



FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

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 or via email by request to me, the Town Clerk, at 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 2023/2024

Cllr John Berryman Esq

4, Lanwithian Road, Lostwithiel, PL22 0ES

01208 872253

John is the Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Planning Committee.

He will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025

John can be contacted at john@penhale-fowey.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke

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 2024/2025.

Rhianna can be contacted at rhiannainfowey@gmail.com

Cllr Mrs Frances Day

Spinaway, 29, Tower Park, PL23 1JD

01726 832448

Frances is a member of the Town Hall & Quay Committee, the Planning Committee and the Environment Committee and is the Council's tree warden. She will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025.

Frances can be contacted at frances.read@googlemail.com

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

Andrew is a member of the Town Hall & Quay Committee and the Planning Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025.

Andrew can be contacted at andrew.dellow@hotmail.com

Cllr Revd Mrs Carol Edleston **01726 833091**
The Parish Office, Browns Hill, PL23 1BT.

Carol joined the Council during the year and is a member of the Town Hall & Quay Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025

Carol can be contacted at revcarol.fowey@gmail.com

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

Ruth is the Chairman of the Planning Committee and a member of the Environment Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025.

Ruth can be contacted at ruthfinlay@live.co.uk

Cllr Colin Gibbon Esq **07716922672**
51, North Street, PL23 1DB.

Colin joined the Council in May 2023 and is a member of the Planning Committee and the Town Hall & Quay Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025

Colin can be contacted at bueridge@hotmail.com

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

Scott is a member of the Environment Committee with particular responsibility for Squires Field. He will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025.

Scott can be contacted at scottgriffin72@gmail.com

Cllr Alan Harris-Guerrero Esq **07972308922**
10, du Maurier Drive, PL23 1DW.

Alan is a member of the Finance Committee and the Environment Committee, with particular responsibility for Squires Field. He will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025

Alan can be contacted at AlanFTcouncil@gmail.com

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

Patrick is the Deputy Mayor of Fowey and is a member of the Town Hall & Quay Committee and the Finance Committee. He will continue as Deputy Mayor during 2024/2025.

Patrick can be contacted at patrick.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Yvette Patterson
28, Pentreath Close, PL23 1ER

01726 983160

Yvette is the Chairman of the Town Hall & Quay Committee and a member of the Planning Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2024/2025.

Yvette can be contacted at Yvette402@gmail.com

Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms
17, Polkerris, PL23 2TL

01726 252222

Lynn is the Mayor of Fowey and Chairman of the Environment Committee. As Mayor she is an *ex officio* member of all FTC Committees. She will continue as Mayor during 2024/2025.

Lynn can be contacted at lynnsimms2003@yahoo.com

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2023/2024 - THE MAYOR OF FOWEY

This report highlights my selection of events and outcomes from the 2023/2024 session of Fowey Town Council.

On 13th April 2023 Fowey Town Council was represented by myself and Deputy Mayor Cllr Patrick Hughes at the last Affiliates Day of HMS Montrose at Portsmouth Harbour, prior to her decommissioning on 17th April after almost 30 years of service. It was a privilege to meet the Commanding Officer, the crew and other affiliates to acknowledge and celebrate the ship's long service. The ships company expressed its thanks to Fowey Town Council for its support over the years.

At the beginning of May Fowey Town Council supported the celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III. These included a Flag Relay on the Town Quay on the afternoon of the 5th May, where the Town was presented with a special Armed Forces Day Flag to fly on Armed Forces Day on June 24th. The evening celebration included music by Cornish group Ryp an Mor and music and dancing from the Trigg Morris team. On the afternoon of the Coronation Day 6th May we facilitated a Community Drawing on the Town Quay. I also want to mention the Fowey History Group who organised a two day photographic exhibition at the Town Hall, the Community Centre for hosting a Coronation Fete and Fowey Church for the Coronation Service.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 24th May three awards were made to members of the community :

The Spirit of Fowey Service to the Youth of Fowey Award to Sophie Burt and her team ; The Spirit of Fowey Volunteer Award to Luke Watts from the Fowey RNLI lifeboat crew and The Spirit of Fowey Inspiration Award to Jimmy Hoddinott for his outstanding service to the community.

Also at this meeting Cllr Colin Gibbon made his Declaration of Office.

In June, myself and the Town Clerk met with the Trustees of the Old Grammar School Gardens in relation to the renewal of the Council's lease, which expires in 2025. The gardens are important to the community as one of the few river facing public areas in Fowey. No decision has yet been made in respect of the lease renewal.

On the 3rd of July our independent consultant, Steve Sandercock, published Invitations to Tender for the refurbishment of Squires Field Pavilion with the returns due at the end of July. The estimated costs at the time were £189,274 (ex-vat) and £4029.90 associated with

professional services, Unfortunately, although the costs have increased substantially to date because of the difficult financial climate caused by the pandemic and unsettled world affairs. However, this renovation will provide a beautiful new library to replace the one that closed at Caffa Mill in March 2019 and the micro library that has been temporarily housed at Squires Field Community Centre by kind permission of the Directors. The new building will include an archive for the Quiller-Couch Collection and other documents, along with a council office and other facilities. We are very much looking forward to it opening soon.

I was delighted to speak about Fowey and it's community on 30th July at a Special Service at the Church led by the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro, on the occasion of his last visit to Fowey before taking up his post as Bishop of Winchester.

In September Cllr Ruth Finlay along with the Town Clerk met with the Project Leader and Project Designer to discuss the progress of the Town Gateway Project, which aims to dissuade unnecessary vehicles from entering Fowey Town Centre. This work was scheduled to be completed at the beginning December and finally completed in February.

In the September Cllr Cooke reported that Squires Field working group had made an application to Cornwall Council as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) to provide a pump track, improved walk-ways and play facilities at Squires Field. A grant of £80k was subsequently awarded and this exciting project is well underway thanks to the hard work of Cllr Cooke, Cllr Harris-Guerrero and the working group.

The Fowey Christmas Market weekend on 8th, 9th and 10th of December was again very successful thanks to The Forum, the Town Hall Committee, the local shops and businesses who supported the event and Andrew Weaver of LESW. In particular I would like to remember Tony Bartlett who led the Fowey River Lions in putting up the Christmas Lights over many years, and to thank Martyn Crowle and his team for ensuring the lights came on in 2024.

The Mayor's Fundraising concert at the Parish Church on 21st November raised £320 for the Squires Field Community Larder thanks to Restormel Concert Band, Patrick Saunders, Antony Trodd and Ryp an Mor. Special thanks go to David Hendry for organising this event.

Also in November FTC resolved to support an exchange visit between Fowey and the Breton town of Binic to be organised by Ken and Ali Wittamore. I am very pleased to say that the first exchange visit hosted by the town of Binic-Etable-sur Mer is due to take place in June.

The Licensing and Inauguration of Revd Carol Edleston took place on March 11th officiated by The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, the Bishop of St. Germans, and The Ven. Kelly Betteridge, Archdeacon of Bodmin. I was privileged to be amongst a large congregation to celebrate her taking up her post and it was my pleasure to welcome her as Priest of Fowey on behalf of Fowey Town Council. I am also delighted to say that at the 20th March Council Meeting Revd. Edleston made her Declaration of Office and became a member of Fowey Town Council.

We are now looking to the future with planning underway for the D-Day 80 celebrations on Thursday 6th June and over the following weekend. The working group, comprising Jenna Newcome (Fowey British Legion), Peter Robinson (Fowey Chamber of Commerce), Richard Day (Squires Field Community Centre) and myself, has already compiled a draft programme for Thursday May 6th including bell ringing, a service on the Town Quay and a beacon lighting ceremony with more events to be added.

I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Patrick Hughes and all my fellow Councillors for working together in support of the community and to the Town Clerk, Sally Vincent, for her invaluable advice and assistance.

Lynn Simms, Mayor of Fowey

REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL & QUAY COMMITTEE 2023/2024

Zena has been running Fowey Artisan Markets in the Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 10 am till 3 pm. It has been going really well with a great mix of stalls showcasing local fudge, baking, flowers, fruit and veg, Gin, Cider, Charcuterie, Crafts and lots more! From July to September this will be open every Wednesday from 10 am till 3 pm and later in Regatta Week. Zena also has the Polruan Craft and Gift market on the Coal Wharf every Sunday from July to September.

We had a wonderful wedding in December in the Hall, which was a great success, as was the Fowey Artists and Makers fair in the Town Hall during the Christmas Market.

Fowey Festival have just completed their week with some great talks and events held in the Hall.

The Town Hall is available for Weddings and all Civil Ceremonies, such as Naming Ceremonies and Renewal of Vows and also for private functions and parties. Please contact us if you would like to hire it.

Yvette Patterson, Chairman Town Hall & Quay Committee

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2023/2024

I appreciate that I always start this report by saying that as a Council we are always trying to improve the town but I truly think we are. This is achieved through our committees - Town Hall & Quay and Environment - each of which have their own budget and are responsible for the maintenance and development of their specific areas. As a finance committee we oversee everything and ensure their spending remains within their budget. Any major expense comes under our control but all financial decisions have ultimately to be approved by Full Council.

We are very fortunate that the assets we own are now earning the Council in the region of £77,000 per year, which is a direct saving on the precept.

The refurbishment of the pavilion is all but complete and we should be able to commence internal fixtures very soon.

We are still hopeful of regaining The Windmill and Alldays Fields from Cornwall Council as we have been urged to acquire these sites by the community. However, the chances of the latter are sadly very slim as we fear that Cornwall Council will put the fields up for sale or directly approach The National Trust. We could not afford to pay an open market value so, on the face of it, the option of the National Trust seems the best option to maintain it in its present state.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their commitment during a year that turned out to be somewhat different from the one budgeted for

John Berryman, Chairman Finance Committee

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2023/2024

This is the report of the Planning Committee of Fowey Town Council. Fowey Town Council

is a significant Consultee in the planning process and we represent the Town's residents and businesses however, Cornwall Council, as the Local Planning Authority has the final say in planning decisions.

Recently, there have been significant changes in Planning Law brought in by the government, including Permitted Development for farms to diversify. Fowey Town Council has just received notification from Rex Farms, Lostwithiel of their intention to put a camp site on the land just off Lambs Barn, Polvillion Road for July and August 2024. This development does not require planning permission; Rex Farms have received advice and permission from Cornwall Council and Fowey Town Council is not a consultee in the process of Permitted Development. It is likely that we will be seeing more cases of Permitted Development such as this in the future.

Government confirmed on 19th February 2024, that new measures to control 'short term lets' will be introduced this summer. Most importantly, the proposals include: A mandatory national register of short term lets that will provide valuable information on their spread and help ensure accommodation is safe. Homeowners will continue to be able to let out their own main or sole home for up to 90 nights a year without a change of use occurring while Planning permission will be required for future short-term lets. Local authorities would be able to remove these permitted development rights and require full planning permission, where they can demonstrate that uncontrolled short term lets would undermine sustainable communities.

Unfortunately, we continue to see applications for complete demolition and rebuilding which of course is helped by the fact that a new dwelling benefits from 0% VAT while renovation and extension work is usually standard rate of 20% VAT. This demolition not only is very inconvenient to neighbours, it is environmentally unsustainable and is also changing the appearance of parts of our town.

You may have your own views on some of these changes to Planning legislation however Fowey Town Council will continue to put forward the local's view as best we can.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members for their hard work over the past year, with the number of applications which can take days to read through, onsite visits, discussions with planners etc. which we have had to deal with this year.

Ruth Finlay, Chairman Planning Committee

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2023/2024

The Environment Committee has had another busy year organising the upkeep of the green spaces in Fowey and looking for opportunities to protect the natural environment. Throughout the year our Tree Warden Cllr Day has been regularly monitoring our trees and has been ensuring that they are protected from being unnecessarily felled in her work for both the Environment and Planning Committees.

As part of our environmental growth initiative the Dolphin water refill station was installed at Caffa Mill in May 2023. This was made possible by the charity Our Only World, Cornwall Council and Brett Daniel from Fowey River Hire who agreed to site it. This will help us to reduce plastic waste and conserve our local marine environment. I am pleased to say that it is being well used.

Thanks to donor Richard Ryan and sculptor John Doubleday the Rachel Sculpture was installed in The Old Grammar School Gardens in September 2023. I am grateful to Tom

Chapman from Lanhydrock Garden Service for stepping in at the last moment to work with John Doubleday's designs and build the plinth. There were concerns about the transportation of the sculpture, the parking and its safe installation onto the site. We were kindly offered a parking space for the van in the afternoon by Ashley Waller, but in the end the sculpture was unloaded, carried into the garden and in place within the hour.

The official unveiling ceremony took place on the morning of October 4th attended by family and friends of Richard Ryan and John Doubleday and representatives of Fowey Town Council and the Trustees of Fowey Grammar School Foundation.

Although the sculpture was commissioned by Richard Ryan in honour of his sister, its dedication reads "In celebration of all who find harmony and inspiration in coastal waters" and so encompassing the whole community.

On Saturday 21st October the Environment Committee held an Environmental Awareness Day at the Town Hall providing information about the ways that local organisations are working to protect the environment. Representatives from Fowey Harbour Commission, Friends of Fowey Estuary, Fowey Allotment and the charity "Our Only World" were present on the day and two films made by Climate Care, "Hungry for Change" and "Plenty of Fish", were screened. There were also opportunities to be creative which were taken up by children who made ceramic fish and added to a community drawing focusing on the the environment.

Finally, I want mention and thank Environment Committee members, Cllr Cooke and Cllr Harris-Guerrero, who have successfully led the Squires Field Working Group to develop a project which will improve facilities for the community.

None of this would have happened without the enthusiastic efforts of the Environment Committee members. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and support, with particular thanks due to Cllr Frances Day for recording our minutes so professionally.

Lynn Simms, Chairman Environment Committee

REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR 2023/2024

Cornwall Council Representation I represent Fowey on Cornwall Council and also serve on the Cornwall Council's Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Adults (Adult Social Care and Public Health). Key services your council tax pays for includes maintenance of the Highways, Adult Social Care, Safeguarding children and adults, housing, refuse and waste collection, and much more. I am pleased to report that the recently adopted budget for the coming year was a balanced budget and included a £25 million increase in spending on vulnerable children and adults. Fowey has benefited from the roll out of the new waste and recycling scheme, which has been skilfully achieved with minimal hiccups.

Fowey Supermarket It is good to see the town's new supermarket being built. This will be a useful amenity for both residents and visitors and should reduce traffic journeys out of Fowey to Par or St Blazey.

Devolution Waterside I am grateful for the hard work of the Harbour Commissioners bringing improvements to the water side assets that have been devolved to them. It has been particularly heartening to see Whitehouse Pool having been rebuilt to such a high standard, despite the challenges of the project.

Highway Schemes I am grateful for Highways for road improvements to Passage Lane and the repair to the crumbling wall on New Road Hill. Thanks for everyone's patience during the works.

Public Transport Bus user numbers across the Duchy continue to increase and recover passenger numbers after Covid. Cornish residents continue to benefit from £2 single fare journeys. I welcome the new bus shelter on New Road Hill and the extended bus stops around the town. Continued use of the buses in and out of Fowey is essential to ensure the continued viability of the services. Following Public concerns, the 24 route has preserved its stop outside the Safe Harbour. I also welcome the investment in the Cornwall Metro rail route, connecting Newquay to Falmouth via Par, with hourly direct services. As part of this project the intention is to see a new disabled access bridge at Par Station – a very welcome improvement.

Christmas Market/Regatta/Food Week/Festival /Remembrance/Carol Services Thanks to all the tireless work of volunteers who have laboured over the numerous events that are put on each year. These all contribute to the culture and community cohesion of our beloved town.

Thanks to Fowey Town Council Many thanks for the hard work and public service of Fowey Town Councillors.

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

REPORT OF THE SQUIRES FIELD WORKING GROUP

I would firstly like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful people who make up the working group. These people are all volunteers who give their valuable time and expertise to try and make Fowey a better place and deliver new facilities for all our residents.

Following our public consultation last year when surveys were conducted both online and in paper format, we now have a comprehensive plan in place for how we can best enhance the space at Squires Field. In October 2023 we applied to Cornwall Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund and were fortunate enough to be awarded £80k. This will be used to extend and improve the walkways around Squires Field to make them more accessible for all, as well as remove the ageing play equipment in the top part of the play area and install a pump track that can be used by all ages of children on both bikes and scooters. These works are due to take place at the start of June 2024 and will last for approximately six weeks.

We applied for a Football Foundation grant to replace the senior football goalposts on Squires Field; unfortunately we were informed that we are ineligible to apply because there is not a football club currently using the pitches. However Cllr Virr has stated that he is happy to support an application to his Community Chest fund and, if successful, these will be replaced over the summer. This is hopefully the first step in organised grassroots football returning to Fowey.

The Community Chest fund also supported us recently with a grant to purchase an activity panel to go in the bottom part of the children's play area; this has been purchased and will be installed shortly. The aim is to secure funding for two more panels to go alongside the first one as these items proved very popular with children when surveyed.

We are currently in the process of applying to the National Lottery for one of their Awards for All scheme. This is an award of up to £20k which, if successful, would be used to purchase some more play equipment for the children's play area. Popular items from the surveys included: a big slide, monkey bars and an accessible roundabout. We would look to remove the old bank slide and one of the tunnels in the play area and install these items instead.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Paul Finlay and the Brownies who have

done a wonderful job of planting new trees around Squires Field; these line the pathways and will eventually create shaded areas where picnic tables will be installed, providing valuable sitting and meeting spaces. We are also hoping to install benches at strategic points around the field so people can stop, rest and enjoy the space.

If any individuals or businesses would like to be involved in the project, either through practical support or sponsorship (e.g. benches) then please contact Cllr Rhianna Cooke at rhiannainfowey@gmail.com. Thank you.

Cllr Rhianna Cooke

AND FINALLY

Remember that meetings of the town council are currently held in the Town Hall, although we may relocate to the refurbished Pavilion at Squires Field when the refurbishment has been completed. All meetings, including venues, are advertised on our website 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 coming along and 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 withdrawal of many services by Cornwall Council, due to budgetary constraints and resulting in added responsibility resting with 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.

Sally Vincent, Town Clerk

