

Mayor's Address - Town Meeting 2019

Draft Library vision and future vision for Looe Town Council December 2018

This year is probably going to be the biggest change within the council since the local government reorganization in 1974.

As most of you will know we have taken over the running of the library to save and improve the services offered and at the same time we are reorganizing the council to enable us to embrace the changes and fulfil our vision for the library and council.

As part of this we are after so many years moving out of the guildhall and into the library building.

As part of the devolution package from Cornwall Council we have also taken ownership of what was Sonia's café and the old vets building, which gives us the potential to further enhance the area for residents.

We are also looking at other devolution land and buildings to ensure they become/remains an asset to the town.

We will also be consulting shortly on the potential for the council to generate income from the Millpool carpark which can be used for the benefit and enhancement of the area.

Overriding Vision for the Library and Council

Our overriding vision for the library is to provide certainty over the provision of a Library in Looe that also serves the wider area surrounding Looe, especially for children the vulnerable and disadvantaged residents.

Our vision for the council is:

- To realign council committees along economic, environmental and social lines.
- To consider the future strategic role and structure of the town council in 'place shaping' and as community leaders.
- To deliver the Cornwall Council 2020 Library vision and universal offer, developing the facility as community hub.
- To encourage child reading and social inclusion
- To maximise economic efficiencies and provide the best service to serve residents and visitors we need a multi skilled, flexibility staffing structure with staff sharing some responsibilities. This approach will allow longer opening hours of the library and Council with efficiencies being made by sharing of roles and responsibilities and respond to the more commercial needs of the town council as a property owner.
- To provide a Community Hub combining the Library, Cornwall Council information Service with the Town Council and reverting the building to its previous use as a limited tourist information center

will mean that residents and visitors will have one point of contact for all their public service needs. It could potentially offer more services for local residents and visitors. Looe could offer a home for the registration service that was lost many years ago, provide a venue for job clubs, drug and alcohol advice or office space for business people or organisations to hold meetings.

- We will also be operating a 'pop up' Tourist Information Centre to meet our local and visitor needs.

This is going to be a busy year for both staff and councilors, but at the same time will see a massive step forward.

Cllr Martin Gregory
Mayor of Looe