



TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT 2013- 2014

2 May 2013 saw the election of the new Council. As only nine candidates put their names forward, their election was uncontested which left the remaining three seats to be filled by co-option. These seats were finally filled in January this year, and I am extremely pleased on the progress that the new Council has made over the preceding 12 month period.

With so many new faces on the Council a considerable amount of time has been spent on bringing the new councillors up to date on the major issues affecting the Council, such as the Council's long term aspiration to purchase the freehold of the public car parks and conveniences within the parish from Cornwall Council and the delivery of much needed affordable homes to meet the local demand.

In seeking to achieve the Council's ambition for the car parks and conveniences, the Town Council at its budget meeting in December agreed to set up a new Capital Asset Reserve for that specific purpose. The reserve currently stands at £75,000. With a freehold purchase price of £110,000 the Council hopes to be able to reach its goal within the next 18 – 24 months.

Towards the end of last year the Town Council launched its new website. The new improved site is more user friendly and provides direct access to the latest Council information. The site also includes a "comments" facility and the Town Councillors and I very much hope that local residents will use it to let us know your views on any issues affecting the local community. Please be assured your views are important to us.



The long awaited repairs to the St Just Bus Shelter have involved lengthy and protracted discussions with Cornwall Council. Many agencies including the local Police have been working together to ensure that repairs are undertaken and I am pleased to report that an order was recently placed by Cornwall Council to enable the repairs to be carried out.

Last July, I had the pleasure of being invited to attend the judging of the South West in Bloom competition and to see at first hand the work carried out by the volunteers of the St Just in Bloom Group. I hadn't appreciated the amount work of that goes into making the town bloom and it's all down to their hard work, dedication and unwavering commitment. I'm pleased to report that in recognition of this hard work, this year the Town Council has again awarded the group a grant to help support its work, and in addition, in attempting to gain that illusive gold award has agreed to fund the cost of sourcing professionally produced floral displays to ensure that the town's displays are all in full bloom when the judges arrive – fingers crossed for this year.

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 has again this year increased its financial contribution recognising the importance that the event has on attracting tourists to the town and supporting local businesses.

In August, the Town Council received a report from PCSO Andrew Tonkin that the goal posts had been removed from the St Just Recreation Ground because of health & safety concerns. In view of this, the Town Council subsequently agreed to fund the purchase of a new set of goal posts which have been ordered and will hopefully be installed in the coming weeks.



On 11 August I hosted the annual “Mayor’s Sunday”. 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 we can.

In September, a new bench was kindly donated to the town in remembrance of the Harvey family. The bench was finally installed outside the Council Offices at the end of the summer for the enjoyment of all. I hope you agree it makes a fitting addition to the local streetscape.

For a third 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. In addition, following Cornwall Council’s decision to reduce the library opening hours due to budgetary constraints, the Town Council has been actively engaged in discussions with Cornwall Council on future service delivery within the parish, and with a potential partner organisation regarding an enhanced TIC facility within the town. Discussions are at an early stage but I am confident that by working together we can secure a library and TIC facility within the local community for future generations.

In September, the Town Council was approached by the Outreach Publication Team in Pendeen which was facing financial difficulties due to unexpectedly having to purchase a new printing machine at a cost of £2,000.00. This meant that there were insufficient funds to cover the cost of producing the monthly magazine. I am pleased to report that the Council unanimously supported the award of £2,000.00 to cover the costs and that the publication continues to be enjoyed by all who read it.



As in previous years, planning continues to be a major element of Town Council business. The Town 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 112 planning applications which is an increase in the number from last year.

Over the last 12 months the issue of neighbourhood plans has dominated planning discussions, with local communities being encouraged to develop their own plans. However, as this Council has previously demonstrated its commitment to working closely with Cornwall Council on planning matters, such as the delivery of affordable homes it feels that the production of such a document at this stage is not required. However, the Council has agreed to review and update the Land's End Area Forum Vision document entitled "Community Action Plan 2025" which was produced in 2006 as part of the Market Coastal Towns Initiative. The document sets out themes and goals for the future of the area. Cllrs Mrs Blundy, Mrs McQueen and Mrs Salmon are currently working on this review and I would personally like to thank them all for the work that they have undertaken so far on this project.

Turning to the preservation of our local historical heritage: Restoration work has commenced on the St Just War Memorial Clock. The movement has been removed for an upgrade which will mean that in future during interruptions to the power supply – which can be frequent in St Just – the clock will be unaffected. In addition, due to health and safety concerns a new internal ladder is to be installed. In addition, the Council has also approved expenditure for some general repairs and maintenance to the Pendeen War Memorial.



Hopefully you will all have noticed that work has again restarted on repairing the perimeter wall of the Plain-an-Gwarry following the awful winter weather. Phase 2 of the works are nearing completion with the rest of the repairs to be completed in the next 12 months. This is the end of a three year project to stabilise the wall which benefitted from English Heritage funding.

The Town Council continues to work closely with the local policing team, in particular PCSO Andy Tonkin and PCSO Charlotte Trembath to address local issues. Crime figures continue to fall making our local community a safer place in which to live and work.

This year the Town Council will be placing greater emphasis on its financial support to local groups and organisations, in particular those local 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 £5,000 to £25,000 in 2014 / 15. This has meant that the Town Council has been able to provide greater financial assistance to organisations such as the St Just & District Community Sport Association which faced an uncertain future.

Maintenance of the area footpaths has continued under the Local Maintenance Partnership Scheme, and will again include parts of the Coast Path. The Council has also increased its own budget to carry out additional works on the Silver Path network with a view to improving access to some of the more widely used paths. I would 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. In addition, the Town Council has also taken over responsibility from Cornwall Council for grass cutting in the Closed Churchyard, St



Just for which it will receive grant funding. This work will hopefully complement the work being carried out by the St Just in Bloom Group.

At the beginning of this year, the Town Clerk received a visitation from The Ark, Pendeen. About 15 children, together with their teaching assistants presented the Council with a big “thank you” for the grant of £3,000 towards their new outdoor play area. The children were given a tour of the Council Chamber and held a “mock” Council Meeting – I have it on good report from the Clerk that the assistants were somewhat surprised as to how similar in character the children were to their adult role models on the Council – I think it might be best to leave that one there.....! On a serious note – I would like to encourage more local groups and organisations to come into the Council Offices and find out more about its work. Community engagement is a fundamental part of our work and it’s important that you know what we are doing on your behalf.

In January this year the Town Council formalised its relationship with the Greater Bendigo City Council in Australia by entering into a formal Sister City Relationship. A number of Town Councillors are represented on the local committee and we look forward to developing the relationship in the coming months.

Finally, I hope that you will agree that this has been a 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 members.

Kevin McFadden
Town Mayor

12/05/2014