

Mayor's Column May 2016

Welcome to all our visitors to the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature and to all who come over the school's half term holiday, a warm welcome to our lovely town and parish.

I have completed my first year as Mayor and what a year it has been May 2015 saw the opening of Town Quay toilets, with Caffa Mill toilets opening on August 10th, to great relief from all. The shelter at Whitehouse was finally refurbished after the storms of 2014, this saw essential repairs to this historic and lovely part of Fowey. We are also very close to seeing the lights turned on at St. Catherine's Castle. Throughout 2015, Councillor Berryman has been working hard with English Heritage and Chris Biggs Engineering to ensure all the requirements are in place, to erect a small turbine at the top of the castle which will power the flood lights, hopefully in the not too distant future!

August 2015 saw the official opening of Windmill House, which Fowey Town Council Planning Committee supported from the beginning. Also in August the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group applied for, and received, a Big Lottery grant of £10,000 in August to enable the support for the work of this group. PCSO Lloyd Paynter has also been supported in his new office space recently in the Town Hall, for him to be able to offer surgeries in town and for residents to have a police presence in our town.

May I take this opportunity to thank all who have taken part in helping the Council carry out its duties, especially those who have attended our monthly council meetings and asked questions or brought something to the council's attention. Can I also say a big thank you to Councillor Tony Delves, who is leaving the Council, for all his hard work over his three years he has been part of the council. He project-managed the refurbishment of Town Quay and Caffa Mill toilets as well as being a member of the Planning Committee.

Sadly, there has not been an election in the Town Council for some years as insufficient people have stood for election. We need to fill the place left by Councillor Delves as soon as possible. Please contact either myself or the Town Clerk, (please see contact details), if you are interested.

In the next eighteen months, the Town Council will see a further change of personnel and I would urge anyone who might be thinking of applying to become a member to get in touch. The Town Council is an important part of our community in Fowey and I am proud and honoured to be Mayor, but the Town Council is only as good as the people who are part of it. We need to represent all sections in our community, all ages should be represented here – it is not a 'closed shop', so please get involved.

White lines are finally in place in the disabled car parking bays in town. The Town Council has been in contact with Cornwall Council since last July about the painting of white road lines at the bottom of Lostwithiel Street, the disabled parking bays and outside the Post Office on Park Road. We were told by Cornwall Council that winter work is not a suitable time for painting white lines and there was no money left to replace disabled lines and other road markings. These would have to wait until the next financial year.

This has been an outrageous wait for disabled people especially as, without the white lines, Cornwall Council parking enforcement does not happen. I hope those people who have taken this unfair advantage of the disabled parking will now let the correct people use these parking bays.

Cornwall Council will have closed Readymoney and Main Car Park toilets at the end of April. Joyce Duffin, Cabinet Member for Housing and the Environment issued a statement to say “When Cornwall Council set our budget in February 2015, we contacted Town and Parish councils to let you know that the funding for public toilets from Cornwall Council will be ending this is not an ideal solution but, as you know, Cornwall Council does not have a budget for running public toilets anymore.” Without a massive ‘hike’ in the precept, above the 8.7% this year, Fowey Town Council cannot take on additional toilets. The refurbishment costs, building rates, cleaning and maintenance costs of additional toilets would impose a very high cost to the Town which, at present, we are unable to provide. There must be alternative ways to fund the toilets at Main Car Park and at Readymoney.

And, finally, we have had overwhelming response to ‘Fowey Good Citizen Award’ with many nominations for local people and businesses who just ‘get on and help’ the local community groups and charities. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to nominate their personal ‘Local Hero’.

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 May Council meeting in the Town Hall is Mayor Making on May 18th starting at 7.00pm.

Also contact us by:

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

www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk

www.foweyfuture.co.uk (Neighbourhood Plan)

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