

about emergencies...’ Together with Kay Peacey, who set up a data base to handle requests for help and the growing numbers of volunteers, they put together a very strong and enthusiastic group, in a matter of days, offering help to anyone who asked for a bit of extra support. There was also a huge response from our Fowey Business Community; numerous offers of free deliveries around the parish from local shops and ‘takeaways’ from pubs and restaurants. **A Fowey Emergency Response Group** was also set up in response to this crisis and included Cornwall Councillor, Dr. Andy Virr who was/is also working hard in A&E at Treliske, Roy Newport of Fowey Isolation Support, Rev. Ian Gulland, and I representing Fowey Town Council. This group was in regular contact with each other and offering help, advice and support within the parish.

Volunteer Fowey Scrubs was also set up during the first lockdown; organised by Heather Hunt in less than three weeks, they had 50 volunteers making up scrubs for local surgeries, Care Homes and Pharmacies. This talented group made scrub kits for Fowey surgery, plus hats and bags; two kits for Middleway surgery, with requests for eight more; also two sets for Lostwithiel surgery, with eight more also requested. Fowey scrubs have also made masks for Old Roselyn Care Home in Par.

In March 2020 the Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, became part of the statutory Development Plan for Cornwall. Since this time, developers have referred to the NDP, as have Fowey Town Council and Cornwall Council, in making their decisions. The Plan for Fowey can be found on the Fowey Town Council website. May I please take this opportunity to thank all the members of the public who joined the Steering Group and gave their time and expertise freely throughout all the stages of this community-led project. Although the Group was dissolved as soon as the NDP was ‘made’ I hope that some, or all, of them will volunteer again for other such initiatives in the future.

With the ending of Lockdown 1 on 4th July 2020, Fowey saw an unprecedented number of visitors to the town. Fowey Town Council consulted with the Chamber of Commerce, our Local Cornwall Councillor Andy Virr and the Town Forum on measures to welcome visitors while reassuring visitors and residents that we were endeavouring to provide a safe town in challenging times. Under emergency Covid rules, the Town Council applied for a Temporary Traffic Road Order of Trafalgar Square, Market Street, Webb Street and the Town Quay to run through to the end of September to allow visitors to access the Town Quay area without traffic and have a large space to be able to take advantage of to eat, drink or just enjoy the views. This proved so successful and was so popular with both visitors and residents that the Council are pleased to be able to again close these roads for the summer of 2021.

A new Councillor, Andrew Dellow was appointed in October 2020.

Together with his wife, Mandi, he has taken over the Fowey River Gallery in Fore Street. Andrew is a Chartered Engineer with forty years’ experience in the construction industry, having spent much of his working life dealing with such matters he hopes to be able to bring that experience to assist where possible.

Remembrance Sunday 2020 was a little different, with the emphasis on

social distancing in Lockdown 2. Andy Virr organised the Service along with Jason Penprase of the Royal British Legion. The Fowey River singers sang a beautiful version of Abide with Me and the poem In Flanders Fields was read by Scarlet Hughes. We were joined by the Commanding Officer of HMS Montrose Lt Cdr Ollie Hughes who laid the Royal Navy wreath.

In December 2020, Fowey Town Council requested The Windmill site be returned to the people of Fowey from Cornwall Council to protect this special green space for locals to use. The Windmill is a 13th century windmill described by Historic England as ‘A mill stands on what is probably the oldest windmill site in Cornwall since there is a record of a windmill here in 1290. Future plans could be to have a detailed information board, sensitive planting and benches for locals to use.

Readymoney Lime Kiln has been devolved back to Fowey Town Council ownership. This area is a grade 11 listed building and was originally a lime kiln built in the 19th century and was probably used to produce lime for use in making lime mortar. The Lime Kiln was converted to a shelter, garden, toilets and SWW have a pumping station within the building. Looking to the future there is an exciting opportunity from a benefactor to place a statue created by nationally renowned sculptor John Doubleday in the top garden.

New signage; As part of the preparation for a busy summer and increased visitor traffic, the Town Council has agreed for a new set of signs at the bottom of New Road Hill/Hanson drive junction to discourage general traffic travelling down into the town. There are two new ‘Except for Access’ signs as well as improvements for clearer signs directing traffic to the car parks.

Can I thank all committee chairs for their hard work during this most challenging year and all the Councillors for their commitment, patience and good humour on the many Zoom meetings in which we were involved. 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 increased workload this year, much of it Covid related.

20/214 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – Cllr John Berryman Esq

A very busy year not helped by having to use Zoom for all meetings, it saved a lot of travelling though!

The committee dealt with 82 planning applications during the year and fully supported all 3 Neighbourhood Development Plans submitted by neighbouring parishes, recorded no objections to 72 applications and recorded 7 objections to 7 applications, 1 of which was agreed by the planning officer, 5 were later agreed with the officer and 1 was taken to the area sub-committee of Cornwall Council, where we were successful in defending our decision.

The most involved application was for the alterations and additions to Fowey Hall to which we had no objection following a pre-planning presentation we had with the applicant. The applicant took on board our concerns and withdrew them from the eventual full application. Several other applications that we objected to were withdrawn and later re-submitted, taking into account the comments from the planning committee.

Finally, I would thank the committee members for their devotion to duty as I believe we had a full committee for all but two meetings.

20/215 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms

At the beginning of March 2020 the Environment Committee had embarked on two major initiatives; the renovation of the play area at the top of Squire's Field and the setting up of an Environmental Growth Plan Working Group. However, in the middle of March came the lockdown and as a result of this plans had to be put on hold while the Town Council and its committees had to quickly adapt to running and attending virtual meetings via Zoom.

During the lockdown and despite the subsequent social restrictions all members of the Environment Committee have worked hard to ensure that the management of the environment continued as normal and that the town and surrounding areas were a safe and attractive place for residents and visitors. This has included managing the safety of the play equipment at Squires's Field playground, arranging gardening and essential work at the Old Grammar School Gardens, working with Fowey in Bloom and the allotments and making sure that the verges and footpaths were cut.

Members of the committee also attended virtual climate action meetings organised by Cornwall Council and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), and have continued to research the renovation of the play area at the top of Squire's Field.

On January 21st 2021 members of the committee organised a public meeting to engage individuals and volunteer groups in Fowey Town Council's Environmental Action Group. At this meeting Tasha Davies, Community Link Officer, spoke about Cornwall Council's Climate Emergency Plan and the Mayor of Fowey, Ruth Finlay, outlined the many ways in which the Town Council and other volunteer groups were already taking action to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The meeting was well attended and many people voiced their ideas about what could be done in the future to build a more sustainable, enjoyable and bio diverse environment for Fowey and the surrounding areas. As a result of this meeting we have already set plans in motion in conjunction with Water Refill Scheme to site a water refill station in Fowey in order to reduce plastic waste. We are also in the process of compiling an audit of the numerous existing projects in Fowey which address climate change. This will be published in due course. In the future we hope to establish an Environmental Action Group committed to the development and documentation of the growth of an even more environmentally friendly Fowey.

20/216 To receive the Financial Report – Cllr John Berryman Esq

A short report, it has been a very difficult year in as much as Covid restrictions and lockdown has seriously affected the years' figures.

Income from Town quay car park and the toilets was well down on budget and we tried to help some local businesses by reducing or shelving their license or permit payments because they were not in a position to trade. We received a large donation during the year but this was for a specific purpose, repair of the Church clock. However, balancing the drop in income was a substantial saving in expenses of nearly £50,000.

Finally, I would like to thank the Finance Committee members for their commitment during the year in what turned out to be somewhat different from the one budgeted for

20/217 Annual Report of the Town Hall & Quay Committee – Cllr Patrick Hughes Esq

A very quiet year for the Town Hall as it was unfortunately closed. It has been good over the last few weeks to hear of groups starting to make plans for the wonderful events we have in Fowey. We are reopening the hall to a limited number of people with precautions and hopefully will be able to ease these as the lockdown ends.

We did carry out some much-needed maintenance with the Windows being painted and railings on the steps. Internally we had a new board for Freedom of Fowey and the Mayors board was updated.

On the Town Quay we had bunting and Festoon lighting put up and the planters were kept looking lovely. We have new plants arriving at the end of May for the summer.

We have taken the time this year to reflect on the future of the Town Hall. This historic building in the heart of Fowey is looking a bit tired and in many ways the layout does not work well. For example, we do not have disabled access or changing rooms for theatre groups. The kitchen is not ideal for large scale catering and the layout of the middle bit above the museum is a poor use of space. With many of the community groups moving to Squires field, use of the Town Hall has decreased by about 50%. We need to think about what needs to be done and the future use of the Hall.

Cllr Andrew Dellow and I met with a local architect earlier this year and he has very kindly agreed to look at options for the future. To see what is possible, we have agreed to a measuring survey to be undertaken. Once we have the options available the council will look to engage with as many stakeholders as possible to see what they would like to see in the building in the future.

This will be an exciting project for the town over the next few years. We will need to look at funding options and it will take a lot of organisation and energy to see this through. If you would like to be involved at any level, please do get in touch. There are vacancies on the council, and we can also co-opt people onto the committee to help. It maybe you can informally make suggestions and help as well.

Finally, a special thank you to Cllr Peter Fassam for all his efforts with the Town Hall and Quay Committee over the last few years. Peter had lots of ideas and would always speak his mind. He would also listen and respect decisions and was great to have on the committee. He has promised to continue to help Cora with the planters and we will hold him to that!

20/218 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr Andrew Virr Esq

Road Safety It has been good to work with Fowey Town Council to deliver a pedestrian safety scheme for New Road Hill. We received a report from Cornwall Council highways now following discussions a scheme has been agreed. We now need to realise funding for this in the next year.

Traffic Reduction through Town It was also very good to work with Fowey Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce to consider ways to reduce cars through town. I think the simple scheme that we have now delivered with the

new signage on New Road Hill will hopefully deter visitors from driving through town during the busy summer period. Should this not be sufficient we can consider further measures.

Fowey Regeneration It has been exciting to write the business proposal with Fowey Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce to seek funding to re imagine some of our central spaces within the town centre. It will be good to give more space for outdoor dining, tree planting and pedestrian space in our town centre. I hope we can achieve the funding but if not there is much that we can do ourselves.

Covid 19 The last 12 months have been particularly difficult with the Coronavirus outbreak and I would like to pay tribute to the leadership shown by the town council and community groups such as the Fowey Isolation Group that ensured no one was left behind. It was good to see the best of Fowey in the worst of times. I look forward to the continual reopening of our town.

Outdoor Dining One of the surprise coronavirus dividends last summer was the fantastic outdoor dining in Trafalgar Square and Market Street. This enabled businesses to remain afloat and created a lovely European atmosphere in our town during the evenings.

Devolution Unfortunately devolution of Cornwall Council assets has continued to be painfully slow. Some of the water side assets are now looking particularly tired and damaged. This is seen very clearly in the destruction of the wall at White House pool. It is now urgent that these assets are devolved to the Harbour Commission and I have every confidence in their ability to restore and re inject ownership into these important landmarks. I'm very grateful for Town Council in taking on the Lime Kiln and I think the Rachel Statue will be a wonderful addition to Readymoney.

New Cornwall Council I have now completed four years as your Cornwall Councillor. It has been a pleasure to work with the Town Council to share problems and to deliver some excellent projects. If I'm successful at the election on the 6th of May I look forward to more exciting partnerships in the future. It is essential that we continue to work together effectively. I believe together we can really make a difference to our town. Once again, I pay tribute to all the hard work of the Mayor, Town Clerk and the Town Councillors.

20/219 Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

None

20/220 To receive the Police Report

PCSO Christophers had supplied the following report

Neighbourhood Police Team

Neighbourhood Team Leader

Sergeant 4794 Dave Mitchell

Neighbourhood Beat Manager

PC 4886 Andrew Barnicoat

PC 5929 Gareth Hawken

PC 6170 Colin Sheppard

PC 7177 Will Chesterfield

PC 7069 Yasmin Vokes

Police Community Support Officer

30499 Julie Carpenter
30047 Wendy Christophers
30528 Natalie Merrikin
30004 Ally Relf
30262 Steve Tibbles
30055 Graham Wade
30449 Jamie Ward
30740 Yasmin Barrott

Overall Crime

Really positive news, roughly a 10% reduction in all crime over the last 12 months. Almost all crime types are down with significant reductions in dwelling burglary, vehicle offences and shoplifting. The main increase has been in violence without injury and this is largely due to changes in the crime recording rules and the classification of offences, all harassment/stalking/malcomms offences for example are categorised as violence without injury which inflates the numbers considerably. Other areas which have increased include possession and trafficking of drugs, and weapons offences which should be seen as a positive thing as these offences only get recorded when they are detected by officers and demonstrates our proactive work to tackle drugs and weapon crime. Despite the numbers being up in these crime categories they are still low by national standards. Individual crime figures can be found on our website.

Priorities over the last 12 months

Safeguarding of vulnerable people particularly with Covid and significant partnership work undertaken. Domestic abuse has been a national priority due to the concerns around increases particularly during periods of lockdown. We have seen some rises at various times but overall, our sector hasn't seen the increases that other sectors have.

Anti-Social Behaviour has been an issue from time to time and has been tackled with partner agencies such as Helen Toms ASB Officer.

County Lines has been a real priority which as a sector we have tackled very well in terms of executing warrants, charging, and remanding several key individuals and seizures of drugs. The perpetrators of county lines have continued their 'business' but using different tactics, as a sector we have carried out more drugs warrants than anyone else.

We must stress the importance of community intelligence and encourage communities to report things to us. Information relating to vulnerable persons being exploited is particularly important right now.

Covid legislation has been introduced and it has been a priority for some time to deal with reports of breaches. We have utilised the 4 E's approach, Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. There have been a significant number of reports to us placing real pressure to respond and at times we have been unable to due to other more pressing issues around Threat, Risk and Harm.

Moving forward

Last year was unprecedented for us in terms of demand. There was approximately a 20-30% increase on our demand and we anticipate the same this year due to the number of visitors coming down as opposed to going abroad. We are planning for the easing of lockdown and anticipate real

challenges. G7 is taking place but the impact on local resourcing for this will be minimal.

An increase in neighbourhood officers over the last 12-18 months has been a real positive for the team. There is talk that we may see more staff, but this is not yet confirmed. We have operated as 'one team' for some time now and the system is working well. There is currently no thought that we will return to dedicated officers for each area. The national uplift of 20,000 officers has also meant that response staff have seen the benefits so in terms of staffing we are in a better place than we were a few years ago.

20/221 Public Participation

None

Meeting Closed 10.10am