



# **FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017**

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](http://www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk) or via email by request to me, the Town Clerk, at [sallyvincent957@btinternet.com](mailto: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 2016/2017**

**Cllr Mrs Katherine Alexander**

**30, Hillhay Close, PL23 1EN**

**01726 833839**

Katherine has been a member of the Environment Committee and the Planning Committee and she is also one of our Neighbourhood Plan representatives. Katherine will be standing down from the Council in May 2017.

Katherine can be contacted at [alexander.katherine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alexander.katherine@yahoo.co.uk)

**Cllr Giles Asker**

**Penventinue Cottage, Penventinue Lane**

**01726 832324**

Giles is a member of the Planning Committee and the Town Hall Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2017/2018.

Giles can be contacted at [gilesinfowey@me.com](mailto:gilesinfowey@me.com)

**Cllr John Berryman**

**4, Lanwithian Road, Lostwithiel, PL22 0ES**

**01208 872253**

John is the Deputy Mayor of Fowey and is the Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Environment Committee. He will continue as a Councillor and as Deputy Mayor of Fowey during 2017/2018

John can be contacted at [john@penhale-fowey.co.uk](mailto:john@penhale-fowey.co.uk)

**Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey**

**26, Polvillion Road, PL23 1HF**

**01726 833793**

Anne is a member of the Planning Committee and the Environment Committee. She will be standing down from the Council in May 2017.

Anne can be contacted at [anneboosey@btinternet.com](mailto:anneboosey@btinternet.com) .

**Cllr Mrs Carol Eardley**

**01726 833164**

**21, Pentreath Close, PL23 1EP**

Carol was a member of the Environment Committee and the Chairman of the Town Hall Committee but stood down from the Council during the year.

Carol can be contacted at [carol.eardley@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.eardley@btinternet.com)

**Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay**

**47, Vicarage Meadow, PL23 1EA**

**01726 832762**

Ruth has served as the Mayor of Fowey during 2016/2017 and is the Chairman of the Environment Committee. Ruth is a leading member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. As Mayor she is also an *ex officio* member of all the Town Council committees. She will continue as Mayor during 2017/2018.

Ruth can be contacted at [ruthfinlay@live.co.uk](mailto:ruthfinlay@live.co.uk)

**Cllr David Hughes**

**01726 812982**

**Fiddlers Green, Castledore Road Tywardreath, PL24 2TR**

David is the Cornwall Councillor for Fowey and Tywardreath and has also been a member of FTC during 2016/2017.

David can be contacted at [d.hughes@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:d.hughes@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Cllr Patrick Hughes**

**077898 71482**

**Little Carnethic, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN**

Patrick joined the Council during the year and is a member of the Environment Committee.

He will continue as a Councillor during 2017/2018.

Patrick can be contacted at [patrick.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:patrick.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk)

**Cllr Lesley McCartney**

**01726**

**834473**

**51, Tavern Barn, PL23 1EG**

Lesley is a member of the Town Hall Committee and the Planning Committee. Lesley will be standing down from the Council in May 2017.

Lesley can be contacted at [lesleymccartney@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleymccartney@btinternet.com)

**Cllr Carl Stansfield**

**01726 833472**

**2, Du Maurier Drive, PL23 1DW**

Carl joined the Council during the year and will continue as a member during 2017/2018

Carl can be contacted at [sephjo19@hotmail.com](mailto:sephjo19@hotmail.com)

**Cllr David Willmore**  
**90, Hill Hay Close, PL23 1EN**

**01726 833134**

David is a member of the Planning Committee, the Finance Committee and is the Chairman of the Town Hall Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2017/2018.

David can be contacted at [d@willmore.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:d@willmore.eclipse.co.uk)

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2016/2017**

2016-2017 has been another busy year for the Town Council. I wrote last year about the challenges facing not just our Town Council but those up and down the country since the Devolution Act was passed in 2012 and the changing nature of Town Councils.

The Neighbourhood Plan is making us ask questions about where we want Fowey to be in the next twenty years, what sort of Housing do we need? Will there be sufficient infrastructure for new residents? Are we a sustainable town? In other words is Fowey a place where there are jobs and houses for young families? Will we have a secondary school? A hospital? We are having to get used to the loss of our high street banks, our main PO – but how well does the Town serve the needs of a town of 2,500 people? Some of these decisions are beyond the remit of a Town Council but not for the dialogue we should be having with our residents. Communication however is a problem; how do we connect with all the different groups in our community? Firstly by making certain all these different groups are represented democratically on the Town Council.

One of the returning assets to Fowey Town Council is Squires Field. The Community Centre was formally opened last July by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. During the year it has been a pleasure to see how well the committee has taken this building and created a valuable community asset which is now used very day of the week. This is an absolute success story.

Parking Concerns over inconsiderate parking in Passage Lane have continued this year. I have had numerous phone calls and emails from members of the public concerned about the numbers of local workers who are choosing to park here and walk into town causing dangerous obstructions. FTC believe there is a real hazard caused by this inconsiderate parking to the provision of blue light services, to passing traffic and to heavy vehicles to the port which are too big for the Imerys supply road, that yellow lines should be painted from the current yellow lines (just beyond Rawlings Lane) and up to Lescrow. This will form part of a Traffic Order for Fowey which will include yellow lines by the side of Squires Field; a seasonal no parking sign to stop holiday makers parking on the single track road at the top of Polkerris; and disabled parking bays surveyed and realigned so they can be properly enforced.

Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan: In just over two years the steering group is very pleased to be now writing draft policies for Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan. This is an achievement to be proud of. NDP's have to be community led and so far through the involvement of residents at exhibitions working groups there have been over 150 people actively involved in sharing their views and opinions. Over 300 people have also completed a major questionnaire about how they want Fowey to develop in the next 20 years. As soon as these draft policies are completed they will be available for residents' scrutiny.

My thanks to all committee chairs for their hard work during the year and to all the Councillors for their diligence and commitment during what has been such a busy year.

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’, please get involved.

Finally, can I give a big vote of thanks to our Town Clerk, Sally Vincent who works very hard on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Fowey. The Town Clerk has dealt calmly with the increasing workload of the Council from the day to day issuing of parking permits and allotment licences, to dealing with the far more complex legal and financial concerns which come from an increasing portfolio of public buildings held by the Town Council.

**Ruth Finlay, Mayor of Fowey**

### **REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE 2016/2017**

We are continuing with the refurbishments, replacement of all the old and heavy tables, some redecorating, the new window dressings are now in place, the Hearing Loop has been refurbished and we now have Wi-Fi in the Office. The programme continues slowly but a difference is being made to the overall look which we hope will encourage more people to use the Town Hall. It is ideal to hire for all events wedding receptions etc. Our hiring rates are very competitive with other establishments in the town, we have also had to purchase a projector and screen which, when installed, will be available for use by other users of the Hall.

Our PCSO Lloyd Paynter and the Neighbourhood Policing Team use the Town Hall Office for the monthly Surgeries.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to Cllrs. Lesley McCartney and Giles Asker, my fellow Councillors on the Town Hall Committee, and our Caretaker Caroline Lewis and her partner Russell Maclaren, who does a fantastic job with all our requests for repairs and refurbishments.

Thanks must also go to the Troy Players, the organisers of the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature and the Craft Fair coordinators for their continued support and use of the Hall.

**David Willmore, Chairman Town Hall Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2016/2017**

Some of you may have noticed in the Finance minutes that we have raised the precept by 14.25% for year 2017/18. This is to cover the short fall in services that used to be paid by Cornwall Council and to meet our ever increasing demands on assets recovered from Cornwall Council. As a Council our areas for raising money are very limited, the main source being the precept. We continually explore ways of earning funds and to that extent as a Council we are costing work to be done at Squires Field whereby we could offer a limited number of reserved parking spaces, similar to those in Market and Webb Street. We have been asked and will grant a reserved space for the very popular Community Bus. Our aim is to make as many returned assets cost neutral as possible. The Community Centre is one such case, the football pavilion is another, but I am afraid we will never succeed with the Public Conveniences they remain an expense which we as a Council were asked to maintain by the townspeople of Fowey.

A considerable amount of my committee's work is done by the Environment and Town Hall committees as they both have their own budgets and are responsible for their own spending, we check on their budgets on a regular basis. The Town Quay however comes under our responsibility and going back to raising money, we will at some stage have to consider the parking charges. We try to achieve full compensation for any work carried out on the quay by outside agencies but at the end of the day there is nothing we can do to prevent the work taking place, not that we would ever try.

We have set out the *Finance Committee Responsibilities*, which are posted on our web page. I would like to thank all the members of the finance committee for their hard work over the year.

**John Berryman, Chairman Finance Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2016/2017**

When I took over from Cllr. Anne Boosey - by the way hers were very big shoes to fill – Anne had a 'stress-toy' given to her by the Town Clerk. When it was handed onto me it was a very sad looking 'stress toy,' completely used up, having had the life squeezed out of it.

The last year was another busy and frustrating one, we seem to be piggy in the middle, we have at times been at odds with Developers, residents and Cornwall Council but we try to do our best for the town which we all love. One notable success is that the Station Master's house is very nearly finished and it is looking good.

My thanks go to all the members of the Planning Committee for their hard work and support.

**David Willmore, Chairman Planning Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2016/2017**

It has been another successful year with the work of the Environment Committee and I would like to thank my fellow members for their commitment and hard work over the year. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances, Councillor Eardley was unable to continue with her valuable work in the Council and resigned from the Town Council in August.

There are four different aspects to this committee

1. The Local Maintenance Partnership/and Agency Agreement, which are partnerships between the Fowey Town Council and Cornwall Council.

We look after fourteen Gold Public Rights of Way in the Parish have a total grant of £688.46 to be cut once in the year. We have to wait until nesting birds have fledged before we can allow our contractor to cut.

We also have an Agency Agreement in respect of grass cutting around the Town. CC pay for four cuts per year and Fowey Town Council pay for five cuts. So the Town grassed areas, designated to be cut, are cut nine times per year at a total cost of £2,646.00, including vat.

CC do not pay for any weed killing around the Town, but Fowey Town Council weed sprays twice a year at a cost of £1,410.00 pa

The committee would like to thank our contractor Lanhydrock Garden Services who have worked hard for the Town over the past year.

2. Old Grammar School Garden: this popular and well loved garden had been left for a number of years with no change to the planting or any improvement to the layout. In 2014 Fowey Town Council made the decision to improve the Lower garden. The Lower garden is in its final phase of development. Work on this final phase will begin in May and will see

new planting in the oak sleeper beds and the final oak seating will finish off the work in the special garden.

3. Fowey In Bloom: one of the aims of the Environment Committee is to keep regular contact with the volunteer Fowey in Bloom group to support their activities and also through a grant from TC of £500.00 .Again this group took part in Cornwall in Bloom in 2017 with many entries of which the Town Centre displays were judged “excellent”. This very small group of volunteers help create a colourful and cared for town from spring through to the autumn which our visitors and locals appreciate. This small group need more volunteers and help from businesses with things like watering during the summer and on behalf of the Environment Committee we thank them for the work they do.

4. Allotments: this community resource continues to grow from strength to strength. This year the Readymoney Association has been involved with a joint project with the West of England University to look at how gardeners in Fowey are affected by changing climate and what methods they use to try to overcome drought periods. This coming year the RAS are intending to create a plot which would enable a person with disability the opportunity of growing fruit and vegetables. The Apple Orchard which was planted in Jan, 2015, with old Cornish varieties is thriving. The apple trees had their first pruning last spring and we hope to be able to pick some apples in the autumn.

**Ruth Finlay, Chairman Environment Committee**

### **REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR 2016/2017**

The past year has been difficult for Cornwall Council as the effect of Central Government funding cuts is starting to affect “frontline” services such as road maintenance, libraries and social services. Increasingly we are seeing services which we have taken for granted being cut back or removed completely. Overall, whilst it is easy to pick on details, I believe that the Council has not done a bad job of reducing the impact on the public, not a little, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Council staff. Unfortunately, unless the Government has an unexpected change of heart, we can only expect things to get worse in coming years. We have been told to expect further cuts of about one third in funding in the next three years.

For me, the greatest achievement of the past year has been getting the Cornwall Local Plan approved by the Inspector and adopted. Those of us on the Planning Policy Committee and our officers spent many hours working on the plan to ensure that it complied with the many essential criteria laid down by the Government, having to accept a higher level of new-builds and lower levels of affordable housing than many of us would have wished.

Unfortunately, the Inspector made it clear that, without accepting the alterations, there was no way that the Plan would be accepted. Without a Local Plan in place the National Planning Framework would be the basis for decision making, giving virtually carte-blanche to developers. The harsh reality is that we have to abide by government policy and, however much we “huff and puff” and sign petitions, until we have a national government which is prepared to devolve real power to local authorities and listen to local concerns, there is no chance of this changing.

However, the new Local Plan does give Cornwall far more power than we have previously had to oppose developments which do not comply with its policies. In the three months that it has been in effect we have seen far more refusals of applications and our success rate on appeals has improved from 60% to 80%. Even more significantly, because Neighbourhood

Plans are an integral part of the policy, Inspectors are now prepared to give significant weight to them in their decisions. Locally, it is important to note that WainHomes latest attempt to extend their development at Hill Hay was refused without having to go to committee, using the powers in the new Local Plan Policies

The Fowey Neighbourhood Plan is making real progress thanks to the efforts of a small but committed group of people. I would urge all local residents, of all ages, to play an active part in its development. This is your opportunity to help shape the way our community develops over the next 20 years. We cannot “ban” any future development but we can influence where development should take place and shape the nature of that development in terms of scale, design, housing mix etc. With the Local Plan in place, Neighbourhood Plans are significant planning documents which must be considered by Inspectors at appeal.

The inconsiderate parking in Passage Lane is an on-going problem, with the potential to have very serious consequences in the event of an emergency in the docks or the northern part of town. Working with the emergency services, Imerys, Harbourmaster, Town Council and concerned local people over the past 6 months, I have been putting pressure on Cornwall Council to put in place an appropriate Traffic Order. This would permit the placing of double yellow lines and enforce compliance. Unfortunately, due to the complicated and expensive bureaucratic procedures imposed by national government, in spite of promises at the highest level that the matter will be given high priority, I regret that, as of today, I can give no assurances as to when this will happen. I shall continue to apply pressure until I am successful.

When the Traffic Order is agreed, I hope that we can include in it provision to prevent parking in front of Squire’s Field Car Park, which is causing real problems for car park users . We also hope to include the restricted parking by the bank, which is currently unenforceable and is causing significant distress, particularly to disabled drivers.

The problem of anti-social parking around schools is of huge concern to many local residents, not just here but across Cornwall. As a result of a Motion to Council to which I was a signatory, a study is under way into how the situation might be improved. An early finding was that much of the signage was not legally enforceable and measures are in hand to rectify this. Another part of the problem is that, as a response to Government cuts, the number of Enforcement officers had been reduced. To deal with this specific problem it has been agreed that more officers will be recruited. However, the reality is that the only way in which the situation will improve is if individuals act in a more responsible, less antisocial manner. Peer pressure can make a big difference in this. Rather than say “someone should do something about this”, groups of parents/carers could approach “offenders” politely pointing out the danger and nuisance which is being caused. Undoubtedly some of those approached will respond rudely but, a bit like smoking or drink-driving, little by little the message will get through.

Having successfully worked with the Town Council to transfer Town Quay and Caffa Mill toilets to us, we have worked very hard to find ways of keeping Readymoney and Main Car Park toilets open. What appears to be a workable solution has been found for Readymoney and I am pleased that Main Car park toilets should remain open for the summer whilst a long-term solution is found.

I share the concerns of most people in Fowey at the ongoing closure of Fowey hospital. It is incomprehensible that, when Treliske and Derriford are under such pressure, in part due to

“bed-blocking”, with patients needing only basic nursing care occupying expensive “acute” beds, we have a facility in Fowey unoccupied which could allow such patients to recuperate close to their friends and family.

I will continue to try to work with the NHS and local pressure groups to reinstate use of Fowey Hospital. We are victims of Central Government’s chronic under-funding and lack of understanding of local needs and pressures. Unfortunately, there is very little that Cornwall Council, or its representatives, can do directly about this other than apply pressure on the government and our MP’s to re-think their misguided policies and priorities.

We are very fortunate to live in a place with a strong sense of identity and community with many unsung heroes and heroines who work selflessly and often unseen to keep it vibrant. In Fowey, we are very fortunate to have a particularly hard-working and dedicated Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Council. Together, we have been able to achieve a great deal for our community.

**David Hughes, Cornwall Councillor for Fowey & Tywardreath**

**AND FINALLY**

Remember that meetings of the town council are held in the Town Hall and are advertised on our notice board and on our website [www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://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 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 devolution of many assets and services from Cornwall Council to 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](mailto:sallyvincent957@btinternet.com).

**Sally Vincent, Town Clerk**



