

COUNCILLOR ARMAND TOMS
CORNWALL COUNCIL REPORT 18TH FEBRUARY, 2019

TAMAR BRIDGE INCREASE IN TOLLS

At the last Full Council meeting I spoke strongly against the proposed increase in charges for the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry. These increases impact on many local residents who work in Plymouth and act as a barrier to both businesses, visitor and residents. The bridge replaced the small ferry that ran at the same location and was built by Cornwall and Plymouth Councils. At that time the traffic flows were small but as the infrastructure leading to the bridge increased so did the the costs of maintenance. It also lead to the need to increase capacity and the costs go to the support of the Ferry. With the bridge coming up in the not so distant future to its capacity there will be a need for a second bridge crossing. With other bridges across the county becoming free it would be right for the government to support this crossing. I could go on and on but if anyone is interested I have many facts to impart on this subject.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACADEMY

I was delighted to be asked to attend and speak the event to launch of the above academy in Cornwall. The academy will enable people to train for jobs within the Health and Social Care sector as apprentices. This will allow them to train for the hundreds of jobs in this sector without the financial burden of university. With the needs for staff in both these sectors at times being critical this will be a welcome addition to recruitment. I will send around further post on this with more details.

COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL

It was great for the local Liskeard Looe Network panel to meet in Looe for its daytime meeting. With a range of speakers and information available it also drew a good number of local Councils and Councillors attending. As a speaker did not attend I filled the gap with the history of the town and the Guildhall, although not an expert historian I was surprised how much I could remember. The panel has set up a group along with the other community network panels in South East Cornwall to drive Economic Development projects for our area.