

Looe Town Council report November 2015

West Looe Hill

The Application at West Looe Cottage has been refused. I agree that the design is not sympathetic to the original. Unfortunately the roof windows were agreed during an application approved in 2012 so difficult to refuse now. I would like to see the window arrangement changed back to the original layout as referenced on Google maps prior to it being demolished.

Drainage

I toured drainage hot spots in West Looe where drains often become blocked. We inspected 2 drains in Bass Hill which has some detritus but we're not blocked. We also looked at drainage in West Looe Hill. One drain was observed to be blocked close to junction with Downs View. The drain at the top of Bass Hill on North Road was flowing but had some leaves blocking it. Like some drains in Barbican Hill they will need to be hand dug out, A gang will be in the area this week to undertake outstanding work.

I asked the new Highways Steward Mark Brewster to check all drains on a regular basis and specifically to investigate the standing water on West Looe Quay, This has been a regular issue for sometime. It will be jetted next week. Previous inspections showed that someone was routinely putting a bottle up the overflow on the riverside of the drain, therefore blocking it.

Leaves on paths

Cory have at my request swept Polperro Road from the Millpool entrance to Woodlands View. With recent high winds I suspect this will have to be undertaken again.

Hannafore bus shelter

The road marking for the bus set down have now been completed thanks to Cornwall Highways and the old bus set down by the bowling green have been obliterated.

Gwel and Porth retaining wall

The design for replacing the wall has been produced and will include piling at an angle to secure the wall and tie into the road. Work is anticipated to start in February. It should be noted that the road will be closed for several weeks and that the piling may be noisy. Resident's will be notified well in advance by letter.

Millpool car park

Following the rejection by Cornwall Councillors of a Cornwall wide residents parking scheme proposed by Cllr Toms, which I supported, I met with Kevin Bryant and the new marketing manager Matt Harrington to explore options for such a scheme in Looe and possibly Liskeard. It was agreed to meet in the new year to come up with options as it was too late to do this year as the parking order is almost complete with no increase in parking charges.

I also spoke to Cllr Biscoe who is keen to make better use of the car park during winter months with events. I think a snow sphere or a skating rink could attract visitors and resident's pre Christmas.

Free Parking in Cornwall Council Car Parks 5th December

Cornwall Council is getting into the festive mood with making its 118 pay and display car parks free on Saturday 5th December including Millpool and Riverbank car parks in Looe. The aim is to encourage residents to shop locally and to boost trade in Cornish towns.

West Looe May Fayre

A May Fayre Planning meeting will take place on 12th January in the Hannafore Point Hotel at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to get involved.

Cornwall Council report November 2015

Cornwall Design Review Panel Re-launches

The Cornwall Design Review Panel was relaunched in September at Cornwall's Green Build Hub at the Eden Project, following a successful recruitment drive to strengthen the Panel members. I attended the half day workshop and introductory session with the new panel members and welcomed their involvement and set them some challenges as a group to raise the quality of the design of new development across Cornwall. Chaired by Mark Pearson, the Cornwall Design Review Panel helps developers, architects and the local authority to speed up planning, save money and create higher quality places. The service works through a panel of experienced professionals (architects, urban designers, transport engineers, sustainability experts, landscape architects). They study the designs, listen to a presentation from the developers and their architects, discuss the proposals and provide feedback. Developers pay a fee to obtain guidance from the Panel and so the provision of the service does not place an additional burden on public finances. Local members are invited to attend.

Paperless Planning Workshops

We have held 4 workshops so far with Clerks and Councillors to assist with the move to paperless notification for planning in St Austell, Wadebridge, Penzance and Chacewater. Further workshops are scheduled for Liskeard, Bude and Roche. Immediately apparent from the first workshop was the wide range of computer skills of some of the Clerks and Councillors. In order to assist further with this we are working with our colleagues in Communities and Devolution to provide access to the some general computer skills training for clerks who need it. Secondly, that there is not a one size fits all solution. For example, a small Parish with minimal applications, realistically an A4/A3 printed copy would suffice, but for a larger Parish, they may need to consider using a laptop and projector in their meetings. Thirdly, you will never be totally paperless. Falmouth Town Council and St Stephen in Brannel, already paperless Parishes, were also in attendance and provided an interesting insight into the ways of paperless and how they have made it work for them. Myself and Rachel Smith, Customer Relations manager, have been visiting Clerks and speaking to Parishes in order to address any specific concerns they may have.

Biodiversity SPD

The council's Ecologist is currently producing a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This SPD will sit under the Cornwall Local Plan, and will describe how biodiversity is to be considered through the planning process. It will bring together the legal and policy aspects of biodiversity in relation development management, alongside best practice survey guidelines and case studies of good practice. The document will help to set out clear guidance for applicants, agents and case officers to help ensure biodiversity is correctly considered in a thorough but streamlined manner. Frequently Asked Questions and common planning and biodiversity pitfalls can

The Environmental Growth Strategy

The strategy has recently been out for consultation, with a positive response. We are making plans for a creative and ambitious engagement programme for residents in Cornwall and hope Members will engage with this positively in design and delivery.

Cornwall Local Plan

Following the suspension of the Local Plan Examination in July 2015, the Council has been undertaking additional work on the Local Plan and its Evidence Base. This work is required to meet the recommendations and requests from the Plan Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The changes proposed from this and other work will be considered by Cabinet and Council in December. Following this the changes will be advertised and responses presented to the reconvened Examination in late April 2016. Changes being proposed to the planning system generally by the Government's draft Planning and Housing Bill are still uncertain, but may have an impact as the plan progresses. It is essential that we have a plan in place as the Government has indicated authorities that do not have one in place by the Summer of 2017 will have one imposed on them by the Government.

The headline figure is now 52,500 which represents the objectively assessed need for Cornwall over the next 15 years and includes an uplift of 7% to make up for the loss of homes to resident's from second homes.

It should be noted that there are 36,431 completions and extant permissions since 2010 with a balance required of 20,672 up until 2030

The plan also provide for 38,000 fulltime jobs over the Plan period and 704,000sq. metres of employment floorspace over the plan period to help deliver a mix of 359,583 sq. metres of B1a office and 344,417 sq. metres of B1, B2 and B8 industrial premises.

The figures for the Looe /Liskeard network area.

Increases calculated on a pro rata basis across Cornwall.

Housing Allocation Liskeard and Looe

Liskeard 1,400 Completions 832 Balance 568

CNA residual 1,500 Completions 1,108 Balance 392

CNA Total 2,900

20,667 sq. m B1 employment floorspace

23,667 sq. m Other B employment floorspace

Sky lantern and balloon ban

Cornwall Council has agreed to ban the release of sky lanterns from its land and property.

Members voted last week to support the motion put forward by Mevagissey councillor James Mustoe with cross party support which including myself, to ban the release of Chinese lanterns, which are becoming increasingly popular but are condemned by many as a fire risk.

The dangers presented by the launch of sky lanterns and balloons to our wildlife and livestock both on land and in the sea should be obvious by now. It's no different from throwing a load of plastic bags up into the air not knowing where they will end up!

Conservation and animal charities have long backed a ban of the lanterns due to the dangers they pose to animals, land and property.

Sky lanterns are small hot air balloons made of paper and plastic, with an opening at the bottom where a fire is suspended. They carry a risk of causing a fire miles from where they have been launched and can be a particular menace to crops and thatched properties.

Animals can also get entangled in them or eat them, which can cause serious problems or even death. The motion to ban their release from council-owned land received widespread cross-party support as well as being backed by conservation groups, charities and many members of the public.

Historic Environment

I recently attended the "A Future for the Past? Heritage in the 21st Century" at the M Shed in Bristol. Historic England and South West Councils have worked together to develop this new programme to support councillors in their role as decision makers and advocates for their local heritage. The session introduced a tool for community planning called Know your Place which could be useful for neighbourhood planning groups to consider the importance of its past. By including local heritage in their plan, communities can ensure it keeps its vitality, sense of identity and individuality. With only limited resources available for protecting and revitalising this heritage, local action is now required more than ever. This approach could be something we could utilise in the Looe neighbourhood plan group.

Cornwall Sustainability Awards

We have received a record number of good quality applications this year with 96 completed applications. Categories include best managed small, medium and large business, best individual, innovation: tomorrow's contribution to sustainability, resource efficiency, sustainable food economy, sustainable built environment and environmental growth plus an overall winner. The presentation to winners will be held at the Headland Hotel on 4th December preceded by a business breakfast, in partnership with the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce. Sessions include "Why it makes good business sense to be sustainable", by Adrian Greet, Global Sustainability & Health & Wellbeing Programme Director, Mars Incorporation. CSA aims to encourage, reward and gain recognition for the excellent work businesses are doing to improve their own sustainability and that of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as a whole.

Cornwall Council votes to approve motion to lower the voting age to 16

After months of work, the full membership of Cornwall Council got to vote on the merits of lowering the voting age to 16. The PAC did not support the motion when it came to them to debate. However, as this motion was to the full membership, they had the final say. I supported the motion.

I have been a long-time supporter of lowering the voting age from the present 18 years old. At 16 you can serve your Country and actually go into a war zone before you can vote.

In 2014 there were 12,846 young people aged 16 and 17 years old in Cornwall. Nationally, there are 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds.

Lately, there has been a lot of debate nationally about lowering the voting age, including the House of Lords who have recently voted in favour of lowering the age in time for the European Referendum vote.

The Electoral Commission conducted a review of the voting age with a period of public consultation over the summer of 2003. The review reflected growing calls from a wide range of organisations to consider lowering the voting age in order to promote participation in democracy and to address the issue of disengagement particularly amongst the young. There was a lot of support to lower the age, but the Commission decided to keep the status

The Institute for Public Policy Research who in 2013 said that compelling young people to vote would help kick-start voting as a habit of a life-time. Though I do acknowledge that by allowing a lowering voting age will not solve the poor turn outs at elections.

More recently the independence vote in Scotland reaffirmed the need for change when a temporary extension of the franchise in Scotland allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the referendum. 80% of eligible 16/17 years old turned out to vote.

The facts are 16 and 17 year olds can raise families, pay tax and get married but are not allowed a vote. What does that say about our electoral system in the UK? By lowering the voting age would also send a clear message and take a significant step forward in recognizing the important role in society these young people play.

Cllr Wallis proposed the motion;

“Cornwall Council should lobby the Government to lower the voting age for all elections to 16 in time for the Cornwall Council Unitary Elections in 2017; or at least for Cornwall to be a pilot authority.”

During the debate member after member stood up to agree with the principle of lowering the voting age. In fact only a few stood up to say this was not a good idea.

There was cross-party support in the chamber.

The Members of Youth Parliament also did their part in getting this motion passed by gathering the views of young people. I was able to read some of them out at the debate. A few of the comments I received were as follows:

Lucie: “I think that we should be allowed to vote because it would make politicians listen to us, because they’ll want our vote.”

Abe: “I support votes at 16 because I would like to have an impact on my future.”

Evie: “16 year olds are forced to make incredibly important decisions about their own futures, voting is also an important thing that will affect their futures, so why shouldn’t they be able to vote.”

Annabelle: ” This general elections, I was not alone in being unable to have my voice heard due to my age. Despite the fact that I pay adult fares to get to work, and have to pay adult fares for attractions such as the cinema.

The vote was a resounding majority in favour, with only five against. With this motion now passed, a plan will be worked up, giving as much evidence as we can, and from that sent to the Government who I hope will move from their entrenched position of not lowering the

voting age.[Click to share on Twitter \(Opens in new window\)](#)[Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\)](#)

- Kate Kennally appointed as new CEO of Cornwall Council

Since Andrew Kerr left Cornwall Council for Edinburgh City Council, the Council has been seeking to replace him via a recruitment process. That recruitment process has now been completed.

From a shortlist of four, Kate Kennally, who is currently the Director People at Barnett Council, has been appointed as Cornwall Council's new CEO.

Her current role at Barnett has the responsibility for commissioning a wide portfolio of services including public health, children and adult services and community services such as leisure and libraries.

Her start date has yet to be confirmed because of working her notice at Barnet, but I expect Kate to take up post in the new year.

Congratulations to Kate on your appointment, and welcome to Cornwall Council.[Click to share on Google+ \(Opens in new window\)](#)[Click to print \(Opens in new window\)](#)[Click to share on POC](#)

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