

PLANNING AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

REPORT 2015/16

It was a difficult start to the year for this Committee as the implementation of the Cornwall Council paperless planning drew concerns from members of the Committee. This led to some members leaving the Committee as they felt this was a backwards step for them and the residents of the town. Yet those that remained have worked within the system to develop the new way of working that will I am sure be good for the Council.

Over the year the Committee has dealt with a good number of applications and has been in the main in line with the decisions made by Cornwall Council. At times we have had to agree to disagree with a few decisions, but have when needed taken applications to Committee and won the case. It is a credit to those still on the Committee that meetings have been concise in nature due to the pre Committee work done by the Assistant Town Clerk, Annette Keen and Councillors pre reading applications also visiting sites.

The changes for the Committee have come thick and fast this year and we must pay credit to the Assistant Town Clerk in developing the online capacity of the Committee. There is now a dedicated page on the Council web site which has direct links to each application to aid the public and Councillors to view applications. This includes fact sheets and information on the Article 4 Directive and Responding to Planning Applications in Looe, both of which were kindly written by local resident David Gamblin.

There has been a good start to the Neighbourhood Plan and I thank Councillor Hannaford for all her work on this. Yet without this important document we have developers looking at sites surrounding the town, which will need to be looked at by the Committee very carefully and consulted with residents.

Councillor Armand Toms