

## Mayor's Column March 2016

**The Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan** Steering Group have just received the draft summary report of the questionnaire which was sent to everyone in Fowey Parish in October/November. The report was written by CRCC (Cornwall Rural Community Charity) so is an independent summary of the findings. At just over 80 pages it is a detailed summary and we will put the final report on the Town Council website for all to read. So where do we go from here? The Neighbourhood Plan has been in existence exactly one year and we have achieved a great deal in that time, a lot of work in the first year or so tends to be about raising public awareness because no committee can write a neighbourhood plan, it just would not work, it has to be local people making decisions about what they want for their town.

During last year, we have had leaflets and flyers delivered to all houses in the parish about the plan as well as an exhibition in February 2015 and October 2015; we had a small questionnaire in February to get some general views about the Town and parish, then in October we had the more detailed survey. This all becomes our "evidence base" so the steering group will be able to move onto the next stage, which is taking the evidence and begin to create policy statements which will ultimately make up our neighbourhood plan. Sounds simple? Well, you will see adverts for "workshops" over the next four months each one based on one of the main themes of the plan – Housing, Business, Social/Community and the Environment and Historic Environment. If you are interested in coming along to the first workshop, which is on Housing development in Fowey, it will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 – 1.30, please phone or email me to get further details. One final point I would like to add, in this time of adversity the costs of a Neighbourhood Plan, which Central Government strongly advise Town and Parish Councils to have, is not costing the people of Fowey as the steering group have applied for a total of £12,500 in grants so far.

Congratulations to Malcolm Palin, the new Chairman of the Regatta Committee, and to the new committee which was elected earlier in February. I know it is a hard act to follow but there is a lot of experience still in the committee and lots of new ideas. Regatta does not just happen, of course, there are months of hard work and everyone on the committee is a volunteer who gives up hours and hours of their time to create the very best for the town and out thousands of visitors.

Green Lane Plants, as many of you will know, is the small plant store which raises money to help others (not to make a profit for the owners). All the plants are produced by the students of Heaven Scent, which is a mental health outreach centre for adults with disabilities and mental health problems. The Green Lane Plant store provides valuable though small income for them so it was sad to hear from the owners, Jane Collings and Lois Locke, that for the second time in a few months, someone had damaged the plants and stolen the honesty box.

Fowey Town Council will be challenging Cornwall Council and the six MPs in Cornwall to remove the Non Domestic Rates charges on returning assets like toilets, playing fields like Squires Field and libraries with a joint letter from the Mayors of Cornwall. The unfair business rates charged on returning assets, which very often bring no income into towns, must be addressed.

Please can the Town Council have your nominations for Good Citizen Awards. The own Council awarded our first awards last year and will hope to do so again. There are two categories, one for under 18's and one for adults to recognise someone in our community who is leading by example, giving up their time etc. I'm sure you will know someone like that as Fowey is fortunate to have so many people who are

prepared to put themselves out for others. The presentations will form part of the Mayor Making Ceremony in May.

And, finally, can I wish you and all our visitors a Very Happy and, hopefully, sunny Easter.

You can contact the Town Council through our 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 March Council meeting in the Town Hall is on March 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.00pm.**

Also contact us by:

[www.facebook.com/Fowey-Town-Council/408736029293341](https://www.facebook.com/Fowey-Town-Council/408736029293341)

[www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk)

[www.foweysfuture.co.uk](http://www.foweysfuture.co.uk) (Neighbourhood Plan)

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