

Full Council Report – Monday 9th July 2019

Millpool car park

I recently met with Craig Taylor to look at a number of issues in the car park.

There is still some work to complete for the pay on exit to be operational. The problem has been that coaches need the elevated machines aligned to their drivers window. The suggested exit was to be at the Pearn's car park end. However drivers parking on the double yellow lines outside the Millpool Centre have inhibited coaches from using this exit as they can't get the turning circle required.

We may have to consider hatched markings on the access road.

A few spaces have been already been removed to allow better turning for both access and egress of coaches and the raised machines will be installed by the end of September.

I asked that we allow more disabled parking spaces to take up the spaces set aside for the EV charging point. I also agree that a number of larger family size spaces could be added prior to any relining.

I raised the issue of the meters not always working. There are 10 machines in the car park and on one occasion 2 were not working. They have been fixed but soon they will not be required once pay on foot is activated.

The shrubbed areas within the car park are looking very overgrown and unloved. I suggest we ask that they are cleared out and that we will replant them with pollinating shrubs or plants and the area mulched with bark to keep other grasses at bay.p in line with our climate change emergency motion.

We discussed the building north of the bin area which had previously been used as a base for car park attendants. This is now longer used or needed. You will recall I have requested that the land north of the vets is transferred to LOOE Town Council under devolution and that the bin store is moved to the old coach turning area further up the car park.

This turning area is not part of the car park parking order so is often occupied by camper vans sleeping overnight and vehicles avoiding paying parking fees. I think this would be a good secure compound for waste. I hope that a street cleaners crib hut could be located next to the toilets.

Cornwall Council will be shortly consulting on revised parking charges so this would be good time to include a levy that would be retained by LOOE Town Council.

I hope that this issues can be discussed by the environment committee in good time to coordinate with their consultation.

Commemorative Benches

I have received a request for a bench to commemorate Paul Sleeth who sadly died recently aged 48 years. His friends want to put a bench on the grass in front of the Tom Sawyers flats where he lived and where they used to congregate. The friends are willing to pay for such a bench they jus need permission.

After doing some digging it seems LOOE Town Council hold a waiting list although I can't see that there has been any active attempt to accommodate these requests. The list does seem to be out of date and contact details sketchy.

I therefore request that the environment and devolution committee take a look at identifying additional site and offering them to the people on the waiting list including Paul Sleeth friends. Mike Becket and myself did a quick review and there is certainly scope to add more seats along the promenade without restricting access for mowing equipment.

Looe Live

Plans are well advanced now and ticket sales have been good. We hope to sell about 3000 which should cover costs. We held a fund raising events in Sunday to build our community chest which was very successful raising over £500 and gave a showcase for a band called Division who are all students at Looe Community Academy.

Looe Live would be grateful if Looe Town Council could continue to promote the festival and encourage people to volunteers. A 6 hour shift gives volunteers a free ticket. We would be grateful if the seafront, West Looe Quay and Guildhall toilets could remain open until midnight.

Summer reading challenge craft workshop

With Cllr's Penhaligan and Rose and the children we had a lovely couple of hours making crafts with the children. Thanks to Alison Banks for coordinating, she did a great job. I hope that events of this nature will be a feature of the Newley refurbished library to encourage young people to use their creativity and access books.

Parking on cobbles West LOOE Hill

I recently asked parking enforcement to clarify under what circumstance they issue tickets in West Looe Hill and Hannafore Road. This was Zoe Halls response.

Vehicles wishing to park fully on the cobbled area in West Looe Hill adjacent to the properties will not be issued a PCN, however if the vehicles wheels are on the restricted part of the highway, double yellow lines in this case, they will be in contravention of the restrictions and subject to a Penalty Charge Notice.

I am unsure if Paul has come back to you in regards to the extent of the highway, although I believe the cobbled area is part of highway maintained network, this is also the case in Hannafore Road with the concreted area. I understand historically there has been an agreement to allow parking on the cobbles, which the enforcement team have honoured. (To avoid any misunderstanding the agreement is for vehicles to be parked wholly on the cobbled area, not just "inside" the highway markings)

If this informal agreement continues to cause confusion it may be worth reviewing how enforcement is delivered, possibly to include the cobbles.

I have attached a couple of examples in both locations to demonstrate how enforcement is consistent across the town in areas such as West Looe Hill and Hannafore Road

The last line I am particularly concerned about as any removal of parking will effect residents adversity and just shift the problem to other areas.

Fire in bin Hannafore

Following a fire in a bin at Hannafore which seems to have been caused by a BBQ, James Chudleigh has arranged for a new Gemini bin to be installed and I have also asked James to arrange for a barbeque bin to sited at this location.

Waste contract Cornwall Council

The negotiations for the new waste contract are moving into the final phase with a final decision being taken by cabinet on 18th September.

The current Waste and Recycling Collection, Street and Beach Cleansing Contract is due to end on 31st March 2020, with no contractual option available to extend. This contract originally commenced in 2012 and is currently delivered by Biffa Environmental Municipal Services. The current procurement process is intended to secure a new contract for these services.

In order to accommodate the new service the capital programme is required to be uplifted by £64m to provide for the new vehicles to accommodate the enhanced recycling and food waste service and new containment provision of wheelie bins or seagull proof sacks.

The new contract provides for;

- A weekly collection of segregated recyclable materials
- A weekly separate collection of food waste (at the same time as recycling collection)
- A fortnightly collection of residual waste which cannot be recycled, limited to 180 litre capacity with a 'no-side waste' policy.
- Street recycling.

Changes to planning committees

Planning for the change to 87 members following the 2021 elections, there has had to be changes to committee sizes and frequency to allow for fewer members. In terms of planning committees the criteria for referring to strategic committee threshold will also be changed. In terms of the planning committees the three Sub-Area Planning Committees will be retained with a reduced membership of eleven Members and meeting at the same frequency and venues as currently;

2. the Strategic Planning Committee be retained with a reduced permanent membership of eleven Members with six meetings per year scheduled;

3. the revised threshold for strategic applications be approved, as follows:-

(i) large scale developments of 300 dwellings (or 4 hectares) on unallocated sites;

(ii) commercial developments of 10,000 square metres (or 2 hectares) including those relating to the production of energy; major road schemes in excess of 3 miles; or

(iii) strategically important developments (as identified by the Service Director – Planning and Sustainable Development or his nominated representative, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the Sub-Area Planning Committee for the area in which the development is proposed); and

4. the subsequent necessary Constitution changes required be enacted post 2021.

Remote voting

I am a supporter of a motion to full council on Tuesday to promote remote voting. Currently I spend about 2.5 hours a day travelling to meetings. Although some are we cast currently you can only vote if attending in person? This motion seeks to allow remote voting.

Cornwall Council is the largest Unitary Authority by population and the second largest by geography in the country.

The peninsular geography of Cornwall creates many challenges for local representatives. Travel time & costs, the impact on the environment, poor public transport networks and fragile road networks with frequent collisions and diversions makes travelling to meetings impractical and deters many from pursuing public office.

The geography of Cornwall restricts many from taking part in local democracy. Providing remote access and flexible ways of working raises productivity and lowers costs to the organisation.

While private individuals, business, and councillors using private networks embrace new technology, the public sector falls far behind with its use of tech and expectation that representatives still engage in the same way they did in Victorian times.

The motion is set out as below.

Cornwall Council

Notes that government has yet to deliver on its commitment to allow local Cllrs remote access to meetings made more than 12 years ago

Calls on central government to amend the 1972 Local Government Act and provide the resource needed to enable remote attendance at both voting and non- voting council meetings using appropriate technology to support inclusion by one and all.

Asks that central government considers Cornwall Council as a pilot in the use of remote attendance and voting at meetings and that central government provides the resource to do so

Notes the following quote from our PM - "I support what the local Truro MP Sarah Newton has been doing in championing connectivity for Cornwall; Cornwall's actually not bad for broadband compared to the rest of the country." Boris Johnson

Cllr Edwina Hannaford

Cornwall Councillor - Looe West, Lansallos and Lanteglos