

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL
KONSEL TRE LOGH

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MAYOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2023

A summary of the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's activities this month:

Appointment of Mace Bearers

Jane Day of ELTT and Sue Pengelly of WLTT have been formally approached and each have agreed to be the Mayor's Mace Bearers at Civic Events.

Meeting with Rev. Ben Morgan Lundie

The Mayor met with Ben to discuss the current situation in the town and the upcoming Remembrance Sunday event. A key point of discussion was the need for more volunteers across a number of areas related to parishioner wellbeing.

Meeting with Looe Neighbourhood Police Team

The Mayor met with PC Ben Woodhead and PCSO Dave Billing to discuss policing in the town and the opening of the new Police Enquiry Office which should help with communication with the town. The shoplifting initiative was also discussed which is now showing positive results.

The meeting also discussed potential amendments to local road signage which will be discussed with Cornwall Council in due course.

Meeting with Looe Lions, Tatyana Pozharyska and Sunflowers for Freedom

The Mayor met with Tatyana Pozharyska, a representative from Ukraine, Andy French and others from Looe Lions and representatives of an organisation called Sunflowers for Freedom which has been giving aid to Ukraine. The objective of the meeting was to discuss how closer links could be formed between Looe and a town called Chormomorsk in Ukraine.

A subsequent meeting was held at which the outline of a plan for support was developed. This is to be discussed by full Council. The proposed plan is attached as an appendix A.

Presentation to Students from Plymouth University

The Mayor met with and made a presentation about Looe and its demographic and economic situation to a group of students from Plymouth University. This group, led by Ian Bailey from the University, is studying MSc Sustainable Environmental Management and are looking at sustainable tourism management in Looe. The group also met representatives from Looe Marine Conservation Group.

Welcome to Etre Terre et Mer

The Mayor gave a welcome speech to members of a Breton choir, Etre Terre et Mer, invited to Looe by Keltique, the local ladies choir. He further attended a number of events held with the choirs over the weekend.

Meeting to discuss the development of formalised volunteer activity

A meeting was held with other Councillors and the Town Clerk to discuss the development of a more formalised approach to volunteering in the town. A short action plan was agreed.

One immediate output was that Cllr Toms enquired as the cost of a contractor to clear overgrown areas on Hannafore following the work undertaken recently by a group of volunteers. This has come back as £200 and approval for this expenditure will be sought from full Council.

Farewell to Lucy George-Foster

The Mayor met with Lucy and the Town Clerk to thank her for the work she has undertaken on behalf of Looe Town Council and to wish her well in her new job.

Looe/Quiberon Twinning

The Mayor has spoken with Simon Cassidy, Mayor of Liskeard about how they reinvigorated their twinning and a useful discussion took place. Contact was subsequently made with Simon Pascoe, a former resident of Looe, now living in Brussels who is in contact with the Quiberon municipality.

Meetings are to be arranged with Looe Sailing Club, the Looe Lugger regatta organisers and Looe Academy to gauge interest.

Mayors of Cornwall Meeting

The Deputy Mayor attended a Mayors of Cornwall meeting at Truro on behalf of the Council. His report of the proceedings is attached as an appendix B.

Appendix A

Draft Looe/Chormomorsk partnership plan

Tony Smith (TS)
Tim Johnson (TJ)
Andy French (AF)

Looe has supported four aid missions directly and indirectly to Ukraine through financial and vehicle support by Looe Lions and the generosity of the local community in donating aid, the most recent included Lions participating in the delivery of an ambulance to Odessa. It has taken a war in Ukraine for us to understand what a wonderful country Ukraine is and how friendly and ingenious the Ukrainian people are. In return the Ukrainians have found what a good friend the UK is to Ukraine. We hope that we can continue this support from Looe and maintain the partnership into the peace and beyond.

We have found that the need in Ukraine is so great that it feels like what we can do is just a drop in the ocean, however when a community like Looe can deliver aid to a similar community in Ukraine and make a direct link to those receiving the aid, the value of what we do can be seen to be significant. We have identified a town in Ukraine called Chormomorsk that has many similarities with Looe in terms of being an active port and the businesses and organisations it supports. The Mayor of Chormomorsk welcomes the opportunity to establish links with Looe.

The realities of war and associated restrictions on the movement of people means that a two way exchange of people and ideas cannot be fully realised until the hostilities have ended. A formal and active twinning arrangement with Chornomorsk is an objective but it is recognised that in the short term the relationship will be asymmetric with Looe continuing to play a more supportive role.

We envisage that in time the partnership could enable school exchanges, sports tours, employment opportunities, tourism and much more.

We wish to agree this as an objective with Chormomorsk and build links between the two communities over time.

In order to raise the profile of this objective and maintain awareness of the need in Ukraine we plan to hold a Ukraine event to highlight Ukrainian culture, food and way of life. Associated with this event would be evidence of the support that has already been delivered from Looe and show the positive impact it has had on the life of normal Ukrainians.

We plan to begin with a single tangible project from Looe, and that is to fund an ambulance, fill it with aid and deliver it to Chormomorsk. "Sent by the people of Looe to the people of Chormomorsk" type livery. To achieve this we wish to involve the organisations in Looe and focus the community on achieving this first project.

Initial organisations to involve include:

- Looe Town Council
- Looe Lions
- Liskeard and Looe Rotary Club
- ELTT & WLTT

- Looe Community Academy
- Local Shops
- Local Ukrainians Refugees

Looe Town Council – To provide legitimacy is working in the name of Looe. Be the formal link with the Chormomorsk Mayor. To use it's communication channels to inform the community of the project and how it can help.

Looe Lions – To be the entity that the aid is channelled through and provide the banking facilities for the projects. Looe Lions also has the personnel to manage and facilitate associated events.

Looe Lions, Liskeard and Looe Rotary Club, ELTT & WLTT – May consider financial support for the projects or have links to those who could.

Looe Community Academy – Assistance with aid collection and the “Ex-Soldiers boxes”. Establish “Pen Pal” type relationships with Ukrainian students. Awareness projects?

Local Shops – To participate in “buy and donate” schemes in their shops to generate specified aid.

Local Ukrainians Refugees – Help from this group would be invaluable in many ways.

Actions

Meet with local shops – **TS/AF**

LCA aid collection – **AF**

LCA General – **TS**

Identify local refugees – **AF**

Approach Looe Lions and Looe Rotary Club – **TJ**

Approach ELTT & WLTT - **TS**

Appendix B

FEEDBACK FROM MAYORS OF CORNWALL MEETINGS

Tony Smith (Mayor) and Stephen Remington (Deputy) have recently attended online and face to face meetings of a good number of Mayors of Cornwall towns.

This is an excellent initiative and we aim to continue to represent Looe at these meetings.

Current themes include, as covered at the meeting in Truro on 29 September 2023:

Parking: Key issues include (i) residents' discount scheme, (ii) free overnight parking, (iii) town-by-town solutions rather than county-wide banding, (iv) working relationships with town councils who own/manage car parks but have to use CC services (e.g. for enforcement). Ideally CC need to make car park revenue/usage data available to inform any future discussions.

Teams meeting to be arranged with interested Mayors, with a view to arranging a meeting with CC portfolio holder and senior officer.

Communication between CC and towns: agreed that if there are specific issues arising between Community Area Partnership (CAP) meetings, Mayors could liaise to ensure that the issue is escalated as an agenda item at the next subsequent CAP meeting for their area. It is therefore worth trying to dovetail Mayors' meetings with the CAP meeting cycle as far as possible.

Homelessness / Housing: we discussed the possibility of agreeing a joint pledge to be put to all current MPs and parliamentary candidates, asking that they support the introduction of (i) a new "use class" in the planning system so that planning consent would be required for change of use from a primary residence (for example to a short-term holiday let) and (ii) a registration scheme for short-term holiday lets. This would in theory help address the massive switch of properties from long-term private rentals to short-term holiday lets. In both cases, local councils should have a strong say in whether (or how) these arrangements would be implemented).

There are many aspects to this problem, most of which are out of our control, but there was broad consensus that we should focus on this.

Voluntary tourist levy: Johnnie Wells (St Ives) offered to (re-)circulate his e-mail on this subject. The idea here is that interested councils sign up to contribute to initial research into an appropriate mechanism, to assess how a scheme might operate and be marketed. It was felt that this would work better if several towns were involved.

Sustainable procurement: we agreed to reflect on this (and potentially gather good practice from other councils) and return to it at a future meeting.