

children to use the swing.

Squires Field 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.

The 2017 ‘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.

17/255 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – Cllr Giles Asker Esq

“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.

17/256 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay

It has been another interesting year for the Environment Committee and I would like to thank my fellow members for their commitment and hard work over the year.

The Local Maintenance Partnership which is a partnership between the Fowey Town Council and funding from Cornwall Council. We look after Fourteen Gold Public Rights of Way in the Parish have a total grant of £688 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 have an Agency agreement with CC for the 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, is cut nine times per year at a total cost of £2,600.17.

Weed killing: Fowey Town Council weed spray 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.

3. Old Grammar School Garden. The Lower garden redesign has now been completed with new planting oak sleeper beds and oak seating, the result looks spectacular and many thanks go to local garden designer Ali Siddell who has given her support, designs and management of the project free of charge to support this project.

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.

Tourism is a vital source of income and employment to Fowey and the quality of our open grass areas is important to our visitors as well as the well-being of our residents.

4. Readymoney Allotments: this community resource continues to grow from strength to strength. 2017/18 has seen quite a turnover of plots and the new plot holders have been welcomed by our very active Readymoney Allotment Association.

The Apple Orchard was planted in Jan, 2015, with 15 old Cornish varieties and these are thriving; through grafting onto new stock there are now 30

Cornish apple varieties. It is a pleasure to see an apple orchard return to the Fowey estuary.

17/257 To receive the Financial Report – Cllr John Berryman Esq

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.

A member of the public recently emailed the Mayor to alert her to the fact that he intended to ask a question relating to miscellaneous expenditure in the annual accounts at this meeting. I note that he is not present to pose his question but I can confirm that FTC's accounts are fully audited and there is a statutory period for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts every year as part of the audit process. This year it will be 4th June – 13th July. The income and expenditure figures are also posted on the website and will be on the Town Council notice board. The Town Council's finances are in the public domain and the Town Clerk will also respond to any reasonable requests for information throughout the year.

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

17/258 Report of the Town Hall Committee – Cllr David Willmore Esq

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.

17/259 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr Andrew Virr Esq

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.

17/260 Police Report – PCSO Jamie Ward

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.

17/260 Presentations and Public Participation

Cllr Virr addressed the meeting in relation to the future of Fowey Hospital. He explained that he had set up a Working Group to look into possibilities and

fully accepted that the Hospital was much-loved by the local community. Cllr Virr gave a brief history of recent events; in 2015 the MIU closed, in 2016 the hospital was taken over by CPF Trust and reduced to 6 beds and then it was finally closed in July, the reasons cited being food safety and structural issues. He confirmed that if investment to reopen was to be found it must be part of the local NHS community's plans, which were yet to be published. If there was no future for the hospital then it would be sold and the proceeds would go to central funds. No decisions had yet been made about the future of community hospitals but all but two – Fowey and Edward Hain – had already received some funding and an inference could be drawn from this.

The Working Group were looking into the future and what would be sustainable – would a nursing home deliver a better long term solution?

A representative from the NHS Foundation Trust explained that Fowey Hospital posed a real challenge. There was a will to look after the community of Fowey and generally people were staying in mainstream hospitals too long and needed to be moved on for convalescent care. A firm of architects had been commissioned to look into the feasibility of providing a nursing home on the site with a brief of providing a minimum of 30 beds. The architects then addressed the meeting and showed slides of a potential facility, which would necessitate the demolition of the existing building and the creation of a new building comprising, *inter alia*, 2 clusters of bedrooms with courtyards, a centralised day space, top floor bedrooms for key workers, a café and a cinema.

Members of the public voiced various opinions, including 'if the hospital was given to the people of Fowey how could it be sold?' 'the proposed design was unattractive and out of keeping with the character of Fowey' 'why could things just return to how they were.' 'there was inadequate parking provision.'

Barbara Vann explained that the bottom line was that the hospital was not sustainable in its present form – either a new solution needed to be found or it would be sold and the proceeds lost to Fowey. The Fowey community needed to ask itself two questions 'was the idea of creating a nursing home on the site feasible? And do people want to try to achieve it?'

There was a show of strong support by those present for the Working Group to work up a business case for the Fowey NHS Nursing Home as described.

The Mayor invited all present to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for refreshments before leaving. Members of the SG were available to answer questions and various exhibits were displayed at the rear of the Hall.

Meeting Closed 9.45pm