

COUNCILLOR ARMAND TOMS  
LOOE EAST WARD CORNWALL COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 2018

LOOKING BACK 2018

As Chairman of Health Scrutiny

It has been a difficult year with many of the service providers failing inspections by the CQC and the resulting re inspections and reports to the Committee. Although a committee of Cornwall Council we do scrutinise both services in Derriford Hospital and North Devon Hospital at Barnstable. These because 5% of the Cornish population use North Devon and 20% use Derriford. We have seen greater working together of services in Health and Social Care with more joint commissioning and the introduction of the Foundation Living Wage for Domiciliary Carers.

Chairman of the Looe and Liskeard Community Network Panel

The panel has received a number of briefings from services within the council, outside bodies and organisations. Each meeting has started with a speed dating event with topics from Highways to Environment with officers answering questions on these topic. This includes many questions form Town and Parish Councils direct to officers and there is a freedom for this to happen. We have also worked with a sub group on the Broadband and 4G in the area, this has shown that we are trying to improve the infrastructure of the area. This coming year the emphasis will be on Economic Development and this group will start work soon to see how we can work across the network area to bring extra employment and schemes.

As a Ward Councillor

Cornwall Council have been working on the Positive Parking Scheme and as a part of this the discussions were around the increasing of charges. These included the Looe car parks of Riverside and Millpool which on reading the papers would have seen increases of up to 500% in some cases. I was able through the constitution to stop this at committee as the Council had not followed the proper procedures held within them. I believe that the Parking department will come back with further ideas but at present I am told that in the increase for next year will be in line with RPI.

The Council have been working with Plymouth City Council to increase the charges on the Tamar Bridge and in the very near future they will be asked to endorse the increase in charges of 25%. This has an impact on the local population and doing much research I have found that for someone to work in Plymouth from our area it can cost up to £4500 a year to do so (Fuel, Parking and bridge tolls) I will be using the facts i have to fight this increase because it has an impact on our economy and businesses and may sway decisions to locate business in this area. When many years ago I stood and asked for the last raised in tolls in 2010 not to go ahead these was little interest from other councillors. Yet after sending out a briefing on this subject to councillors highlighting many facts the political parties have now picked up on this.

There are lots of other issues I have worked on this year from Homelessness and Affordable housing and many many others. My ward work includes debt from high cost

housing to issuing foodbank tickets, and even a number of issues with the police. We may live in a beautiful town and area but there is much social deprivation in my ward.

This is a short report and if you wish to discuss any of the local issues please contact me