

Looe Town Council report April 2019

Community Governance Review

The review led by the Electoral Review Panel reporting to full council has commenced its work agreeing the timetable and terms of reference.

65 town and parishes have expressed an interest in making changes. Some are minor like a small boundary change but others are more complex with changes to the number of councillors, amalgamating parishes for example.

The reviews are hoped to be completed in time for the 2021 Elections.

Looe Town Council have already voted to agree to Polperro Community Councils offer to make changes to the boundary on the Polean Estate. This will have to go through a more formal process but I suspect this will be classed as a minor change. We will have to ensure our respective neighbourhood plans are not affected.

Looe Live

The Community Interest Organisation is set up now and we have our own bank account. Ticket sales has been good and we have a limited number of early bird tickets left. We have announced 2 of the headliners The Shires and Fishermans Friends's with more to be announced in next 10 days.

We are having a community zone on the seafront to showcase the best of local talent plus groups and organisations, a classical and comedy zone as well as the main stage on Buller Quay and a smaller marquee housing the BBC introducing stage on the beach plus the Quayside Centre on west Looe Quay.

We are seeking sponsorship and still need volunteers for both the planning phase and over the weekend.

Looe Neighbourhood Plan

Our plan had its first formal consultation on Monday 18th March with the deadline open until 10th May 2019; we have a series of public consultations and I would be pleased to go over the key policies with members.

First feedback has been positive and supportive.

DROP-IN SESSIONS WHERE YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE WILL BE HELD AT;

- Looe Community Academy, Sunrising, East Looe – Tuesday 26th March – 3.30pm – 7.00pm
- The Millpool Centre, West Looe – Saturday 6th April – 10am to 2.00pm
- The Guildhall, East Looe – Wednesday 17th April – 11am to 3.00pm

Please do drop in, see the display that explains the Plan, and chat over the issues with one of the Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan Team members. Tea, coffee and soft drinks, biscuits etc will be available.

Polean Master Plan

I attended the kick off meeting of the Polean Master Plan. The work is set to take 12 weeks and there will be a public consultation as part of the process.

Extra Care Facility

Linked to the master plan and the neighbourhood plan policies, I am meeting with the portfolio holder for adults Cllr Rob Rochell and the adults service director to kick off talks about the delivery of an extra care facility in Looe. Our data shows there is a need of at least 50 units to serve our elderly and infirm residents.

Millpool Car Park

Work is nearing completions for pay on exit in the car park and it will be operational before Easter. The recycling banks will still be accessible without paying as a 15minute grace period will apply.

Update SW Coast path works Talland

The works at Talland Bay to reinstate the SWCP are now complete which is most welcome. The path base was installed at the correct slightly cambered level with revetment boards either side to contain the 25 tons of stone chippings that will make up the surface. Remedial works to stop water ingress to the cracking of the original surface have been made. All barriers put up previously for public safety have been removed and the section will be open and available for use once again.

New proposed Economic investment in South East Cornwall and Looe

SE Cornwall Package of Investment

I'm pleased to announce that a major package of investment in SE Cornwall was approved by Cornwall Council Cabinet on 27th March. The meeting was webcast so you can see my intervention.

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 town's 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 Council's 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 Council's 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.

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 which will benefit the whole area.

Cornwall Council administration

At the half way point of the current administration, the Lib Dem Leader Cllr Adam Paynter will give way to Independent Cllr Julian German. This arrangement was agreed 2 years ago. The Liberal Democrat Group constitution dictates there are annual elections held for Cabinet places and chairmanship positions. I'm pleased to confirm that I was re-elected to the cabinet. I will not know if I retain the same Neighbourhoods portfolio for another month but there could be changes at the annual meeting of the Council in May.

May Fayre

Plans are well advanced with the Fayre on 4th May. I would be grateful if any Cllrs are free on the day to help marshal the processional at 10.30am

We have a full programme of entertainment, dancing and activities in Riverside Church. New for this year is a paper plane making competition and green man trail.

Cllr Edwina Hannaford

Cornwall Councillor - Looe West, Lansallos and Lanteglos