

## PENZANCE AND DISTRICT TOURISM ASSOCIATION

The meeting on October 1st heard presentations:

- Green Ways Map and other Sustainable Penzance projects from Rachel Yates
- Venture Outdoors Cornwall from Aimie Roussel

There was a discussion around the forthcoming BID referendum noting that PDTA was one of the few groups in the town who sit down together and talk about their industry. Updates were given on Town Deal and other regeneration projects. Concern was expressed that all the restaurants in the Alexandra Road area were closing or relocating.

Councillor Jonathan How

PENZANCE CIVIC SOCIETY

At the October 24th meeting there was an update on the Coinagehall redevelopment.

The majority of the meeting, however, was taken up with a discussion of the future of the society. Whether it should be subscription based, make greater use of the Web and social media. No final conclusions were drawn or decisions made but a number of interesting options were discussed.

Councillor Jonathan How

## **CALC Larger Councils Committee**

### Cornwall Council “Asset decentralisation” – Car Parks

Since my previous report, the Larger Councils Committee has made representations to the Cornwall Council Economic Growth & Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the proposal by Cornwall Council to transfer some 30 car parks to Cormac, with management and enforcement contracted out to a third-party operator (Initial Parking Services Ltd) who would implement remote ANPR enforcement rather than human enforcement.

Lynda Powell (Looe Town Clerk) raised the issue on behalf of the Committee at the September meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Service Director responded to the effect that *“There is currently no agreed list of car parks. We have transferred two car parks, one in Newquay and one in Polzeath. We are considering feedback from these transfers and considering the possibility of further asset transfers, alongside the criteria for choosing what is and is not included. If this does progress, engagement with affected Town and Parish Councils as well as the local Cornwall Councillors will take place. Plans for relevant consultation will also be prepared, including a statutory consultation for their removal from the current parking order.”*

It was also agreed by the Committee that *“a further report on Asset Decentralisation of car parks be presented to a future meeting of the Committee subject to the necessary scrutiny processes being completed and include a list of the proposed car parks for transfer.”*

The response provides some reassurance in that there will be “engagement” with town and parish councils on any transfers, and that a list of car parks will be issued in due course. It remains to be seen whether the “engagement” will be sufficient for towns and parishes to develop alternative proposals that better serve local residents, businesses and visitors.

The Town Clerk and I will keep a watching brief on this issue via CALC, and through contacts with Cllr Dwelly in his role as Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

### Local Council Protocol

In discussing the car parks issue, the broader issue was raised as to the desirability of CC extending to local councils the “no surprises” approach currently applied with CC division members, given that there have been many recent instances of local councils only becoming aware of major policy proposals affecting their community through the media, or even via members of the public.

This issue was discussed at the Larger Councils Committee meeting on 17 October 2024, where it was agreed that the towns and parishes should work collectively to develop a protocol governing relations between Cornwall Council and local councils. The aim would be to develop some proposals proactively, which could then form the basis of a deal to be negotiated with the incoming CC administration following the May 2025 elections. Charlotte Caldwell (Redruth Town Clerk) undertook to start some preliminary work based on models used in other local authority areas.

Coordinated Response to Central Government on Devolution

With the support of the Town Clerk, I have taken the lead in securing a coordinated response across Cornish towns and parishes to the intended devolution of powers to the English regions.

This was discussed initially at an informal Mayors & Clerks meeting on 10 October, and followed at the Larger Councils Committee meeting on 17 October.

There was wide consensus that the one and only solution is a Cornwall-only option.

Subsequent to the meeting I drafted a statement for circulation to all town and parish councils in Cornwall, encouraging them to approve it at their next council meeting.

The statement has been submitted to Penzance Council for approval at this meeting, and many other councils have already approved it or are in the process of doing so.

Cllr Stephen Reynolds  
Penzance Town Mayor

## **Penzance BID**

As Town Mayor, I am a director of the Penzance BID, alongside the BID Manager (Sarah Shaw) and representatives from local business, and as such regularly attend the monthly Board meetings.

The Penzance BID has now been renewed for a further five-year term, following the announcement of the BID ballot result on 8 October which saw 74.26% of votes cast in favour of renewal.

Partnership working between the BID and Penzance Council continues to deliver positive outcomes.

Two recent examples are:

- The hugely successful Penzance Food Festival, which combined sponsorship and admin support from the BID with facilities management support from the Council's Leisure & Amenities team.
- The Street Marshals scheme, which (as reported at the informal briefing for members on 14 October) is already having an impact on town centre ASB issues.

The Town Clerk and BID Manager continue to hold productive working meetings on a regular basis, with the focus now switching to Christmas preparations.

Cllr Stephen Reynolds  
Penzance Town Mayor

## **Penzance / Concarneau Twinning Association**

As Town Mayor, I also serve as President of the two active twinning associations, with Concarneau (France) and Cuxhaven (Germany).

### Concarneau

The Mayor of Concarneau Marc Bigot, his wife Christine, and the Deputy Mayor Annick Martin visited Penzance and Newlyn in early October.

A highlight of their trip was a visit to Newlyn on 9 October.

Our Concarneau guests toured the old and new Penlee lifeboat stations, hosted by coxswain Patch Harvey and local historian (and RNLI volunteer) Mike Sagar-Fenton – and were genuinely moved by the reminders of the Penlee lifeboat disaster, as well as impressed with the capabilities of the Ivan Ellen and the dedication of her crew.

Both sides agreed to build on the ties between the two lifeboat stations, with a visit from Penlee to the Trévignon station in Concarneau pencilled in for July 2025.

The delegation was then invited to a seafood lunch at the Harbour Commissioners' Office in Newlyn, providing an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest in the fishing industry and maritime heritage; my thanks go to Nick Howell and Paul Durkin in particular for arranging this.

And the delegation was also given a guided tour of the new "Flora" exhibition at Penlee House Gallery, courtesy of Anna Renton. Along with informal discussions among the twinning members, this tour helped to lay foundations for further artistic and cultural ties between the two communities – such as a potential artists' exchange between Cllr Richard Sorrell to Concarneau-based artist Jean-Jacques Barzic.

While they were in Penzance, the Concarneau visitors were also able to meet socially with twinning association members, including an informal dinner at Little India attended by 28 guests.

Previously, a group of around 20 twinning members had paid an informal visit to Concarneau in mid-September, largely hosted by their Breton counterparts.

The Association remains entirely self-funding, and a variety of social and fund-raising events are continuing throughout the winter.

### Cuxhaven

A group of around 30 students from Cuxhaven made a very successful visit to Penzance in October, staying at the Youth Hostel. Local visits included a trip to the Eden Project and a morning in the company of students at Humphry Davy School. It was a privilege to join them for their final evening at the Magpies Clubhouse, at which the students sang a rousing version of "Cornwall My Home" – taught to them that very morning by their counterparts at Humphry Davy.

Cllr Stephen Reynolds  
Penzance Town Mayor

### **Penwith Community Area Partnership (CAP)**

The CAP is a forum facilitated by Cornwall Council and its Community Link Officer that brings together CC officers and councillors with representatives from town and parish councils in the Penwith area.

The most recent CAP meeting on 2 October focused on CC transport strategy. Much of the discussion centred on bus transport in and around Penwith, in particular the issue of large double-deckers often running close to empty on narrow rural lanes and suburban side-streets.

The CC response was that double-deckers have to be run on regular routes because they are needed for the school run, when they operate at capacity.

The town/parish council representatives were keen to challenge this view, echoing the views of many residents who would welcome the return of smaller, more frequent "Hoppa" style buses.

It was also reported to the meeting that the Long Rock bus depot is currently being demolished and rebuilt as a joint hub for the two bus operators, and that the refit will include electric charging points. CAP members expressed the hope that this could pave the way for the introduction of low or zero emission buses (especially smaller buses running shuttle routes).

Finally, Emily Cantrill from Cornwall Rural Community Charity presented the initial findings from the CRCC Rural Transport Survey, which closed on 30 September and had attracted over 1,000 responses. The survey covers Penwith, and because of the comprehensive response has the potential to provide an evidence base for how bus services can evolve to better meet the needs of local communities.

Cllr Stephen Reynolds  
Penzance Town Mayor