

Rose beds Hannafore

Following my walkabout with Jon Mitchell back in September I am pleased to update you on planned works to the rose beds in Marine Drive/ Hannafore.

The beds have been neglected over the years and despite my attempts to keep them under control they do need some expert interventions. As ever at this time of year we will be subject to changes in weather, but officers expect to start on site by the middle of this week. The bed closest to the kiosk appears to be a mix of floribunda roses, but these are a bit stunted and not the healthiest of specimens. They are probably not the best roses to choose for such an exposed location. It is therefore possible that some of the roses/ gaps in this bed may need to be replaced. The other bed has predominantly trailing/ shrub roses. These are much more healthy but like the other bed but have to compete with brambles, old man's beard and other weeds. There are relatively close planting has probably made it difficult to get in and keep them weed free.

We will need to give the trailing roses a fairly hard autumnal prune leaving the 35 to 40 cm growth. This should give access for weeding careful hand dig out the brambles etc. On the other bed for now it needs only a light prune/ deadhead the roses sufficient to gain access for weeding, leaving a more substantial prune until the Spring.

After initial pruning it would need to be assessed to what extent of any replacement plants required. On completion of a prune the beds would need to be mulched, ideally with a manure based mulch. Given the still mild weather it is recommended a follow up visit 2 to 3 weeks after the initial tidy, with a further tidy and prune in the Spring.

I hope that these beds can be added to our devolution considerations so we can take local control of the maintenance.

Moor to Sea - Looe Valley Heritage

I have been a member of the LOOE Valley Cycle route for a while now. You will recall that CORNWALL Council has invested £3.5m to take the 3 cycle trails from LOOE-Liskeard, LOOE - Lanhydrock cycle hub and Rame to be next stage. These are progressing well with land acquisition and engineering solutions being worked up.

What is also being proposed is a community-led project to engage the local community in the Looe Valley with the heritage of the valley, closely linked to the Cornish Mining heritage and Looe Valley Line. Running from April 2020 for two years, the project will work with community volunteers, local museums, heritage and environmental groups, schools and community organisations to develop a programme of activities and events to increase and celebrate the community's engagement with its heritage, and to build the long term capacity of local heritage organisations.

The project builds on previous feasibility studies into the Looe Valley Trails which were supported by Cornwall Council, and on further work carried out through Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership which has developed a Heritage Activity Plan and enabled further community consultation. By leading on community engagement, the project will enhance future Cornwall Council activity to construct the proposed Trails.

The project will be run by Looe Development Trust.

An expression of interest for funding to Heritage Lottery Fund has been made which details the four main activity strands of the project: Valley Stories; Environmental Explorers; The Moorswater Story; and, Celebrating the Looe Valley. The project will culminate in a Community festival in 2021-22.

The total project budget is £148,071 over two years with contributions already agreed with LOOE and Liskeard Town Councils.

The World Heritage Site funding is agreed with applications in progress for the rest of the funding package, with the exception of the second year of the GWR CCIF, value £20,000 which hopefully CORNWALL Council can assist with,

We have had very positive feedback from the regional investment manager at HLF who is encouraging us to submit a full bid in January.

Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan

All the initial consultation responses have now been logged and reviewed with responses given. We have amended policies where there was an appropriate response and justified why we have not made changes. We have commissioned a tourism study to assess the accommodation market in LOOE and the impact of air B&Bs for example and future accommodation needs.

It is essential that the Polean master plan is now progressed with renewed vigour as we will not be able to sub it the plan to CORNWALL Council for compliance without it.

Now the new Commercial Director is in post we urgently need to convene a meeting to map progress to completion.

We have also submitted our environmental impact study for consideration to Cornwall Council and have reformatted our policies to better reflect LOOE climate change emergency declaration.

Spaceport

As portfolio holder for climate change I have been leading in the climate change emergency motion.

I voted against funding Spaceport in Cabinet and will be voting against in full council as I have seen no further information or arguments to change my mind. You may wish to view the webcast to see my intervention at September Cabinet.

My reasons are as follows:

The £12m could be better spent on climate change actions or creating jobs through investing in the circular economy and the environment

As one of the poorest regions of the U.K., should CORNISH tax payers be funding this?

The proposal will increase Carbon and is incompatible with the councils climate change emergency declared in January

No environmental assessment has been undertaken as yet to assess impact

There is no guarantee that launches will be for peaceful purposes and to monitor climate change

Despite the offsetting mitigation, the decision making wheel is still showing a negative impact.

Offsetting while important, does not offer a long term solution to the impacts of climate change. From a carbon reduction hierarchy perspective offsetting is at the bottom of the hierarchy. Avoiding, reducing, replacing are at the top as we move away from a fossil fuel economy and a more regenerative economy.

Forest for Cornwall

Forest for Cornwall is an ambitious tree planting project with the principle aim of fighting climate change. When complete we hope it will cover approximately 8,000 hectares - that's about 2% of Cornwall's land area.

The Forest for Cornwall is not a single area of new forest.

It's our ambition to significantly increase all forms of canopy cover throughout Cornwall, whilst strengthening the protection of our existing backbone of trees, woodlands and hedges.

Forest for Cornwall is a 10 year programme. The first phase from 2019 to 2021 will be core funded and coordinated by Cornwall Council to help catalyse the longer term partnership programme.

The first trees will be planted at a launch event on 29 November as part of National Tree Week.

The Forest for Cornwall is a new programme and we are developing a range of initiatives with partners to enable residents, landowners, schools and communities to take part.

Everyone can get involved in the following ways:

- Pledge to plant a tree as a part of the Big Climate Fightback with the Woodland Trust
- Host your own tree planting event with neighbours or colleagues. The Woodland Trust are giving away free trees for schools and communities to plant
- You can also apply for funding for community tree planting through the Council's Grow Nature Seed Fund
- Become a member of the Woodland Trust and / or make a donation to the Woodland Trust so they can plant trees for you
- Share the Woodland Trust campaign #EveryTreeCounts on social media and encourage your followers to get involved.
- Contact the Council's Forest for Cornwall team about any tree planting opportunities in your local area or if you have land available for potential planting
- A number of parishes have volunteer tree wardens. For more information about the Cornish Parish Tree Wardens Scheme
- You may also be interested to look at what the Forestry Commission are doing. Their mission is to protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/grow-nature/about/forest-for-cornwall-programme/>

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Cornwall Councillor - Looe West, Lansallos and Lanteglos