

MAYOR'S REPORT 3rd April 2017

ELECTION

On the 4th May, 2017 there will be elections for both the Town Council and Cornwall Council which for you as residents are important. This for the town council is touched with a little sadness as a couple of our current council will not be standing and I thank them for their service and wish the well for the future. It has been a difficult four years and although the town has taken more responsibility for the towns assets, like the public conveniences which have been refurbished to a good standard which reflects well on the town. If you have experience in local government, business or purely want to work for the town please consider being a Councillor.

POST OFFICE

As you will know there were concerns about the closure of the Post Office in the centre of the town. This only came to light when the local Post Master put up a sign to inform us that it would be closing which was a great shock. After many hours on the phone by myself and the help of the local MP an agreement with the Post Office was reached that the current Post Office would stay open for three days a week until a new location could be found. The Town Council were an asset in the negotiations and agreed to help fund the transitional period. I am able to say that the Post Office is actively working with a local business to take on this function for the town and another is also in negotiations, so the future looks fine. When information becomes available I will make sure that it is known locally.

LOOE ACADEMY

I recently went to the schools production of Toad of Toad Hall and I must thank the students for their excellent performance. It was a credit to the school and I am sure that anyone who saw this would agree the acting was of a very high level. Thank you for the great night

OLD PARK LANE

Many of you will have seen the local press articles of the completion of the Old Park Lane development in the grounds of the old play school site. There are 15 units for people with a local connection and more importantly they are social housing at affordable rents. The builder Gilbert and Goode have done an excellent job with a good quality of finish.

RNLI AGM

I attended the RNLI AGM and was delighted to hear of the good work that is going on to raise funds to keep the boats and crew of the station well equipped and supported. The volunteer fundraisers and the supporters that staff the shop do an excellent job and I thank them for what they do. They say that behind every good man is a woman but behind every brave RNLI crew is the support staff and volunteers that take care of the day to day details of the station and fundraising. A successful year for the station and I ask the community for their continued support.

MARINERS GARDEN WALL

As you will know the Council has the ownership of the above asset for the town and is situated next to the Doctors Surgery and the bridge. Recently the supporting wall for the garden developed a hole in it and under investigation it was found to be unstable and the backfill behind it had been washed out. Engineers were called in to do tests and found that it was unstable and needed work to secure it. Further to this a full report was received by the council as to the works necessary to repair the wall including a full and detailed plan. This has now been put out to tender and three were received back and at a special meeting of the full council Collard Construction were given the job to do the repairs. We are seeking assistance in funding these repairs from

both the Environment Agency and Cornwall Council, I will publish the funds needed and any help we get so all residents know the costs to the town.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

This has been a busy year as Mayor and I thank the Council Staff and Councillors for their support in continuing with building a Council and Town to be proud of. In fact when deciding what to include in this report there could have been many more items to include in the last couple of weeks alone. On Monday the 13th March, I attend a function with the Looe Valley Rotary Club and had a great evening. There fundraising for all manner of charities is inspirational both locally, nationally and internationally. At the end of the evening I thanked them for the work they do and to my surprise they awarded me with the 2017 Community/Vocational Award. I thank them for this honour and I accept it as part of the town council and staff who support the work I do. Also I attended the Looe Old Cornwall Association AGM to celebrate their 90th Anniversary. After many interesting talks about the events of the last 90 years I presented them with a certificate for community service from the council. On Saturday last I attend the 150th celebration of the start of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society, which has a number of local members and was delighted to receive £50 from them for the Mayors Charity. Lastly can I thank all those who attended the Mayors Dinner which I am delighted to say was very well attended by community groups, charities and the town's organisations. The evening raised £2300 for the Mayors Charity and this will be distributed at the Mayor Making Ceremony in May 2017. Like everything in this town someone does up and beyond the call of duty and I thank Annette Keen for all her hard work to make such an event possible.