

August was the busiest month to date in terms of events. This was mainly due to the Regatta. On Sunday 15th I was privileged to read at the Regatta Service at Fowey Parish Church. The Mayor's Consort, Gary Craddock, and I attended Launceston Town Council's Mayor's Induction on Tuesday 14th September. In addition we were in Fowey at the Regatta on Wednesday 18th September where I was delighted to crown the Fairy Queen and in the evening to present prizes and the Mayor's Cup at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club. We also took a walk in the town on that evening and it was a pleasure to speak to people in the streets in such a celebratory atmosphere.

The Fowey Harbour Swim on Sunday 5th September, organised by Gaynor Edwards and her enthusiastic team, was also a great success and we very much enjoyed presenting medallions to the swimmers on their return from the Town Quay to Readymoney beach and back; £1,400.00 was raised for the Fowey Lifeboat and £150.00 for Whitehouse Pool.

I have accessed the Climate Literacy Training provided by Cornwall Council. It is informative, delivered at the appropriate level and will be very useful in helping the Environment Committee to organise a Climate Emergency Workshop in November at around the same time as COP 2021.

At the end of August we received a statement from Bude Stratton Town Council concerning the Cornwall Housing Crisis in which they are calling for policy changes nationally and at a local level to take action. The Deputy Mayor, Patrick Hughes, and I are working to draft a Housing Statement for Fowey to be proposed at the October Council Meeting.

21/98 To receive the Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported

- Biffa had admitted liability for the damaged memorial seat on Town Quay and she had supplied a quote for a replacement to Biffa's insurers. The insurers had agreed to reimburse any reasonable cost incurred to remove the damaged bench. Russell had removed the memorial plaque.
- The damaged lock on the Town Quay ladies toilet had now been replaced and all the facilities were functioning satisfactorily. However, the internal doors in the ladies and, possibly, the partitions were very shabby following repeated damage and needed replacing. Cllr Dellow agreed to identify possible company's in order to secure quotes for this work.
- The majority of the permit parking holders in Webb Street had now agreed to vacate their spaces between 8am on 25th November and 4pm on 29th November to allow LESW to use the area for the 2021 Christmas Market. LESW had yet to confirm that the event would take place.

21/99 To receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor

Fowey Regatta Thanks to the committee for all their hard work in putting on the Regatta and making it Covid safe. The use of the Fowey Academy site was a great success and should be replicated next year. It would be good also to have events back on the Quay.

Co-Op I note that the Town Council is discussing the planning application tonight for a Co-Op supermarket to the west of Polscoe. I note the mostly positive comments on local social media sites. It should be noted that Fowey users of the Par Co-Op contribute considerably to the traffic and associated congestion of the Car Park.

Covid The virus level has been high for the past month reflecting the highly contagious nature of the Delta variant and the large number of visitors to the town. It is important that residents

ensure they have been vaccinated and remember the benefits of good ventilation, wearing masks in crowded spaces and hand washing.

Main Car Park The pay on exit barriers are due to be installed this Autumn.

Thanks to Traders Many thanks for all the hard work of the traders over the summer in supporting the Tourism Industry in Fowey and making lasting holiday memories for our visitors. It has been extremely challenging and Covid had huge impacts on the ability of restaurants particularly to maintain business continuity.

Community Chest I was happy to support Edible Fowey in their planting at Lostwithiel Gardens. My community chest is available for local charities to support small projects. Please contact me with your proposals.

21/100 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Cooke, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £26,408.33 be approved.

21/101 Correspondence

Correspondence was left 'on the table' for Councillors attention.

21/102 Resolutions from Councillors

Cllr Finlay moved her resolution '*Fowey Town Council act as the accountable body for the Town Vitality Grant, which will be used to fund/support the provision of a Fowey Town Regeneration project*' This was seconded by the Mayor and RESOLVED.

21/103 Town Vitality Funding

Cllr Finlay reported that confirmation of an offer of a grant of £40,000.00 had been received from Cornwall Council for the development of a Fowey Regeneration project. Cllr Virr queried if the whole Town Team would be invited to input the project as he very much wanted to be involved. Cllr Finlay assured him that this would certainly be a Team project and, apart from anything else, FTC did not have the capacity to progress it alone. The Town Clerk added that until the grant offer was accepted by FTC there was little the wider Team could do; in order to reach this point a lot of work had been done by Cllr Finlay in relation to finalising the documents required by CC prior to the formal offer of the grant. The only remaining issue needing to be addressed before acceptance of the grant was in relation to procurement and procurement policies and she was in discussion with CALC and Newquay Town Council's Town Clerk about this.

21/104 Election to Committees

Cllr Hughes proposed, Cllr Dellow seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Patterson should be elected on to the Town Hall & Quay Committee.

21/105 Planning

PA21/06771. Erection of Community Convenience Retail Store, access, vehicle parking and landscaping. Land North West of Polscoe (B3415), PL23 1HQ. The Mayor invited Cllr Finlay in her role of Chairman of the Planning Committee to share her opinion on this development in terms of planning guidance and restrictions. Cllr Finlay referred members to The Statement of Significance within the Cornwall AONB Management Plan for this section of the AONB, The Cornwall Local Plan Policy 2, The Cornwall Local Plan Policy 23 Natural Environment, Paragraph 176 of the NPPF and the Fowey NDP. Cllr Finlay also noted that a consultee, Highway Development Management, had raised concerns about the proposal and had

recommended various changes be made, including increased visibility splays, and had required a further consultation when road safety issues had been addressed.

Members then discussed the proposal at great length and, *inter alia*, the following points were raised

- The figures in the Transport Plan could be inaccurate as they were gathered during lockdown
- The proposed site was in the AONB, a protected landscape and outside the Fowey Development Envelope.
- Natural England, a consultee, had raised no objections.
- On the CC planning portal twelve people had objected to the application and three had supported it.
- The proposal was not compliant with the Fowey NDP, which had been developed following extensive consultation with the residents in the parish. It should be respected.
- This proposal would result in further erosion of the AONB; it was vital that designated areas were protected for generations to come. A small retail outlet would not balance out this loss.
- If this proposal was refused, would FTC we looking at other development on the site in 12 months?
- This was the first real test of the Fowey NDP
- More infrastructure was needed in Fowey but if this development was permitted it would inevitably result in further adjacent development in the AONB.
- Allowing this development would be to the detriment of existing Fowey outlets and, at the end of the day, this would still be small shop and people would continue to use the larger, existing stores in Bodmin and St Austell.
- Fowey needs more housing, both affordable and social, and, potentially, a supermarket in due course but this was possibly not the right site.
- Cllr Virr queried if the NDP identifies a suitable brownfield site for a supermarket. Cllr Finlay confirmed that it does not but this was likely to be because the Fowey residents had not raised it as something they wanted. There had been a greater need identified for affordable housing and the protection of the environment.

Cllr Finlay then proposed, the Mayor seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation of objection should be made to Cornwall Council. Voting was unanimous. *Reason: 1. The location and topography of the proposed site mean that any development will be conspicuously visible and skylined above the existing agricultural landscape. The development will be widely visible from the B3415, particularly from the north in locations where the built form of Fowey is largely contained in falling ground. This will result in the first appreciation of the town being this new development, apparently in open countryside. 2. The development site lies within the AONB and development of it would further erode the local character of this protected landscape and the setting of the town. The AONB has the very highest level of landscape protection, equal to that of National Parks. The primary purpose of this designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and planning policy requires that any development within the AONB respects this criteria. 3. This proposal is contrary to the following policies in the Cornwall Local Plan: Policy 2: Spatial Strategy, Policy 12: Design and Character, Policy 21: Best use of land, Policy 23: Natural Environment, Policy 24: Historic Environment; the entrance to the proposed store is directly opposite the scheduled monument, the Tristan Stone. 4. The proposal is contrary to the NPPF, Paragraph 176, which states: Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of*

protection in relation to these issues. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas. 5. The proposal is not compliant with policies in the Fowey NDP, which was adopted March 2020 and represents the community vision for how the parish will develop in the future. The objectives of the NDP highlight the priorities of general development and good design to reflect the local identity of Fowey parish, affordable housing for local need and the importance of our natural environment, heritage and the built environment, alongside the importance of business and employment, community facilities, health and wellbeing, as well as the challenges of climate change. The relevant policies are Policy 2: Design and Character of Fowey Parish, this development will not promote and support the distinctive character of the AONB. The scale, massing, character and appearance of this development, which is out of character with the natural environment of Fowey parish, will impact on the skyline as identified in the Fowey Settlement Edge Assessment (2018). Policy 6: Natural Environment, Heritage and the Built Environment, this proposal for development is outside the Fowey Development Boundary and in the AONB, which is restricted to small scale Rural Exception Sites for affordable-led housing (paragraph. 9.12). Development is only supported where it safeguards the significance and conserves and enhances the natural beauty and special quality of the AONB and its setting. Policy 8: Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage: The impact of this development on the setting of the scheduled monument, the Tristan Stone, does not comply with national, or local policies on siting as the monument is almost directly opposite the entrance to this proposed retail unit. 6. FTC shares the concerns raised by the consultee, Highways Development Management, in respect of road safety. There is no pavement provided to connect the Harbour Reach development of 46 houses and this proposed retail store. Pedestrians would have to cross over the B3415, walk up on the other side of the road and then cross over a second time to get to the store. The proposed location of this development will inevitably lead to people accessing the store by car, leading to increased traffic movements on the already very busy B3415.

21/106 Questions/Reports from Members

Cllr Woodside raised concerns about the planters on Town Quay and reported that some of the planting was looking very distressed, possibly through lack of water. She considered that the planters needed a complete change of compost and that, possibly, the irrigation systems were not functioning correctly. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Hall and Quay Committee could authorise the employment of a contractor to carry out this work. Cllr Day reported that she had spoken to Steve, the Chairman of FIB, who had offered advice and assistance and Cllr Woodside confirmed that she would contact him.

Date of Next Meeting 20th October 2021

Meeting Closed 8.10pm