



FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

Welcome again to the Annual Report, which has been produced by your Town Council to keep you informed about the work of the Council and of any significant issues that have affected Fowey over the last twelve months. This Report has been distributed to all households in the parish via the Fowey News and is also available on the Fowey Town Council website www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk or via email by request to me, the Town Clerk, at sallyvincent957@btinternet.com. Any appropriate feedback is welcome, particularly any suggestions for additional items for inclusion in the next Report.

Sally Vincent, Town Clerk

YOUR COUNCILLORS 2017/2018

Cllr Giles Asker Esq

Penventinue Cottage, Penventinue Lane

01726 832324

Giles is the Chairman of the Planning Committee and a member of the Finance Committee and the Town Hall Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2018/2019.

Giles can be contacted at gilesinfowey@me.com

Cllr John Berryman Esq

4, Lanwithian Road, Lostwithiel, PL22 0ES

01208 872253

John is the Deputy Mayor of Fowey and is the Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Planning Committee. He will continue as a Councillor and as Deputy Mayor of Fowey during 2018/2019

John can be contacted at john@penhale-fowey.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Frances Day

Spinaway, 29, Tower Park, PL23 1JD

01726 832448

Frances is a member of the Planning Committee and the Environment Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2018/2019.

Frances can be contacted at frances.read@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Fassam Esq
10, North Street, PL23 1DD

01726 832834

Peter is a member of the Planning Committee He will continue as a Councillor during 2018/2019. .

Peter can be contacted at pfassam@icloud.com

Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay
47, Vicarage Meadow, PL23 1EA

01726 832762

Ruth has served as the Mayor of Fowey during 2017/2018 and is the Chairman of the Environment Committee. Ruth is a leading member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. As Mayor she is also an *ex officio* member of all the Town Council committees. She will continue as Mayor during 2018/2019.

Ruth can be contacted at ruthfinlay@live.co.uk

Cllr Patrick Hughes Esq
Little Carnethic, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN

07789871482

Patrick is a member of the Environment Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2018/2019. .

Patrick can be contacted at patrick.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms
51, Polkerris, PL23 1EG

01726 252222

Lynn is a member of the Environment Committee. Lynn will continue as a Councillor during 2018/2019.

Lynn can be contacted at lynnsimms2003@yahoo.com

Cllr Carl Stansfield Esq

Carl has served as a member of the Town Hall Committee and the Finance Committee. Carl will be standing down from the Council in April 2018.

Cllr David Willmore Esq

David has served as a member of the Planning Committee, the Finance Committee and has been the Chairman of the Town Hall Committee. David will be standing down from the Council in April 2018.

Cllr Mrs Cora Woodside

01726 983188

White Wings, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN

Cora is a member of the Town Hall Committee. Cora will continue as a Councillor during 2018/2019

Cora can be contacted at cewoodside@yahoo.com

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2017/2018

2017-2018 has been another busy year for the Town Council. The work of the Town Council includes the management of the Town's assets such as toilets, the Town hall, Squires Field,

the Town Quay which all need to be run efficiently and effectively by our relatively small council. Fowey Town Council also manage the cutting of grass and weed killing within the Town and try very hard to keep the standards of cleanliness and good order our residents expect.

Squires Field; The Community Centre continues to grow from strength to strength. During the year it has been a pleasure to see how well the committee have improved this building and created a valuable community asset from the monthly Produce Market, to the many community groups which now use the Community Centre every day of the week.

Playground; Fowey Town Council was approached by a local mum who said her child could not access the swings in the park because of his disability; Fowey Town Council together with a grant from C. Cllr Andy Virr were able to provide a disabled swing with a harness sweat enabling disabled children to use the swing.

Car Park: In September a strip of parking permits were created to be kept strictly for local residents and local businesses, the cost of the car park equates to £1 a day plus vat, the cheapest car parking in town.

Fowey Neighbourhood Plan In just over three years the steering group of the NP are very pleased to announce we have now completed the writing of our draft policies. This is an achievement to be proud of. The Fowey Parish NP is community led and so far through the involvement of residents at exhibitions, working groups there have been over 190 people actively involved in sharing their views and opinions. Over 300 people have also completed a major questionnaire about how they want Fowey to develop in the next 20 years. By the end of April 2018 the steering group will submit the draft NP and our evidence file for an initial screening by Cornwall Council and dependent on their findings we hope to then publish the draft NP for scrutiny by the parish residents.

‘Spirit of Fowey’ Citizen of the year was Heather Hunt Chair of the Squires Field Community Centre committee. ‘Spirit of Fowey’ Community group of the year was the Fowey Community Bus Drivers. Both of these awards were very well deserved and continue to support the community.

Passage Lane had yellow lines painted this year and has seen the numbers of vehicles parking and creating a dangerous obstruction to the provision of blue light services, to passing traffic and to heavy vehicles to the port ,which are too big for the Imerys supply road.

My thanks to all committee chairs for their hard work during the year and to all the Councillors for their diligence and commitment during what has been such a busy year.

Also, can I give a big vote of thanks to our Town Clerk, Sally Vincent who works very hard on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Fowey calmly dealing with the increasing workload of the Council from the day to day issuing of parking permits and allotment licences, to dealing with the far more complex legal and financial concerns which come from an increasing portfolio of public buildings held by the Town Council.

Sadly this will be the last meeting for Cllr David Willmore. David is a popular councillor with the rest of the council and with residents; he has a business in Fowey, the well-loved Book Shop, with its blend of local specialist books about Daphne du Maurier, the sea and Fowey as well as the latest bestsellers. David has represented Fowey Town Council on the Forum and as a trustee on the Du Maurier Festival Society. David has served as chair of both Planning and the Town Hall committees and is able to bring his local knowledge and

understanding to many issues which crop up and deal with them in a sensitive and thoughtful way. I think we will also miss his good humour and sense of fun.

Ruth Finlay, Mayor of Fowey

REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE 2017/2018

The refurbishments are still on going, as you can see we now have 120 new chairs which have been purchased. We are hope next to replace the stage curtain to match the window curtains.

We are getting quotes to replace the gas boiler which is well passed it best now and is starting to become an unwelcome expense in ongoing repairs, many thanks to Nial Hoddinott for his expertise in keeping it going.

Our hire rates remain the same as last year with no increase. I would like to say thanks to my fellow Councillors on the Town Hall Committee, who have taken over whilst I have been absent thanks also to and our Caretaker Caroline Lewis and her partner Russell Maclaren, who does a fantastic job with all our request for repairs and refurbishments. Many thanks to the Troy Players, the organisers of the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature and the Craft Fair coordinators for their continued support and use of the Hall.

David Willmore, Chairman Town Hall Committee

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2017/2018

The precept increase this year has been set and it equates to an 8.2% increase. I realize as a Council we seem to go on about the rising cost of running Fowey and the extra costs Cornwall Council tries to put our way, an example, C.C asked if we would undertake the maintenance of the Coastal footpath within our Parish, we have declined the offer. Not many years ago CC maintained the Saints Way, now we are responsible. There are services we might like to take on i.e. street cleaning, and parking enforcement, but at the moment we are not permitted, so we are trying to generate more income of our own. We can achieve this in 2 ways, 1. to increase the cost of services we provide or 2. to provide more earning services hence the reserved parking spaces at Squires Field. The initial 13 spaces were taken up very quickly so as a Council we took the decision to provide more, possible another 13. These spaces are for local residents and business owners and the cost has been set at a very reasonable level, one could argue too low but the permit holders still have to walk into town and back up the hill after a long working day, the cost is about half the cost of a space in Webb Street. It is very difficult to try and help traders and businesses within Fowey without an over subsidising from the taxpayer, at the moment none of the taxes the businesses pay finds its way to Fowey Town Council's pocket.

Lastly I would like to thank my fellow committee members for the work they have put in to running the finances of FTC.

John Berryman, Chairman Finance Committee

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2017/2018

“May you live in interesting times” is the apocryphal Chinese Curse.

And it has been an interesting year. We have seen a good number of applications for change be registered and arrive at committee for us to deliberate.

And that is the function I see us as the Planning Committee fulfilling, we are part of a change management process.

Now anyone who has been involved in any form of change management will know it is not an easy process and it can be fraught with difficulties. Human nature dictates that we all have differing opinions of what is acceptable or unacceptable to us. Well if you add to that a raft of legislation, some of which is open to interpretation then the process becomes a whole lot more challenging.

As a committee I believe we have always tried to take an evenhanded view on every application that has come before us and I believe each sitting Councillor tries to balance out the objectives of the applicant with the greater good of the community, within the context of what is right and wrong in legislative terms.

As a result we will not always accept proposals, even when we know there would be a benefit to the majority of the town, but whose impact would be significantly more detrimental to other parts of the community such as the erection of a new telecommunications mast near the primary and secondary schools.

Fowey is a beautiful and historic place hence its AONB status and for one I feel blessed to live here, somewhere where people invest their hard earned annual leave to spend a week or two each year, we get to live year round.

That in itself brings challenges for the committee to consider, how do we accommodate development and change that could potentially benefit business and tourism with the impact it could have on the environment? How in planning terms do you achieve balance in this regard?

Fowey Hall Hotel wanted to introduce a number of luxury tree houses or lodges within their grounds, clearly this would have had a significant benefit to their offering to the public as a business and potentially improve tourism within the town itself, perhaps bringing a different type of visitor. How do you balance that off against the potentially detrimental impact the development was to have on the unique Monterrey Pines, on the unique view of the town from the river and that's before you consider the impact upon immediate neighbours? How using planning legislation do you reconcile one against the other.

It requires great consideration to ensure that a fair, just and legally defensible decision is reached.

So whilst we are not the ultimate decision maker, we take our role seriously as we are a significant Consultee who represents the Towns residents and businesses. We as a Town Council have the right to question the decision of the County Council should we not agree with the Planning Officer or the Cabinet Members and on occasion we do just that in search of what we believe is right for the town.

So what of the future, well we look forward to the ratification of the Neighborhood Plan which will see the culmination of many years hard work on behalf of our Mayor and a small team of volunteers. That in itself becomes a significant document holding parity with the County Councils plan. It is the vehicle by which we as residents of the Town have a say in how the Town will be shaped over the coming 20 years.

We also have the potential of applications for couple of housing development schemes bubbling away on the edge of the town, which we already know from representations received are likely to be contentious.

So 2018/2019 is set to be as interesting as this past year, even given the apocryphal Chinese curse, I for one don't think this is something to fear, but to welcome and embrace as even if at first things don't work out or succeed, there is often a compromise that can be achieved which ultimately will be to everyone's betterment.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow members of the planning committee for their hard work through this past year.

Giles Asker, Chairman Planning Committee

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2017/2018

It has been another successful year with the work of the Environment Committee and I would like to thank my fellow members for their commitment and hard work over the year. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances, Councillor Eardley was unable to continue with her valuable work in the Council and resigned from the Town Council in August.

There are four different aspects to this committee

1. The Local Maintenance Partnership/and Agency Agreement, which are partnerships between the Fowey Town Council and Cornwall Council.

We look after fourteen Gold Public Rights of Way in the Parish have a total grant of £688.46 to be cut once in the year. We have to wait until nesting birds have fledged before we can allow our contractor to cut.

We also have an Agency Agreement in respect of grass cutting around the Town. CC pay for four cuts per year and Fowey Town Council pay for five cuts. So the Town grassed areas, designated to be cut, are cut nine times per year at a total cost of £2,646.00, including vat.

CC do not pay for any weed killing around the Town, but Fowey Town Council weed sprays twice a year at a cost of £1,410.00 pa

The committee would like to thank our contractor Lanhydrock Garden Services who have worked hard for the Town over the past year.

2. Old Grammar School Garden: this popular and well-loved garden had been left for a number of years with no change to the planting or any improvement to the layout. In 2014 Fowey Town Council made the decision to improve the Lower garden. The Lower garden is in its final phase of development. Work on this final phase will begin in May and will see new planting in the oak sleeper beds and the final oak seating will finish off the work in the special garden.

3. Fowey In Bloom: one of the aims of the Environment Committee is to keep regular contact with the volunteer Fowey in Bloom group to support their activities and also through a grant from TC of £500.00 .Again this group took part in Cornwall in Bloom in 2017 with many entries of which the Town Centre displays were judged "excellent". This very small group of volunteers help create a colourful and cared for town from spring through to the autumn which our visitors and locals appreciate. This small group need more volunteers and help from businesses with things like watering during the summer and on behalf of the Environment Committee we thank them for the work they do.

4. Allotments: this community resource continues to grow from strength to strength. This year the Readymoney Association has been involved with a joint project with the West of

England University to look at how gardeners in Fowey are affected by changing climate and what methods they use to try to overcome drought periods. This coming year the RAS are intending to create a plot which would enable a person with disability the opportunity of growing fruit and vegetables. The Apple Orchard, which was planted in January 2015, with old Cornish varieties, is thriving. The apple trees had their first pruning last spring and we hope to be able to pick some apples in the autumn.

Ruth Finlay, Chairman Environment Committee

REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR 2016/2017

I have been Cornwall County Councillor for Fowey, Tywardreath and Golant for nearly a year now. The role is to act as your representative on Cornwall Council and to support your local Town/Parish Council.

I have been involved in a number of areas of Fowey and Cornwall life. Here are some highlights:

Highways Flooding Webb Street, Road resurfacing, Fallen wall on Place Road, Pot holes, Yellow lines Passage Lane & Green Lane & Park Road, Fallen trees..... The Council have recently updated their highways problem reporting system and I would encourage residents to keep their Council busy by reporting issues such as pot holes. I have found the response to be generally prompt. And if you don't report it, it won't get fixed!

Planning Acting as a mediator between applicants, affecting residents, Parish and County Council, and planning officers for developments including Fowey Hall Tree houses, Island Field Lankelly Lane and a proposed Telephone mast.

Community Chest I am given a grant of £2000 per year for good causes locally. In Fowey this year I have contributed towards a new storage shed at Community Centre and to the installation of new Disabled swing at the park. Please contact me if your group or society would like to apply for a grant.

Fowey Hospital Working Group I have been chairing a working group made up of Fowey's Mayor, Fowey Town Councillors, Representative of local MP and the chair of the Hospital Welfare Committee. We have been meeting with the CEO of Cornwall Partnership Trust to assess the feasibility of converting the hospital into an NHS Nursing Home, securing a long term future for the Hospital. This was presented and discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, including hearing from architects regarding how this might be made possible. There was a positive response from the public present at the meeting and we will now work up a business plan and look for funding support from Cornwall Clinical Commissioning Group.

Health & Social Care I am a member of Cornwall Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. I recently chaired an enquiry into whether the Council should work with its health partners to develop joined up commissioning of health and social care. The inquiry panel receiving strong evidence that this was the correct way forward and I am pleased to report that Cornwall Council's Cabinet adopted our recommendations in full.

Andrew Virr, Cornwall Councillor for Fowey, Tywardreath & Golant

REPORT OF THE TOWN QUAY WORKING PARTY

Last autumn a working party comprising five Town Councillors, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Simms, Cllr Stansfield, Cllr Woodside and myself, was set up to look at improving the Town Quay, which it was felt was looking rather "tired" and in need of attention Since then it has been

agreed to repaint all the railings, provide six new rubbish bins, provide six new flower planters and put up bunting on the Quay. In respect of the waste bins we are hoping that local businesses will sponsor a bin and in exchange will be permitted to advertise on it. If you are interested in sponsoring a bin please contact any member of the Working Party or the Town Clerk. All the member councillors have worked very hard obtaining information and quotes for the work and I would like to thank them all. We will continue to look at further improvements through 2018/2019 and welcome comments and suggestions from local residents and businesses.

Peter Fassam, Chairman Town Quay Working Party

POLICE REPORT

79 crimes were recorded in the parish between 1st April 2017 and 2018 - 10 x Violence with Injury, 16 x Violence without Injury, 3 x Burglary Dwelling, 2 x Burglary Non-Dwelling, 9 x Vehicle Offences, 4 x Shoplifting, 20 x Other Theft, 10 x Criminal Damage, 3 x Public Order Offences, 1 x Possession of Drugs, 1 x Other Offences. 220 incidents were recorded.

PCSO Jamie Ward.

AND FINALLY

Remember that meetings of the town council are held in the Town Hall and are advertised on our notice board and on our website www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk. Minutes are also published on the website as soon as is practicable after meetings. At every meeting there is an agenda item for public participation and this is actively encouraged. Please support your councillors by letting them know what you think about any aspect of life in Fowey – your input is essential if they are to make the right decisions for the town and these decisions are becoming ever more critical given the continuing devolution of many assets and services from Cornwall Council to Fowey Town Council. Alternatively, I can be contacted by telephone on 01208 871159, by post at Colcerrow Farm, Par, PL24 2RZ or by email at sallyvincent957@btinternet.com.

Sally Vincent, Town Clerk

