

Report to Looe Town Council November 2016

Planning training

We have held 2 sessions already in Penzance and St Austell which members from Looe Town Council attended. The last session in Bodmin on 15th December. the sessions start at 4pm and cover the following topics:

- Development in sensitive locations
- Practical tips for enforcement
- Cornwall Local Plan
- Work of the Planning Partnership
- Future planning vision for Cornwall
- Role of town and parish councils in planning

There are still places on the Bodmin session if any other member would like to attend.

In addition to the annual training conference, we are offering bespoke training to clusters of Parishes. I would be grateful full for your advice on what you would find of interest.

Environmental Growth Conference and Sustainability Awards

On Friday 2nd December there will be the following three events which Councillors are encouraged to attend:

8am-10am, Sustainability Business Breakfast, The Alverton Hotel, Truro.

Cornwall Sustainability Awards and the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce invite you to attend a special business breakfast with interesting speakers on how to embrace sustainability within the workplace. Tickets cost £22.80 per person, to book please go

to; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cornwall-sustainability-business-breakfast-tickets-28884702924>

Friday 2nd December 10.00am-12.30pm

Local Nature Partnership annual conference, The Alverton Hotel, Truro

This event will herald a turning point for the environment of Cornwall with its first ever Environmental Growth Strategy. You will hear from the Board of the LNP on the work they have been doing, how the Strategy was formed and how the action plan and toolkits will enable the Strategy to be adopted by everyone in Cornwall from individuals through to large businesses. We will have a number of guest speakers giving examples of Environmental Growth in action through Policy, Partnerships and Projects. Tickets are FREE and to book please go to; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cios-local-nature-partnership-annual-conference-tickets-28605306241?aff=erellivmlt>

6pm till late, Cornwall Sustainability Awards Ceremony, Truro School

Cornwall Sustainability Awards invite you to attend the black tie award ceremony taking place within a specially designed space at Truro School. This year's guest speaker is Mark Sullivan of Provenance Brands, which own Cornish Sea Salt, Warren's Bakery, The Great British Crisp Company, Simply Cornish and The Cornish Seaweed Company. The quality of this year's shortlisted entrants has been very high. Tickets cost £45 per person which includes fizz and canapes on arrival, dinner and wine with a disco and bar available afterwards. To book please go to; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cornwall-sustainability-awards-2016-tickets-26799174051>

Free WIFI in all libraries

People visiting any of the Council's 26 libraries will now be able to log on to the internet from their own tablet, phone or laptop following the introduction of free Wi-Fi.

The introduction of free Wi-Fi, which allows people to access the internet through their own phone or other device whilst in the library, provides a great opportunity for people to have free, instant, easy access to Council services online.

The introduction of free Wi-Fi in libraries is yet another way in which we are improving access to Council services and helping our residents get online.

Through the Council's online self-service, people can go to the Council website at www.cornwall.gov.uk and perform many tasks including viewing their personal council tax account information, managing and viewing their benefits, paying for many services, signing up for garden waste collections and ordering bulky waste collections.

Free computer courses

Anyone visiting one of Cornwall's libraries that doesn't know how to get online can also sign up for a free four-week computer course for beginners. Learners can now bring their own devices if they wish or there will be access to computers in the library.

So far, we have supported 550 people each year to get online at our library venues, with statistics showing that 85% of people attending a course are still using the internet six months later.

If anyone cannot use the online system to access services, then they can contact us by phone or if necessary a face to face meeting with an officer can be arranged at a mutually convenient venue.

St Ives judicial review of principle residency in new homes

We welcoming the news that the claim for judicial review submitted by RLT Built Environment Limited of the authority's decision to support the publication of the St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan and put it to a referendum in St Ives has been dismissed on all counts.

The judgement handed down today by Mr Justice (now Lord Justice) Hickinbottom means that, subject to no appeal being lodged, the Council will now be able to progress the 'making' of the St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

The decision also means that town and parish councils with similar policies in their Neighbourhood Plans will also be able to progress them. These will be dealt with on a case by case basis subject to supporting evidence and the relevant Examiner's report.

This is a hugely important judgement for Cornwall, St Ives Town Council and for the residents of St Ives who wanted to ensure that any new homes in the town would be the resident's sole or main residence and is a good day for democracy and localism.

We also know that a number of other local communities, both in Cornwall and across the rest of the country, are also interested in including similar policies in their own Neighbourhood Plans and have been watching this case with interest.

The St Ives NDP was the subject of referendum on 5 May 2016 and of the 47% of electors entitled to vote, 83% voted in favour of Cornwall Council using the St Ives NDP to help decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area which covers St Ives and Carbis Bay.

Immediately prior to the referendum RLT Built Environment Limited, a firm of architects specialising in residential development and design, challenged the Council's decision made on 17 March 2016 to proceed to referendum. The original challenge comprised 8 grounds, all but 3 of which were abandoned prior to the hearing on 6 October 2016, with the main

challenge claiming that Policy H2 – the principal residency requirement , was incompatible with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In dismissing the judicial review Mr Justice Hickinbottom said he had not been convinced by any of the grounds put forward by the claimants. “I do not consider any of the grounds strong – and I have expressly found some to be unarguable” he said. “I heard full submissions on all of the grounds, and I have given a full judgment. In all the circumstances, not without hesitation, I shall grant permission to proceed on all grounds; but, having done so, refuse the substantive application”.

this may have implications for the Looe Neighbourhood Plan.

East and West Looe Valley Trails

Here is some initial feedback from the public consultation sessions that have taken place in the last few days. Thanks to Cormac and Sustrans for producing really good display materials for these. Here's the headlines; please feel free to share with any key stakeholders / funders you represent on the Steering Group:

we have held open meetings in both Liskeard and Looe, had a focus group discussion with young people at Liskeard school, posted the consultation materials online on the facebook page, and distributed a survey to SECTA member businesses

- both public sessions were astonishingly well attended, with more than 100 people passing through in total and most staying for lengthy conversations with team members. This is a really unusual and pleasing level of engagement in this sort of event, particularly given that in both cases we managed to clash with other local activities
- feedback was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic. We spoke to landowners, heritage folks, cyclists and cycle businesses, horse riders, environmentalists and lots more besides. Many had great ideas and information to contribute and we now have a long list of people who are willing to support the future development of this project
- I only picked up five potentially adverse comments. Three were from walkers / wildlife lovers who were concerned about the Trail disturbing the peace of the West Looe valley, and all making different versions of the same point. The other two are specific reports of protected species at two particular points on the Trail. One, in Trenant Woods, is significant and we will have to work round this by planning the route higher up than we would ideally have liked. The other is unconfirmed and we do not currently believe it has any direct implications for the Trail route, but it is helpful to be aware of it
- neighbourhood plans in both Liskeard and Looe are including the Trail in their consultation drafts
- the young people at the school were also hugely enthusiastic, said they would really enjoy using the Trail including the section to Lanhydrock, and gave us some valuable detailed feedback on what would help encourage them to cycle more and what would get them engaged in the potential heritage hub at Moorswater.

So this together with positive consultations with landowners and Network Rail is giving me cause for optimism that we may emerge from this with a really good proposal and plan which has strong community support.

You may also be interested to know that Looe Town Council and Cornwall Council have now committed to funding the feasibility study in to the West route, thanks to Edwina's and Armand's joint efforts on our behalf. We still have a small funding gap which Edwina and I are hoping we can bridge with a conversation planned next week. LEADER, sadly, cannot

oblige unless we make a whole new application which will take months and months to process so we are holding off this for the moment.

Finally we have opened discussions with Heritage Lottery Fund and will be talking to them again in January about specific funding bids for the next phase. Thanks to a combination of Tamsin, Deborah and Phil for making this connection. The LEP are also aware of the project and we will follow this up to the same timescale, once we can be a bit more specific about potential economic impacts.

We have a meeting with Forest Holidays and The Forestry Commission this week to discuss financial support for the West Looe Valley Trail.

Please do get back to me if you have any questions, otherwise our next step is to circulate the options report at Christmas for discussion at our meeting in January (lunchtime Monday January 9th, details to be confirmed).

The Cornwall Local Plan approved

The Cornwall Local Plan was formally adopted on 22nd November 2016. It provides a positive and flexible overarching planning policy framework for Cornwall for the period up to 2030.

The plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2015 for examination and the inspector's report was published in September 2016. The Inspector's recommended main modifications have been included in the adopted plan.

The Cornwall Local Plan replaces a number of policies from the Local plans of the former [District and Borough Councils](#) and the Minerals and Waste Plans of the former [County Council](#).

There will be further training sessions rolled out over the coming months.

Planning should be about helping to meet the needs of communities and create better places for people to live and work. The Local Plan does not generate this demand for housing. The Inspector has concluded that the headline number is appropriate to meet likely need going forward and, using the policies of the Plan we must now plan for it. More significantly, we now have an opportunity to adopt a Plan that would give us a 5 year land supply and allow us to give full weight to the other policies of our Plan and allow us to create sustainable communities and not just housing estates. These other policies support economic growth and help provide the framework for 38000 jobs supported by the Strategic Economic Plan. It will safeguard our precious environment, ensure new development is of the highest quality that meets the needs of our residents and to plan for and deliver the infrastructure business and our community needs and wants.

Growth CAN be a force for good; it provides the investment needed to meet the needs of our residents. But we must shape and direct this growth appropriately. For too long, not having a plan, we have been bombarded with speculative housing developments that have damaged trust in our communities. We need to win over hearts and minds of our residents. Our mandate can only come from the needs of the people we serve. We need to reassure residents that Cornwall's Local plan and their own Neighbourhood Plans' can provide influence and control in Cornwall's and is in their communities best interests. The Local Plan will only be a success if measured against the following; creating better health and quality of life, protecting our special environment, making better use of our resources, provide the infrastructure to support development and by creating more and better homes, jobs and opportunities. With the Cornwall Local Plan in place we can begin to lead development rather than be led by it. Development should deliver OUR priorities. If we manage change positively it will be beneficial to the future of Cornwall. People make the change; the Local Plan will help manage it, sustainably.

Drainage works West Looe Hill

Following the camera survey earlier in the year, highways are now in a position to undertake drainage improvements to improve flow and connections. the work starts on 9th- 20th January.

All you can game event

I have been working with youth organisation Talent Match and the Real Ideas Organisation based in Liskeard on a gaming event for teenagers and young adults aged 11- 24 on Saturday 10th in Looe Library. It's a chance to meet new people and try new games. Games include Wii, Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokemon Trading Cards, Magic Gathering, Pokemon Go, Monopoly, Smash-up and loads more.

If anyone has a teen who may be interested can you promote to please.

The event is supported by Cornwall Council, Looe Town Council, Sheila's School of Dancing and the Mayor Cllr Armand Toms. I am looking for someone from Looe Community Academy to help promote this event within the school.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/527542950787528/>

Update on speeding Polperro Road

There has been 2 speed checks undertaken in the last month and one back in October. On average 22% of drivers were speeding.

A Speedwatch was undertaken on 4th November, Polperro Road between 1400-1430. During this time the PCSO's monitored a total of 35 vehicles coming down the hill and 6 of these were found to be above the speed limit, speeds ranged from 36-41mph.

A further Speedcheck was undertaken yesterday between 1420 and 1450. In total they monitored 42 vehicles and 11 of these were above the speed limit, speeds varied from 37mph to 44mph, the registered keepers of all these vehicles will be receiving letters in the post.

A repeater sign is being erected between Goonwartha turning and Plantation to remind people of the 30mph limit.

Please watch your speed because speed kills.

I have asked that a similar test is undertaken on West Looe Hill and that a speed visor test is undertaken after receiving some complaints about speeding.

Devonwall protest

Cllr Toms and myself attended the protest at Polson Bridge against the so called Devonwall constituency on 30th October in support of the motion passed unanimously at full council.

When we were there, there were around 150 protesters with flags waving, The speakers which included former MP Dan Rogerson, Norman Lamb MP and the Grand Bard if the Gorsedth.

The Boundary Commission have taken evidence from the council and members of the public and we await their initial response.

Weeding Bonson CloseAll you can game event

Cllr Toms, Rose and myself are planning a weeding party around Bonson Close and North Road is anyone would like to join us. We intend to undertake this in December.

Cllr Edwina Hannaford - Looe West, Lansallos and Lanteglos

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