

# Liskeard Town Forum

## Dalva An Dre Lyskerrys

### Meeting Notes July 2024

Items that were discussed at our public meeting

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

Date: Wednesday 31st July 2024 at 7.30pm

---

#### 1 **Welcome**

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

He invited those present to give a brief introduction to themselves. He advised that the meeting was not of a political nature but an opportunity for all to discuss the future of Liskeard.

There were no apologies.

#### 2 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

#### 3 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Sue Jewell, seconded by Mike Allsopp and passed.

#### 4 **Policing Update**

There had been apologies from the Police Officers who were unable to attend.

Plans for the front desk were still ongoing

#### 5 **Open Session Members of the Public Request for Future Agenda Items - Cornwall Council - Integrated Services Hub - Construction Programme and Varley Lane Access Update.**

Neil Sandland and Kevin Reader, Cornwall Council Officers attended the meeting in order to address the concerns of the local residents primarily to do with the pedestrian access ramp and loss of parking on the site of the Integrated Services Hub. A public meeting which had been held on 26th July to discuss the issues had become very intense with feelings running high.

In order to address the loss of parking Cornwall Council had agreed to allow existing parking package holders to make use of local car parks. The ramp was non-compliant with safety regulations and could not be accessed.

Alan Hartridge referred to the contents of the Construction Environmental Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan and Kevin Reader agreed to consult the plans and report back.

Neil Sandland gave a presentation showing detailed plans of the site. He acknowledged that the Liskerrett Centre was an essential asset for Liskeard and provided a venue for a wide range of activities and services for people of all ages. Ensuring safe access to the centre was obviously very important. The option to create a 'corridor' around the site had been discussed and a site visit was taking place on Monday 5th August to view the route. Councillors Pascoe and Cassidy agreed to attend. In light of the fatal attack that took place in the vicinity concerns were raised as to the safety of the route.

Varley Lane offers an alternative to the 'corridor' but is a narrow lane with no pavements. It was suggested that a sensible option therefore would be to completely close the lane to traffic which

already has alternative access via nearby routes and allow pedestrians and wheelchair and buggy users to negotiate the lane safely.

The next phases of the development will benefit the town both financially and create new space for creative businesses, an extension to the Doctors Surgery and a Transport Hub and as with all new developments a bit of inconvenience and mess is commonplace.

## **6 Updates on Current Projects - Marketing Liskeard - Distance to Attractions Idea - Tracy Adams**

No update available.

## **7 Twinning Liskeard Twinning Association Launch - Simon Cassidy (If not in Ukraine)**

Councillor Cassidy explained that Liskeard had recently renewed its twinning links with both Quimperle in France and Kopychyntsi in Ukraine. The previous link with Quimperle had started in 1974 but in recent years the relationship had declined. In the case of Kopychyntsi the initial twinning had started in 2023.

A short presentation showed the notable buildings in Quimperle and a meeting of the dignitaries during a recent trip to the town. He hoped that a new Twinning Association could be established to encourage new friendships and to learn more of the cultural and recreational activities of the three towns.

Councillor Cassidy encouraged members to become involved in the twinning process and volunteer to take part in future events.



## Planning changes and the Town Forum

- As you know the Town Forum supports the policies and proposals that guide development in the Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan and Steve brings to our notice any interesting and significant planning applications. We also comment upon the need for enforcement action where unauthorised developments are underway creating problems or eyesores. Our planning comments are made to Cornwall Council (and sometimes the Town Council) having discussed issues of concern or support.
- Currently 'Planning' is grabbing the national headlines as a tool for national revival and there could be some possible local implications for us as details unfold. It was recently announced by the new Chancellor that the government will reform the existing National Planning Framework with a consultation to be published on a new growth-focused approach to the planning system before the end of this month. We might want to keep abreast of these changes as some will affect how developers operate in and around Liskeard in future years.
- Planners are involved in producing Local Plans (in consultation with communities), in carrying out the management of planning applications (assessing the merits of developments mindful of the views of consultees and the public) and in enforcement work (where planning rules and requirements are ignored). There is no doubt a shortage of qualified public sector planners in Cornwall and across the UK and the government has said that there would be investment into the planning system (300 additional planning officers).

### Possible changes that might influence planning for Liskeard

#### 1. Review of our Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan.

We are heavily dependent on our Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan to guide future development (for the period to 2030). There is need for potential developers to adhere to the policies set out in this plan that has the support of the Town Forum and Town Council

We will probably be urged to ensure that our Cornwall Local Plan and our Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan are reviewed and kept up to

date to reflects our current community needs and the new National Planning Framework guidance (NPPF) that is awaited. The government's message to local planning authorities is that they expect there to be universal Local Plan coverage and housing targets need to be re-imposed where needed.

## 2. Stalled Sites.

Concerns have been expressed at previous Town Forum meetings about a number of 'stalled' development sites around Liskeard and 'stalled' conversion scheme within Liskeard. These are sites and premises that have had planning permission for many years but remain undeveloped (like Ten creek Farm and the former magistrates court site at Trevecca) and some premises remain boarded up (like several former pubs and banks in the Town centre Conservation Area). The government have said that a task force will be established to accelerate stalled housing sites. No doubt this will be concentrating on the cities ...but there might be implications for Liskeard if they address the issue of speculators holding back delivery.

## 3. Need for Infrastructure and housing that is affordable.

The Forum have also discussed the need for employment workshops and health facilities and infrastructure to accompany and keep pace with new housing developments with a proportion of affordable houses. We will have to see whether this is given added weight in the NPPF.

## 4. The quality and standard of developments

The standards of development required by developers is set out in government advice (NPPF) and in the Cornwall Design Guide. We have considered the need for volume housebuilders on the edge of our town to provide well-designed quality housing estates and adequate open space and landscaping, with sustainable development, safeguarding and enhancing valuable habitats and flood protection. We will have to check whether the new NPPF whilst pressing for and enabling more housing actually enables developers to reduce standards to the detriment of future residents, the local community and the environment.

Other local planning matters that have arisen at Town Forum meetings

The need for TPOs to protect landmark trees/The need for regeneration schemes and the Cattle Market scheme/ The need to retain community assets and the library scheme/ the need for the enforcement of unauthorised non-agricultural works on the outskirts of the town within attractive countryside enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Alan Hartridge (MRTPI Rtd)

## 11 **A.O.B.**

### **Foodbank**

Alan Hartridge advised that during August the food bank supplies 2 bags of groceries per week to families to support them through the summer holidays. Each bag contains £5 of groceries and is paid for from core funds raised through coffee mornings and donations. There are still more supplies being distributed than being received and the urgent items include tomatoes, pasta, long life milk, jam and potatoes.

### **Looe Security Officers.**

Mike Allsopp (Liskeard Radio) reported a ten week trial of additional security in Looe to address the shop lifting and anti-social behaviour which had become a problem in the town. 2 Security Officers patrol from Friday to Sunday and are funded by the Town Council. It was considered that assessing the results after the 10 week trial might benefit Liskeard although as with the previous employing of street Marshalls, funding could be an issue. Councillor Cassidy felt that a private company may prove costly and maybe over zealous. He suggested street pastors may be an alternative option.

Mike Allsopp asked if he could study the results and report back to the committee. The Chairman was in agreement.

## 12 Dates of Future Meetings

30 October 2024 - 7.30pm

29 January 2025 - 7.30pm

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

### **Attendance**

Chair	David Braithwaite
Vice Chair	Tracy Adams
Secretary	Steve Vinson
Minutes	Wendy Parry

Zoe A'Lee	Liskeard/Looe RFC
Neil Sandland	Cornwall Council
Kevin Reader	Cornwall Council
Paul Pascoe	Chamber of Commerce
Clr Jane Pascoe	CC & LTC
Fern Lief-Elliott	Resident
Clr Simon Cassidy	LTC
Christina Whitty	Mayor
Mike Allsopp	Liskeard Radio
Lin Moore	LTA
Sue Jewell	SECTA
Di Ware	SECTA
James Moon	Farmer
Alan Hartridge	Resident
PO Gary Smith	Liskeard Police
Maureen Collins	Resident
Anthony Langdon	Resident
Julie Groves	Resident
Alan Groves	Resident
Malcolm Mort	Resident

