

Annual Report 2022/2023

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee over the last year has certainly been kept on its toes! As with previous years there has been a steady increase in applications which seem to get more complex.

Myself and planning members were extremely pleased to welcome Schanine Bonney as our new Admin and Planning Officer she has already proved to be a real asset to Planning, I have received compliments from the community on Schanine's efficiency and willingness to help with any enquiries she receives - I would like to take this opportunity to thank Schanine for her continued support to myself and Planning Committee members which is very much appreciated .

Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan 'NDP'

The Planning Committee continue to champion the policies adopted within our NDP as voted on by our community.

Key policies within the NDP are :

Principle residency clause

Affordable Housing for local people

Employment opportunities

Protecting and enhancing green spaces

Limited scale of developments (25 homes)

Respecting Looe's historic core

Land stability requirements

Local distinctiveness of design

Tackling climate change

Improving infrastructure

One very important policy within the plan is the requirement to have a 'Land Stability' report submitted where applicable to ensure new developments are safe which therefore gives reassurance and confidence to our community .

We as a committee are always conscious of steering property owners and developers in the direction of the NDP so that they can fully appreciate the intentions of the plan in terms of the policy context that will be quoted during the planning process from ourselves as a consultee.

Cornwall Council - Planning

Planning Committee members and I continue to challenge Cornwall Council's handling of planning applications in Looe, we feel that's it is very important that planning officers fully understand the adopted neighbourhood development plan to ensure that Looe moves in the right directions in terms of new development and try to retain the important features that can still be found within our conservation area. This is proving to be a challenging task!

Central Government - Minister of State for Levelling Up 'Housing and Communities'

Representation has been made by the Planning Committee to The RT Hon Rachel Maclean - Minister of State for Levelling Up 'Housing and Communities' with regards to Cornwall Council's handling of Neighbourhood Development Plans, we feel there is a poor understanding of the legal position of an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan which is set out within the Localism Act Regulations. We continue to liaise with the Minister of State for Levelling up's representation and await what we would call a satisfactory response.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity of thanking David Gamblin - Looe Strategy Group for his advice and engagement in Looe's planning applications and of course to all Planning members for their support and commitment.

Cllr James Lundy- Planning Chair