

## **Cllr Edwina Hannaford Cornwall Council report Looe West**

### **Casework**

Although I have not been able to attend any formal meetings of Cornwall Council, I continue to undertake case work. In the main this is housing related. The severe lack of affordable housing is now being exacerbated by temporary accommodation at Tenecreek being vacated as they start to take summer bookings from visitors.

Other issues are planning, dog mess and parking.

I am very grateful to Cllr Toms and Martin for helping with casework. I still read all reports from Cornwall Council and have attended some online briefings.

### **Visitor Accommodation registration scheme**

It's a ridiculous situation that holiday makers enjoy their holidays in local people's homes; local people and homeless are put up in caravan/ holiday parks and hotels. Asylum seekers in hotels or worse.

Over a few decades, a topsy-turvy housing/ property market has emerged which is hard to tip back up the right way. Short term lets are often cited as a leading cause of local homelessness. The government want to hear views on the design of a registration scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-a-registration-scheme-for-short-term-lets-in-england/consultation-on-a-registration-scheme-for-short-term-lets-in-england>

The consultation suggests Homeowners would need to get planning permission before converting properties into short-term holiday lets in tourist hotspots, aimed at easing housing problems.

There could be exemptions based on how often a home was available to tourists.

Although holiday accommodation in places like Looe is an important part of the economy, I believe there has been a tipping point that needs addressing. I would particularly want those operating "under the radar" not paying business rates, not using a trade waste collection, having proper insurance or paying tax are regulated so a level playing field is established.

Many residents are being pushed out of their hometowns or having to pay

Exorbitant rents

The number of holiday lets rose by 40% between 2018 and 2021 in Cornwall.

The government says the measures are focused on short-term lets and would not affect hotels, hostels or B&Bs. It's disappointing that it's taken so long to get to this point when many have been campaigning for this for many years. I certainly was calling for this as far back in 2002.

Under the consultation, the government is expected to set a rental period of between 30 and 90 days before a homeowner would need to apply for planning permission to change the property's primary use.

Homeowners would then have to seek permission from the local council to reclassify their property as a short-term let.

The new rules would allow Cornwall Council to see how much local housing stock is taken up by temporary lets. Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan group collated data through a tourism

Insights study on this which can be viewed

here. [https://www.futurelooe.town/mobile/plan\\_evidencebase.php?id=56](https://www.futurelooe.town/mobile/plan_evidencebase.php?id=56)

### **Mayor for Cornwall Time for meaningful devolution for Cornwall:**

Council Leader Linda Taylor has abandoned plans for a Mayor for Cornwall. It's time to have a bigger and bolder devolution deal without the need for a Mayor.

Councillors have spent months arguing about whether the package of extra funding and powers being offered by Government were worth the democratic sacrifice of having a Mayor who could not be challenged by locally elected representatives.

The U-turn is a perfect illustration of a Leader being forced to listen to the voices of backbench Councillors. Her previous public statements made it clear that she was willing to ignore thousands of people who responded to a public consultation, but under our current system, she could not ignore elected Councillors. The only reason she has backed down is that she knows she doesn't have the votes to get her plan through Council. A Directly Elected Mayor

would face no such checks and balances, which is why so many members opposed the change, along with town and parish councils.

So, what next for Devolution? Everyone (including the Conservatives) agreed that these powers and funds were good for Cornwall, so it is wrong to take them away simply because we don't want a Directly Elected Mayor. If the Conservative Government punish Cornwall by taking away the things, we all agree that Cornwall needs, then the voters should hold them accountable at the next election.

I have long supported giving Cornwall the same level of devolved powers and funding as Wales. A Cornish Assembly, with permanent control of a fixed share of the national budget, led by members elected under a fair voting system is what Cornwall deserves and needs.

There is a motion to Council on Tuesday 17th to kick start the process of what meaningful devolution actually means for Cornwall.

<https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/documents/s166635/Meaningful%20Devolution%20for%20Cornwall.pdf>

### **Parking charges representation partial success?**

I submitted a full response on behalf of Looe Town Council following a business survey, about the unfair placing of Millpool, Kilminorth and Riverbank car parks into Zone A. This would have removed free after 6pm charging and see a day rate of £10.

Thankfully the Council have listened to the arguments regarding Riverbank and Kilminorth and have placed these into zone B. Having spoken to the portfolio holder about Millpool and I think this stays in zone A which is a great disappointment. The BBC article where he is quoted saying they would all be in band B is not true. In Band B car parks, there will be increased charging but not so horrendous as initially proposed and free after 6pm will be retained.

The Millpool car park will have the most negative effect on the community facilities, businesses and the night-time economy and local workers.

I've invited Connor to come to Looe to see the geographic issues and impact on community facilities, night-time economy and local workers.

### **EV charging points Millpool**

The new ERDF funded units (3 x Fast) are programmed for installation by the end of June. The existing charger is due to be transferred to our new contractor, SWARCO Smart Charging Ltd, for operation and maintenance early in May. Once transferred SWARCO will be upgrading this existing unit.

All being well, there should be four operational EV chargers in Looe (and many more across Cornwall) by the summer holidays.

I have been incredibly frustrated at the performance of the previous contractor, but Cornwall Council did not have a robust contract in place to hold them to account. When the new contract was tendered, there were many penalty clauses included to enable effective contract management of the new contractor so we are hopeful that once the new units are installed we will have a reliable network of EV chargers in Cornwall.

### **Motion to Cornwall Council to support the Climate and Ecology Bill**

**18th April 2023**

I am supportive of this motion and spoke strongly in support when it was last debate in 2021.

The Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill and the wider campaign to support its purpose.
2. Write to the Bill's promoter, Olivia Blake MP, to inform her that the motion has been passed and to encourage her to use this Council's support to encourage as many other MPs to back and or sponsor her Bill, including those representing Cornish constituencies; and
3. Write to [Zero Hour](https://www.zerohour.org/), the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing the Council's support ([joinus@ceebill.uk](mailto:joinus@ceebill.uk)).