



# **FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016**

Welcome again to the Annual Report, which has been produced by your Town Council to try to keep you informed about the work of the Council and of any significant issues affecting Fowey. 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](http://www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk) or via email by request to me, the Town Clerk, at [sallyvincent957@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyvincent957@btinternet.com). Any appropriate feedback is welcomed, particularly suggestions for additional items for inclusion in the next Report.

**Sally Vincent, Town Clerk**

### **YOUR COUNCILLORS 2015/2016**

**Cllr Mrs Katherine Alexander**

**Lankelly House, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN**

**01726 833839**

Katherine has been a member of the Environment Committee and the Planning Committee and she is also one of our Neighbourhood Plan representatives. Katherine will continue as a Councillor during 2016/2017.

Katherine can be contacted at [alexander.katherine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alexander.katherine@yahoo.co.uk)

**Cllr Giles Asker**

**Bakers Steps, Churchside, PL23 1BX**

**01726 832324**

Giles joined the Council during the year and will continue as a Councillor during 2016/2017.

Giles can be contacted at [gilesinfowey@me.com](mailto:gilesinfowey@me.com)

**Cllr John Berryman**

**4, Lanwithian Road, Lostwithiel, PL22 0ES**

**01208 872253**

John is the Deputy Mayor of Fowey and although he moved to Lostwithiel in early 2014 he still maintains an active role at Penhale Farm. John is a member of the Finance Committee and the Environment Committee. He will continue as a Councillor and as Deputy Mayor of Fowey during 2016/2017

John can be contacted at [john@penhale-fowey.co.uk](mailto:john@penhale-fowey.co.uk)

**Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey** **01726 833793**  
**26, Polvillion Road, PL23 1HF**  
Anne is the Chairman of the Planning Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2016/2017.  
Anne can be contacted at [anneboosey@btinternet.com](mailto:anneboosey@btinternet.com) .

**Cllr Tony Delves** **01726 833715**  
**74, Hillhay Close, PL23 1EN**  
Tony is a member of the Planning Committee and the Finance Committee. Sadly he will be leaving Fowey in May 2016 and will stand down as a Councillor.  
Until then Tony can be contacted at [ac.delves@btinternet.com](mailto:ac.delves@btinternet.com)

**Cllr Mrs Carol Eardley** **01726 833164**  
**21, Pentreath Close, PL23 1EP**  
Carol is a member of the Environment Committee and the Chairman of the Town Hall Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2016/2017.  
Carol can be contacted at [carol.eardley@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.eardley@btinternet.com)

**Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay** **01726 832762**  
**47, Vicarage Meadow, PL23 1EA**  
Ruth has served as the Mayor of Fowey during 2015/2016 and is the Chairman of the Environment Committee and a member. As Mayor she is also an *ex officio* member of all the Town Council committees.. She will continue as Mayor during 2016/2017.  
Ruth can be contacted at [ruthfinlay@live.co.uk](mailto:ruthfinlay@live.co.uk)

**Cllr David Hughes** **01726 812982**  
**Fiddlers Green, Castledore Road Tywardreath, PL24 2TR**  
David is the Cornwall Councillor for Fowey and Tywardreath and will continue as a Fowey Town Councillor during 2016/2017.  
David can be contacted at [d.hughes@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:d.hughes@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Cllr Mrs Lesley McCartney** **01726 834473**  
**51, Tavern Barn, PL23 1EG**  
Lesley is a member of the Town Hall Committee and the Planning Committee. Lesley will continue as a Councillor during 2016/2017.  
Lesley can be contacted at [lesleymccartney@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleymccartney@btinternet.com)

**Cllr David Willmore** **01726 834811**  
**4, South Street, PL23 1AR**  
David is a member of the Planning Committee, the Town Hall Committee and is the Chairman of the Finance Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2016/2017.  
David can be contacted at [d@willmore.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:d@willmore.eclipse.co.uk)

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2015/2016

**2015-2016 has been a very busy year for the Town Council.** The role of parish and Town Councils has expanded as the Localism Act of 2012 has seen the devolution of “assets” from County Councils to local control. This has been a challenging process for all concerned. The process of devolution is far from a precise science and when the general public hear about the return of a local beauty spot or much needed toilets in a tourist town, managing expectation with what can be realistically delivered, is not easy for small councils like Fowey.

Secondly, in a time of austerity, when we are all tightening our belts, there are difficult financial decisions which have had to be taken. As a Council, we need to make decisions based on the interests of the town and make certain the decisions are financially sound. We all have to ask ourselves some difficult questions, not only can we afford the returning asset, but can we afford the running costs and the increased workload on our part time town Clerk?

Do we get a better service as a town and parish by having the assets returned? Well I think we do. We can respond far more quickly than CC because we live here; as far as the toilets are concerned the Town Council can and does respond within the day to any complaints we get to do with damage or any other problem with the toilets. This is usually by one of our councillors physically going down to the toilets and checking out what the problem is. We try to fix anything small with our caretaker or by phoning up a builder to sort the problem.

While on the subject of toilets 2015 saw the refurbishment of Caffa Mill and the Town Hall toilets which we are delighted with. Cllr Delves project managed the refurbishment of the toilets and on behalf of Fowey Town Council I would like to thank him for all his hard work.

The Town Hall (also a returned asset) is a well-used space for hire by all sorts of groups throughout the year and managed by the hard working Town hall committee led by Cllr Carol Eardley who not only is refurbishing the interior of the Town Hall but is also making certain this splendid Grade (II) building is repaired and looked after. An exciting new project is being looked into by our newest Councillor Giles Asker - a proposed Farmers Market.

After a very long wait, hours of meetings with CC officers and expensive legal work Squires Field has now been transferred to Fowey Town council control; this well-loved area comprises of the old Bowling Club pavilion and lawn, a sports pavilion, a football pitches children’s playground, car park and recycling area. This is an exciting period for many people in Fowey because it means at last there will be a proper Community centre for all ages to enjoy. Any enquiries to do with the use of Squires Field, please contact Cllr Berryman who is the portfolio holder.

Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been in existence since January 2015 and we have achieved a lot in just over a year. Towns and parishes are recommended to create a Neighbourhood Plan for their area as it allows locals to influence how our neighbourhood develops in the future. It has to be community led and the Plan, when written will have statutory status and have more weight than previous planning documents like the Parish plan.

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.

In the next eighteen months, the Town Council will see a lot of change of personnel and I would urge anyone who might be thinking of applying to become a member to get in touch. The Town Council is an important part of our community in Fowey and I am proud and honoured to be Mayor, but the town Council is only as good as the people who are part of it.

We need to represent all sections in our community, all ages should be represented here – it is not a ‘closed shop’, please get involved.

Finally, 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. The Town Clerk has dealt calmly 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.

**Ruth Finlay, Mayor of Fowey**

### **REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE 2015/2016**

During the last 12 months a Policy on how the Town Hall should be managed has been written and adopted, together with Roles and Responsibilities of the Town Hall Committee. Under these Roles and Responsibilities, the Town Hall Committee has a duty of care to the Grade II listed building, the services offered and our customers. We are doing our best to ensure that our customers, the hirers of the Hall, have pleasant and safe surroundings in which to hold their events.

We are continuing with the refurbishments – new entrance and stair carpet, replacement of all the old and heavy tables, some redecorating, new window dressings, although still to be finished, repair of the Hearing Loop and re-installation of the telephone line in the Office. The programme continues slowly but a difference is being made to the overall look which we hope will encourage more people to use the Town Hall. So please think about holding your birthday parties or special events here. Our hiring rates are very reasonable!

To comply with the changes in the way Cornwall Council Planning Department is providing information for applications, we have also had to purchase a projector and screen which, when installed, will be available for use by other users of the Hall. I will add here that we were given a grant by Cornwall Council to purchase this equipment.

When it was announced that St. Blazey Police Station was to be closed we offered our PCSO Lloyd Paynter, and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, the use of the Town Hall Office for the monthly Surgeries they hoped to hold. We were delighted when they accepted and held the first Surgery on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. The second was held today and the next is 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

We are also delighted to have agreed the loan of the Covington Chair, which had been gifted to Fowey Borough Council by Stenton Covington’s widow, to the Trustees of Fowey Museum. It is now sitting resplendent in the Regalia Cabinet in the Museum for all to see.

Finally I would like to say thanks to Cllrs. Lesley McCartney and David Willmore, my fellow Councillors on the Town Hall Committee, and our Caretaker Caroline Lewis and her partner Russell Maclaren. Thanks must also go to the Troy Players, the organisers of the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature and the Craft Fair co-ordinators for their continued use of the Hall.

**Carol Eardley, Chairman Town Hall Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2015/2016**

Fowey Town council finances are in a strong position; we have had to raise the precept to help cover the short fall in services that used to be covered by Cornwall Council.

Again we have put another £10,000 in to the 'sinking fund' to be used in any unforeseen circumstances to maintain the Town Quay and the Town Hall.

We have set out the FINANCE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES which include setting the yearly budget for the Town Council, receiving and reviewing interim budget positions from FTC committees, setting and renewing the Town Quay leases and licences, monitoring and reviewing the Council's Earmarked Reserves, calculating the Clerks Honorarium and marking it as an Earmarked Reserve, monitoring the Council's accounts on a regular basis, managing staff salaries/job descriptions/grievances, overall financial control of Town Council assets including Quay/Town Hall, Squires Field & Car Park, Town Quay and Caffa Mill toilets, receiving and reviewing Risk Assessments from FTC Committees, appointing portfolio holders for all significant FTC responsibilities, with a remit to work closely with the Town Clerk and Chair of Finance and report back to council meetings as required.

Squires Field has now completed and we have the Town Quay and Caffa Mill Toilets up and running. Sadly the gent's toilet on Town Quay has been vandalised on numerous occasions which is costing us money, having to pay out for repairs.

All of the various committees that make up the Town Council have worked very hard to keep to their budgets, which they have done; As usual the annual accounts will be available for the public to see very soon.

I would like to thank all the members of the finance committee for their hard work over the last year.

**David Willmore, Chairman Finance Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2015/2016**

This will be the last Annual Report I will deliver, as I have been overwhelmed with technology, and paperless planning needs someone much more computer savvy than me, and with better eyesight too!

I seem to have been involved in planning committees for years and years, both with Fowey Town Council and Restormel, but things change and I don't. The Town Clerk gave me a 'stress toy' which you squeeze in moments of tension and I have nearly squeezed the life out of it!

It has, as usual, been a very busy year as far as planning applications are concerned, some complicated and some more straightforward. The Stationmasters House seems to be progressing, and I am hoping that when finished it will live up to expectations - the poor building was turning into a bit of an eyesore. We are all looking forward to seeing the completed restaurant on Town Quay, scaffolding is not a very pretty sight, but totally unavoidable in this case. We have disagreed with the planning department on a few applications this year, but it is a fairly pointless exercise, unfortunately, but by and large there has been agreement with them.

I would like to thank the members of the Planning Committee for their very hard work, their kind support of the Chairman and their tolerance when I have the occasional rant about things and I wish the new chairman good luck and my full support.

**Anne Boosey, Chairman Planning Committee**

## **REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2015/2016**

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.

There are four different aspects to this committee

**The Local Maintenance Partnership** which is a partnership between the Fowey Town Council and Cornwall Council covering footpaths

**Fourteen Gold Public Rights of Way** in the Parish have a total grant of £626 to be cut once in the year. We have to wait until nesting birds have fledged before we can allow our contractor to cut. This usually generates a number of cross phone calls and emails and this is the reason why there is a wait.

**Grass cutting around the Town** is part paid through an Agency Agreement with Cornwall Council., 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**, CC do not pay for any weed killing around the Town, again Fowey Town Council weed spray twice a year at a cost of £1,410.00

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.

May 2014 phase 1 of the redesign of the lower garden using local garden designer Ali Siddall began. This first phase saw change to the pathways; new beds were planted with decorative grasses and seaside planting. Phase 2 of the redesign in 2015, saw the creation of new beds with space for sleeper seating and phase 3 in 2016 will see this design echoed on the other side of the garden.

The upper garden, which is a more traditional garden design, saw a lot of clearing work from volunteers from Heaven Scent in the autumn of 2015. Over 50 daffodil bulbs were planted and 100 snowdrops to create a spring interest next year. We were very pleased to receive a community grant of £400 from Cornwall councillor David Hughes to buy tools, a tool store and compost for the upper garden.

**3. Fowey In Bloom** One of the aims of the Environment Committee is to keep regular contact with the Fowey in Bloom group to support their activities and to monitor Fowey TC's grant of £500 to them.

This group took part in Cornwall in Bloom in 2015 with 72 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** the One Acre field was handed over in December 2013 and work did not begin, due to the poor weather, not until March 2014. Between March and April last year there were a number of working parties to clear the field of brambles, gorse, trees and eventually to create the plots. The first season was very good considering how late everyone



was in starting to dig their plots. Sadly we lost one of our most enthusiastic ‘allotmenters’, Martine Luke, last year – we will be planting a tree in her memory.. David Burdikin has taken over the reins of Chairman of the Readymoney Allotment and takes his role very seriously. He supports all those new to allotments and regularly takes part in the health and safety walks on a monthly basis during the growing season. The Orchard is thriving and is well established.

**Ruth Finlay, Chairman Environment Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR 2015/2016**

The past year has been a difficult one for Cornwall Council as it has striven to maintain the services which the public expect from a local authority whilst receiving ever-decreasing funding from Westminster and government restrictions on the amount which can be recouped by increases in council tax. In the past six years, the council’s revenue has been reduced, in cash terms, by some 30% whilst facing increased costs due to inflation and to added commitments arising from government “initiatives” and legislation. This has inevitably resulted in significant redundancies and we should be very grateful for the commitment and professionalism of officers which has enabled the council, so far, to minimise the impact on front-line services.

Whilst there are still those who regret the transition to a Unitary Authority, it should be recognised that, happening when it did, Cornwall Council has been able to adjust more effectively to the more straightened circumstances than most authorities in the country. The fact that we now work on a four-year budget has enabled us to plan ahead, reducing the impact and uncertainty of cuts.

We are fortunate in Cornwall that, although the majority of councillors are members of political parties, our council is not highly politicised and the majority of us see our first allegiance as being to the people of Cornwall. This has been of great importance in allowing us to reach consensus solutions to the problems facing the county.

Cornwall is proud that it was accepted as one of the first authorities in the country to be afforded some degree of devolution of power, the first non-metropolitan one; and furthermore without having to agree to having an elected mayor. This should help deliver better integrated health and care services, have control over the allocation of development funds to ensure that they are used for local benefit and to allow us to develop a coordinated and useful public transport system. We are still pushing for the government to give us greater control over our Planning system in order that it better meets the needs and aspirations of the people of Cornwall, which the national, urban-centred system patently does not.

The Local Government Boundary Commissioners have required us to review our Council electoral boundaries as many of our current divisions exceed the accepted variances from an average numbers of electors per division. We have decided to combine this with a “governance” review, which will consider the role of councillors and the optimum number. Any changes will come into effect at the 2021 election. Work has already started and there will be a number of public consultations during the process, which I would encourage everyone to contribute to.

It has not been easy acting as an intermediary between FTC and the people of Fowey and Cornwall Council in these difficult times, particularly in the “devolution” of services which Cornwall Council is no longer able to support such as toilets, libraries, allotments or Squire’s

Field and I must give special thanks to the Town Clerk, whose efforts on behalf of the people of Fowey have gone far beyond what we have any right to expect. I will continue to try to get essential work done on road repairs, planning and other Cornwall Council services but would ask for patience as the resources, both financial and human, are stretched to the limit.

I congratulate the Mayor and her team on the impressive progress which they have made with the Neighbourhood Plan and would urge everyone to give them their active support. This is not just another “paper exercise”. When completed and if supported in a referendum, this will become a document with significant “planning” weight and will allow the people of Fowey to have a significant say in shaping the town into the future.

Many thanks to everyone who has given me support and encouragement over the past year. It really does make a difference when one is seeking to represent ones constituents in the administration.

**David Hughes, Cornwall Councillor for Fowey & Tywardreath**

**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](http://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 crucial if they are to make the right decisions for the town and these decisions are becoming ever more critical following the 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](mailto:sallyvincent957@btinternet.com).

**Sally Vincent, Town Clerk**



