

COUNCILLOR ARMAND TOMS
CORNWALL COUNCIL AND MAYORS REPORT
1ST APRIL, 2019

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SE CORNWALL

Residents and businesses in Torpoint, Liskeard, Saltash, Looe and across all of SouthEast Cornwall are set to benefit after a co-ordinated regeneration programme for the area was supported at today's Cabinet meeting (27 March 2019).

Up to £4 million has been earmarked to invest in a series of inter-linked community focussed projects to benefit residents, businesses and encourage more visitors to the area including

- £1.1m for progressing the design work and business case for a series of cycling and walking trails in South East Cornwall to improve connectivity, support more active lifestyles and encourage more tourism
 - £2.3m towards a flood protection and economic regeneration scheme for Looe which will see Cornwall Council working with the community on designs which will form the basis of bids for further funding
 - £300,000 on further work to enable the regeneration of the Liskeard Old Cattle Market Site where the local community recently took part in a 'charrette' to decide for themselves their vision for the site
 - £250,000 for Kerdroya, a Culture and heritage led skills development project that celebrates 60 years of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Beauty, that will have a significant economic impact, including creating over 70 jobs. It will support locally trained workers to keep alive the skills to build traditional Cornish hedges and develop capacity in the industry so that Cornish hedging can be a part of other infrastructure schemes coming forward across Cornwall. It will also support the tourism industry in the area.
 - £50,000 to progress a Tamar River Links project to create improved maritime links focussed on the Tamar River for Saltash, Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula.
 - Working with the Town Council, this scheme links into a wider town centre and waterside regeneration project in Torpoint to include the old library site and the Torpoint Police Station building which Cornwall Council has already agreed to buy for £495,000.
- Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for planning and economy Bob Egerton said: "This investment is really good news for residents and businesses across South East Cornwall and it will bring long lasting benefits to the area. "It has been a real collaborative effort where local Cornwall councillors, town councillors and organisations like the Looe Harbour Commissioners have come together to work for the good of South East Cornwall. "It demonstrates how everyone has a part to play in improving infrastructure and facilities for their local communities."

I have got to thank a number of people for their work in making this possible especially the funding in Looe. The vision and foresight of the Looe Harbour Commissioners in getting the Wallingfords report completed giving the indicative plans for the flood defences. Especially the work of Tina Hicks and Colin Crabb in making sure that the the ideas in the plans worked for the town. The Cornwall Council officers Nigel Blackler and Adam Birchell who championed the ideas with many of the authorities and our local MP. Glen Caplin from the Local Enterprise Partnership who supported the project with funding that showed commitment for the project and Council Officer Phil Mason who gave the project the final push. Also the work of Looe Development Trust with Sue Brownloe and a band of others working to bring the Cycle Routes into some sense of order and a developable project. With the support of Councillor Hannaford and myself these local Looe project will now see progression to a stage where they can be designed and costed.

New Healthcare Permit parking scheme will help carers spend more time supporting vulnerable people in Cornwall

29 March 2019

People who receive care in their home and the carers who deliver that care are set to benefit from a new parking scheme being trialled by Cornwall Council from 01 April.

The Healthcare Permit Scheme is being launched as part of Cornwall Council's Positive Parking Framework. It will help Care Quality Commission accredited carers in Cornwall spend as much time as possible delivering vital care services to the person they care for.

Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for transport Geoff Brown said: "Carers have told us that being able to find a parking space close to the home of those they care for is sometimes a real issue for them. As they search for somewhere to legally park on the road, the time they have to spend with the person they are visiting is being eaten into. This new trial means that they can apply for a permit which will let them park on street for a limited time, even where there are single or double yellow lines."

The new scheme is being introduced for a 12 month trial period and means that around 130 Care Quality Commission accredited care organisations can apply for the Health Care Permit on behalf of the 4,000 carers they employ.

Anyone who receives care should speak to the organisation that provides their care to see if their carers may be eligible to take part in the scheme.

The Healthcare Permit parking scheme will work in a similar way to the blue badge scheme for disabled people. Carers will be issued with a yellow badge which they will be able to place in their windscreen, set the time and then park for up to an hour in many places where they wouldn't normally be allowed to park. Even with the Healthcare Permit, parking still won't be allowed in loading bays or at bus stops or on zig zag lines outside of building like schools and hospitals. Specific parking bays such as those reserved for disabled drivers, doctors, taxis or residents are also not included in the scheme.

There is no charge for a Healthcare permit which will be vehicle specific.

Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for adults Rob Rotchell said: "This is a very welcome initiative. At the moment, carers may be driving around looking for a space when they could be spending more time with the people they look after who rely on them for help with essential daily living tasks such as preparing meals and getting up and out of bed."

Caroline Sommerville, Registered Operations Manager, Bluebird Care Mid & West Cornwall said: "This initiative will ensure that our teams are able to work more effectively and enable the people we support to achieve their outcomes"

The move also has the potential to save money for Council tax payers. The Council currently spends £22 out of every £100 on providing adult social care. If some of a carer's time is freed up, then there is the potential for them to visit and help more people.

The Healthcare Permit Scheme is being introduced as part of Cornwall Council's Positive Parking Framework which is set to be a benchmark standard for local authorities who, like us, have aligned their parking policies and operations to the Positive Parking Agenda, a national initiative supported and assisted by the British Parking Association.

As well as the introduction of the Healthcare Permit scheme, the Positive Parking Framework plans include:

- Pay on Exit technology at twelve Cornwall Council car parks
- A review of the role of our Civil Enforcement Officers as better use of technology means that they will be freed up to visit more areas that are not currently frequently patrolled, to ensure that traffic congestion through illegal parking is reduced.
- Improved directional signage, contactless payment, discounts for residents and businesses, raising awareness of season tickets and other payment options.
- Mobile camera technology to help with more efficient enforcement or targeted enforcement around schools and colleges to support reductions in traffic congestion.

OTHER CORNWALL COUNCIL MATTERS

My work as Chair of Health Scrutiny has been a difficult one over the last month with a number of issues coming forwards that affect our area. The main one is the issue surrounding Oakleigh House in Menheniot closing and the committees work to make sure that Health are challenged and the right decision is made for users. Health are carrying out a full check on this matter and talking to the provider and patients so a good sound decision is made.

I have also met with Adam Paynter the Leader of the Council in Looe to show him the effect of the current works on St Martins Road. Having highlighted the effect on the town and its businesses over the sustained period of works.

MAYORAL DUTIES

I have today opened the Museum and during a short speech I thanked them for their hard work, not only have they been award winners in the Cornwall Heritage Awards they will be supported by a bid for funding which will transform the museum. The Neighbourhood Plan has started its first consultation round and the response so far has been a positive one. There are further consultation days to come and I hope that residents and Councillors will take time to read the plan and have an input into it. Having worked with the local police to highlight the issues around policing numbers I was delighted to attend a Special Constable recruitment evening, six possible new recruits turned up. The East Looe Town Trust clerk Judy Martin retired recently and I wish to thank her for her service to the town. At the RNL AGM it was great to hear of the hard work put in by the Crew and Volunteers to keep the station running. They are a credit to the town and worthy of our respect. Attending the Lions Presidents Dinner with Rayna I was asked to say a few words in which I thanked them for their work in the town. The Mayor's Charity had a positive boost over the last month with a Bingo evening raising £908 and the Mayor's Charity Dinner raising £2414. These were both great events organised by Annette Keen and Rayna, well supported by the community and of course the monies raised will go to local charities and groups at the Council AGM on the 13th May, 2019.

Finally the Town Council has taken over the library from Cornwall Council and for the short term residents will not see any difference. Later in the year the building will be refurbished and the Town Council will move to the building to combine with the library providing a joint service for the town. The area known as Sonia's Cafe and the old vets building come as part of the deal and we will be developing further plans for at least the Cafe area.