

Report Looe Town Council January 2019

Local Governance Reviews

Cornwall Council has powers under the the Local Government and Public Health Involvement Act, 2007 to conduct Community Governance Reviews of parish and town council areas and electoral arrangements, in accordance with government guidance.

A Community Governance Review may look at the whole or part of an area to consider one or more of the following:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (i.e. the ordinary year of election, council size, number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding); and
- the grouping of parishes.

A review should ensure that local governance continues to be effective and convenient and that it reflects the identities and interests of local communities.

The recommendations arising from any community governance review should deliver improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more efficient delivery of local services.

Local people can petition Cornwall Council to undertake a community governance review. When a Community Governance Review takes place we will publish a formal notice of the review and details of how to respond.

Town and Parishes have been asked to indicate if they would like a review with information on ratio of electorate to councillors and relative and D council tax levels with a fact sheet is being prepared to help with requests.

Localism and Devolution review of vision

Cornwall Council is reviewing the last 10 years of Localism and Devolution with a view to shaping next 10 years. A series of engagements will be commencing through the Community Network Panels over the next few years with short films made outlining the impact of devolution on service delivery in communities.

10 years of the unitary

Series of events to mark the 10th anniversary of the unitary is being prepared. From the Localism perspective, the impact on communities of devolution is being collated with short films prepared of what Town and Parishes have achieved.

One idea we are working on is a DIY Style project per CNA. Each CNP will decide which project it wants to support with all council departments and staff working together with community volunteers to make it happen.

Climate change emergency

A motion is coming to Full Council asking Cornwall Council to join with other Councils on a national level, recognises the need to urgently address climate change.

I am seconding the motion because I have seen at first hand the impact on our communities of Looe, Polperro and Polruan of climate change with ever more extreme weather.

This motion states the Council resolves to provide adequate resource and leadership to prepare a report within six months to establish how Cornwall can reduce carbon emissions within a timescale which is consistent with an ambition to restrain Global Warming to 1.5°C The context for the motion is based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) warned of 12 years to limit climate change to avoid a catastrophe. The special report

on Global Warming, published Oct 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. The report went on to say that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Some Parish councils have already declared a climate emergency and I hope to bring a motion to Looe Town Council urging us to take steps to minimise and mitigate the effects of climate change when we develop policies and actions,

Car parking charges

Charges in Cornwall Council-run car parks, prohibiting overnight camping in motorhomes in more car parks and changes to reserved permits are being considered under a range of proposals by the Council.

The Council today published a statutory notice inviting comments on proposals to:

- increase car park charges by 3.1% in line with the rate of inflation
- change Reserved Permits to reflect feedback, with prices to be tiered according to the number of vehicles a permit may be used in
- respond to local concerns and ban overnight camper vans in more Cornwall Council car parks
- amend the terms and conditions for drivers with Blue Badges

Full details of the proposals can be found on the [Council's website](#) and comments can be submitted up to 01 February 2019.

The proposal to increase charges will see some rates rise by 10p or 20p but with many staying the same. Income from car parking will enable us to continue making the best use of our resources and target funding to help maintain Cornwall's 7,300km road network. Cornwall's roads are some of the best in the country with the Council rated as amongst the top 25% in the country for keeping our main roads in good repair. Without the income from car parking charges, the Council would need to increase council tax to generate the same amount of funding.

Whilst we receive about £9.7 million net income from parking each year, Cornwall Council is spending £45 million on maintaining the condition and safety of Cornwall's roads and 2,700 bridges and retaining walls, as well as the car parks themselves.

Millpool car park Pay on exit barriers

Pay exit barriers are being installed on the Millpool car park before Easter.

I have also requested payment of the £18,000 contribution from the Millpool car park revenue which we negotiated as a result of demonstrating that our efforts in Looe promoting events and festivals has increased the revenue.

Potential parking levy Millpool car park

I also ask that we consider an additional levy on the car park charges who the Town Council will be able to keep to fund services in and around the car park.

A ready reckoner has been developed that could show what additional revenue could be achieved depending on what amount is levied. I recommend we consider the options and undertake some public consultation. We would only be able to use money raised within the car park area but it could potentially fund costs associated with the library and allied land the grassed area, boating Pond and toilets.

Community Chest

I have supported the Looe Societies Day with a grant from my community chest.