

Services, Assets and Community Committee

Formation of Committee

The first meeting of the Services, Assets and Community Committee took place on 17th October 2023 and Chair and Deputy were elected. This Committee combines the work of the old Services & Asset Management Committee with that of the Library & Community Hub Committee so that all Council's 'business as usual' activity is managed through this one group.

Key items that were reported and decided upon at our first meeting are:

Library Services

The library continues to go from strength to strength and is a jewel in our crown of services. More children completed the Summer Reading Challenge in Looe this year than previously and the number of borrowers and library issues continues to rise steadily.

A Library Questionnaire has been available since mid-September to seek feedback from regular users and many compliments have also been received for tourist information services and community information provided by the team.

Use of the library building for other community services has also increased with a monthly U3a meeting and Job Centre Drop-in now taking place. We will also be offering a Warm Space again on certain days this winter.

Property Assets

Discussions with Cornwall are ongoing about the lease of patients' car park for which we have had no formal agreement since 2019 when we last paid rent. Work is also underway to resolve ownership of the Downs Road store in West Looe and the plot of land North of Sunrising House offered to us by Cornwall Council.

Asset Maintenance

The team continue to address outstanding maintenance tasks identified in Roert Freer's buildings survey. The roof at seafront toilets was repaired in late summer and work will be completed to roof of Guildhall toilets before winter.

A costed Maintenance Plan is being developed as part of the budgeting process which will ensure LTC team can better plan and undertake all the routine maintenance required at our building and property assets.

Water Refill point

A new water refill unit was installed outside the Guildhall toilets in October and a retrospective planning application is being made for this. In order to meet timescales of the funded project for installation, it was not possible to acquire planning permission in advance.

Public Toilets

Signage and information about our facilities continues to be improved both at sites and on our websites. Our Cleaning team has now stabilised after several changes this year and Andy Thompson has been welcomed as our new Cleaning & Maintenance Supervisor.

The Committee discussed toilet entry charges and will make a recommendation to Full Council in this respect. Refurbishment of all our toilet premises is currently being considered and costed, and work to deep clean all facilities will begin in November when toilet opening hours reduce.

Formal Resolutions from Meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** to progress with work to the Guildhall toilets roof and lantern at the price quoted by Atlantic Roofing.

It was **RESOLVED** to apply for retrospective planning permission for the new water refill point at Guildhall.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the introduction of charges at seafront toilets and the use of CIL money to refurbish the facilities prior to the introduction of entry fees.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to DC to ensure appropriate arrangements were made so that cleaning staff had comparable leave to Officers during the Christmas period.

Cllr Jon Holmes

26th October 2023