

Mayors Report April 2023

Thanks

I am grateful for all the support that officers and members have given me during my illness. I can confirm so won't be re-standing as Mayor for the ensuing heat.

Looe Bowling Club

It was my great pleasure as Mayor to help kick off the new bowling season at Looe Bowling Club on Sunday 2nd April, bowling the first ball. The green is looking magnificent, testament to the tender loving care of members.

Membership

is strong at over 60 but new members, especially youngsters, would be most welcome. They have a good social calendar as well and an open day at the end of April so you can give it a go.

Thanks to members who volunteer to man/woman the Putting Green as well, which attracts 100s of visitors each year helping balance the clubs' books and providing an attraction for Looe.

I was delighted to help cut the ribbon of the new ladies changing room with WLTT chair Colin Crabb and Trustee Keith Wilson. This new facility replaces the former very cramped facilities. It was funded by West Looe Town Trust, private beneficiaries and Deidre Croker in memory of her late husband Mike who was a staunch supporter of the club for many years.

Looe Bowling Club really is the most picturesque location at Hannafore with beautiful views over Looe Bay and Island. It's a brilliant asset for the town, thank you Looe Bowling Club for all you do.

Bus service changes

Polperro area Bus Services from April 2nd, 2023, are changing.

Services at a glance

72 Every 2 Hours

To Plymouth via Killigarth Turn, Polperro Park, West Wayland, Tancreek Turn, West and East Looe, Looe Bay, Hessenford for Seaton, Tideford, Landrake and Saltash.

April 2 changes

Buses from Plymouth will leave 5 minutes earlier than at present in the day Mondays to Saturdays.

No longer serves Hannafore.

73 and 73A Every Hour/ Two Hours Sundays/Half Hourly July August.

To Liskeard via Killigarth Turn, Polperro Park, West Wayland, Camping Caradon, Pelynt, Tancreek Turn, West and East Looe, Looe Bay, Tregoad, Duloe and St. Keyne.

April 2 changes

Minor retiming of some trips.

Service will only run between Polperro, Looe and Liskeard.

New later buses on Mondays to Saturdays at 19.00 from Liskeard to Polperro and at 19.00 & 23.00 from Polperro to Looe & Liskeard.

Evening bus service between Looe and Polperro restarts Monday April 3rd.

Times Monday to Saturday as follows...

From Polperro 19.00 and every hour until 23.00 to Looe and Tregoad.

From Tregoad 19.30 and every hour to 22.30 to Looe and Polperro.

77 Every two hours Mondays to Saturdays

From Looe to Liskeard via Tencreek Turn, Pelynt and Trago Mills.

April 2 changes

Minor retiming of all trips.

Buses 72/73 no longer serve Hannafore.

Hannafore

Bus 481 will now run from Looe, Hannafore and Polperro to Polruan for Fowey via Lansallos.

Fares

Max Adult single is just £2 until July. Day tickets from £5.

MORE INFO Transport for Cornwall website or call 0808 196 2632.

No New Years Fireworks in Looe?

Can anyone help please?

Despite a plea going out on social media for a small group of people to take this project on, so far no one has come forward. What is urgently needed is 2 or 3 people to fill in the forms, deal with the risk assessment, book the company and raise the funds. Anyone who volunteers for this, will get lots of help and support from those who organised them in the past. But the clock is ticking, and things need booking if they are to happen. Could this be you? Could you help? email holidays@wringworthy.co.uk Kim Spencer Looe Development Trust Trustee.

Mayors Ball

Thank you to all who helped make the event such a success. We are still collating all the monies raised from the 3 events and anticipate a cheque being presented to Boundless at the Mayor Making.

Tree Planting Millpool

I witnessed the planting of 5 trees on the grassy knoll and 2 in the play area today by Cormac. Attached is the specification of this phase of the Millpool planting. There are more to follow in the next planting season along the riverside, by the picnic benches and towards Kilminorth Woods. They planted 2 Oaks, a Rockhampton Red and a Liquid Amber on the knoll and a Magnolia and Japanese Crab Apple in the play area. These trees replace the trees cut along the path and will provide space for nature, enjoyment for residents and visitors and were chosen for their all-year-round colour and interest.

Cormac will monitor the trees to ensure they don't dry out and water accordingly. They have been mulched to retain moisture although this is not an issue currently but may be if we have another dry summer.

The trees are 6 years old and have been surrounded with wire protection and stakes.

The reinstatement of the footpath is now complete as the previous path was causing trip hazards.

Looe Town Council also has a Holm Oak supplied from Cornwall Council

through the Jubilee legacy tree planting scheme is in a pot and seems healthy.

The advice from Cormac tree officers is that it is not suitable for the Millpool area as it will grow quite big in time.

They have looked at Kilminorth Woods, but an area would have to be cleared to accommodate its growth. In my view this is not acceptable, and the location would mean it would not be that visible and create a "landmark"

The alternative location suggested is in the field at the end of Hannafore to create a "parkland" feel. This would be a highly visible tree and certainly a landmark. Cllr Michala Powell also has a number of smaller Holm Oak saplings that could also be planted. The land is owned by Cornwall.

Council but let to a Cornwall Farms tenant who would need to be consulted.

The area suggested is in the far end of the field near the picnic bench. I'm told the Holm Oak is resilient in what is an exposed location.

I am grateful to Cormac and Cornwall Council for their expertise in choosing such an interesting selection of trees and the planting.

This scheme is part of the Forest for Cornwall. I hope in time we can create a tree trail around the town which could also include the wonderful 450-year-old Chestnut in the grounds of Polvellan House.

Hannafore Road stabilisation

The work was completed on time and looks very neat. Thanks to Cormac for undertaking this work. Also, thanks to residents and businesses for their patience and forbearance.

Coastguards Flats

A CIC is in the process of being set up to oversee the progress. I'm grateful for the volunteers who have come forward to help and of course Simon of Three Seas for his enthusiasm and expertise. We will be seeking a non-voting member to serve on the CIC to maintain a communication channel between the CIC and Looe Town Council.

Goodbye Malcolm and thanks!

On Friday 31st we said farewell to Malcolm Sheffield at his retirement ceremony. Malcolm is well known by everyone in Looe as one of our helpful cleaning and maintenance team.

He's been working as a Cleaner of Looe Town Council facilities for nearly 20 years in total. At first with CORMAC solutions then for Caradon Cleaning Services before transferring to be employed directly by Looe Town Council in 2013.

We all know that providing public toilets can be a thankless task and that the cleaning team get lots of moans from members of the public in town. But, Malcolm, and all the team should be very proud of the work that they put in to

keep our facilities clean, open and in good condition for everyone that lives in Looe and comes to visit. On behalf of all Town Councillors, I thanked Malcolm personally for his dedication.

We've seen a little less of Malcolm over the past few years after he reduced his working hours in anticipation of his retirement. He has only been working part time, 3 days a week, to get ready for all the relaxing he's now got to do! But Malcolm won't be putting his feet up, as he enjoys his days out at heritage sites, as well as his hobby of beachcombing and then making things from driftwood, sea glass and his other finds. He is also keen to do some volunteering for the Town Council which is always welcome. He has already been out distributing leaflets about the library's book delivery service.

We're really pleased that he'll still be working with us here – even though the team are jealous that he won't have to start so early.

Although we all hope that we'll be seeing Malcolm regularly, the ceremony was about his official, and well-deserved, retirement. On behalf of the Council, I presented a certificate of service, to thank him for the years he spent with the Council and to wish him all the very best for his retirement.

Malcolms colleagues also contributed a little something which they hoped he would be able to put to good use in the form of a golden toilet brush! This was received with much amusement and laughter.

Enjoy your retirement Malcolm and thank you.

Looe Museum

I was pleased to officially reopen the museum for the 2023 season on the 6th of April. The town museum is an important asset for the town. East Looe Town Trust and the Museum are the custodians of precious artefacts, photographs and documents that map the social and economic history of the town's development, ensuring they are safe for future generations to enjoy. I'm especially proud to see there is a whole cabinet dedicated to my Grandfather Charlie Mavin downstairs. He was a sail maker from the age of 15, working out of what is now The Old Sail Loft Restaurant. I'm so grateful to the volunteers who have helped make the displays so interesting and compelling. Their enthusiasm for preserving the story of Looe's culture and history shines through and I thank them for their dedication. They are always looking for more volunteers so why not drop in and have a mooch, it really is fascinating.