

LOOE TOURISM PANEL MEETING

held in the Committee Room, The Guildhall, East Looe
on Tuesday 26th February 2008 at 7.00 pm

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENT

Chairman – Cllr. R. J. Overd
Cllrs. M. Joy and Mrs. S. Lambert
Mr. M. Camp – T.I.C. Manager
Mr. J. Sroczynski - SECTA Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

The Clerk – Mrs. A. Frith

54. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. J.R.B. Dingle and Mrs. F. Kenshole

55. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

The Clerk reported that a timer had been fitted to the window display lights to reduce the amount of electricity used.

The Chairman reported that the second quote from Gynn Construction to allow for 8mm glass had been received, the price being £2,037.00 plus VAT to construct the indoor porch.

Councillor Joy proposed that the quotation from Gynn Construction be referred to the Finance & Works Committee with the recommendation for acceptance, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lambert it was unanimously agreed.

56. TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMERCIAL MANAGER

This matter was referred to the Procedures Committee.

57. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE MANAGER

See attached appendix.

Councillor Joy suggested that the selling of tickets for Hall for Cornwall, Theatre Royal, National Express etc be followed up and commission on the sales ascertained. Mr. Camp will investigate.

Mr. Camp reported that the staffing of the Tourist Information Centre during the winter seems to be very successful but more research needs to be done as to what there is to do locally in the winter.

58. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE SECTA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Jan Sroczyński gave the report on behalf of SECTA.

After the AGM in January a new Committee has now been formed. New targets and projects are being set to move SECTA forward, one of the main ones being the Green Acorn Award which is being done in conjunction with Caradon District Council.

The early indications are that bookings and enquires are down this year so far, possibly due to lack of money available for holidays. SECTA are also very concerned about the continuing loss of bed space in Looe mainly due to the inspection system being too difficult. Councillor Joy informed Mr. Sroczyński that, from a planning perspective, Looe Town Council object to any applications made for change of use from Bed and Breakfast.

The question of non-inspected properties advertising in the Tourist Information Centre was raised again. The Chairman reminded the Committee that current legislation states that any Tourist Information Centre which is publicly funded cannot advertise non-inspected accommodation but this is being challenged and we have to await the outcome. Looe Town Council have decided to look at registering non-inspected accommodation with a “rider” stating that quality is not guaranteed.

The Chairman referred to the Looe and Polperro sign on the A38 at Trerulefoot, which directs people to turn left at the roundabout, but there are no further signs and the Rame Peninsula is not mentioned. It was suggested that another sign is needed before the Looe turn off on the A374 and on the A38 both directions before the B3252 turning to Looe.

59. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON GORSEDH KERNOW AND DEHWELANS

.1 Dehwelans

The Chairman reported that Mrs. Arkell is issuing the next Newsletter this week and the website is also up and running. There have been lots of enquires and twenty booking so far.

.2 Gorsedh Kernow

The Chairman reported that the plans are progressing well.

60. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

.1 SECTA

Mr. Sroczyński informed the Committee that the next meeting of SECTA is on the 28th February at the Hannafore Point Hotel and the speakers will be the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership.

.2 Taste

Mr. Sroczyński reported that previous Taste of South East Cornwall events had been very successful but it looks like the spring “Grazing on the Quay” event may be cancelled for reasons as yet unknown to us.

.3 Disability Cornwall

Mr. Camp informed the Committee that the Tourist Information Centre is now a member of “Disability Cornwall”.

.4 Park and Ride for Looe

The Chairman informed the Committee that the proposed park and ride scheme from Moorswater will happen but will take some years to put into place. Caradon District Council have “ring fenced” £80,000 towards the cost and this project is in the top five priorities.

52. **TO ARRANGE A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 7.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.