at Penmount Crematorium, between Cornwall Council and Cornwall Faith Forum was made. The Agreement for Lease was given a longstop date of 1st of July 2022, and an amended land plan was part of the agreement.

The Pandemic (2020 until 2022)

The Dor Kemmyn site has been used throughout the Covid Pandemic, every month, either in person or by meetings using Zoom. The site has become a strong spiritual place for all those who visit it and has held a number of faith related events, over the past two years. Faith Trees have been planted and the Dome of Human Kindness (now removed) was often visited. A Peace Pole has also been placed on the site.

The Way Forward for Dor Kemmyn

Whilst there are a number of proposals, including tree planting and a Peace Garden for the site, this report will focus on the Dor Kemmyn Oval, a Building for Peace and Faith.

Due to the pandemic it has been difficult to develop the details building proposals and access the funding required for the undertake the building work

In 2021 a questionnaire was circulated to our members and people for all faiths, to establish the best way forward for 2022 onwards. The Questionnaire looked at a range of options including: the need for the Dor Kemmyn Oval and possible other types of buildings and other locations.

Dor Kemmyn work with a number of community organisations. Cafe Chaos in Truro has engaged with local groups to meet and share food with people from other faiths, including Syrian Refugees.



Most responses to the Questionnaire still felt there was a need for the Dor Kemmyn Oval, but also stated that possible cost savings could be sought, and also a possible smaller structure could be considered to enable some visible progress and increased use, to be made within the next three years. Most responses would also like to see Dor Kemmyn including the Dor Kemmyn Oval remain at the Penmount Crematorium.

It was also noted that the Dor Kemmyn Oval has been the only place in Cornwall, over the past ten years, bringing people of different faiths, children and young people and wider communities together. Being based near Truro provides relatively easy access to many people living in our large and rural county.

Quotes relating to the Cornwall Faith Forum and the Dor Kemmyn site

From Isaac Feldman, 18 from Cornwall School of Science and Maths in Camborne explaining why he attends the events at the Dor Kemmyn Oval:

"Faith communities make spiritual spaces to forge a sense of communal identity and to help them separate from the world at moments of prayer and celebration. When like minded people of all faiths and none come together to forge a sense of communal friendship and togetherness, when nobody's spiritual building feel quite right, on those occasions natural outdoor spaces help break down barriers. The Peace Field is a symbol of all people being equal within the natural world and it's the ideal location for Truro's interfaith groups to share a space".

From Noor Khadim, 17 from Truro College and part of the Islamic Community in Cornwall explaining why he attends the events at the Dor Kemmyn Oval:

"I would say that the peace field is vital because perhaps too often group meetings take place inside, where we are detached from nature. To quote Dr. Abdal Hakim Murad, "virgin nature is our most proper habitat in this primordialist and naturalist vision which sees the ship of faith as 'onboarding' nature." As well as providing this primordial setting for the essential discussions of faith and peace, it also provides space for our tree planting scheme. Trees occupy a strong position

in all the world's religious traditions and Islam is no exception: our prophet said "even if the Day of Resurrection were established upon one of you while he has in his hand a sapling, let him plant it." So to have a space to take part in these activities on a regular basis is a great privilege that I'm sure we all appreciate greatly".

These are quotes related to Partnership working with CFF through SACRE and Falmouth University: From John Keast, OBE, Chair of the Cornwall SACRE:



"I write to affirm strongly the work of the Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF) in helping to educate the children and young people in Cornwall's schools about the nature and diversity of religion in Cornwall and in the wider world today. The CFF works in partnership with the Cornwall Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in offering opportunities for youngsters to meet people of different faiths and come to respect their various traditions, including the Christian tradition in Cornwall. Such education is a vital part of preparing our young people for life in a world of different religions and world

views. Pupils from a number of schools and young people from a range of community organisations have attended event at the Dor Kemmyn Oval."

Katharine Nicholls, Senior lecturer, BA(Hons) Animation and VFX, Falmouth University

"Over the past two years, Falmouth University have been working closely with The Cornwall Faith Forum to make animated films about the Holocaust that will form the basis of a schools package, for which we are currently planning a Teachers Training Day that will take place on our campus in July 2022. We are excited that plans are currently underway to continue our collaboration into 2023, with the aim of expanding the project into a documentary about stories of survival in Cornwall. The work has been and will continue to be of great significance, not just to our students but to Falmouth University and the wider community as a whole. An event was held at the Dor Kemmyn Oval for students, faith groups and the wider community"

From Qudsia Ward, from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Cornwall

"The plans for the Dor Kemmyn Oval, multi-faith multi-purpose building which could be used by people of any faith or none, were inspiring. I joined in several cob brick building events and thought that the idea of making a community building out of traditional cob from the mud and stones of the field was so profound. The community involvement with both schools and local groups/ businesses coming for brick building/ team building sessions was exciting.

The use of the Dor Kemmyn site without a building has been interesting too. The Peace gatherings with people of different faiths and none, coming together to meet, to share their celebrations and special days has been educational and supportive. I have regularly seen people of different ages, cultures, languages and religions coming together and working together in a spirit of mutual co-operation and care."

Proposals for the Dor Kemmyn Oval in 2022

Phase 1

The 'Woodhenge' to be removed and the 16 wooden posts to be replaced by 16 Faith Posts, similar to the existing Peace Pole.) Each post will measure 100mm by 100mm by 1.8 metres and will represent each of the seven different faiths and other community organisations by showing religious symbols and messages. (Completion 2022)



Phase 2

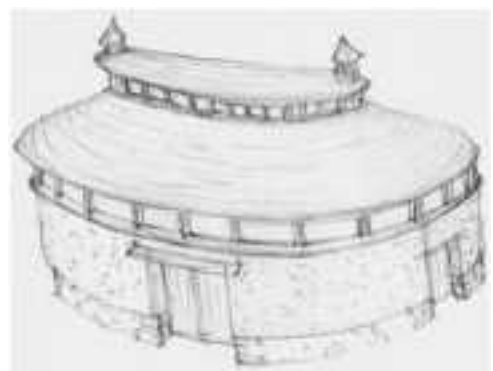
An open sided structure to be constructed on the site of the Dor Kemmyn Oval. This structure would comprise 16 structural wooden columns and two larger central wooden columns and a wooden framed roof. The size is as shown on the final Dor Kemmyn Oval Proposal. The structure



would be open sided and would have a canvas roof covering. The wooden structural elements would become part of the final Dor Kemmyn Oval (Completion by 2025) The open sided structure would demonstrate the further need for the Dor Kemmyn Oval, by its increased use by having a covered roof and also to enable stronger funding applications to be made, and further donations received from individuals. Phase 2 would also demonstrate a stronger presence on the site.

Phase 3

To construct the Dor Kemmyn Oval, as shown on the drawings dated 2016, prepared by Matt Robinson, a local Architect. (Completion by 2027). The timber framework from Phase 2 would be used to develop the final Dor Kemmyn Oval, with the walls being constructed with cob bricks, made by community, faith and other groups and organisations.



Financial considerations will need to be updated due to the delays relating to the Pandemic and also increased costs of materials and labour. However some labour costs will be reduced due to the involvement of volunteer efforts. The current funding situation due to the allocation of funding to address a range of need relating to the Covid 19 pandemic has made funding of community projects very difficult. However as the situation improves there will be more funding opportunities available. A number of Corporate and individual benefactors will be approached.

The Cornwall Faith Forum has sufficient funds to undertake Phase 1. There is part funding available for Phase 2. Further funding for Phase 2 and for Phase 3 will be provided from a range of Trusts and Foundations, the Big Lottery and Corporate and individual donors.

Conclusions and Recommendation

The Dor Kemmyn site has become well established as a spiritual place, used for worship and sharing information, and faith events to achieve unity and peace within our communities. Since 2012 it has been used for monthly events attended by between 30 and 60 people. A number of positive responses have recently been received relating to the importance of the Dor Kemmyn site.

Further to our recent 2021 Questionnaire, the results show that there is still a need to develop the Dor Kemmyn Project, and that the preferred location remains as the land at Penmount. The main focus will now be the Dor Kemmyn Oval and there are three phases to ensure that there is some immediate action on the site, followed by an open sided structures and final structure. All materials used will be sustainable and of high quality and community initiatives will provide some of the labour. The Dor Kemmyn Oval will be a structure of significance importance and beauty.

The Dor Kemmyn Oval has been the only place in Cornwall, over the past ten years, bringing people of different faiths, children and young people and wider communities together.

There is a need for continuing support from Cornwall Council to extent the Agreement for Lease for the Land at Penmount to enable the Dor Kemmyn Task Group to develop the three phases of the Dor Kemmyn Oval, by the stated deadlines.

Planning Permission will be sought for Phases 2 and 3 of the construction of the Dor Kemmyn Oval.



Appendix

A series of photos that illustrates how the Dor Kemmyn site at Penmount has become important to all of Cornwall's Faith Communities and also shows how it has been used to link to the wider Cornwall population.

Baha'i Community holds its cob brick making session



Tom of the Buddhist Community presents the Dome of Human Kindness



Planting of the Hindu Tree



Celebration of Eid with the Islamic Community



Planting of tree by South West Ahmadiyya Islamic Community



Reading the Jewish Prayer on the Peace Pole



Pagan Federation celebrate Lammas



Dedication of Woodhenge with Colonel Bolitho, Donna Birrell of Radio Cornwall and Archbishop Benson School, Truro



Thank you event for Cornwall's Emergency Services



Dedication of gifts and presentation to the Chair of Cornwall Islamic Centre of 'Welcome Packs' collected by Cornwall Faith Forum Members for the Syrian Refugee Families



Diversi-Tea!
Sunday, 12th June at 3.00 pm
at the Dor Kemmyn site
All Welcome!

Diversi-Tea

Afternoon Tea
A time of sharing tea together!



Sunday, 12th June at 3.00 pm
at the Dor Kemmyn Peace Field, Penmount, Truro TR4 9AA
(Penmount Community grounds)

Bring a plate of food from your home or faith tradition or a drink which is special to you!

You may also want to bring a chair/rug to sit on. We will have a gazello to cater for hot and wet weather!

All are very welcome. For further information contact:
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