

Mayor's Column August 2015

Welcome to all our visitors by land or sea!

August is a fabulous month to enjoy our lovely town and parish. Fowey Royal Regatta and Carnival Week 16th – 22nd August, is the high point of our social calendar! Enjoy! Also, dear visitors, can I give a plug for the importance of keeping rubbish in bins and away from our seagulls? Our rubbish day is every Thursday so rubbish needs to go out on Wednesday or Thursday – any earlier and it's free takeaways for our feathered friends. We have a fantastic street cleaner, Colin Liddicoat, who always gives above and beyond his cleaning duties, (he was awarded "Citizen of the Year" in May), and his job is made much harder when the seagulls have attacked left out rubbish bags.

Steve Jenkin, CEO of Peninsula Community Health, also Margaret West, Matron of Fowey Hospital, attended our July meeting of the Fowey Town Council and spoke to us about the future of the hospital. Mr. Jenkin explained there are thirteen Community Hospitals in Cornwall and Fowey had the fewest number of patients being treated with an average of 4 per week and in August last year there were 19 over the month. Mr. Jenkin explained nursing staff need specific training to be able to provide a minor injuries unit and there was a shortage of staff with this training. Not only is this of concern to our Town but the fact that the Peninsula Community Health will not be renewing their contract to run Community Hospitals in Cornwall from March 2016.

Cllr. Anne Boosey and Arthur Baker attended the Planning appeal in Truro in July against the sale of the St. John's Ambulance Garage. The planning committee voted 9 to 4 to accept the planning application allowing St. John to sell this donated garage. This was always going to be an exercise of "hope over adversity" but well done for not giving up without a fight.

There is an update on The Parade from last month; I have been in contact with the team leader of the Environment Services of Cornwall Council who will meet with the farmer in mid-August (as the farmer is on holiday) and he believes they will be able to come to a constructive accommodation with the farmer's use of The Parade.

It was with great pleasure that I signed the Land Registry documents for Squires Field this week. Completion will take a matter of weeks to transfer this significant green space, which was originally given to the then Fowey Borough Council in 1925 by Mr. Treffry for use as a recreational field. "Squires Field" comprises of a football pitch, a small pavilion, a bowling green and large pavilion as well as the children's playground; it also includes the car park and re-cycling bins. There are lots of ideas about the future of the old bowling green and pavilion and the Town Council will be listening to all the ideas put forward by those groups who have shown an interest.

Clearly, this is an important recreational area which will now be run by the Town Council; but this will have a financial implication for the town from insurances and leases for the different aspects of Squires Field, grass cutting, repairs and safety checks on the playground, as well as overall responsibility to keep the buildings in good order. Return of assets to the Town from Cornwall Council may well be desirable but can also be a financial burden; we are a small town and the assets need to be carefully managed and paid for.

There are many ways you can contact the Town Council; please come to a meeting (third Wednesday every month apart from August and December), letters, phone calls and emails are also welcomed. You can also follow us on Facebook or take a look at our website.

Contact in the first instance is through our Town Clerk Sally Vincent, or myself as Mayor. Where we have Councillors who are at work in Town, please respect their business priorities.

The Council welcomes comments from residents and you are always welcome to come to Council meetings and raise any concerns you may have during "Public Questions".

The September Council meeting in the Town Hall is on September 15th starting at 7.00pm

Also contact us by:

www.facebook.com/Fowey-Town-Council/408736029293341

www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk

www.foweysfuture.co.uk (Neighbourhood Plan)

Ruth Finlay, Mayor
ruthfinlay@live.co.uk
01726 832762