

Chairman of the Tourism and Amenities Committee 2017/18

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.

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

1. Tourism

2017/18 had been a year a productive and challenging year, this being the first full year without a TIC manager.

As reported last year the post of TIC manager was made redundant to halt the rising costs of running the TIC, whilst the income achieved from bookings advertising and retail sales was falling. The loss of this post together with a refocus on the types of goods sold has turned a deficit of over £30,000 to a small profit. A big thank you to all staff and key Councillors in enabling this to happen.

We have also been exploring the best way to move forward with tourism and the TIC for Looe which has included exploring the potential options for the running of the TIC such as forming a Community Interest Organisation. We have formed a working group which includes members of the public and businesses as well as Visit Cornwall.

2. Traffic Regulation Order

Unfortunately this is still ongoing due to changes in requirements and the need to reduce the cost to an acceptable level. The Council also had to decide whether the benefits outweighed the costs. We are currently awaiting the updated costs from Cornwall Council.

3. Devolution

Cornwall Council continues to consult on potential devolution, which includes services and assets such as Land and buildings. We have expressed an interest in a number of sites and were awarded a grant from Cornwall Council to undertake surveys to ascertain potential liabilities etc. Work continues with Cornwall Council on the future of the library and the potential for LTC to take it over. It is anticipated that an agreement with Cornwall Council will be reached in 2018 as to the future of the library and one stop shop. This work is very important as this potentially puts us in a strong position to influence or control important assets for the town.

4. Highway Weed Control

Different sustainable environmentally ways of controlling the weeds on the Looe streets is being investigated to not only cut costs, but to also try to stop using chemicals.

5. Plastic Free Looe

This has just started with a new working group being set up and a new steering group which included plastic free Liskeard. This is already moving at a fast pace and will have great benefits for the environment.

6. Bathing water Quality

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. Initiatives have included camera surveys of sewers and encouraging businesses to install traps to prevent grease entering the sewers which causes blockages and potential sewer spills. The Yellow fish campaign is also underway to educate businesses not to pour waste water down street gullies. The public information campaign to encourage people not to put anything but the 3 P's down the toilet continues. Further work on catchment management with local farms is also continuing.

The good news is that the bathing water passed the sufficient standard in 2017.

7. Public Toilets

Improvements and refurbishments continue, however we have experienced vandalism in the toilets with hand dryers being ripped off of the walls, toilet seats being broken etc.