

## Report Looe Town Council February 2020

### **Museum Community chest grant Raddy family historic glass plate digitalisation**

I have contributed £200 towards a Crowdfunding campaign that Looe Museum are running to digitalise the many glass plates that Colin Raddy has in his shop. We need to do something before they are beyond repair. The Museum has a company that will help them and they have agreed with ELTT to use some of the Museum money towards this cost. There are at least 200 plates that have not been developed, and our aim would be to have an exhibition when they have all been processed and invite the community of Looe to come and look at photos which will not have been seen before. The cost will be between £1500 and £2000.

### **Do you love trees?**

I had a very productive meeting with the committee of the Friends of Kilminorth Woods last week where we discussed taking forward a **Tree Warden volunteering scheme**. This is all about making **trees** matter in your local area. It will enable local people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing the **trees** and woods that you see and enjoy in your community every day. Trees play an important role in tackling climate change by soaking up carbon dioxide and giving us oxygen, soaking up pollution, providing food and they look beautiful as well.

As custodians of Kilminorth Woods The Friends of Kilminorth Woods know all about caring for the natural environment and regularly hold events in the woods to foster understanding, maintain the woodland and ensure the trees and bio diversity flourish and thrive. They have agreed to be a partner in this initiative along with Looe Environmental Group.

We hope to attract residents who have a passion in getting their hand dirty planting trees, working with the community, being the eyes and ears and voice for the trees in our street.

Community involvement is a central aim of the Scheme.

Some Tree Wardens work with local schools or groups, developing imaginative projects to encourage others to value the community's trees and woods. Involving children and youth groups helps to reduce vandalism.

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative co-ordinated by The Tree Council. There are many Tree Warden Networks with Tree Warden Co-ordinators right across the UK helping local tree enthusiasts to get involved and care for the trees in their area. Tree Warden volunteers are usually appointed by local councils or other community organisations, and working together, Tree Warden activities and projects are often wonderfully autonomous, and tailor-made to benefit the local area and community.

The Tree Council invites Tree Wardens to Regional Forums where they can come together to network, share ideas and be inspired by presentations, workshops and the outdoor site visits and mini-training sessions.

Looe Environment Group are pleased to be a partner in this scheme. We have set a challenge to plant 1000 trees in Looe Parish over the next few years but we need help.

The Tree Council provides each warden with a detailed information pack free of charge and we are proposing to offer some awareness raising and training courses, as well as keeping in touch through email news. We are planning a number of events in the woods later in the Spring aimed at understanding better what a fabulous resource we have on our door step.

The Tree Warden Scheme gives people who feel that trees matter an opportunity to:  
Champion their local trees and woods, Plant and care for trees, Carry out woodland management, Set up tree nurseries using seeds collected locally Survey trees and gather information about them

Provide early warning of threats, disease, decay or vandalism, Involve their neighbours in tree projects, Get together with like-minded people for training and field trips  
Spearhead Tree Council initiatives such as its Hedge Tree Campaign to reverse the decline of trees and hedges.

These volunteers work closely with tree officers and conservation bodies, who are key to the Scheme's success.

Many Wardens lead guided tree walks - often as part of the national Walk in the Woods festival that The Tree Council organises each May - and give talks to local groups. Tree Wardens help farmers to lay hedges or tag hedge trees. They encourage local environmental improvement projects and plan tree planting as part of National Tree Week and the Forest For Cornwall initiative.

We are keen to hear from residents who might be interested in becoming a tree warden and want to find out more.

Tree Wardens need not be experts, only enthusiasts, and tree wardening can often happily be combined with other activities, such as taking children to school, exercising dogs and family walks. Some wardens have demanding jobs; others are unemployed or retired.

In the first instance email [edwinahannaford@btconnect.com](mailto:edwinahannaford@btconnect.com) if you are interested in finding out more.

The partnership is also planning an event in May within the woods for children and families to learn how to identify trees from their leaves, measure trees and learn about the life in the woods.

### **Looe Environmental Group**

The group would like to invite interested people to the next Looe Environmental Group meeting on 25th March at 7pm in Looe Library Community Hub. The tree warden scheme and a clothes repair cafe are also being planned.

### **Millpool car park pay on foot**

The 6 car parks operating pay on foot (exit) to date have resulted in over 80,000 intercom calls being handled by both the parking service and fire service teams since April, and this level of calls was never anticipated.

It is the case that by providing a direct link via the intercoms to personnel, instead of providing a telephone number (as with pay and display car parks), that customers are far more likely to contact our operatives. This has resulted in the Fire service undertaking a review of service provision, and the impact that this is having on their existing staff. The outcome being that the Fire Service have confirmed they are unable to handle any more calls with their existing staff at the moment, particularly over the weekend when the volume of calls are at their highest.

The parking service are currently discussing future staffing provision with the Fire service and are awaiting an updated proposal (estimated at £250k p.a). However, in the meantime alternative ways of operating the car parks out of hours are being investigated, in order to bring the car parks into operation as soon as possible.

Evaluation of the operational cover options, the Parking Service are now of the opinion that the out of hours operation of the car parks would be better managed within the service. Therefore, we are now working on a proposed new structure for the service, including the required resource to manage this back in-house.

Meanwhile, we intend to alter the operation of the car parks so that the intercoms are monitored between the hours of 07:00 and 21:00. Outside of these times, the barriers will either be lifted, or set as free to pass, so that vehicles will be able to exit the car park without the need to speak to an operative if there is an issue.

The intention is to monitor the intercoms during the above hours using temporary staff, until FTEs can be recruited.

I have been given assurance that the pay on exit charging will be operational by Easter.

### **Grants available for community groups**

I am inviting community groups to make applications of around £100 from her Community Chest to support their work locally.

Each year all Cornwall Councillors are allocated a fund of £2,000 to support local projects. Projects must be from properly constituted groups with bank accounts. Purely religious or Political projects cannot receive funding.

So, if you have a project that could make a real difference to our community then let me know. I'm going to give priority to projects building collaboration, supporting vulnerable or excluded groups or groups taking steps to make space for nature or tackling Climate Change. If applying for more than £100, your application will have to show how it meets my priorities. Application up to £100 can be for any project that helps residents living in and around West Looe, Polperro and Polruan.

To apply, email [edwina.hannaford@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:edwina.hannaford@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk) and in the email state VERY BRIEFLY what your project hopes to achieve and who it will benefit and an idea of amount of money you need. Also in the email, give consent to pass your contact details to the Council Officer who will send you an application form and process your application. The form is quite simple and the process does not normally take more than a month or so.

I am seeking application from communities in my division Looe west Lansallos and Lanteglos parishes.

I will also be giving preference to project who utilise the Cornwall Council Crowdfunder Cornwall platform.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/programmes/crowdfund-cornwall>

### **Liskeard climate change cluster workshop**

We held a localism Climate Change themed cluster workshop in Liskeard for Town and Parish Councils and community groups to collaborate and share knowledge, ideas and resources to help tackle climate change together Saturday 29 February<sup>(SEP)</sup> at the Eliot House Hotel, Liskeard. Over 80 representative from across SE Cornwall were in attendance. There was a great energy in the room with a wealth of exciting projects being undertaken. All these projects will be collated and posted on the Low Carbon website as an 'ideas bank'.

There will be five other Town, Parish and Community Group workshops held at different times and days of the week across CORNWALL to give everyone the opportunity to attend a workshop. If you are not able to attend a workshop in your area, please come along to one of the other workshops.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to hear what actions Cornwall Council is taking to tackle Climate Change and to discuss together what you can do and how you can develop your own plans. If there are other community groups who want to register their work please Email [communitynetworks@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:communitynetworks@cornwall.gov.uk)

### **The eyes have it – peering posters are on the look-out for irresponsible dog owners**

Looe Town council has already invested in the Keep Britain Tidy we are watching you posters but CORNWALL Council are now promoting this scheme.

It is estimated that one in every ten dog owners **doesn't** pick up after pooch has taken a poo. If that's you, a new campaign across Cornwall should make you feel more than a little uneasy. Cornwall Council has joined forces with Keep Britain Tidy to adopt its award-winning 'We're watching you' poster campaign. The focus is a pair of piercing eyes that actually glow in the dark. And their 'We're watching you' message has been proven to reduce incidents of dog fouling on pavements, parks, paths, playgrounds and other public spaces.

Countering dog fouling is high on Cornwall Council's **#Litterless** agenda, and the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued has jumped from 17 in 2018/19 to 84 in 2019/20.

And we really are watching you! Almost 2,000 high-visibility dog fouling patrols have been carried out since 2016. Also, 100 town and parish councils have been trained in using a new 'no contact report card' which makes dog fouling easier to report.

If reported they could face a £100 fixed penalty, or prosecution with a maximum fine of £1000." It has already reduced dog fouling by up to 75% in Portsmouth and other places, according to a Keep Britain Tidy report.

If it proves effective in the twelve test sites Cornwall Council will look at rolling it out more widely, providing signs and monitoring forms to more town and parish councils and also to interested community groups.

If you represent a town and parish council interested in being part of a future phase of the 'We're watching you' campaign should the pilot prove successful, please register your interest by emailing Business Development Manager James Peck on [james.peck@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:james.peck@cornwall.gov.uk)

## **Budget**

The proposed budget will go before Full Council for final approval tomorrow after approval by Cabinet.

The budget proposal for 2020/21 will see Cornwall Council:

- creating better paid jobs for local people, putting £10 million into the pockets of the lowest paid as the first South West council to pay the real Living Wage (£9 an hour compared to £7.70 national minimum wage).
- continuing to lead the fight against the climate emergency, with £20 million set aside for our climate action plan, including continuing to plant the forest for Cornwall, retrofitting homes to improve energy efficiency, changing planning processes to ensure the climate is at the heart of decisions made, and improving footpaths and cycleways to reduce short car journeys.
- improving care for vulnerable older people, investing an extra £20 million a year in adult social care next year - on top of the £7 million a year uplift we have already delivered.
- ensuring our children get the best start in life, increasing funding for children schools and families in Cornwall by a further 6%, and putting £13m of capital to improve school buildings.
- building more good quality homes for local people, with an extra 1,000 homes directly through the council.
- improving 4,500 miles of rural road, with an extra £10 million each year for road repairs for 3 years.
- investing in a new waste service to encourage every resident to cut down on their plastic and recycle more.

The proposals mean council tax would rise by 1.99 per cent, alongside the government's two per cent increase ringfenced for adult social care services.

Over the last ten years, we have changed the way we work to make over £380 million of savings.

A new £4 million fund is also proposed to help shape town centres in the face of changing shopping habits and new lifestyle and working patterns.