

POLEAN MASTER PLAN

Looe Town Council has now commissioned consultants to undertake a master plan including a delivery plan to redevelop Polean. A kick off meeting is planned shortly. This plan will form the basis of the Looe Neighbourhood Plan policy in this location and for future investments.

Looe Neighbourhood Plan

We had the first consultation on the draft plan at the Societies Day on Saturday with the formal Town wide consultation taking place from 18th March.

Some highlights of the plan include are outlined on the attached leaflet.

Cabinet investment in Looe and SE Cornwall

New proposed Economic investment in South East Cornwall and Looe

I'm pleased to announce that I'm backing a major package of investment in SE Cornwall which is set for approval by Cornwall Council Cabinet (of which I am a member) on 27th March. The meeting will be webcast.

The proposed package which we have been working in for some time, includes £3.5m investment in developing cycle routes along the Looe Valley to Liskeard, Looe to Lanhydrock cycle hub and Bodmin and Looe to Rame and Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

These routes could generate between £2 - £3 million new spending that would otherwise not come to the area, representing a growth of 4% in the annual market for tourism. As well as extra spending from new visitors, there could be several new businesses created including cycle hire and cafes at key locations along the route.

An initial feasibility report was completed in 2017 led by Looe Development Trust, through a steering group of local people including myself, which outlined the economic and health benefits these trails could bring.

The funding will further develop the projects to planning and engineering stages and in the case of the Looe Valley trail as well as some land acquisition.

Any development will have to be sensitive to the environment and will feature the health benefits of physical activity like walking, running and cycling as well as tell the significant Heritage story of the area. These routes will link into a coast to coast network of cycle/walking routes across Cornwall.

Further proposed investment is also planned to protect Looe from flooding and improving the towns economic resilience. This project has been driven by Looe Harbour Commissioners who have made significant financial investment in surveys and undertaken Town engagement events to build the case for Cornwall Councils investment. We have also been pressing our MP for financial support from Government. The investment from Cornwall Council will enable further detailed studies and planning permissions for the flood gate, walkway and pier extension. Cllr Toms and myself have been working hard together to get this £2.3m development project into the Councils capital programme which is now being proposed.

Looe has the unenviable record as being the most flooded town in England; Looe Harbour Commissioners have had the foresight to realise we must do something to protect the town based on climate change predictions.

We are also launching a consultation on the Looe Neighbourhood Plan draft plan on 18th March which supports these developments from a planning perspective. You can have a preview of the sort of policies proposed and give your feedback at the Looe Societies Day on 16th February in the Millpool Centre. The policies proposed are based on Town wide surveys and various consultations over the last 2 years.

Looe Town Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Cornwall Council have also just appointed consultants to produce a master plan for the Polean area of West Looe which will include provision for businesses linking to the cycle route and knock on businesses. There will be a Town wide engagement as part of the process with an emphasis on delivery.

Further investments are proposed in Liskeard Cattle Market, Callington and Torpoint Town Centres and the Tamar Valley AONB.

I'm pleased that Cornwall Council has listened to Cllr Toms and myself and proposed these much needed investments for our area. We are working hard with others to ensure more much needed investments are forthcoming.

Hannafore sea wall works

There have been concerns expressed regarding the Sea Wall at Hannafore with some displacement of coping stones. Structures are undertaking weekly inspections and monitoring has revealed no further movement occurring although a close eye is being kept on the area. The preparation of works to repair the sea wall is in the process of pricing for grant funding from the Environment Agency but in the meantime structures have instructed the erection of a safety railing and warning signs in order to protect the public.

SE Coast Path Talland

Following the landfall in 2014, works start today 18th February to reinstate and reopen the stretch of path at the bottom of Sand Hill. There has been protracted negotiations with the landowner. As we know this path is a favourite with residents as well as visitors so I'm pleased it's finally been resolved. The works should take 2 weeks.

Pay on exit Millpool car park

Works are underway to install pay on foot (exit) barriers to the Millpool car park. This should help with encouraging visitors to linger longer as they no longer need to rush back as their tickets run out. The 6 library spaces are outside the perimeter. At the same time I have asked that the short linking paths from the perimeter path running along the riverside have drop kerbs installed and am seeking clarity on what will be the payment arrangements at the very far end by Kilminorth Woods.

Looe Live

We have finally launched Looe Live the successor to Looe Saves the Day and Looe Music Festival to a packed room in the Guildhall last Friday.

We have already sold 500 super early bird tickets out of a maximum of 3500 in just 24hrs. They are

priced at £55 initially.

The festival will be widened to include Music, Arts and the Community. Although music will be the central core we want to showcase the best of Looe and it will be run by the community for the community.

We will have 2 main ticketed stages on Buller Quay and the beach, both will be covered. We will also have stages on West Looe Quay and in a range of pubs, hotels and cafes.

We are planning a community zone, an environmental policy with the aspiration to be a plastics free festival, a comedy zone and classical zone.

Our first headliner is The Shires a pop country duo one a few UK County bands who have made it big Nashville and are signed to Decca Records.

We are looking for volunteers to help us plan the festival as well as delivery the festival, you can register from the website www.looelive.co.uk

More headliners and bands will be announce due due course.

Bonson Close

I visited Benson Close with the managing director of Cornwall Housing Limited Nick Cross and the grounds contractor Alistaire on Thursday. A maintenance plan is being devised to properly manage the tress and shrubs which have become very overgrown. I also raised the issue of the slippery surface on the joining path between the top and bottom, this is the responsibility of Highways. If it is not cleared shortly I will organise another working party to clear. We cleared it last in December 2017 with the help if councillors but it's very overgrown again.

Climate change emergency

I am pleased that Cornwall Council has voted to declare a climate change emergency and that urgent action is required. A full gallery of supporters in the council chamber agreed that we must take action now. A report is to be prepared within 6 months and a call on Government to provide the resources to tackle the changes we need to make to address the emergency.

I intend to bring a motion to Looe Town Council in due course that Looe should also declare a climate change emergency.

A peaceful protest on Saturday highlighted the need for Government to take urgent action with communities like Looe on the front line of the effects.

Transcript of my speech in full council.

From increasingly frequent heat waves and intense storms to sea level rise and biodiversity loss, climate change is already impacting societies across the world and indeed in Cornwall, providing an uncomfortable preview of an unstable climate future. Climate change is an existential threat as it risks disrupting the remarkably stable temperatures that have allowed human civilisation to flourish over the past 16,000 years.

In a world marked by climate instability, much is uncertain. Disruption will come in a variety of ways: through upheaval of fundamental systems, including energy, food, transport and economics; from the impacts on human settlements, infrastructure and supply of resources; from societal, regulatory and attitude shifts; and from increasingly radical political responses to the crisis.

Rising global temperatures are having severe negative impacts on bees, butterflies and other

pollinating insects which could result in more extinctions of species.

This is a stark warning about the threat that our changing climate poses to essential pollinators - and the wider ecosystems and crops they support.

I know all too well the local effect of these changes, my own division has the unenviable reputation of being the most flooded town in the country. The storms of 2013/14 were a wakeup call for my community. £100,000's worth of damage was caused to the harbour sides that left our community vulnerable. Looe Harbour Commissioners have had the foresight to commission a study that shows in 50-70 years time, major flooding events could be every spring tide, that's every 2 weeks rather than 2-3 times per year as now.

Across Cornwall communities like Penzance, Polperro , Newquay, Boscastle, Polruan and Coverack are on the front line of climate change with more ferocious weather events.

Some of the arguments we hear can seem theoretical and scientific, but I believe there is growing evidence that these threats are real. I believe the future sustainability and resilience of our communities (especially our more vulnerable coastal communities) are at stake.

We need to bridge the gap between public understandings of the threat of climate change and current climate action. We need to understand the barriers communities face to make the changes required.

We need to engage with our communities and together understand the impacts and what we can do on individual and a collective basis. That's the basis of this motion, to start that conversation.

Cornwall Council is well placed to take this Leadership role with partners. Please support the motion for our children's, grand children's and great grandchildren's sakes.

Cllr Edwina Hannaford

Cornwall Councillor - Looe West, Lansallos and Lanteglos