

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 15 April 2019 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Wells (Chairman), Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect), Mrs Callen, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Cox, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Mrs Neale, Rich, Roden, Ms Southcombe, Smith (Mayor Elect) and Mrs Stokes

Also, in attendance: Councillor Nolan, Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and Ms Joanne Trevelyan, Financial Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received

**412 DISCLOSURE OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Carlyon and Councillor Ms Southcombe (Mayor) declared an interest in matters relating to Truro Library on the grounds of being trustees of the Central Technical Schools for Cornwall.

**413 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18 March 2019, having been before Council on 25 March 2019, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**414 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (TIC)**

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer presented the TIC monthly report highlighting that the digital counter installed at the entrance of the TIC shop had provided evidence of an increase in footfall. Although footfall had decreased in March sales continued to increase in comparison to the previous year. He confirmed that the sign had been erected however, due to a quality issue, had been temporarily removed; once restored the sign would be replaced.

Councillor Mrs Carlyon requested information regarding the Summer guide and who covered the costs for the 'Children's Day' event. The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer highlighted that over the past two years there had been concerns relating to the cost of producing the guide. Therefore, this year a smaller, generic guide had been produced to substitute the usual January guide; this was being produced at present and on budget. The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer further confirmed that the 'Children's Day' event was an event organised and paid for by Business Improvement District (BID).

Councillor Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect) suggested thanks be offered to TIC staff as the report reflected an increase in footfall and sales and the introduction of the digital side of the business seemed to be having a positive impact on the overall business.

The TIC report was noted.

**415 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Community Development officer, Damien Richards, introduced his report.

**Malpas Residents Association**

He highlighted that activities in Malpas Community Centre were offered based on the results of the residents' survey. The cinema events had seen success and facilitated residents, who were unable to access the cinema in the City, seeing films closer to home. He added that all activities were delivered by professional people at a reduced

cost for residents. This he added, was similar to a Social Enterprise situation where organisations delivered sessions at a cost and used the money to deliver free activities in the future.

Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) suggested collecting data to gain insight into the frequency the centre is used. The Community Development Officer confirmed that data would be collated from events in the Malpas Community Centre to compare again in six months' time.

#### **Tregurra Residents Association**

The Community Development Officer highlighted that Community Leaders (Appendix A) were members of the Tregurra neighbourhood and carried out work for the Residents' Association. The Samaritans had contacted him as they were seeking new premises in Truro and it had been suggested they relocate to the Tregurra area and provide a community facility for the residents there. The Community Development Officer hoped that in the future a plot of land would be devolved for this initiative; he was awaiting a reply from Cornwall Council regarding this.

#### **Trelander and St Clements Youth Club**

This is now run by 'Outdoor Place' and funded by St Clements, Trelander and Beechwood Parc Resident Association. The club was proving positive and used by young people in the area.

#### **Creative Connections**

The 'Arts Well' initiative is a project aimed at engaging people suffering from isolation, mental or physical health, in creative activities. This project supported the ongoing Social Prescribing work in the community.

#### **Ms Sharon Nettleton – Community Navigator**

The Community Navigator highlighted that her role was to promote the well-being of residents in Truro by recognising ways of reducing isolation and rebuilding residents' confidence following social and health issues. She suggested this could be done by inviting residents who need support to local groups where they can share skills. The Community Navigator highlighted that her work linked with health professionals and the Social Prescriber in Truro Health Park, but her work helped people in a non-medical environment. Unlike the Social Prescriber, who remains in the Health Park, the Community Navigator could move around the community, work with, and listen to, the needs of a variety of groups. The Community Navigator confirmed that her active presence in the community would ensure that groups and events were not duplicated. The Community Navigator highlighted several initiatives already established or moving forward in the local community:

- Cornwall College are scheduled to offer residents free Horticultural training in the Hendra area.
- A sensory garden in the Rosedale estate; it is hoped this will be maintained by the residents as it was an initiative requested by them.
- Repair Café where local people offer to undertake repair work for residents.
- Talking Café that provided opportunities for people to come together, drive ideas and give advice.
- Hendra shop had recently registered as a safe place and the nearby coffee shop had also shown an interest. It was hoped that both premises would offer dementia awareness sessions in the future.
- Talks from the fire and police service and local health teams would be arranged; this maintained a health strand to the work.

Councillor Rich left the room at 7:29 and returned at 7:31.

Councillor Ms Southcombe (Mayor) highlighted that a small working group consisting of Councillors Mrs Allen, Mrs Butler and Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, had been set up. Together with the Community Navigator, they had identified the need for a database where residents could access information of groups in their local area. Councillor Wells (Chairman) suggested that the online facility run and managed by Age UK provided information on local groups. He suggested that Members of the Committee contact Age UK should they become aware of any group not on the database.

Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) left the room at 7:36 and returned at 7:38.

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that Ms Sharon Nettleton, Community Navigator, was employed by Kernow Health and part funded by Truro City Council.

Councillor Wells (Chairman) expressed thanks to Ms Nettleton, Community Navigator, and the Community Development Officer for their presentations and ongoing work.

The Report was noted.

#### **416 DEVOLUTION OF LIBRARY BUILDING AND SERVICE**

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer updated members of the Committee on the significant work being done at present by three organisations: Truro City Council, Cornwall Council and the Trustees of the Central Technical Schools for Cornwall. He added that four legal agreements were needed before the devolvement could be completed; a freehold transfer for the front of the building, a lease between Truro City Council and the Trustees for the rear part of the building; (this could result in two separate leases, one for the ground floor and the other covering the first and second floor). Cornwall Council had insisted on an 'option agreement' stating that, should Truro City Council default from the obligation of running a library service, they reserve the right to take back the ground floor to maintain the service while it remained a statutory requirement. The final legal agreement was the Service Level Agreement and would be the agreement with Cornwall Council that outlined the operation of the library. Truro City Council would also inherit some tenancy agreements and some service agreements.

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that progress had been made however, the target transfer date had now moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> July. He added that the date did not seem probable due to the necessary staff consultation required by Cornwall Council.

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that Cornwall Council would monitor the service provided by the City Council. However, should the service cease to run, they could intervene and take the ground floor to fulfil their statutory duties of providing a library. The agreement would also state that Cornwall Council would not be entitled to take back the ground floor should they not provide resources to continue a valid library service.

Councillor Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect) expressed concerns as to the time it was taking for Cornwall Council to devolve the Library building and Service. The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer highlighted that the legal requirements were progressing and confirmed that Truro City Council would continue to provide a library service while it was a statutory requirement. Truro City Council would be under no obligation to provide a library service if it was not a statutory requirement; this would depend on whether Cornwall Council continued to provide a book service.

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer confirmed to Councillor Mrs Stokes that the proposed transfer date was 1<sup>st</sup> July and the agreement between Cornwall Council and the Trustees was that substantial building work would begin before the agreement was signed. The Trustees would need to sign the agreement before Truro City Council.

**417 TRURO CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Wells (Chairman) read an email from Councillor Vella (Chairman of the Planning Committee) highlighting the importance of extending the Planning assistant's hours to support the continuation of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Councillor Vella (Chairman of Planning Committee) suggested that the Committee had done essential work and given both Cornwall Council and Truro City Council their opinions and advice for planning applications in the City.

Councillor Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect) added that, in his opinion, the Truro Conservation Area Advisory Committee was essential for maintaining high quality conservation areas in Truro and for maintaining a positive reputation. He further added that a well-established Committee would safeguard the future of Truro's Conservation areas.

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer highlighted the hours set out and expenditure needed for the extended working hours and costs.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect), seconded by Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) and unanimously

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (i) the Committee agrees a supplementary budget of £2,400 a year to provide administrative support to a Conservation Committee;
- (ii) the contract for the part-time planning Committee assistant be increased from 22.2 hours per week to 26.2 hours per week.

**418 TRURO DAY**

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer requested that members of the Committee offered their views in relation to, and consider increasing the yearly grant for, the Truro Day event. The Truro Day Committee had requested an increase in grant to fund play equipment including a bouncy castle. In return they would provide a banner indicating Truro City Council's support of the event. Councillors suggested that the Boscawen play equipment, provided by Truro City Council, would provide adequate activity for children and expressed concerns to the safety of a bouncy castle in a particularly windy area close to the estuary. Councillor Roden further suggested that, in his opinion, Truro City Council should not be confirming association with or promoting a bouncy castle due to the dangers they entail.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Smith (Mayor Elected) and unanimously

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (i) the request to increase the grant by £500.00 be denied;
- (ii) the Park's department provide a breakdown of costs and staff involved to prepare the area for the Truro Day.

**419 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

The meeting closed at 8:09 pm.

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CHAIRMAN

# Six month report for Finance and General Purposes Committee

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Thank you for the invitation to the F&GP meeting to deliver a 6-month report.

Truro City Council's Community Development service is designed to support and empower communities to continue the great work already happening, organise events in communities, help grow the use of community centres and have strong, open and well governed community groups to deliver positive action in their neighbourhoods; and bring communities together. We are active in engagement and continue to connect residents and neighbourhoods together.

We currently support nine communities in Truro and Truro as a whole community and that will grow as the city grows.

**Community Development = Engage, Empower, Support, Develop.**

## Tregurra

Tregurra have had ups and down this last 6 months with a gentle growth of the Tregurra Residents Association and sadly with key members stepping down. Saying that, we saw an amazing community fun day take place at Tregurra Playing Field and the group have plans for events this year with further engagement with residents at Tregurra and their community neighbours.

### **Key things that have happened or are happening at Tregurra with our support:**

- Facilitated committee meetings to take place at Café Chaos.
- Held 1-2-1 meetings with community leaders.
- Looking to facilitate a partnership with a national charity which may lead to a Community Centre for the area.

## Malabar

New Beginning Community Association (NBCA) at Malabar are a team of dedicated volunteers that understand what their community needs and deliver events and activities that aim to bring the community together and care for their fellow residents. It seems like some time ago when one of our first Community Development priorities at Truro City Council was to get NBCA started again after years in the wilderness and empowering residents to make a difference. Where we may have led at the start, we now work hard in the background to continue to support and empower NBCA to achieve all that they are hoping to bring to their community. One of the key things we are involved with at the moment is to support NBCA to build a brand-new community centre for all to benefit from, it seems that the fantastic activities are outgrowing their current centre and NBCA are looking to provide even more activities for residents in a larger modern venue.

- We support NBCA continue to deliver their Tuesday afternoons for the over 50s, this includes Bingo, film afternoons, music and generally time to meet, chat and be with others.
- We are providing ongoing support for the build of a new community centre for the area.
- We were sad to see the chairperson Lisa Wearne of NBCA step down, but Richard Hall stepped up to take the reins of that position, and is doing a fantastic job.

## **Rosedale**

What can I say about Rosedale and the fabulous Rosedale Community Association that have brought the community such effective 'bringing the community together' activities. Rosedale are a classic example of what our Community Development role at Truro City Council is; we started the group up and continue to support their growth.

### **Some of the key things happening at Rosedale and how we have supported:**

- Attended the community association meetings.
- Supported events such as; City Clean Up litterpicks, Summer fete and Christmas Santa Grotto.
- Sections of the playing field have been planted up by residents with pollinator wildflowers as part of the Bug Life project.
- The association caring for their isolated people made biscuits at Christmas time to deliver to older, isolated residents and let them know support is available if needed.
- We are supporting the opening of the fenced off space to the back of the playing field for nature activities to happen for residents.

## **Malpas Road**

Please see our Assistant Community Development Worker's attached report

## **Penn An Dre**

The community engagement has been challenging this past year as the strong dynamic of the Chairperson and Secretary dissolved with both of the committee members stepping down from Penn An Dre Residents Association (PADRA). This has led to the best part of a year of non-activity for the area. However, things are now looking brighter for the group as it has reformed at the recent AGM taking place at All Saints Church, Highertown. We are now hopeful that the new group of keen community volunteers will bring positivity to the area with events and activities for residents.

### **Some of the key things happening at Penn An Dre and how we have supported:**

- Attended committee meetings until the step-downs occurred.
- Provided support to committee members by phone or face to face meetings.
- Supported the re-birth of PADRA.
- Currently arranging PADRA's involvement in this years City Clean Up event.

## **Trelander and St. Clements**

We continue to support Trelander and St. Clements Community Association to manage the Community Hall. It's a beautiful building with very high spec eco aspects that brings a range of activities for the residents and a fantastic youth club which runs twice a week at the centre.

There is going to be work taking place in the Trelander and St. Clements area this year to bring together area a community group that will be engaging in their community as others, perhaps organising litterpicks, community BBQs, fun days and other activities that 'brings the community together' Whatever a group may like to see happen in the area; we are not here to impose a 'top down' service but a 'bottom up' one.

### **How we have remained involved with Trelander:**

- Our Assistant Community Development Worker has attended most committee meetings
- We have supported secretarial duties and taken the minutes at committee meetings with the view to assisting them in finding a new secretary
- Regularly hold one to one meetings, face to face or by phone to continue that support
- We will be starting some brand-new engagement work at Trelander to bring the community together and ensure future sustainability of the community hall

## **Beechwood Parc**

Beechwood Parc are bringing the community a fully functional community association that are there to serve their community. Its governance process is of a good quality and residents are more than welcome to join them, we attend meetings when able to do so.

## **Treffry Road**

Treffry Residents Association have recently had a change in Chairperson, Martyn Pinnock served his three years on this group and Cera Lindup has taken his place. Treffry Residents Association hold community events including a Christmas carol service/Santa's grotto and a very popular Summer fete. Of course, with a change in governance brings changes in what the group may deliver, we have held meetings with the new Chairperson and have seen that with a new vigour and energy the group are looking to engage and bring the community together furthermore. Of course, we are there to fully support Treffry Residents Association with engagement, event planning and governance guidance.

## **Hendra**

Hendra is an area we have wanted to engage with for some time now and we finally got started towards the end of last year. There was a survey delivered in November 2018, there were 33 replies from 347 houses so just under 10% - that may not seem like many but it was something to work with.

Some of the key responses from the survey:

- 45% of respondents don't feel they can influence decisions where they live, we will be working with them to help them find their voice
- 13 people who took part in the survey want to get more involved with their community, great stuff!
- 23 people are either concerned or very concerned about health, now, 75% of the respondents were keen to get involved with arts and crafts, perhaps this is where Social Prescribing could come into play, maybe the setting up a creative group for those and others in the area. Its known that arts/crafts/creativity can have a positive effect on one's wellbeing.
- 90% of respondents don't use Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre, 19 people said they would like to find out more about Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre. (since then we have met with the management committee at Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre to plan how this can be improved)

If you would like to see the full results, then please get in touch.

On the back of the survey we had an open 'drop in' event take place at Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre in February 2019, we had 19 turn up of which 8 did not take part in the survey so were new engagements. So why was this initial engagement happening? Well, as you will see with the likes of Rosedale, Tregurra, Penn An Dre and Malabar our Community Development engagement is effective and our aim is to develop groups of people that want to and importantly enjoy making a difference in their communities, so that's what we are looking to achieve in Hendra.

## **Other Community Development activity, events and connected projects**

### **Truro Soup**

We have continued our support and worked alongside Truro Soup these last 6 months.

In case you don't know, what is Truro Soup?

*'Truro Soup is an experiment in microfunding, where people come together, pitch ideas, eat soup and vote on the project they think will most benefit the Truro community.'*

*'£5 entry gets you a delicious soup dinner, made from surplus vegetables, and one vote. You will hear pitches from four local projects and people with ideas to improve the community and cast your vote for your favourite. The winner takes home 100% of the money from the door to make their idea a reality.'*

We have held 2 very successful Truro Soups at The Old Ale House, there has been well over 40 people in both audiences and over £200 raised for the pitches. The winning pitch at the first Soup was homeless charity '**Truro Homeless Action Group (THAG)**' winning £225 to help continue their amazing project of providing breakfasts for the homeless of Truro. The winners at the second Truro Soup was '**Inspiring Women Network**', a group delivering fantastic services to empower women and took away £233 to help towards their running costs.

## **Creative Connections**

We are working in partnership with 'Arts Well' to deliver a wellbeing group at our soon to be devolved Truro Community Library, an outline of the project:

*'The aim of the project is to engage people who are lonely, isolated or experiencing mental or physical health challenges in creative activities as a vehicle for social engagement. It particularly supports two of the aims of the Truro Neighbourhood Plan:*

- *To encourage community cohesion*
- *To try and make sure that people of all ages and backgrounds can find fulfilment, happiness and safety in their communities*

*The project also supports local 'social prescribing' initiatives and would include referrals from local health professionals alongside people identified through other community routes.'*

## **City of Lights**

We have been a part of City of Lights once again, we attend planning meetings but from of a Community Development perspective, more importantly, work with our communities to support the delivery of involvement workshops. We aim to have more community involvement this year and will be working hard in communities to enable it to be so.

## **City Clean Up**

Once again, this past year we have been working with Truro BID and others to deliver a city-wide clean up. Our role with this fabulous project is to empower and facilitate our communities to be involved. We have long believed that litterpicking is not only 'doing you bit' when it comes to the cleanliness of our streets and neighbourhoods but promotes community cohesion, brings people together and is also good for you! A gentle exercise in the fresh air.

For this year's City Clean Up we have supported: Penn An Dre, Malpas road, Malabar, Rosedale and Hendra to take part. We write risk assessments for the groups, supply the required equipment, co-ordinate and take part in the litterpicks.

## **Malpas Road Community Cinema**

We have been working with and support a group of volunteers at Malpas Road Community Centre to deliver the Malpas Road Community Cinema. Due to extended daylight hours the community cinema shows at Autumn and Winter each year as lighter evenings effects the viewing quality. We strive to bring a quality experience both visually and with sound to the community and its been well attended. We usually have around fifteen filmgoers come to our rather 'bijou' cinema, there are drinks and popcorn available to attendees. The Malpas road area is quite far from the centre of the city so for some, a trip to the mainstream cinema will need transport to attend. The cost element is important too. Malpas Road Community Cinema is £6 for membership (including a first viewing) and £3 per viewing thereafter so much more affordable than the more mainstream cinemas. Its cosy there too and a real sense of a shared viewing experience and quite often a discussion about the film takes place afterwards.

## **Devolution**

Because of the central government austerity policy Cornwall Council has had to cut cost and one way of them doing to is to devolve some assets and services to, more local, parish councils such as ours. With our 'Community Development hat on' we see this as an opportunity to empower and support community groups to really take ownership of such facilities. We are very pleased to have taken on, Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre, Zebs Youth Centre, Truro Community Library and Goosebean Greenway. We are currently working very closely with Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre, supporting its management committee and looking to develop wellbeing groups to be delivered at the centre. We are hopeful that with the growth of a community group from the Hendra engagement as previously mentioned, Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre will become a hub for the Hendra community. As for the library, why can't this be the main community hub for Truro? discussions regarding its place in our city are forthcoming.

## **The Community Navigator and 'bottom up' Social Prescribing**

Truro City Council have joint funded a Community Navigator for Truro, while being managed by Kernow Health CIC; Sharon Nettleton will be working with communities in Truro and Feock to work on improving wellbeing from a grass roots/neighbourhood level. So how does this work? Sharon will be engaging with communities to ascertain what are the health issues being faced and what residents feel needs to be done about it. After engaging and getting an idea of what is required in the community Sharon will work with groups of people to get things started. This could be from; walking groups, arts and craft groups, exercise groups, coffee mornings, gardening clubs, anything that would improve mental and physical wellbeing, the possibilities are endless and it's a community led piece of work. From our Community Development perspective this work adds value, as we focus on engagement, empowerment and capacity building of communities Sharon can focus on the health aspect, it goes together so well. We are currently looking at developing wellbeing groups to take place at Carrick Sports and Recreation Centre as previously mentioned. These groups will be delivered by Cornwall College but driven by what the community knows is needed to improve resident's wellbeing.

***I would like to thank you for your time this evening and you are more than welcome to contact me for further information on any of the projects I've listed or ones you would like me to support or discuss.***