



Author: Lynda Powell, Town Clerk
Committee: Full Council: 21st October 2024
Agenda Item: 72 Hannafore Rose Beds
Date: 18.10.2024

- 1 **Purpose.** To consider options for future maintenance of this area.
- 2 **Decision Required.** Councillors are asked to consider the recommendations at 6.
- 3 **Background**



- 3.1 The area under consideration is from the rear of the Hannafore Kiosk up to the entrance to the coast path. There are 9 flower beds, and a bramble hedge runs along the edge of the grassed area.
- 3.2 The land is owned by Cornwall Council with the exception of the concrete platform which forms the roof of the Hannafore toilet block and is therefore an asset of Looe Town Council. Either side of this concrete platform are two rose beds which Looe Town Council included in their 2021 devolution request to Cornwall Council.



3.3 In recent years Cornwall Council has reduced the maintenance of all of this area. The bramble hedge has grown in height to the point that it is beginning to obscure the view. The nine flower beds are untidy with weeds growing amongst established plants and shrubs competing with less robust plants.



4 Interventions

- 4.1 In Autumn 2023 Looe Volunteers CIC held discussions with Rebecca Dickson, Community Partnership Officer (east), Cormac. These discussions clarified that volunteers could maintain the area but could not bring in paid contractors to complete any work on the site.
- 4.2 In late spring 2024 Looe Volunteers CIC worked on the two rose beds clearing brambles and weeds. Some progress was made but it quickly became clear that more volunteers and time would be needed. Individual councillors have also attempted to reduce the height of the brambles, but domestic equipment is not really suitable. The CIC has been unable to find a contractor to volunteer their time to cut the brambles.
- 4.3 At the end of the summer Looe Gardening Club agreed to fund Looe in Bloom to look after the two rose beds. Looe in Bloom are progressing well with this work. This is really positive, but 7 flower beds and the bramble hedge still need to be maintained.

5 Maintaining the Area under Licence from Cornwall Council

- 5.1 Looe Volunteers CIC believe that they could attract sufficient volunteers to maintain the flower beds if a contractor could firstly bring them back under control and then undertake a six-monthly maintenance visit. They cannot maintain the bramble hedge due to its size and position and lack of suitable equipment.
- 5.2 The clerk has discussed with Cornwall Council if this area (flower beds and hedge height only), could be maintained by Looe Town Council under a licence. Discussions with officers have been positive and Council could maintain this area under licence if they wished. This would enable paid contractors to be employed and for Looe Volunteers and Looe in Bloom to be involved with maintaining the site.
- 5.3 While Looe Volunteers and Looe in Bloom are committed to caring for Hannafore there is no guarantee that a volunteer workforce can maintain the area over the long term. This may mean that additional contractor hours or additional staffing hours are required.
- 5.4 Looe Volunteers CIC have received one quote for the work, but further quotes need to be obtained.
- 5.5 Further research also needs to be conducted to understand the risk, liabilities and insurance costs of maintaining this area under licence.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That the Council continue to explore maintaining this area under licence from Cornwall Council.
- 6.2 That the Clerk and RFO research risk, liabilities and insurance costs and report to Services, Assets and Community Committee.
- 6.3 That the costs of maintaining this area without volunteers are researched by the Deputy Clerk and reported to the Services, Assets and Community Committee.

6.4 That the Deputy Clerk seek additional quotes for an initial clearing of the area and six-monthly maintenance visits and provides a report to the Services, Assets and Community Committee.

6.5 That the Services, Assets and Community Committee review and make a recommendation to Full Council.