

NOTES ON COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN IN LISKEARD MEETING - SAFE AND WELCOMING – 10TH JUNE 2020.

The Mayor Rachel Brooks, Paul Allan (CORMAC), Councillor David Ambler (Chair Town Forum), Councillor Simon Cassidy (Chair C&E Committee), Councillor Nick Craker (Cornwall Council), Councillor Sally Hawken (Cornwall and Liskeard Councillor), James Hatton (Cornwall Council Transportation and Planning) Yvette Hayward (Deputy Town Clerk), John Hesketh (Liskeard in Bloom) Michael Hinks (owner Tapenades), Sue Jewell (Chair SECTA), Sandra Mitchell (Member Pioneer Coop and Deputy Mayor), Lin Moore (Chair Traders Association), Jacqui Orange (Facilities Manager – Liskeard Town Council), Councillor Jane Pascoe (Cornwall and Town Councillor), Jon Pollard (Chair Chamber of Commerce), David Read (Cornwall Council Community Link Officer), Rebecca Riley (Cornwall Council Interim Head of Transportation) and Steve Vinson (Town Clerk).

David Ambler asked for it to be recorded that, as chair of Liskeard Town Forum, he would like clarification on why one business based by the cattle market was included in the original invite to this meeting, when they do not represent a known constituted body within Liskeard. Liskeard Town Forum would like to know if all businesses in the high street were offered the same and equal opportunity to attend, or instead were directed to fill in their comments via electronic communication. [These questions have been answered fully in separate correspondence].

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and drew attention to the consultation responses that had so far been received in respect of the paper which had circulated.

The discussion followed directly on the lines of the consultation document as below:

This document draws together points from the Social Distancing with the Highway Toolkit, work done in other towns and ideas which have been put forward locally.

It is intended to be a basis for discussion and there are questions in italics at the end of each section.

1. Information for businesses

Falmouth Business Improvement District have produced this clear guide for businesses about re-opening and are happy for it to be shared or adapted: <https://www.cornwallalc.org.uk/uploads/falmouth-business-toolkit-17.pdf>

Should we circulate the Falmouth document as it stands or adapt it for Liskeard, crediting Falmouth for content?

The Traders association has already circulated the document and SECTA and Liskeard in Bloom are happy to do so. We are also liaising with the Cornish Times.

Action – circulate document to businesses.

What is the best way to get it to as many businesses as possible?

Action – Cornwall Council has a pot of money into which we can bid for things that are reasonable. Leaflets could be included. Liaise with Looe Town Council.

2. Information for the public

Falmouth have produced a set of posters aimed at the public which can be displayed on the street and in shop windows. Examples are contained in this presentation: <https://www.cornwallalc.org.uk/uploads/positive-engagement-plan-presentationpptx.pdf>
They are happy for these to be adapted by other towns and Cornwall Council is looking at producing a set which can be customised.

Totally Locally have also produced a set of posters which can be used in shop windows and online. <https://totallylocally.org/stuff/blog/re-opening-manifesto-for-post-lockdown/>
These are designed to be welcoming and explain why things are different. We could make local businesses aware of these and the Town Council could print copies if that would be useful.

We have a wider range of options than usual about displaying posters at the moment. Highways have said that they will look on temporary signage favourably unless they are blocking the highway.

Should we produce and distribute a set of posters which can be used in the streets, in shop windows and on social media?

Action - Yes to the posters. Liskeard Town Council to lead on this.

3. Safe queuing outside shops

The main areas where this is occurring at the moment is outside Boots on Bay Tree Hill, outside Superdrug and Barnecutts at one end of Fore Street and outside Beddoes and Pengelly's at the other end. Also outside the Post Office on the Parade.

The queue outside Boots is making people step into the road. The queues at each end of Fore Street are causing some difficulties to people wanting to come through.

Should we be looking at temporary street markings or barriers to delineate queuing directions and spacing?

Action – black and yellow tape and paint appeared to be more flexible. Include in funding application. Explore ideas for encouraging social distancing, including possible marshalls, via Safer Liskeard.

Would it be better for street furniture including benches to be removed from Fore Street at the moment?

Action – it is not a priority to remove them – leave them where they are until there is a problem.

Bay Tree Hill

How do we engage with the relevant businesses?

Action - the Liskeard Town Council will take the lead on contacting businesses.

Are there likely to be new pinch points when more businesses open on 15 June/4 July?

For example, Wetherspoons and the narrow passage to Pig Meadow Lane from the car park.

4. Narrow pavement problems

Do we need to take action around Bay Tree Hill to address the current situation with the Boots queue and other issues which may arise eg when Rumours reopens?

Cormac can put up temporary signs asking drivers to be careful of pedestrians and this was generally supported.

Action – Include other options for Bay Tree Hill and Pike Street/Market Street in a survey of the public.

Options for Bay Tree Hill include:

- Do nothing
- Reduce speed limit to 20mph and creation of a shared space zone where pedestrians have priority
- Experiment with a temporary traffic order to limit access to deliveries and blue badge parking only

NB to make changes we would need a Traffic Regulation Order, which will take 5 weeks to implement even with accelerated government authority.

Are there other areas where narrow pavements are a problem?

5. How can we make it easier for cyclists?

A lot more people have been cycling during the lockdown and our neighbourhood plan supports making it easier for people to walk and cycle into the town centre.

The Town Council has been looking at how more cycle stands can be installed in town, including liaising with Cornwall Council about stands for the Parade.

Are there measures we can take to make it easier for people to cycle into town?

Action – follow up with Cornwall Council how quickly cycle stands can be installed on the Parade. Survey to include the reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph in the town centre.

6. Parking

Following a social media post from Geoff Brown at Philip Warren's at Ough's butchers, there has been debate in the town about whether parking enforcement for on-street parking should be resumed. This is obviously part of a wider debate about parking charges etc.

On the other hand, there have been comments from residents about vehicles being parked on the road making it more difficult for pedestrians to step into the road where there are narrow pavements.

As an immediate, experimental measure

Do we want to propose or get public views on removing/relaxing parking enforcement in Liskeard town centre?

**Action – ask the public their views on the enforcement of parking.
– put the wider car parking issue on the Town Council agenda.**

Would this be for the whole town centre or some specific areas? For example, would we want to retain enforcement in Fore Street?

As a longer-term approach how do we want to take forward making cost-neutral proposals on changing parking charges in the town and should we use any public consultation now to help in this?

7. Are there ways for more trade to take place outside?

Cafes, pubs and restaurants have obviously been hit hard by the pandemic and, when they do open they will have to incorporate social distancing which will mean many fewer spaces inside.

How can we help this sector to re-open? Can we make outside spaces available to some of them and how can these be marked out? Would they find it useful to meet virtually with each other and council reps to discuss and plan this?

Outdoor markets have already been able to reopen. We have the Cattle Market events area which could be used for markets but currently no form of shelter there. Several people have expressed an interest in running outdoor markets. This could be a temporary way for small shops to trade if they feel their premises are not suitable for social distancing. It would also be an outlet for other local businesses which usually trade at markets and would be a way to encourage shoppers into town.

Could we find a way to apply for funding for one or more large marquees which would make outdoor markets more practical?

Action – put together a list of what might be needed – sanitisers, tape, and send to Cornwall Council. Test public support for markets.

8. Any other issues?

Are there any other issues we need to address now?

Action – hold another meeting in two weeks' time.

9. Reopening High Streets Safely Fund

Cornwall has been allocated about £500,000 of this government fund which is:

To prepare for the reopening of non-essential retail when the scientific advice allows, the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund will help councils in England introduce a range of safety measures in a move to kick-start local economies, get people back to work and customers back to the shops.

It will also support a range of practical safety measures including new signs, street markings and temporary barriers. This will help get businesses get ready for when they can begin trading safely

Are there measures with cost implications for which we might want to apply to this fund?

10. How can we quickly consult local people and businesses about ideas for change?

Many of the points above can simply be implemented between us, but for some it would be very valuable to have wider views, especially any around traffic management, parking or applying for funding.

How can we do this quickly?

Options for consultation include:

A short Survey Monkey survey, publicised via social media and within organisations. Looe Town Council recently did something similar and got 1,200 responses in a short time.

Business organisations directly consulting members and reporting back on numbers which support different options.

It was confirmed that:

- 1. Liskeard Town Council would develop a plan for funding to Cornwall Council and would circulate to everyone**

Action – put together a list of what might be needed – sanitisers, tape, and send to Cornwall Council.

Action – circulate document to businesses.

Action – Cornwall Council has a pot of money into which we can bid for things that are reasonable. Leaflets could be included.

Action - Yes to the posters

Action – black and yellow tape and paint appeared to be more flexible.

Action – it is not a propriety to remove them – leave them where they are until there is a problem.

Action - the Liskeard Town Council will take the lead on contacting businesses.

Action – car parking item would be included on the Town Council agenda.

2. Liskeard Town Council would develop an on-line survey of issues to ask the public their views.

Action - include in a survey of the public the SLOW signs and PEDESTRIANS IN THE ROAD signs and a speed limit in Bay Tree Hill.

Action – survey to include the reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph in the town centre.

Action – ask the public their views on the enforcement of parking.