



TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT 2014 - 2015

The continuing budget cuts at Cornwall Council, and their impact on local councils has once again been the focus of much of the work of the Council over the preceding year. At the end of March this year Cornwall Council withdrew its financial support for its Youth Service. The Nancherrow Project was one of many projects across the county that was affected. However, I am pleased to report that the Town Council has provided interim financial support to enable the project to continue and is working with the Nancherrow Committee and Cornwall Council to secure its long term future.

In June last year, a new clock mechanism was installed in the War Memorial – after years of interruptions to the power supply I am pleased to report that we now have a clock that ticks away quite nicely for the benefit of the local community.

In July, the Town Council began conversations with Cornwall Council on the future of the Library Service, and in particular the future of St Just Library. Last year saw a significant reduction in its opening times to meet budgetary pressures but further reductions are required. Discussions with the Council were halted towards the end of last year and a wider public consultation on the future of the service began in April this year and will run until 10 June. However, it is likely that discussions between the Town Council, and Cornwall Council will begin again after that date with a final decision on the future of St Just Library being made towards the end of this year. The Town Council will continue work closely with all groups and organisations to reach a positive outcome and one that will benefit the whole community.



In September last year, St Just in Bloom finally achieved its long awaited gold award. On behalf of the Town Council we wish to express our sincere thanks to all the members of the group who give up so much of their time to make the town look so beautiful. I am also pleased to be able to report that the Town Council has again agreed to support the group by providing the flowers for this year's displays. Let's keep our fingers crossed for another successful year; and in recognition of all their hard work in 2014 St Just in Bloom were the deserved recipients of the Council's "Citizens of the Year Award". Well done to you all.

As usual, July also saw the annual Lafrowda Day celebrations: although the Town Council was not directly involved in the activities on the day it continues in its financial support of the festival and this year has once again made a significant financial contribution to the Committee recognising the importance that the event has on attracting tourists to the town and supporting local businesses.

In August, I hosted my annual "Mayor's Sunday" event. It was a gloriously sunny occasion and I was particularly pleased to see so many local groups and organisations represented. These groups are the backbone of our community and the work of the volunteers who support them cannot be underestimated. As a Council we are full of admiration for the work they do and will continue to offer any support and help in any way we can.

For a fourth year in succession the Town Council has been able to provide a grant of £2,500 to the St Just TIC to enable it to be open during the peak tourist season. The TIC provides a much needed service for tourists visiting the area and support to local businesses which are dependent on the tourist trade. Therefore, it is likely that the TIC will also form part of the discussions on the future of the library service in St Just when they recommence later this year.



As in previous years, planning continues to be a major element of Town Council business. The Council takes a keen interest in planning matters within the parish and is actively engaged in ensuring that future developments are sympathetic to the rural character of the local area. During the year, the Town Council has commented on 144 planning applications which is an increase in the number from last year.

The review of the “Community Action Plan 2025” document by Cllrs Mrs Blundy, Mrs McQueen and Mrs Salmon was completed in September last year. Their document *“The Future of St Just and Pendeen Community Survey 2014”* provided an analysis of the completed questionnaires. The document highlighted a number of issues of importance to the local community and the Town Council has agreed to use the document for reference purposes on related topics in the future. I would like to personally thank the Councillors for their hard work in putting together this document.

Following complaints regarding the parking of non-disabled vehicles in the disabled bays in the Lafrowda Car Park, the Town Council recently funded new signage and white lining in the car park. As you know the car park continues to be free at the point of use which helps to support the local economy. In addition, the Town Council has provided financial support towards the cost of the new coach bay in the car park which it is hoped will attract more tourists into the town for the benefit of the local economy.

Sadly, on 1 January this year the Town Council lost one its longest serving Councillors. Monty Nicholls had served on the Council for 20 years, five years of which as a Town Mayor. Monty gave a huge amount of his time for the local community, having served on a range of groups and organisations. He was most



recently instrumental in establishing the Huelgoat Twinning Group and the local community has benefitted from many cultural, sporting and educational exchanges.

This left a vacancy on the Town Council and I'm pleased to say that Dave Stevens has once again re-joined the Council following his uncontested election on 10 April. Welcome back Dave!

The Town Council continues to work closely with the local policing team, in particular PCSO Andy Tonkin to address local issues. Crime figures continue to fall making our local community a safer place in which to live and work. Recently, the Town Clerk has been working closely with Andrew and Cornwall Council's Dog Warden to address concerns regarding the continuing problem of dog fouling within the town, and more importantly the Plain-an-Gwarry. I hope you agree with me, that it was important that the Council was seen to be taking the matter seriously, particularly as the Plain is used to host events. The Council's recent decision to ban dogs, in my view was the right one, and I am pleased to report, that on the whole the local community has supported our decision and there has been a marked reduction in dog fouling in that area. I appreciate that this decision may have led to an increase in the problem for other areas, but let me assure you that the Council is aware of the problems and is actively pursuing Public Safety Protection Orders to help reduce the problem. A decision won't happen overnight so I hope you will be patient and that we can achieve a positive outcome.

Again, as in previous year's the Town Council will continue to put greater emphasis on its financial support to local groups and organisations, in particular those organisations which have seen significant reductions in the level of grant funding from other organisations such as Cornwall Council. In December, the Town Council agreed to increase its financial provision by a further £2,500 to £27,500 in 2015 / 16.



In February this year, we were advised by Cornwall Council that following a review of its environmental assets it would no longer be maintaining or managing Pendeen Playing Field as it did not own the land. The Town Council is currently in discussions with the Board of Trustees who are responsible for the playing field regarding the transfer of the asset to the Town Council and I am also pleased to confirm that as of 1 October, this year responsibility for maintaining the playing field will transfer to the Town Council. The Council is aware of how important this facility is to the local community and will do its best to protect it for future generations.

Maintenance of the parish's footpaths has continued under the Local Maintenance Partnership Scheme, and will again include parts of the Coast Path. The Council has also set aside monies within its own budget to supplement the LMP funding and ensure that the footpath network is maintained to a reasonable standard. I would like to take this opportunity to remind members of the public that they are encouraged to let the Council know of any problems with the footpath network so that the money can be spent in the areas where it is most needed.

Finally, I hope that you will agree that this has been another busy year for the Town Council, and particularly its staff who work tirelessly on your behalf in implementing our decisions, and providing much needed advice and support to enable us to effectively carry out our duties as elected councillors.

Kevin McFadden
Town Mayor

11/05/2015