



# **FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

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](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 welcome, particularly any suggestions for additional items for inclusion in the next Report.

**Sally Vincent, Town Clerk**

### **YOUR COUNCILLORS 2020/2021**

**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 the Planning Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022

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

**Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke**

**01726 441035**

**12, Lankelly Lane, Fowey, PL23 1HN**

Rhianna is a member of the Finance Committee and the Environment Committee, with particular responsibility for the Squires Field playground. She will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022.

Rhianna can be contacted at [rhiannainfowey@gmail.com](mailto:rhiannainfowey@gmail.com)

**Cllr Mrs Frances Day**

**Spinaway, 29, Tower Park, PL23 1JD**

**01726 832448**

Frances is a member of the Planning Committee and the Environment Committee and is the Council's tree warden. She will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022.

Frances can be contacted at [frances.read@googlemail.com](mailto:frances.read@googlemail.com)

**Cllr Andrew Dellow** **07767 210459**  
**38a, Fore Street, PL23 1AQ**

Andrew joined the Council during the year and is a member of the Town Hall & Quay Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022.

Andrew can be contacted at [andrew.dellow@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew.dellow@hotmail.com)

**Cllr Peter Fassam Esq** **01726 832834**  
**10, North Street, PL23 1DD**

Peter is a member of the Planning Committee, the Finance Committee and the Town Hall & Quay Committee. He will stand down as a Councillor in May 2021.

**Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay** **01726 832762**  
**47, Vicarage Meadow, PL23 1EA**

Ruth has served as the Mayor of Fowey during 2020/2021. As Mayor she is also an *ex officio* member of all the Town Council committees. She will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022. Ruth can be contacted at [ruthfinlay@live.co.uk](mailto:ruthfinlay@live.co.uk)

**Cllr Scott Griffin Esq** **01726 832597**  
**38, Tavern Barn, Fowey, PL23 1EF**

Scott is a member of the Environment Committee with particular responsibility for Squires Field. He will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022.

Scott can be contacted on [scottgriffin72@gmail.com](mailto:scottgriffin72@gmail.com)

**Cllr Patrick Hughes Esq** **07789871482**  
**Little Carnethic, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN**

Patrick is a member of the Finance Committee and is the Chairman of the Town Hall & Quay Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022. .

Patrick can be contacted at [patrick.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:patrick.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk)

**Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms** **01726 252222**  
**17, Polkerris, PL23 2TL**

Lynn is the Chairman of the Environment Committee and is a member of the Planning Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022.

Lynn can be contacted at [lynnsimms2003@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnsimms2003@yahoo.com)

**Cllr Mrs Cora Woodside** **01726 983188**

White Wings, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN

Cora is a member of the Town Hall & Quay Committee and the Planning Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2021/2022

Cora can be contacted at [cewoodside@yahoo.com](mailto:cewoodside@yahoo.com)

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2021/2022

2020-2021 has to be one of the most demanding and eventful periods since the Second World War due to the global pandemic of Covid 19. The impact on the United Kingdom has been widespread from the demands on the NHS, Care Homes, schools, business and trade, every aspect of life has been affected as well as the tragic loss of life. The Government at Westminster has imposed three national lockdowns during this time with Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales following suit. Apart from essential food shops, chemists and petrol stations, life has been extremely restricted for most people with only local travel allowed, social distancing and wearing of facemasks.

Responding to this crisis in Fowey saw the Fowey Isolation Support group set up by Roy Newport, ex-military police and veteran of the Afghanistan war who said ‘ after seeing what was happening in shops and the panic buying, I thought I’ve got to do something to help – I know something 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 all 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.

**Ruth Finlay, Mayor of Fowey**

### **REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL & QUAY COMMITTEE 2020/2021**

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 is 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!

**Patrick Hughes, Chairman Town Hall & Quay Committee**

#### **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2020/2021**

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

**John Berryman, Chairman Finance Committee**

#### **REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2020/2021**

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.

Please be advised that Fowey Town Council is only a consultee in the planning process, the Planning Authority for Cornwall is Cornwall Council. It is Cornwall Council that ultimately makes decisions in the process, often using delegated powers to the officer dealing with the application. Anybody wishing to comment on a planning application should do so on the Cornwall Council planning portal and also via email or hard copy to the Town Clerk to Colcerrow Farm, Par, PL24 2RZ or at [sallyvincent957@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyvincent957@btinternet.com). Members of the public are welcome to attend FTC planning meetings and express their views during the part of the meeting that allows public participation. It is important to remember, however, that the FTC planning committee can only consider material planning reasons in reaching decisions. These material considerations can be found on the Cornwall Council planning portal.

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.

**John Berryman, Chairman Planning Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2020/2021**

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 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Lynn Simms, Chairman Environment Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR 2020/2021**

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Andrew Virr, Cornwall Councillor for Fowey, Tywardreath & Golant**

**AND FINALLY**

Remember that meetings of the town council are normally held in the Town Hall, although throughout 2020/2021 have been held remotely via Zoom due to the pandemic, 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 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](mailto:sallyvincent957@btinternet.com).

**Sally Vincent, Town Clerk**

