

Liskeard Town Forum

Dalva An Dre Lyskerrys

Meeting Notes January 2025

Items that were discussed at our public meeting

Location: Council Chamber, Liskeard Public Hall, 3-5
West Street PL14 6BW

Date: Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

1 **Welcome**

David Braithwaite, in the Chair, welcomed attendees to the Public Hall.

He invited those present to give a brief introduction to themselves.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Cassidy, PC Katie Hall, Diane Ware, Cllr Nick Craker and Lori Reid.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Tracy Adams, seconded by Sue Jewell and passed.

4 **Liskeard Police Station Front Desk Opening and New Officer Update**

PC Katie Hall was unable to attend the meeting, but the Town Clerk confirmed that the new front desk will be opening in February. No specific date had yet been given.

He thanked all those who had responded to the consultation regarding the provision of the desk.

In response to a question regarding the difficulty for those who work to visit the police station during the proposed opening hours, he agreed to raise this with PC Hall.

5 **Liskeard Town Vision Workshop – Monday 17th February 2025 at 5.30pm**

The Town Clerk informed members of the planned Liskeard Town Vision Workshop which was taking place in the Public Hall at 5.30 on Monday 17th February. The meeting was open to all, and refreshments would be served. The project is being funded by a grant from the Cornwall Council Town Accelerator Fund.

A team of design consultants have undertaken an assessment of Liskeard and the projects which are underway. The purpose of the meeting is to consult the community as to how they wish to move forward in shaping the town.

It is hoped that the meeting will attract the younger element for their views on the future of Liskeard as well as the surrounding local villages.

As the figures for new housing have not been decided at this moment, this subject will not be on the agenda for comment but suggestions relating to transport, health provision dentists and job opportunities would be welcome.

In response to details of an incident involving evidence of someone urinating at the back of a local bus and difficulty for disabled passengers and accessing the bus with prams due to the raised kerb at the bus stop outside the church at St Cleer, **Cllr Jane Pascoe agreed to notify CC Highways.**

6 **Ideas on Business Promotion**

Del Ryan – Mystery Ninja Team (Fore Street Traders) circulated a document outlining his thoughts and suggestions on the subject of the challenges faced by local businesses. (See below)

- He considered parking an expensive and stressful deterrent for shoppers wanting to visit Liskeard.
- Opening hours were random with some shops closing early.
- The effect of internet shopping on the footfall in the town. The increased costs to employ staff if the shop is kept open longer. Could businesses become more involved in the internet experience themselves.
- The need for more large-scale events to entice people into the town.
- Renewed efforts to fill the empty shops in town.

There was general agreement with the comments from Del, however most of his suggestions had been tried over many years. The consensus of opinion however was for events like weekly markets selling local produce and crafting and shops agreeing to close on the same days could be tried again with renewed input from all businesses.

It was confirmed that the Lions Club were once again organising St Matthews Fair this year.

Cllr Pascoe confirmed that a season ticket was available from CC for car parking in the town.

Alan Hartridge was confident that once the bus exchange at the Cattle Market site was finished it would relieve pressure on the traffic on the Parade and encourage visitors into the town.

Mike Allsopp invited Del Ryan to take part in a slot on his radio show to promote the delights and benefits of Liskeard.

The Chairman encouraged members to attend the Vision meeting on 17th February by reserving a place via: -

email office@liskeard.gov.uk or telephone 01579 345407 weekdays between 9am – 1pm.

LISKEARD TOWN – RETAIL CHALLENGES

27.01.2025 – Thoughts and suggestions from Del Ryan at Mystery Ninja, 13 Fore Street.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

- No Free Parking
- Inconvenient Parking
- Increased Costs
- Low Footfall
- Minimal Attractions and Entertainment
- Some buildings creating a negative look/feel
- Out of town shopping is easy, convenient and with free parking.
- Increased product costs



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mysteryninja@team@gmail.com

ITS TOUGH EVERYWHERE

Liskeard is a wonderful place with many positive attributes and an incredible community spirit. However I would like to take moment to share the challenges faced by your local Stores and Eateries. Please note I only speak for ourselves, but I am sure other businesses will agree.

Why are these issues important?

Parking

Our customers have to pay upwards of £1.10 per hour to park in Liskeard. This is the same cost as Plymouth where you have access to Hundreds of stores, attractions and services. It is massive deterrent to visit town, even more so as the locations to the main shopping district of Liskeard are quite far from the 2 main car parks and involve a steep hill.

Increased costs

Talking money can sometimes be a little 'Taboo', but the reality is that the cost to run even a small store are huge and the work required to cover these costs is excessive and tough, as well as providing very little return.

The town want and needs shops/cafes open at least 6 days a week, 8 hours a day. However the cost of this operation this can be a deterrent to independent retailers & eateries.

I have separate document with an example of these costs for those interested.

Towns Centre needs to compete with out-of-Town Retail Parks & Supermarkets

HOW CAN WE MAKE IT BETTER?

If we want to attract new businesses, attract visitors and create a thriving town centre, we need to offer a better Customer Journey.

- 1 Hour Free Parking in the main car parks and a minimal fee for visiting upto 2 or 3 hours.
- More larger scale events aimed at bring people from other Towns and areas as well as proving events for our local community.
- Can we reach out to the owners of long empty buildings like the Former M&Co and Cheery Buys to put an offer on the market that might attract businesses. F.g. X Months free Rent – Low Rent for the first 2 Years etc.

Thank you

7 **Guildhall, Fore Street, Liskeard**

A grant of £20,000 from the Good Growth Fund had enabled a contract to deep clean the inside of the Guildhall and work should commence soon.

Cllr Pascoe advised that funding from the Shares Prosperity Fund had been secured towards the programme of regeneration for the Cattle Market and also upgrading the skatepark at Rapsons.

8 **ALDI Stores**

1 Charter Way, Liskeard - PA24/09331 Proposed extension to existing store, together with associated development including new plant compound and the provision of an additional car park area and associated pedestrian crossing.

The new net sales area of 1,108 sqm would be an increase of 283sqm and facilitate a larger warehouse and new welfare facilities and the provision of an additional car park area and associated pedestrian crossing.

The proposed car park would require a new customer site entrance off Aries Hill, with pedestrian access to the store crossing Clemo Road using existing dropped kerbs.

There had been over 50 objections

- The existing entrance is very narrow with waiting on Charter Way in order to exit onto Aries Hill.
- Implementation of Section 106 and/or 278 Agreements to ensure clear sightlines and visibility at the Clemo Road and Charter Way junctions.
- Provision of a pedestrian crossing to facilitate shoppers with laden trolleys and pushchairs across a busy road with a substantial hill.
- A traffic survey should include Clemo Road and Charter Way
- There is a history of accidents in the vicinity.

Comment from Highways – Please provide a Road Safety Audit Stage 1 for the crossing and modelling for the uplift in trips using Aries Hill to include the existing usage. RE consult once the Audit has been received.

Members proposed that the vitality and viability of the application space should be thoroughly assessed.

Residents of Charter Walk advised that all residents were required to pay a maintenance fee to address any problems with potholes etc, so with a considerable increase in traffic using the proposed car park would this increase their contributions.

The Chairman agreed to send a letter to the Planning Dept pointing out the impact on the maintenance fees paid by local residents and would include a comment on the Planning Portal.

9 Forum Website Update

Mike Allsopp presented the new draft website which had been compiled by Cheryl of Lipstick Media in response to the outcome of the discussion which took place at the meeting on 24th October 2024. She had updated the site with information about the Forum, an annual list of Agenda and Minutes, projects and visions for the future.

Members viewed the new draft website and made the following suggestions

- A preference for pictures of the town rather than people.
- Continue links with Facebook and other similar sites
- Although the cost was not free, the site would be owned by the Forum.
- Members would like the website to be simpler and easier to navigate and maintain.
- Links listed in alphabetical order.

- Liskeard has a reputation as grey and grotty so any pictures of the town which are bright and eye catching would be welcome.

Members thanked Mike and Cheryl for their hard work and commitment. Mike offered the services of Liskeard Radio in encouraging the community to engage with the Forum.

<mailto:cheryl@lipstickmedia.co.uk>

mikeallsopp@liskearddloeradio.com

10 **Financial Update**

The Town Clerk advised that a case would be made to continue the Cornwall Council funding for the Forum. The Forum provided an opportunity for the community to voice opinions and requests and apply for grants and was a valuable 'talking shop' for Liskeard.

LISKEARD TOWN FORUM				
Income & Expenditure Report - 1 April 2024 to 31 January 2025				
Deposit Account		Current Account	Cheque Number	
Balance 31.03.24	3,045.79	Balance 31.03.24		303.53
Interest		LTC - Room Hire	137	-15.00
		Tindle Newspapers	138	-93.60
9.6.23 To 9.5.24	35.22	W Parry - Minutes 24.4.24	139	-30.00
Bank Transfer	-1,000.00	Bank Transfer		1,000.00
		LTC - Room Hire	140	-27.00
		Tindle Newspapers	141	-65.52
		W Parry - Minutes 31.7.24	142	-30.00
		PcKernow - Email Mailboxes	143	-110.00
		LTC - Room Hire	144	-15.00
		Tindle Newspapers	145	-65.52
		W Parry - Minutes 13.11.24	146	-30.00
		LTC - Room Hire	147	-15.00
		Tindle Newspapers	148	-65.52
Income	2,081.01	Expenditure		741.37

11 **AOB – Anything of Interest to Report**

In response to details of a letter submitted to LTC regarding the dumping of black bags and empty bottles around the town **the Chair agreed to report the problem to CC for investigation.** He asked members to monitor and report any similar incidents.

12 **Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chairman thanked all present for a productive meeting and for the positive suggestions.

30th April 2025 at 7.30 pm

30th July 2025 at 7.30 pm

29th October 2025 at 7.30 pm

28th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Chair	David Braithwaite
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Steve Vinson
Minutes	Wendy Parry

Clr Jane Pascoe	CC, LTC & Chamber of Commerce
Christina Whitty	Mayor
Mike Allsopp	Liskeard Radio
Lin Moore	LTA
Sue Jewell	SECTA
Alan Hartridge	Resident
Tracy Adams	LTA
Tina Mollord	Trader
Peter Roberts	Resident
Nicola Roberts	Resident
Paul Pascoe	Resident
Del Ryan	Trader
Jacob Thorn	Resident
Michelle Franks	Resident
Cathy Lake	Liskeard Foodbank
Mike Allsopp	Liskeard/Looe Radio

