

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the eleventh Annual Report of Falmouth Town Council.

It gives me great pleasure to write these introductory words for the Town Council's Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2016. This annual report is our opportunity to summarise the effort and achievements of the Town Council over the past year and highlight our work and successes as a Council to members of the public. Also included are the annual reviews of our community partners and services that recognise the needs of our town.

This review of the year, by definition, can only provide a glimpse of what our Town accomplishes. Nonetheless, I hope that you find this publication both interesting and informative.

Councillor John Body
Town Mayor

CONTACT DETAILS

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Municipal Buildings
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TR11 2RT

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SURGERIES

Regular Councillor resident surgeries are held every last Friday in the month (11 am to 1 pm) at the Municipal Buildings and are supported by the Police, Cornwall Council Highway representatives and Cornwall Councillors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Falmouth Town Council was formed from the former Falmouth Borough Council on Local Government Reorganisation in 1974.

Falmouth was formed by Royal Charter in 1661.

Falmouth is formally twinned with Douarnenez in Brittany and Rottenburg (Wumme) in Germany and is encouraging informal cultural links with Vilagarcia, Spain.

The Town Council was the subject of the National Association of Local Councils Best Practice Visit in 2015.

RECENT AWARDS OF COUNCIL PLAQUES

2006	PC Andy Hocking	Community Hero Award
2006	Tony Slocombe	Long serving Gardener at Kimberly Park
2007	Ivor Bray	Services to Community Theatre
2007	Chris Tagg	President of Falmouth University Student Union
2007	Esther Pollard	Falmouth Ambassadors
		Customer Service of the Year
2010	Lt Cdr T Neild	HMS Quorn visit to Falmouth
2010	Cdr T G Sharpe OBE RN	HMS St Albans visit to Falmouth
2011	George Reed	Long serving Groundsman at the Cemetery
2011	Ken Pound	Former child migrant who returned to Falmouth after 60 years to honour a childhood friend
2012	John Bernard	Services to Merchant Navy Association
2013	Captain David Barnicoat	In recognition of his retirement after 30 years service as Falmouth Harbour Pilot

RECENT AWARDS OF 'HONORARY' FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

2004	29 th Infantry Division of the United States of America
2005	Merchant Navy
2007	RFA Mounts Bay*
2011	Reverend Barrington Bennetts
2014	Falmouth Branch of the Royal Naval Association

*Falmouth is formally affiliated to the RFA vessel Mounts Bay and her Officers and crew enjoy a close association with the Town.

TOWN MAYORS SINCE 1974

1974	G.V. Davey CC
1975	G.H. Symonds CC
1976	K.H. Townsend
1976-78	G.F. Evans CC
1979-81	Mrs. O.C. White
1982	P.B. Tierney
1983	H.W. Smith
1984-85	D.P.C. Martin
1986	R.C. Hicks
1987	H.W. Smith
1988	J.B.A. Beresford
1989-90	G. Harrison CC
1991-92	Mrs. O.C. White
1993-94	G.F. Evans CC
1995-97	Mrs. B.D. Bowers
1998-99	D.N. Breacker
2000-01	G.F. Evans
2002-04	Mrs. M. Davies
2005-06	R.J. Bonney CC
2007-09 (May/June)	M A Varney
2009-14	G F Evans C.C
2014 – present	I J Body

A full list of Mayors and Aldermen since 1661 is available from the Town Council.

TOWN CLERKS SINCE 1974

1974-1979	D. Hall
1979-1996	E.G. Dawkins
1996-1999	P. Fraser
1999-2002	R.H. Blezzard
2003-Present	A.M. Williams

MISSION STATEMENT

Council Mission: to democratically represent the community of Falmouth as the first tier of local government in order to articulate the needs and wishes of the community, through a process of community engagement. To work in partnership with principle authorities and strategic agencies to ensure the best possible provision of services and amenities for the community. To provide leadership, cohesion, vision and identity for our community.

Council Vision: to improve the quality of life for the residents of Falmouth by promoting economic regeneration, community values, well-being and pride in Falmouth in order to ensure a vibrant and sustainable community.

Council Vision Outcomes:

- Community- an area that supports safe, empowered, thriving communities
- Health- an area where people are healthy, active, valued and engaged
- Energy- an area that seeks low- and renewable-energy solutions
- Environment- an area that values, protects and enhances its unique environment for the benefit of all users
- Learning- an area that embraces education for all as the key to economic and cultural well-being
- Employment- an area that provides employment and progression opportunities for all
- Infrastructure- an area where infrastructure supports the needs of all members of the community

Objectives/Core Activities:

- Providing and supporting good quality recreational facilities
- Supporting local businesses and commercial activity
- Acting as the local Burial Authority
- Providing and supporting heritage and culture, including town events
- Providing and supporting community activity and regeneration
- Supporting the provision of affordable housing
- Contributing to community safety and crime reduction
- Be a responsible employer and ensure continued development of employees
- Providing democratic representation of residents and encouraging a dialogue with residents to better understand their needs and keeping them informed
- Protect and improve the maritime and historical heritage and environment of Falmouth whilst promoting sustainable and necessary development
- Developing partnerships for shared priorities with the public and private sector to pursue devolved and joint delivery of service for the direct benefit of the community

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Please see following breakdown of expenditure and income for the Town Council. Falmouth Town Council receives no income from business rates, government grants or other sources.

As you know the new Cornwall Council came into existence on 1st April 2009. The Town Council still wishes for assets and services that are better delivered at 'grass roots' to be

provided and managed locally within the Falmouth Community. It is hoped the local management options can be developed.

The Council has a track record of financial prudence and working closely with the community. This is demonstrated in regeneration schemes like the Trescobeas proposals, Kimberley Park, input to events, Town Management, Community Grants and others including the new cemetery provision, which the community advised was a priority and remains a major project for the Council. The community is also regularly updated via Fathom, Residents Surgeries, our website and consultations.

The Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan sets out the 15 year vision of the community. It will form the basis for decision making with the Community to ensure that service delivery is as you have advised. We will also continue to provide details of how you can comment on our work, and advise us what you wish to see developed and delivered in the community.

Please use our website www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk or contact us on (01326) 315559.

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2015/16						
EXPENDITURE	Actual 2012/13	Budget 2013/14	Actual 2013/14	Budget 2014/15	Forecast 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
Administration	187,867	222,375	210,850	234,411	216,081	253,732
Town Management Service	65,317	75,138	73,866	90,488	74,623	81,919
Municipal Buildings	53,628	65,328	56,216	61,396	50,569	53,326
Public Toilets	0	0	0	0	225,012	72,015
Former PO Building	0	0	0	0	21,439	14,964
General Council	168,284	180,093	192,523	373,938	191,572	319,008
Cemetery	163,461	166,532	163,372	179,257	168,484	78,598
Town Maintenance Team	0	0	0	0	34,237	199,113
Trescobeas Open Space	11,108	18,029	7,472	17,085	11,792	17,485
Allotments	473	5,212	212	2,733	2,574	2,714
Heritage and Culture	270,955	253,363	258,417	253,099	249,284	249,850
Kimberley Park	126,152	93,445	102,093	107,873	103,346	101,385
Trelawney Bowling Green	27,525	3,542	2,963	5,878	5,834	5,148
Seats Shelter and Footpaths	32,032	30,345	13,604	17,150	17,000	10,650
Cemeteries (Other)	2,173	2,176	923	2,200	1,200	1,500
Other Open Spaces	4,354	143	286	1,675	207	600
Skatepark	1,296	2,500	880	2,500	2,500	2,500
Capital Expenditure	303,662	100,216	46,895	100,000	1,746,944	122,715
Loan (Capital and Interest)					60,110	120,615
Bad Debt Provision	2693				-	-
Total Expenditure	1,420,979	1,218,437	1,130,572	1,449,684	3,182,808	1,707,836
Income	(314,920)	(166,351)	(159,263)	(284,206)	(351,599)	(232,252)
Council Tax Support Grant		(133,140)	(133,140)	(120,651)	(120,651)	(113,170)
Other-EMR/Adjust/Loan	(126,591)	(71,339)	9,438	0	(1,665,731)	0
Reserves						
Total of Fund Held	555,172	441,901	565,653	443,239	849,923	849,923
Precept on Cornwall Council	979,468	847,607	847,607	1,044,827	1,044,827	1,362,414

This table shows details of budgeted / actual expenditure for the last 3 municipal years together with the Council's agreed budget projection for the forthcoming year. This budget takes into account the changes to the calculation of the tax base figure and includes the Council Tax Support Grant as shown.

STATISTICS

Total Electorate	17,975
Total Population	21,385
Area	776 Hectares

STAFFING STRUCTURE

Macebearers: Mr T Pond and Mr S Pond
Town Crier: Mr L Mitchell
Internal Auditor: Hudson Accounting
Falmouth BID Manager: Mr R Wilcox

Contact the Town Clerk at:

Municipal Buildings, the Moor, Falmouth, TR11 2RT
Telephone: 01326 315559 email: mark@falmouthtowncouncil.com

Contact the Town Manager at:

34 Church Street, Falmouth, TR11 3EF
Telephone: 01326 313553 email: richard@falmouth.co.uk

Contact the Sexton at:

Cemetery Lodge 28 Pennance Road, Falmouth, TR11 4ED
Telephone: 07903 079093 Fascimile: 01326 312662

Contact Cultural Services at:

Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth, TR11 2RT
Telephone: 01326 313863 Fascimile: 01326 318608
email: director@falmouthartgallery.com

Contact Falmouth Business Improvement District at:

34 Church Street, Falmouth, TR11 3EF
Telephone: 01326 313553 email: richard.wilcox@falmouth.co.uk

THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW **COUNCIL/CIVIC**

Following my re-election as Town Mayor it has been another busy year for myself and the Town Council.

I have been ably assisted and accompanied to many functions by my wife Linda, and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Grenville Chappell has been a very able Deputy. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the help and advice by my fellow Councillors and the support of my Chaplain, Father Ian Froom.

Lastly, but by no means least I would like to mention and to thank my Police Cadet Eleanor (Ellie) Richards who has been adept and professional in all of the duties she has been asked to carry out.

Some of the really positive news items I would like to report on are as follows:

- Cornwall Council is shortly to transfer Dracaena Fields to Falmouth Town Council and we have major plans to improve the facilities for all.
- In order to save Falmouth Library and the One Stop Shop we are taking steps to have these facilities become part of the Town Council's cultural services, whereby we aim to improve them and also increase opening times.

- The former Post Office Building has for some time been under threat and consequently to save this historic building from over development. The Town Council purchased it and is in the process of upgrading and improving all accessibility for all in the community and this will become the Council hub to provide excellent community services.
- Following the cuts made by Cornwall Council the Town Council has stepped in and taken over the external youth services to save it from being lost to Falmouth citizens.
- Again, due to Cornwall Council cuts we have taken over public realm CCTV provision to save it being lost to Falmouth.
- Falmouth Council's very own Grounds and Facilities Department have Reinstated highway weed-spraying to ensure our high standards are kept on our highways.
- Our innovative popular local shuttle bus services routes have been increased.
- The Town has once again received national Success in Britain in Bloom, recognising the community volunteering and local sustainability measures as well as the quality of our parks, beaches and green spaces (also 4 green flags and 1 blue flag).
- Our local event management team will ensure that our Towns events programme continues to be one of the best in the UK.
- Due to our excellent staff and working partnerships Falmouth Town Council has been nationally recognised as best practice provider in: Leading Local Partnerships, Event Management and Engaging with the devolution process to protect local services. We have had fact finding visits from several towns all over the country to liaise and learn from us in developing their own success.
- We are continuing to develop our Neighbourhood Plan and Article 4 Direction to help preserve the local housing stock and tenure and see economic growth in our community.

Councillor John Body
Town Mayor

CULTURAL SERVICES

In 2015, the Cultural Services committee was set up in order to deliver holistic cultural services across Falmouth. This report largely covers activity at the art gallery as the other cultural services have yet to come in-house.

Recognition

The art gallery continues to punch well above its weight in terms of local and national recognition with full length articles in My Cornwall, Cornwall Life and regular appearances in the Falmouth Packet and West Britain. We have maintained 4.5 out of 5 Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor and scored very highly with *Visit England*. Geoffrey and the Director attended the *Kids in Museums* Family Friendly award and our Education Facilitators won the *Sandford Award* which recognised the quality of our teaching 'outside the classroom'. The gallery has greatly increased our social media following and now has 4,510 Twitter followers, 2,373 Facebook followers and 1084 Instagram followers.

Grants and other income

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Catalyst funding is now drawing to the end of the programme and has supported the Director with extensive fund-raising training and back-fill support. The Director has won a place on the *Oxford Cultural Leaders* course at Trinity College, Oxford to enhance leadership skills and this has been paid for by the HLF.

The Cornwall Museums Partnership is now established and is administering the Major Partner Museum funding that has been awarded by Arts Council England. This means £500,000 a year investment for the next three years into Cornwall's cultural sector (about £50k p.a. direct and indirect benefit to the gallery). CMP have also just been part of a successful £900k bid by Creative Kernow also based at Krowji. All of these grants help us to build sustainability and resilience in museums and galleries in Cornwall.

Donations and supporters will yield about £5,000 this year which is twice what we received in 2014/15.

The reserve funds that Councillor Geoffrey Evans CC kindly arranged to be transferred from The Falmouth Educational Trust will be used in the delivery of educational services to Falmouth schools through a bursary scheme.

Acquisitions, Gifts and Bequests

We have received a number of minor bequests including three further contemporary prints from the Art Fund. John Tonkin has given two oil paintings by Frank Hitchens, an etching by Peter Jackson, two pen and ink drawings by Dennis Seaward who taught at Falmouth Art School and two oils of local scenes by Falmouth based artist J T Richardson which are hanging in the current show *A Woodland Walk*.

Following the sad death of our long-time supporter Brenda Pye, we have received a bequest of 58 artworks. This bequest was negotiated by Brian Stewart and includes works by Kurt Jackson, John Wells, Paul Feiler, Rachel Nicholson, Terry, Anthony and Luke Frost, Roger Hilton and many other familiar names from 20th C Cornish artists. These artworks have yet to be valued and accessioned.

Collections

The gallery continues to loan major artworks to regional and national museums both nationally and internationally. In 2015-16 23 have loaned to the Musée des Augustins in Toulouse, Penlee House Gallery and Museum, the Landesmuseum in Hannover, the Drents Museum in the Netherlands and Tate Britain.

Now that we are the Curator for the RCPS Tuke Collection we have been busy setting up condition-checking and the whole collection has been accessioned and can now be seen on our Collections catalogue on-line. This is the first time that the watercolours have been accessible to the public. We have also negotiated Government Indemnity insurance to cover this collection.

Exhibitions and displays

We have had a year of vibrant and varied exhibitions with '*Rodney Peppé: Astonishing Automata and Marvellous Machines*' which proved very popular in the summer. The *Serpentine* exhibition and particularly the *Tony Giles* exhibition this autumn proved popular. 'What a wonderful exhibition! As comment above, just gets better and better.' Annual visitor figures were 12% up at 47,438.

The new Limelight six-day gallery continues to prove very popular and is fully booked through to the Autumn.

Nalders Solicitors continue to support the art gallery with free use of their shop window on Arwenack Street and we have once again displayed a wide variety of art from lots of different community groups in the community gallery spaces (on the stairs and balcony and in the lift entrance on the ground floor).

Community and learning

The gallery is committed to extending opportunities for community engagement to audiences of all ages and abilities. In 2015, 11,658 visitors experienced a workshop/ opportunity for engaging with the collection. This is an increase of 30% on the previous year. It was anticipated that the double maternity of Donna Williams and Charlotte Davis might result in

less community activity but numbers have held up well with excellent cover being provided by Sarah Scott and supported by our freelance education facilitators.

Major Partner Museum funding has allowed us to expand our work with older people as well as a pilot community engagement project with Hall for Cornwall Young Dance Group who used our *Kith and Kin* exhibition as inspiration to choreograph, compose and ultimately perform a new piece which has also been screened and will be shown at the Truro Film Festival.



We continue to offer our usual workshops for all ages from Baby Jam (0-6months), Baby Paint, Little Fingers, Saturday and holiday drop-ins for families. Talks, guided walks, store tours etc. The gallery has established good relationships with Exeter and Falmouth Universities and has worked extensively with local schools. We are now a recognised Arts Award Centre and will be working with students on Silver Award this spring.

We are keenly anticipating the ability to increase cultural provision in Falmouth and welcome new audiences and activities in the Passmore Edwards Library and elsewhere across the town.

Staffing

As previously stated Donna Williams and Charlotte Davis are now on maternity leave and won't return till late summer/autumn. We have welcomed a number of volunteers through the course of the year although we are sad to report that the University has scrapped its MA student placement scheme. We will be welcoming another Lumen placement student from Leicester University in the summer.

Overall, another successful year for our gallery and special thanks and congratulations to all the staff, both paid and volunteers. Well done team!

Maureen Davies, March 2016
Chair, Cultural Services Sub-committee

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

This has been a busy year for the Council as Devolution from Cornwall Council of services continues apace. We will shortly be taking over the running of the library and combining it with our award winning art gallery and introducing some local history to make a new Cultural Hub in the centre of town. Our Municipal staff will shortly be moving into the Old Post Office which will host a new One Stop Shop and the building will house the Town Manager, CCTV, the BID team, Shopmobility, benefits advice, an Assembly Room, the Birth, Death and Marriage Registrars, access to Cornwall Council and a host of other services. Cornwall Council will be closing their current office in Church Street.

The new building will be fully accessible and there will be rooms for the community to use within it. People from Falmouth will be able to get married and celebrate their marriage in the new Assembly Room and conservatory overlooking a roof garden.

With new services and staff coming to Falmouth we needed the building in order to house our staff some of whom are currently working without a desk as we have run out of space in the old Municipal Building. Over the coming months the building will gradually open up but it is now substantially restored and we believe will help to enhance The Moor and surrounding area.

We continue to be complimented on our toilets which are open throughout the year from Meanporth to Prince of Wales Pier. The new Youth Service is doing well and has attracted interest from across Cornwall. Dracaena Fields are about to be transferred to Falmouth Town Council and we look forward to seeking funding to develop and enhance the site over the next few years.

Falmouth is seen across Cornwall and the country as a go ahead council working as we do with the BID and Town Manager and other festival organisations to make the town an attractive all year destination. Falmouth succeeded in Britain in Bloom magnificently this year winning joint Best in the Region and a host of national awards. We are grateful to all the town gardeners (some of whom will be joining the Falmouth team in April) as well as all the volunteers and local organisations who worked so hard to make our town the success it is.

We are working to ensure we have a diverse town in the future - a mixture of the Docks, tourism, the universities and the business community. The Article 4 should be in place about this time next year and the Neighbourhood Plan at a similar time subject to the town voting to limit Houses of Multiple Occupation and a planned future for Falmouth.

We reluctantly had to increase the precept this year in order to provide the services the majority of people in the town have indicated they want - a clean, vibrant town that provides quality jobs and a future for One and All.

Falmouth is a great town and I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts over the last year in helping to ensure it continues to improve.

Candy Atherton
Chair Finance and General Purposes Committee

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The third year of our term as the planning committee as seen the committee working well together, with most of our decision being supported by the planning officers.

This year we have considered 324 planning applications.

As with previous years this has been a mixture of applications from small private extensions to major developments. We are still aware of the unique problems of Falmouth, being a town with water on three sides, limiting space to expand, and balancing this with the needs of new homes, and preserving the character the town. The challenge has been balancing the need of the people of Falmouth with the need for student accommodation as the Universities continue to grow.

I would like to thank the Falmouth Town Council staff for their assistance and guidance to me over the year.

Councillor Grenville Chappel
Chairman, Planning Committee

STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the Councils most important resource, its staff, and ensuring that correct procedures and policies are in place within the working environment. As the Council has increased service delivery , i.e. ensuring toilets are cleaned, parks maintained, weeds sprayed etc. the workforce has subsequently grown. We have also worked hard to rationalise our existing staffing structure so that we have the capacity to effectively cope with the new demands.

It has been a very busy year, much of the deliberation is quite rightly, not in the public domain, however to give you a flavour:

- The Council has seen considerable growth in the local delivery of services away from our traditional base. This has seen additional staff join us during 2015: Simon Penna our Grounds and Facilities Manager, Matt Brotherton Grounds and Cleansing Operative, Will Byrne and Geoff Norman Cleansing Operatives, and Andrea Kelly Office Cleaner. Our existing workforce have also had to adapt to innovative new ways of working.
- Further changes will see the following staff members join us shortly: Jacqui Owen as Visitor and Community Engagement Officer, Tom Carthey Grounds and Cleansing Operative, Julian Kay Head Gardener at Kimberley Park, Tony Eddy Groundsman at Dracaena Fields as well as hopefully the Library and One Stop Shop staff in due course.
- 2015 has seen the Council carry out a comprehensive review of contracts and policies and seen a Job Evaluation Exercise carried out for its Management Team.
- The Council has also reviewed all its working practices to ensure our staff are safe and accessible.
- Donna Williams and Charlotte Davis our Education and Interpretation Officers have been on maternity leave and congratulations to them on the birth of babies Darcy and Leia respectively. Sarah Scott and our workshop team have been providing maternity cover.
- The Council is proud to be a Real Living Wage payer.
- Our apprentices Jack Aston and James Hallam continue to progress and the Council remain committed to the apprenticeship scheme.
- Thanks to the team at South West Councils who provide HR advice and support to us.

The Council continues to be proactive and wants to ensure that Falmouth is a safe and clean place to live. As more Cornwall Council services are devolved we will endeavour to ensure that our town does not suffer.

I want to thank all of our staff who continue to work enthusiastically and positively in supporting both myself and the Council.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT 2015/16

My third year as Chair of this Committee has seen a marked decrease in applications that we have considered, which should be linked to the positive effects of the Cumulative Impact Z one for Falmouth. The Committee endeavour to continue to support well run, responsible licensed premises of all type but in particular those of the night-time economy which remains a vibrant and important part of the towns economy.

My mini-campaign to see more people attend the Licensing Sub-Committee continues to bear fruit and enables the committee to make more informed decisions when applicants attend our meetings as the information supplied to us by Cornwall Council is extremely limited.

Intrinsically linked to Falmouth's night time economy is our new CCTV system. The CCTV system, paid for by the precept increase since centralising funding from Cornwall Council was withdrawn, is now fully functioning. I have seen images recorded and can confirm that they are nothing short of incredible. The images have already provided invaluable to the Police in several incidents. 'Payment' for this system is at 7.5p a day for a band B property, which includes not only our CCTV provision but all the facilities, services and other areas that Falmouth Town Council has taken on since 2013; I see this as excellent value for money for the people of Falmouth.

Finally, and again as Chair, I wish to thank my fellow committee members and the staff of Falmouth Town Council for their support, honest opinions and cooperation throughout the meetings.

Councillor Mrs R Brock
Chairman, Licensing Sub-Committee

Cemetery Working Party Committee Report

The work to obtain a new ground continues at a slow pace this is still subject to talks with land owners and developers.

This year the committee restructured the payments for the use of the grounds in line with standing practise with other authorities. The question of re use of graves was raised by Councillor Eva and at this time this practise is under review. A policy will be implemented when the Cemetery Working Party reaches an accord on the subject. Work continues with regard to the Dissenters burial ground. I would like to commend the work of the Friends of the grounds for their work.

Also I would like to thank the team for the work this year for the Cemeteries they are looking good. I can't say I look forward to using the facilities myself, but for those who do use them I feel proud that we have done our work.

Trescobeas Ward Annual Report 2015/16

This year has been a very interesting and busy one, at county and town level.

The new Union Corner Roundabout is proving to be working very well, improving traffic flows with very little or no tailbacks since it's completion last year, with adjustments to the original plans, following my concerns of the lane layout.

After several site meetings with the "Friends of Tregoniggle Woods", and members of Cornwall Council on the proposed cycle route through the woods, a compromise has been agreed, so the cycle path goes ahead, but not on it's planned route, so leaving part of the woodland untouched.

I am always out and about in my division/ward of Trescobeas, doing my best to get things done when asked, from clearing rubbish, cutting back hedges, filling in pot holes, helping people with housing problems, and any other issues, when asked.

I attend LLAMA (Lambs Lane and Ashfield Members Association) meetings on a regular basis, and I am at present working to re-instate the BMX Track on the Trescobeas Park to a better standard.

Just recently, I was invited to attend the Falmouth Students Union AGM, following my concerns in the press regarding future student accommodation within the town of Falmouth. I was encouraged to hear, that the student union were recommending that the university should cease expansion, until the accommodation issue was sorted out, which would benefit both students and the local population.

I sincerely believe that this is a problem that needs to be addressed by the university to house all new students on campus for the duration of their courses, and not to look within the town for sites, at the expense of local young tax paying families who are also in need of homes, preferably social rented housing.

My 2015/16 Community Grant Chest has now been allocated to "The Friends of Tregoniggie" for new signage in Tregoniggie Woods, Play Equipment in Trescobeas Park and New chairs for the Laburnum Church Hall.

I sit on the Transport Policy Advisory Panel on Cornwall Council, and the Cemetery and Art Gallery Committee's on town council.

Cllr. David Saunby. CC & FTC.
Falmouth Trescobeas Division/Ward.

Grounds & Facilities Report 2015

Falmouth's recent residents' survey that was undertaken to inform the forthcoming Neighbourhood plan has identified that Falmouth people attach great importance to our town's parks, gardens and green spaces; in the light of reduced funding available to Cornwall Council to maintain these outdoor areas Falmouth Town Council have acted on their residents' concerns and have instigated negotiations with Cornwall Council to protect these assets and to take on the responsibility of looking after them in preference to seeing them decline. Initially the sports facilities at Dracaena Avenue will come across to us in Spring 2016, for economy of scale this will go hand in hand with Kimberley Park and the dedicated gardener Julian coming back under our direct management on 1st April 2016; further negotiations are well advanced for the roundabouts as the next target for devolution from Cornwall Council because we've been informed that these will no longer be maintained as the high level displays that we've all grown used to; our seafront shelters and benches have also be identified by Falmouth residents as assets that are suffering from reduced maintenance by Cornwall Council, so we're asking that they are handed over to us to look after and improve; the Council will keep everybody informed as these situations develop.

Falmouth has several active volunteer groups that share the mind-set of the Town Council; these people spend their own time working hard to look after our green areas where Cornwall Council have no longer got the funds to do so; progress has been made in developing relationships with these community groups throughout the town as the Town Council seeks to work alongside, encourage and support their activities wherever they can. These groups include the Boscawen Fields Action Group(BFAG,) The Friends of Tregoniggie Woodland, the Custodians of the Dissenters burying ground, the Friends of the Jewish Cemetery, the Friends of Princess Pavilions, the Friends of Penmere Station, Falmouth Allotments Society and the Friends of Kimberley Park, these are all great organisations who not only strive to make a difference for others, but also have fun doing so. If you or somebody that you know might enjoy being part of one of these organisations and want further details please feel free to phone Val or Emily 01326 31559.

Since Falmouth Town Council decided to take Falmouth Cemeteries back under their own management from the previous contractor Cormac, a regime of constant improvement under the watchful eye of Falmouth Town Council's Cemetery Manager Lee Mitchell has been underway, with the help of Matt and our two horticultural apprentices James & Jack overgrown areas are progressively being tidied up, new areas of planting have been created; new bins have been installed on smart concrete plinths and a sizeable programme of work to deal with the unsafe trees and diseased Elms is in the pipeline to start soon; this will be followed by a planting programme to ensure the wonderful canopy of mature Pine, Beech and Oak can be appreciated by future generations. Falmouth Town Council also operate a tree donation scheme, so if you feel that you're the type of person who would like to donate a tree for the Cemetery please feel free to contact Val or Emily 01326 515559 for further details.

A few years ago Cornwall Council announced that it would no longer fund the street weed spraying for towns and parishes outside of the town centre; Falmouth Town Council listened to their residents who were unhappy with our kerbs and pavements of our residential areas turning green from weed growth and have trained our own operatives to carry out this work; although we have acted on what was clearly the majority opinion, we do recognise that not all of our residents support the use of chemical weed killers to carry out this operation; we do not however have the budget to fund the costly alternative methods such as removal by hand throughout the town. We carry out the weed spraying under the best practice guidelines, we use the safest chemicals for the purpose available on the market and apply them in the safest manner. To reduce the chemical that we need to apply we are gradually making our way around the town removing the detritus build up that supports the weed growth, this is a slow process that will be ongoing, but one we are committed to.

Falmouth Town Council took over the management of 7 public toilets from Cornwall Council a little over a year ago because the people of Falmouth asked to keep them all open and free to use for residents and our visitors, this year all the facilities have been open all year round except when throughout the winter each one has been closed in-turn for a couple of days for deep cleaning and redecoration. A phased programme has been agreed to upgrade the hand-washer/drier units, with the first ones installed at the beginning of 2016 in the Grove Place WC. As a result of the feedback we've received from the public praising the management and the improvements made, the Council have committed to constantly look to upgrade these facilities.

For the coming spring and early summer we have several larger projects are scheduled; our facilities inspector Jonathan has identified that the wonderful play area you asked us to install in Kimberley park is due for a makeover and it is planned to replace the many of the play surfaces as they are failing. There's also been requests from our teenagers to upgrade the BMX track at Trescobaes, so this will be remodelled to their specification.

The renovation of the former Post Office building is well underway, the initial priority has been to upgrade the structure to ensure the building is fit for purpose to serve the community for years to come; this has meant repairing and replacing rooves, rotten windows with further major projects planned that will include:

- the installation of a lift to ensure all areas of the building can be accessed by those with physical disabilities;
- the creation of a large venue area that will be available to hire for large seminars, wedding receptions and similar functions as it has been identified that Falmouth lacks this larger scale facility;
- as well as Falmouth Town Council's officers and admin staff many of the town's other services will be available for residents under this one roof, as services previously supported by CC have their budgets cut and the buildings from where they've traditionally operated are sold-off, Falmouth Town Council have stepped in to ensure these services are still available for our residents; this will include the Registrars, the One-Stop shop, the Community Police, Falmouth BID and the town's CCTV.
- the top floor will be converted into micro-offices that will be made available to hire for small business start-up purposes and further rooms will be available to hire for smaller meetings and the delivery of training courses;

The Town Team operatives are expected to carry out a diverse range of tasks such as horticulture, facilities management, toilet cleaning, cemetery operations, painting, graffiti removal, street cleaning, tree works and event marshalling, so the emphasis needs to be on them being multi-skilled. Throughout this year training courses have been undertaken to complement their skill-set and ensure as many tasks can be delivered in-house by the team to deliver best value from the Council's budget.

In recognition of the efforts of our volunteer groups, schools and partners alongside our own operatives and staff, the Southwest in Bloom awarded Falmouth with a gold medal and ultimately the best town in the region; as a result we were invited to be assessed nationally against winners from other regions where the RHS Britain in Bloom organisation awarded our town the accolade of being the best town in the UK in its category in 2015 as well as awarding

Falmouth with the UK tourism trophy; this not only serves to promote the town as a visitor attraction but also a wonderful place to live that we should all be very proud of.

LIST OF COUNCILLORS AND CONTACTS

Falmouth is divided into five wards:

ARWENACK WARD

MRS M DAVIES

Tophouse, 5 Seaview Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4EF
Tel: 312508

G F EVANS (CC)

19 Arwenack Avenue,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 3JW
Tel: 311543

S GRAY

Pixie Corner, Oakland Park
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4JL
Tel: 07932677929

PENWERRIS WARD

I J BODY

88 Boscundle Avenue
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 5BX
Tel: 07967249154

M MCCARTHY

Moorings, 12 Dunstanville Terrace
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2SW
Tel: 07576561747

G G CHAPPEL

26 Grenville Road,
FALMOUTH, TR11 2NW
Tel: 218690

SMITHICK WARD

MS D MERRETT

30 Conway Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4LA
Tel: 212097

MS C ATHERTON (CC)

Top Deck, Berkeley Path,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2XA
Tel: 07587890588

O K CRAMP

16 Harbour Terrace
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2AN
Tel: 316400

BOSLOWICK WARD

A J JEWELL (CC)

Pennance Mill Farm
FALMOUTH, Cornwall TR11 5HJ
Tel: 317431

S D EVA

34 Trescobeas Road,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2JG
Tel: 311539

MRS R D BROCK

8 Swans Reach,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 5GG
Tel: 07585 809852

MRS P A MINSON

171 Boslowick Road,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4QF
Tel: 07986900821

TRESCOBEAS WARD

D W SAUNBY (CC)

20 Trevithick Road,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2JP
Tel: 315285

MRS V E EVA

34 Trescobeas Road,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2JG
Tel: 311539 (mobile: 07974812103)

B M A ROSS

Top Deck, Berkeley Path
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2XA
Tel: 07587890588

POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

Liberal Democrat Members (3)

Councillors O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies and M McCarthy

Independent Members (8)

Councillors I J Body, G G Chappel, S D Eva, Mrs V Eva, S Gray, Ms D Merrett, Mrs P Minson and D W Saunby

Conservative Members (2)

Councillors G F Evans and A J Jewell

Labour Members (3)

Councillors Ms C Atherton, Mrs R D Brock and B M A Ross

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Art Gallery Committee

Councillors: (x 8) Ms C Atherton, I J Body, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans, Mrs P A Minson, B M A Ross, D W Saunby and 1 vacancy

Planning Committee

Councillors: (x 8) Mrs R D Brock, G G Chappel, O K Cramp, S D Eva, Mrs V E Eva, S Gray, A J Jewell and Ms D E Merrett

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Councillors: All Members

Staffing Committee

Councillors: (x 6) I J Body (as Town Mayor), Ms C Atherton (as Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee), Mrs M Davies (as Chairman of Art Gallery Committee), Mrs V E Eva, G F Evans and Mrs P A Minson

Licensing Committee

Councillors: (x 5) I J Body, Mrs R D Brock, Mrs M Davies, S Gray and Ms D Merrett

For up to date information of Committee Membership etc visit www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk

WORKING PARTIES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Trescobeas Recreation Area Working Party

Councillors: (x 5) G G Chappel, Mrs V E Eva, B M A Ross, D W Saunby and Vacancy
(Representatives of the Lambs Lane and Ashfield Members Association also attend in a non-voting capacity)

Kimberley Park Working Party

Councillors: (x 5) Ms C Atherton, I J Body, O K Cramp, S D Eva and Ms D E Merrett
(Members of Kimberley Park Association also attend in a non-voting capacity)

Falmouth Cemetery Working Party

Councillors: (x 6) I J Body, Mrs M Davies, A J Jewell, Mrs P Minson, B M A Ross and D W Saunby

Quality Council Working Party

Councillors: (x 5) Mrs R D Brock, Mrs M Davies, S D Eva, Mrs P Minson and Vacancy
(Ms L Lloyd of Transition Falmouth also attends in a non-voting capacity)

Bowling Green Play Area Group

Councillors: (x 5) Ms C Atherton, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, S Gray and Ms D E Merrett
(Representatives of the Bowly Green Association also attend in a non-voting capacity)

Finance Sub-Committee

Councillors: Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and
Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Fairtrade Working Group

Councillors: (x 3) Mrs R D Brock, G G Chappel and Vacancy

Skateboard Working Group

Councillors (x 4) Mrs R D Brock, G G Chappel, Mrs V E Eva and Vacancy
(Representatives of the Skateboard Committee also attend in a non-voting capacity)

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Age Concern	Councillor S D Eva
Beach Management Group	Councillor G F Evans
Bowling Green Residents Group	Councillor Ms D Merrett
CCTV Stakeholders	Councillor Ms D Merrett
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Councillor O K Cramp
Cornwall Association of Larger Councils – Local Councils Committee	Councillor O K Cramp
Downings Charity	Finance Sub-Committee Members (x4)
Earle's Retreat	(Mayor (Ex Officio) Councillors Ms C Atherton and Ms D Merrett
Falmouth Conservation Area Committee	Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee
Falmouth Gardeners & Allotment Society	Councillor J Body
Falmouth and Penryn Community Network	Councillor S D Eva (Deputy Councillor Vacancy)
Falmouth Car Club Steering Group	Councillor S D Eva
Fal and Helford SAC Management Committee and	Councillor Ross
Fal and Helford Advisory Committee	Councillor Ross

Falmouth First CIC Steering Group	Councillors S D Eva and Ms D Merrett
Falmouth in Bloom	Councillor Mrs M Davies and S Gray
Falmouth Christmas Activities Committee	Councillors I J Body, Mrs R D Brook, S D Eva and Mrs V E Eva
Falmouth and Penryn Regeneration Group	Town Mayor
Falmouth Citizens Advice	Councillor I J Body
Falmouth Twinning Association	(Mayor (Ex Officio) Councillors G G Chappel and B M A Ross
Maritime Line Working Party	Councillor D W Saunby
Mencap	Councillor G F Evans
Moor Piazza Stakeholders Group	Town Mayor
Swanpool Nature Reserve	Councillor I J Body
Town Centre Forum	Councillor S Gray (Deputy I J Body)
Town and Gown Committee	Councillor Ms C Atherton
Traders Meeting	Councillor O K Cramp

NB: Also the Town Clerk represents the Council in the following aspects:

Moor Stakeholders, Management Group
Street Pastors Management Committee
Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan Management Group
Falmouth Taxi Marshals Management Group
Falmouth Forum

Also the Town Manager represents the Council in the following aspects:

Falmouth Week Shoreside Committee
Falmouth Oyster Festival Committee
Sea Shanty Management Committee
Joint Services Group
Falmouth Forum

COUNCILLOR CHAMPIONS

Environmental Services

Councillors Ms D E Merrett and A J Jewell
(Contact – Richard Gates)

Tourism/Events

Councillors I J Body and S D Eva
(Contact –Richard Gates)

University Liaison/ Schools

Councillors Ms C Atherton & O K Cramp
(Contact - Jill Easterby)

Town Centre/Night-time Economy

Councillors Mrs R D Brock and G G Chappel
(Contact – Richard Gates/PC Matt Cummins)

Community Engagement

Councillors Ms R D Brock and B M A Ross
(Contact – Mark Williams)

Health and Safety

Councillor I J Body
(Contact – Mark Williams / Simon Penna)

Safeguarding

Councillor Mrs P Minson
(Contact – Mark Williams or Donna Williams)

NB: The role of champions does not supersede the usual role and duties of ward members and Committee Chairs

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEMBER ATTENDANCES FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Apologies</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Ms C Atherton	24 from 27	89	3	1 x holiday, 1 x NALC meeting, 1 x Council Business
I J Body	25 from 32	78	7	1 x holiday, 2 x work, 1 x ill, 1 x Mayoral duty, 1 x family commitment, 1 x Council business
Mrs R D Brock	40 from 46	87	6	5 x work, 1 x family commitment
G G Chappel	36 from 36	100	0	
O K Cramp	29 from 36	81	7	4 x ill, 2 x medical appointment, 1 x sailing
Mrs M Davies	29 from 37	78	8	8 x ill
S D Eva	11 from 21	52	10	6 x holiday, 2 x work, 2 x ill
Mrs V E Eva	28 from 41	68	13	10 x holiday, 2 x work, 1 x declared interest
G F Evans	15 from 27	56	12	2 x ill, 4 x family commitment, 4 x Cornwall Council business, 1 x family illness, 1 x no apology
S Gray	41 from 46	89	5	3 x holiday, 2 x family commitment
A J Jewell	31 from 36	86	5	2 x family illness, 1 x business meeting, 1 x family commitment, 1 x work
M McCarthy	14 from 17	82	3	2 x family commitment, 1 personal commitment
Ms D Merrett	42 from 46	91	4	2 x ill, 1 x family illness, 1 x family commitment
Mrs P A Minson	27 from 27	100		
B M A Ross	19 from 22	86	3	1 x holiday, 1 x NALC meeting, 1 x Council meeting
D Saunby	21 from 22	95	1	1 x no apology

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

As part of Quality Status requirements the Council introduced surgeries in October 2005. These are held on the last Friday of every month and enables residents to attend to raise issues with their Town Councillors. Surgeries are also supported by attendance of Community Police, Cornwall Council Highway representatives and Cornwall Councillors.

Surgeries have proven to be very popular with many residents attending and a huge range of issues being raised. Items that are regularly raised are:

- parking and traffic congestion
- anti-social behaviour including late-night noise
- public transport and bus shelters
- civic pride including cleansing, weeds and litter
- seagulls
- licensing changes

If you have an issue you wish to raise with the Council, or the Council can take up on your behalf, then speak with your local Councillors at the next surgery.

Mark Williams, Town Clerk

Attendance at Councillor Surgeries:

2015/16

Apr	Councillor Ms Merrett & Councillor Evans CC
May	Councillor Mrs Davies & Councillor Ross
June	Councillor Evans CC & Councillor Jewell
July	Councillor Ms Atherton CC & Councillor Ross
Aug	Councillor Mrs Brock & Mrs Minson
Sept	Councillor Saunby CC & Councillor Ms Merrett
Oct	Councillor Cramp & Councillor McCarthy
Nov	Councillor Chappel & Councillor Ms Merrett
Dec	None
Jan	Councillor Jewell CC & Councillor Ross
Feb	Councillor Gray & Councillor Mrs Minson
Mar	Councillor Evans CC & Councillor Saunby CC
Apr	Cllr S D Eva & Councillor McCarthy

TOWN MANAGERS ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

As well as the day to day running off the town involving business communication, press, cleanliness, business changes, highways, emergency services there are the many other points listed below.

Dawn French Installation

This was a great success and weather was very much on our side. The operational advice we gave the University for the Town Parade and overseeing the actual walk through plus road closures ensured it ran smoothly. This is another example of very positive PR for the town and obviously the University. Dawn was on Chris Evans' Radio 2 breakfast show in the morning for approx. 8 mins.

Oban visit

Richard Wilcox and I met with a party visiting from Oban in Scotland who are looking into the town links with the university and gaining ideas for them in the future.

Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival

For the festival this year we have the most international groups we have ever hosted. There is a 'Breton Bash' on the Friday afternoon with the official opening taking place on Events Sq at 6.30pm as usual. As we promote the event for three days it is often perceived that it starts earlier on the Friday than 6.30pm. The tent on Events Square will already be there so it makes sense. The other two main venues are the Seasalt Stage on Custom House Quay and also the

Seven Stars stage on the Moor. All three venues sell the festival merchandise subject to availability as well as the Cornish Store in Arwenack street.

53 Groups over 22 venues is the largest festival we have ever had with such a mix of performers from so many places over so many venues. We have updated the www.falmouthseashanty.co.uk considerably for this year with more info on groups/venues/festival shop etc.

J Class

This started Mon 22nd June in the evening with the opening at NMMC and the racing taking place throughout the week.

ZestiFAL

- Really taking shape with around 40 activity providers involved and putting on exciting activity throughout the town
- Mass participation Pirate Fun Run kicks off ZestiFAL on Sat 25 July on The Moor, this in partnership with Cornwall Hospice Care
- The town's open spaces will be transformed as we organise a wide variety of activities – paddleboarding, hockey, cricket, tennis, climbing, scuba, snorkelling, Zumba, running, shinty and more
- We're delighted to announce a roller derby bout organised by Cornwall Roller Derby at Gylly Tennis Courts to round off ZestiFAL, on Sun 2 Aug. This will be the first such game in Falmouth and will be raising money for Macmillan in memory of a young player who passed away last year. It's free to attend so please do spread the word and head on down to watch.
- The Kimberley Park Active Family Day on Thursday 30 July looks really good with Frisbee, circus and dance workshops, cheerleading, mountain biking and more planned. The day will run from 10-4pm
- We have also secured some exciting free acrobatic shows from a street circus from Hamburg who are over in the UK on an exchange, following the Pirate Fun Run on The Moor. There will be three 20min shows on the hour from 2-5pm.
- We'll also have some exciting static displays such as a P1 Powerboat, Picos and gigs.
- We will be promoting ZestiFAL at various locations over the next few weeks, including Asda Penryn, sports clubs and schools in the area
- [Follow all the news here - ZESTIFAL](#)

Falmouth Week

We were very pleased with the success of Falmouth Week this year. We were extremely fortunate with the weather (except for the Thursday), the Red Arrows going ahead and the superb fireworks display on the Friday. We were one of the few towns in the South West during August that the Reds were able to display. Working with Outlaw I am sure you will agree that the development of the Moor activities was a big step forward and the outdoor 'chill out area' that we have been planning since last year worked well. The quality of the Events Square tent continues to attract groups who would like to perform due to the professionalism of the set up. As we do each year we will look at areas that can be tweaked/improved/varied. The

working together between the Sailing/Events Square & the Town is the most productive it ever has been and will only continue to improve. We have already been working on a new website for 2016, sponsorship options and PR exposure.

Oyster Festival

This is all in place for the parade on the Friday from the Moor to Events Square. As well as the tent on Events Square we also have a marquee on the Moor. This is being organised by a charity Tanya's Courage Trust. Which support young people with cancer are holding a 2 day music event/family fun day. 'Heather Reed and Sasha Watson Memorial Purple Fest' The 2 days will comprise of lots of music, family fun, refreshments and retail therapy! They will have a licensed bar, Live Music, Dance Acts, Choirs, Children's Entertainment, Market Stalls and Refreshments. Saturday 10th October 10am – 11pm and Sunday 11th October 10am – 5pm

CCTV

I am pleased to say that very recently the CCTV upgrade has taken place and at the time of compiling this report there is still more to do but it is huge step forward. The police are now able to attend my office and review footage meaning they do not have to travel to Truro (or Tolvaddon in the future) and thereby freeing up officer time. This is key to keep police resources in the town. The quality of the footage is greatly improved and another good example of localism and the Town Council ensuring delivery of CCTV continues.

Minister visit for High Streets & Town Centres

As you may be aware we recently received a visit from the Government Minister for High Streets and Town Centres. This came about from the visit last November from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The Minister was visiting Cornwall to meet with BIDS across the county but ahead of this he was recommended to visit Falmouth to show the effective link between the Town Management function (on behalf of FTC) and Falmouth BID delivering the Town Team function. We presented the Minister with a portfolio as well as digital files of a flavour of the work that has taken place over the last few years. It is very much further endorsement on a national level of what has and continues to be achieved in Falmouth.

Ride the Trafalgar Way

This took place a few weeks ago and has the potential to be a large event if it continues. The Town Team were at Pendennis Point early on the Saturday morning when the sun was rising and then we also met the riders at the Old Admiralty building in Whitehall the next morning. This access was gained with assistance from Sarah Newton MP. A few of the riders cycled the entire length of the route which is in the region of 300 miles within 24 hours!

Department of Communities and Local Government

After the visit by the High Street Minister we continued this as the Town Team meeting with senior representatives from DCLG at the Home Office the same time as the Ride Trafalgar event was taking place. It all helps to keep Falmouth's profile high and open up possible opportunities in the future.

Falmouth App

As you know earlier in the year we launched this before high season, we are now in the process of including all businesses. It currently has links for accommodation via Falmouth.co.uk but we want to include everything else. This is a large piece of work and will take some time to

fully populate but once complete it gives full directions from where the user is plus other helpful information including website links etc. It is available on apple and android devices.

Christmas switch on

This went very smoothly despite the extremely challenging weather. Everyone worked really hard to make sure it was able to go ahead. With the forecasts it was looking as able to go ahead, or if we did in a much smaller version. Freq Audio who provided the stage did a fantastic job as well as the Town Council staff and many others.

As you may have been aware there was a last minute protest in regards to the Syria bombings after the vote in the Commons. This was due to take place from the Moor and going in the opposite direction to the children's parade and this was simply not an option. I must say a big thank you to PC Mat Cummins and the PCSO's to ensure we could minimise the issues no matter what an individual's personal view point is.

In regards to the switch on as a whole we have received many positive comments with people especially liking the snowflake projections on the buildings.

Outlaw Market

At the time of compiling this report Outlaw, Santa Fun Run and the Live Nativity were yet to take place but we are pleased that the Outlaw market is returning for a second year working closely with Judi and Josh after the very positive impact it had in 2014. This year Outlaw have reindeer for the Thursday late night as well as developing last year's market further.

Santa Fun Run

This will be the sixth time it has taken place in the town and the second year that it has been a Santa versus Rudolph. It was always our intention a few years ago that we wanted to make sure there was a complimentary offering to the race and Outlaw fits this very well.

Live Nativity

This requires a huge amount of volunteers to ensure it all runs smoothly but linking in with Outlaw on the previous days means we have the option to use the size of the marquee to battle the weather. The last three years of the event have been gales so fingers crossed for 2015. As per usual we have a selection of animals and the Nativity runs from Events Square to the Moor.

Andy's footprints

This could not have been achieved without the generosity of the community and although I did mention it at the unveiling it is absolutely fine to stand on his footprints and remember Andy in a very positive way.

As a reminder I thought it would be useful to include where the footprints have been installed through the town.

The Moor (nearby to the Municipal building and other plaques)

Market Street (outside M&S)

Church Corner (close to the church gates)

King Charles School (outside of the main gates to the left)

Pendennis Point (as you enter the car park they are on the right hand side in the viewing area)

Markets

Following on from Mark's update at the F&GP we had a very productive meeting with the Thurs and Sat market traders and everyone is positive about moving the market forward. The intention is to invest in commercial gazebos using Moor revenue if the council is happy so money generated is reinvested as we have done with other furniture and equipment. There are lots of points to overcome to see how we can progress this and we can work on further detail over the next couple of months.

Tuff Enuff

The weather was very kind for year one of this event and there were over 1000 competitors taking part. The Tuff Enuff team have a lot of points to develop for the future and have learnt a great deal from their first urban event.

Falmouth Spring Festival 10-28 MARCH 2016

The Falmouth BID will be co-ordinating and funding once again this early season celebration of Falmouth's open spaces, terrific coastline and gardens. As profiled on the BBC's Great British Garden Revival programme, this festival brings together the Falmouth community like no other. The festival brings an explosion of colour, life and activity to the town. This year will see a range of community-led activities – a three-day Folk and Cider Fayre, Spring Clean Days, Paint the Town Yellow Day, Run Falmouth half-marathon, Games & Fitness on The Moor, a host of themed guided walks, exhibitions and shows. 2016 sees the University of Exeter as the title sponsor.

Spring Clean Days Fri 11 and Sat 12 March

Once again as part of the BID organised Falmouth Spring Festival, there will be the community-led Spring Clean Days. These will take place over two days and it is envisaged that once again the Town Team will co-ordinate up to 100 volunteers across multiple sites in Falmouth with activities ranging from beach cleaning and painting, to gardening and landscaping. Many businesses and organisations also commit time and resource to support the efforts including the FDHA, FBRA, the Universities, town businesses and retailers. If Councillors wish to give up time and support the scheme then do get in touch with the Town Team office.

Church Street car park update

I am pleased to say that with the support from the Town Council and staff working in conjunction with Cormac and Cornwall Council seven benches will be installed in Church Street car park as part of the works taking place. The benches are being paid by the earmark reserve as councillors may already be aware and this should be in approx. seating for 28 people. Seating as we all know is limited in the town centre so this will be a big step forward for everyone to enjoy the view.

CORNWALL FIRE AND RESCUE REPORT

Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service currently operates 32 Fire Stations around the county. The majority of these are staffed solely by On-Call Firefighters; however Falmouth is one of seven stations staffed by both Wholetime and On-Call personnel.

Background information

- Falmouth Community Fire Station is a wholetime staffed station with 24hr emergency response being provided by four watches, Black; Blue; Red; and White.
- The wholetime watches are backed up by an On-Call Crew who carry alerters and staff the station when notified by Fire Control.
- Falmouth Fire Station houses seven emergency response vehicles including a fire boat and two specialist water rescue vehicles.
- Falmouth Fire Station attended over 380 incidents within the 'Station Ground'.
- Falmouth's station ground covers an area of roughly 50 square miles from Gweek in the southwest round the back of Stithians reservoir and over to Perranarworthal in the northeast.

Falmouth is also home to

- The county's firefighting foam asset and bulk foam stocks, these are used predominantly for fighting fires involving flammable liquids like oil and alcohols.
- The Phoenix Project use Fire Service style training and activities to raise aspirations, improve teamwork and communication skills. Delegates come from schools, The Job Centre, and the Prince's Trust.
- Back office departments and staff covering Admin, Resilience & Efficiency and IT Communications.



Station Activity

Our Key Objectives include Protection, Prevention, and Response.

1. Protection

Watches fulfil their part in the protection arm of the Fire and Rescue Service by undertaking visits at commercial premises. Many larger premises either have in-house staff trained in fire safety or choose to buy in the services of a consultant. Either way that person is ensuring their employer is fulfilling its legal and moral duty to protect staff and customers from the risk of fire. However, many smaller businesses have very little knowledge of their responsibilities and the laws concerned with fire safety. Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service aims to raise the standards within these organisations by visiting, informing and advising on fire safety. Our simple aim for these small businesses is that they fulfil their minimum legal obligations and look to write into their business plan a work schedule which brings their property up to a standard which better reflects the widely accepted best practice.

Watches visited **over 20** higher risk premises; gathering information about the size, type and location of the risks at each site.

Watches visited just under **100** lower risk premises; advising and guiding traders on fulfilling their legal obligations while gathering information about use and occupier of each property.

2. Prevention

At a watch level this area is covered by Home Fire Safety Checks and prevention talks to community groups.

Watches carried out over **550** personalised Home Fire Safety Checks.

Watches made over **70** community engagements which met defined objectives for improving safety within the Falmouth area. These range from discussing fire safety with vulnerable members of the community, to promoting safer road-use among the modified car fraternity.

3. Response

This area is self-explanatory however members of the general public are often unaware of the breadth of incidents the Fire & Rescue Service are trained and equipped to respond to.

Falmouth Fire Station attended approximately **400** incidents in 2014.

- Over 118 of those were fires and 47% of fires were in dwellings.
- Over 80 were false alarms in domestic properties and a further 23 in other residential properties
- 80 were false alarms other than to domestic properties; these include commercial automatic fire alarms and any incident where no action is taken.
- 34 road traffic collisions, 19 person rescues, and 13 animal rescues,
- Other incidents also included 'affecting entry', flooding, dealing with hazardous materials, and assisting other agencies
- Only one malicious false alarm was raised.
- Over the year 56% of incidents were received during the day shift and 44% during the night shift.
- Night incidents were more involved than day ones, indicated by a higher average number of fire engines and Fire Officers mobilised to each 'shout'.

Summary

Hopefully this brief summary has given a taste of the breadth of work being undertaken by the firefighters at your local community fire station. A Station Open Day is planned for 2016 with details to follow in the local press and on our social media accounts.

If you would like a free Home Fire-Safety Check or free smoke detectors fitted, please phone the station on 01326 212412.

You can follow the station on our twitter account @FalmouthCFRS, or on the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service Facebook page - CornwallFRS

Final mention goes to the work of the Falmouth Community Fire Station Social Club who organise the Falmouth Fireworks Display held at the cricket club. The weather was perfect during the event this year however persistent rain until the early evening resulted in a lower turnout than previous years. A huge thank you goes to all those who did attend the event and enable us to raise over £6,300 for local charities & good causes.