

19. LISKEARD. CC REPORT JULY

At the recent SECCAP meeting I was returned as Chairman.
I will continue to meet and work with the Devenport MOU Defence Growth Fund, National Highways, SWW, and Tamar Joint Crossings.

At the meeting, National Highways gave a presentation to the Parishes about the closure of the right hand junctions on the A38 between Liskeard and Trerulefoot. Good points were raised about the wider impact of diverted traffic on the narrow, sometimes single track rural roads. Public consultations will be taking place as and when the plans progress.

Last week at Cornwall Council, I spoke to the item about Planning Reform and how it is taking away your Councillors democratic oversight on local Planning Issues. This is a cross party concern and I will continue to object to the planning reforms imposed on us by this Government. Thank you to Cllr Taylor for submitting a question on the Planning Reform. I hope members of this Council will follow her example in taking a wider interest beyond Liskeard. Please continue to send in questions to Cornwall Council. Now more than ever we need to demonstrate that Parish and Town Councils play an essential role in making the right decisions for Cornwall.

I have been working on the new Local Plan up to 2050. Last week the working group were in the Liskeard Library.

The advice is that towns and parishes should make their Neighbourhood Priority Statement to ensure their plans for the future are incorporated in the Plan. Housing Policies in NDP's carry no longer carry weight as the 5 year land supply and housing number target has increased and we are no longer compliant with the current local plan.

Last week I attended two briefing meetings at the Tamar Bridge Offices regarding the financial position of the Joint crossings. The committee had rejected an increase to the TAG administration fees at a previous meeting.

I took part in the peaceful protest march across the Tamar Bridge on Saturday 25th July. A good attendance, calling for toll free crossings. I listened to many people as I walked and it became very clear that so many people don't understand that the Bridge Tolls pay for the running and maintenance of the 3 ferries.

I was pleased to attend and support the new Liskeard and District Twinning Association Cheese and Wine Evening. The event took place on a beautiful summer evening in the lovely setting at Stuart House gardens and was well attended. New friends were welcomed and they all look forward to making plans for future visits from Quimperle and vice versa.

Recently, I have been collating photographic information of the Gateways into Liskeard. It is a mess, our town deserves better. I am continually reporting the broken down fences on Plymouth Road roundabouts, the dirty signs and the unkempt verges. Many meetings have been held to discuss the Town Vision and the renewal partnership are working hard. But we must also be looking at the first impression when visiting the town.

I have discussed my concerns with Councillor Grey and he also agrees, that we all need to get to work on improving the gateways to the town.

“the ramp linking Varley Lane to the Cattle Market has been reinstated and is in a much better location and less gradient than before. I am surprised that as I had so many emails criticising me and the Council, that no one has thought to thank CC for listening and providing this access”