

Report Looe Town Council September 2018

Profit sharing on Millpool car park revenue agreed

After a year of negotiations I have secured a contribution from the takings from the Millpool car park based on the increase in taking during town wide events like the Music Festival, Santa's Arrival, the Coco Cola lorry visit, Sailing Championships and Carnival Week.

The argument I made was that the investment and efforts made by the town organisations and the Town Council was contributing to an increase in revenue on the car park which the town not see a direct return on. This argument was eventually accepted when I collated the dates of all town events going back 5 years and comparing takings the week before and the week after to the week of the event.

This model showed an increase in revenue of around £18,000 per annum around these events.

Cornwall Council has therefore agreed to pay Looe Town Council this amount guaranteed for 2 years to be reviewed after 2 years.

Although this does not take into account intangibles like marketing of the town generally by the town council and businesses and weather plays a big part in car park takings, this is good news. The additional monies can only be used to fund activities on or around the car park so could include the toilets and grassed area by the Millpond and offset essential activities like weed control and street cleaning. It could even be used to pump prime new events using the Millpool car park out of season for example or in the Library.

In addition I have asked the Car Park section to model scenarios for a modest increase in parking charges (the charges have not been raised for 3 years).

Any additional monies raised by this levy would also come to the Town Council to offset the considerable cost of keeping our town clean and tidy and running the toilets and Library for example. Currently it costs £90,000 per annum to run the 5 sets of toilets within the town.

I envisage the new charging models will be considered by the town council and the town to assess whether we want to go ahead and which charging banding we would prefer to add a small amount onto.

The most popular ticket is the 1-2 hr and 2-3 hr ticket. I don't envisage raising the winter rates as we want to encourage people to visit Looe at this time.

Currently the 1-2 hr ticket on the Millpool is £2.20 and 2-3 hr £3.50. We will need to understand based on current sales how much additional revenue a 10p, 20p or 30p could rise would incur which could be passported to Looe Town Council.

I hope these modelling scenarios will be available for the Town Council to consider and consult on in October.

I would like to thank the Localism and Car Park team for supporting the principle of profit sharing with communities and the Mayor Cllr Toms for his unstinting support and assistance in bringing this scheme to fruition.

I suspect this approach will form the basis for other communities across Cornwall who also organise events that drive revenue increases on car parks to similarly profit share.

Currently Bude and Boscastle add a levy to their car parks to fund their toilets. This partnership approach is a welcome change in approach by Cornwall Council which starts to demonstrate partnership working and a recognition that local communities are actively working to improve the economy of Cornwall and create vibrant communities.

Parking issues Looe Fire Station

I met with the Highways officers, fellow councillors and the Cornwall Council enforcement manager to try and resolve issues of poor parking and lack of a TRO to stop poor parking recently.

Officers are formulating a plan of how to protect the access and egress of the fire engine and fire fighters. I have secured agreement from the chief Fire officer Paul Walker that he will fund any necessary TRO to ensure the smooth running of the fire station. We are meeting again on 20th at 11am in Looe Town Council offices to hear of the proposals.

Polvellan planning application and walkway

Cllr Toms and myself are meeting with the agent on 18th September so he can present the latest plans for Polvellan redevelopment and in particular the planning gain ahead of them submitting a full planning application. He will also present his ideas on the Highways connections and in particular the walkway below Polvellan that is currently closed. I am keen this walkway is retained and reopened. I have also received correspondence on a proposal to register the path as a public right of way, then the council has a duty of care to maintain the path. I have provided a witness statement and evidence on usage over the years to support this application. (I have a photograph of me in a prom with my Mother on the path taken when I was a small baby in 1960.) The agent has assured me that he will attend Looe Town Council to explain their plans. Currently he anticipates an application for phase 1 to the east of the site to be submitted by the end of September.

Millpool community Clean up

About 20 Volunteers cleared weeds around the play park, Harbour edge and the path behind the toilets on 28th July. The area had become quite overgrown and uncared for, but now looks tidy, my particular thanks to Cllrs Toms, Welch and Rose for their commitment and to Guy Cooper and his 2 daughters. Biffa collected over 25 bags of green waste. We hope to hold another clean up around the Millpond itself in due course as there was a lot of wind blown litter in the area and the weeds were quite high around the edge.

Council consults on what social landlord tenancy policies should look like

Ensuring that tenants have a secure home should be at the heart of all housing providers' tenancy policies across Cornwall.

The Council has launched a consultation so that social landlords, tenants and prospective tenants can have their say on what else the Council expects social landlord tenancy policies to include.

We want your views on the length of tenancies, how tenants move from one landlord to another as well as what advice and assistance should be offered to tenants to help prevent homelessness. There are also expectations around the setting of affordable rents and how different housing needs are met.

The consultation which runs until 14 September is on a revised Local Tenancy Strategy, which aims to encourage all social landlords working in Cornwall to provide a good mix of tenancies for residents that will help meet local housing need and improve choice in Cornwall's housing market.

Council apprenticeship opportunities

An opportunity to gain a degree in surveying while working in Cornwall is just one of many apprenticeships on offer through Cornwall Council this summer.

The Chartered Surveyor Degree Apprenticeship gives applicants the chance to be trained, supported and mentored to achieve a degree in surveying, while being paid a competitive salary.

Completion of the course will also achieve chartered membership of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveying (RICS).

The council will also pay for your degree and essential expenses, and ensure you have the time to attend university and to undertake training.

Apprenticeships in Human Resources Teams; in both Business Administration and Data Analyst roles; in our Neighbourhoods Incident Team, plus many apprenticeship vacancies within our Children, Families & Schools directorate working in Education & Early years are available.

The Council have taken on nearly 100 apprentices in the past two years, and are now looking to bring in the next cohort – including this fantastic chance to gain a degree while being in paid employment.

New food and drink carton recycling pilot launches in Cornwall

Residents can now take food and drink cartons and paper cups for recycling at seven Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in Cornwall thanks to a partnership between The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE UK) and Cornwall Council. In Cornwall an estimated 450 tonnes of beverage cartons are put out for waste collection each year. With the new bring banks available in HWRCs across Cornwall, residents are being urged to take their empty cartons and paper cups along with any waste or recycling that can't be collected by the Council's kerbside collection service.

The new bring banks are being supplied by The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE UK), representing its members Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc. The service is a two-year pilot being funded by ACE UK. All cartons and paper cups collected at the recycling banks will be taken to ACE UK's specialist facility near Halifax. Cornwall's Household Waste and Recycling Centres handle more than 80,000 tonnes of waste each year, of which more than half is sent for recycling. People have been asking about recycling food and beverage cartons for some time, so I'm pleased ACE UK are working with Cornwall Council to provide this service at seven of the HWRCs. Having bring banks based at HWRCs will allow people to bring their cartons and paper cups with them when making a trip to their local centre.

While we can't include this as part of our current kerbside collections we are asking the bidders for the 2020 kerbside collection contract to consider collecting additional materials, such as these cartons.

Cllr Mrs Edwina Hannaford