

Tourism and Amenities Committee 2015/16

Cllr M Gregory

It has been a busy year for the committee and I would like to thank those councillors and members of staff that have helped on the committee. Plus a particular thanks for our Clerk, as without her help we would not be able to function.

This is a new committee brought about by the Councils reorganisation and in effect pulls together the Environment and Tourism Committees and as such has been an interesting year.

The following summarises some of the work the committee has been undertaking;

1. Tourism

The need for the TIC to modernise and also to become self-funding has dominated the committee this year. Those of you that have been in to the TIC recently will have seen the makeover and the new stock lines. Also to embrace the changing ways people access services and book accommodation a new website is just about to be launched which will incorporate an accommodation booking system.

2. Public Conveniences

This has been a busy year with regards to consolidating and improving the toilets;

- The guildhall refurbishment was completed to a high standard and the new ladies and gents have successfully opened.
- The West Looe square unisex toilets have been successfully completed
- The Seafront toilets have been completely renovated and are of course a vast improvement.
- The Hannafore toilets have also now been completed.

Although this has been costly, it was needed due to the poor condition in which we inherited them and the need to save money in the long run. As we have to pay business rates on the toilets we have now reduced the number of buildings by 3, whilst still maintaining adequate toilet provision. Further the refurbished toilets are easier to maintain and are more water and energy efficient.

3. Traffic Regulation Order

We consulted on potential changes to on street parking restrictions and the proposals for the new schemes were drawn up and passed to Cornwall Council for comment and pricing. Unfortunately what came back from Cornwall Council surprised us, as the total cost would be in the region of £68,000. We had a number of meetings with Cornwall Council, but little was achieved. We are about to consult the town as this level of funding was not in the budget and represents a large proportion of the precept, for in the most only slight benefit.

4. Devolution

Cornwall Council continues to consult on potential devolution, which includes services, such as weed spraying, (we have just taken out a contract for spraying) and assets such as Land and buildings. This is very important as this potentially puts us in a strong position to influence or control important assets for the town. For example the Library.

5. Benches

We have continued to renew many benches around the town including those owned by Cornwall Council. Many of these have been funded by residents to commemorate loved ones.

6. Emergency

Work on the emergency plan, which is designed to assist in the event of an incident/emergency affecting the town has progressed well.

7. Bathing water Quality

The investment program by SWW and the Environment Agency was completed in April 2015. This meant that the chance of a spill of sewage into the river during wet weather is now reduced. A lot of work was also completed with regards to sewer misconnections and surveys were also carried out on drains to spot issues with fats and grease. A public awareness campaign was also launched. Further a lot of work on catchment management with local farms was also completed. However despite this Looe beach failed to meet the new standard this year.

Work continues with all the agencies to further understand the issues and to improve the water quality. This is a multi-agency approach that is well supported.

8. CCTV

Our successful CCTV system has been further expanded to include the whole of Fore Street and on the first night of operation helped the police apprehend someone for assault.

9. Dog fouling/envirocrime

We have introduced new initiatives to encourage irresponsible dog owners to pick up after their dogs and as part of this our amenities manager is now authorised to serve fixed penalty notices with the assistance of our other staff.