

Notes

Meeting: Launceston Community Network Panel

Date: Thursday 13 December 2018

Time: 6.30pm-8.50pm

Location: The Guildhall, Launceston Town Hall

Present	Title/Representing
Gemma Massey CC	Cornwall Councillor - Launceston Central
Jade Farrington CC	Cornwall Councillor – Launceston South
Adrian Parsons CC	Cornwall Councillor – Altarnun
Adam Paynter CC	Cornwall Councillor – Launceston North & North Petherwin
Councillor Debra Branch	Altarnun Parish Council
Councillor Martin Stanbury	Boyton Parish Council
Councillor Paul O’Brien	Launceston Town Council (Vice-Chair of Community Network Panel; in the Chair)
Councillor Dave Gordon	Launceston Town Council
Councillor John Harris	Launceston Town Council
Councillor Brian Hogan	Launceston Town Council
Councillor Jane Nancarrow	Launceston Town Council
Councillor Leighton Penhale	Launceston Town Council
Councillor Jessica Williams	Launceston Town Council
Councillor Margaret Young	Launceston Town Council
Councillor John Conway	Launceston Town Council; St Stephens by Launceston Rural Parish Council
Councillor Steven Sandercock	North Hill Parish Council
Councillor Dawn Rogers	South Petherwin Parish Council
Councillor Michael Screech	South Petherwin Parish Council
Councillor Sarah Ross	Stoke Climsland Parish Council
Ren Jackaman (Clerk)	Stoke Climsland Parish Council
Councillor Joan Heaton	St Stephens by Launceston Rural Parish Council
Councillor Nick Crawshaw	Trewen Parish Meeting
Councillor Helen Price	Werrington Parish Council
Inspector Lynden Hughes	Devon & Cornwall Police
Cym Downing	Launceston Memory Café
Les Whaley	Launceston Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG)
Ewan Murray	Launceston Tourist Information Centre
Rosie Cripps	Cornish & Devon Post
12 Residents attended the meeting, including 10 representatives of St Stephens Residents Association	

Chris Sims	Community Link Officer (Launceston and Bude Community Networks), Cornwall Council
Steve Foster	Localism Area Manager (East), Cornwall Council
Apologies for absence: Neil Burden CC (Stokeclimsland); Helen Bailey (Launceston Town Council), Sam Allen (Launceston TC), Chris Drake (Launceston TC)	

Notes:

Item	Key/Action Points	Log No. (Action by)
1	<p>Community Chest Celebration 2017-18</p> <p>Representatives from some of the community groups which received Cornwall Councillor Community Chest awards last year put on displays in the meeting room to showcase their work. Before the business part of the meeting started, Panel representatives and guests visited each of the displays in turn, and each group did a brief talk and answered any questions.</p> <p>The groups represented were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launceston Memory Café • Lanstephan Project • Coads Green Methodist Church <p>Information was also made available at the meeting about Wild Young Parents Project, who were unable to send a representative on this occasion.</p>	
2	<p>Health and Safety Information</p> <p>The Health and Safety arrangements for the room were announced.</p>	
3	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>In Councillor Burden's absence, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Paul O'Brien, chaired this meeting. He welcomed everyone and thanked the community groups who had attended the Community Chest celebration. Apologies for absence were noted.</p>	
4	<p>Cornwall Council draft budget 2019/20</p> <p>In his capacity as Leader of the Council, Councillor Adam Paynter gave a presentation on the Council's draft budget for 2019/20 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (copy circulated with the notes). He then answered questions from Panel representatives and members of the public.</p> <p><i>Summary of Questions/Comments and Answers</i></p> <p><i>(i) Police funding</i></p>	

Q: The questioner made reference to the Government's announcement earlier in the day on additional Police funding for 2019/20. He understood the purpose of this was to plug a gap in the Police pension scheme, rather than a real increase in Police resources, and asked the Leader if he was aware of any increase in Police numbers to deal with crime.

A: A proportion of the increase was to cover Police pensions.* For 2018/19, Police & Crime Commissioners had been allowed to raise the Police precept by £12 for a Band D property. The indication was that they would be allowed to charge an additional £24 a year for 2019/20, which would have an impact on the overall Council Tax rise.

*[Note: *The Home Office announcement stated that the provisional police funding settlement for 2019/20 would be up to £970m more than the 2018/19, with "£153m specifically to help policing meet increased pensions costs"]*

(ii) Voluntary contribution proposal

Q: Would gift aid apply to contributions made under this scheme (as otherwise it would be better for people to make contributions direct to the organisations who would benefit from the scheme)? The questioner considered that the scheme seemed ridiculous.

A: The Council was only considering voluntary contributions at present; it would look at the gift aid issue. The proposal, which had been introduced by a few other local authorities, would be an additional route for people to support activities which benefited local communities and was not in any way intended to dissuade people from giving to organisations directly. Another potential concern about the proposal was that residents who were vulnerable or unable to afford to make voluntary contributions might feel obliged to make them; one way around this might be to make the scheme available only to residents in the higher Council Tax bands.

Q: A further question from the floor was whether residents could club together and offer to pay Cornwall Council for an additional service (the example given was paying for yellow lines in a residential street)

A: It was possible to pay for additional services (that is to say over and above the universal services that Cornwall Council provided free of charge) in certain circumstances. Town & Parish Councils currently did this in specific cases (e.g. paying for additional enforcement activity). Yellow lines could be provided where appropriate, but this was not a cheap exercise given the legal process involved (e.g. requirement for a Traffic Regulation Order).

	<p><i>(iii) Launceston public meeting</i></p> <p>Q: There was a request for a public meeting in Launceston where residents could air their views and hear about some of the problems facing councillors and the local MP.</p> <p>A: Councillor Paynter advised that he would be happy to do this, in partnership with other local Cornwall Councillors, the Town Council and the local MP. He added that he talked to residents face to face and on social media on a daily basis as part of his work.</p> <p><i>(iv) Housing</i></p> <p>Comment: It was emphasised that the delivery of improved infrastructure was vital, in order to support the additional and improved housing referenced in the presentation.</p> <p>Q: Concern was expressed that, while the Council was looking to provide additional homes, there were cases of existing Cornwall Housing properties being left empty for extended periods (an example was at Upton Cross where several houses had been vacant for four months)</p> <p>A: Councillor Paynter undertook to look into the specific void cases mentioned. The Council had 10,000 homes across North Cornwall; it was important to make sure they were utilised properly and every effort was made to do this. Another issue, which the Council was also seeking to address, was empty private homes.</p> <p><i>(v) Adult Social Care</i></p> <p>Q: Adult social care was under significant pressure, partly because of the large number of people who come to Cornwall to retire, having spent their working lives and paid their Council tax elsewhere. Was there any mechanism in place to compensate Cornwall Council for this (e.g. transferring an element of funding from the person's "home" local authority area)?</p> <p>A: While funding for children's social care followed the child in certain circumstances, there was no similar mechanism in place for adult social care. It was also the case of course that people left Cornwall to retire elsewhere. Another similar ongoing debate was around the pros and cons of introducing a tourist tax; this was not possible under current legislation.</p> <p>Q: The display from Launceston Memory Café was a reminder of the growing issue of dementia for our ageing population. There was very little help available for dementia care; for example, a lack of dementia nurses.</p> <p>A: Councillor Paynter advised Cornwall Council was looking at this issue with its health partners, and also looking to work with Exeter and Falmouth universities who are currently doing research on dementia care. The Council also had a programme to improve</p>	<p>CS/ND</p> <p>AP</p>
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	<p>extra care and supported living provision across Cornwall. He undertook to come back to the Panel with further details on these aspects.</p> <p><i>(vi) St Stephens Residents Association: speed</i></p> <p>Q: St Stephens' residents were facing a significant problem with the speed and volume of traffic. Ideally, they would like a bypass, but this was not practicable at present. They asked the Council to reduce the speed of traffic going through the area, both from Bude and town.</p> <p>A: Councillor Paynter advised that he had recently met the Residents Association together with Oliver Jones (Highway & Environment Manager, Cormac) and that a relevant proposal was included within the Community Network Highway Schemes being recommended as part of the next agenda item.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Councillor Paynter for his presentation and answering the questions from the Panel and public.</p>	AP
5	Community Network Highways Scheme	
	<p>Chris Sims gave a presentation setting out the recommendations from the Working Group which reviewed all the expressions of interest submitted; the Working Group had received technical advice and support from Oliver Jones.</p> <p>The key points of the ensuing discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group was thanked for their excellent work, in particular in ensuring a fair distribution of funding across the recommended schemes. • Chris advised that Oliver would report back to the Panel on the progress of the schemes, including on any adjustments to the budget. If additional money was freed up within the budget, the Panel could either decide to pursue one or more of the schemes that the Working Group was not recommending at this stage or ask for further expressions of interest. In the latter scenario, residents would be able to put forward proposals via their local parish or town council/Cornwall Councillor. Potential future schemes mentioned at the meeting included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A crossing in St Stephens for elderly persons and people with a visual impairment -A pedestrian crossing at Western Road, Launceston (where children cross to the coop <i>garage</i> and onto the school). It was noted Councillor Farrington was talking to Oliver Jones about this issue and that an improved pedestrian refuge is on the list of schemes being considered today. A representative of Launceston Speedwatch advised they had applied several months ago to do monitoring at this location and asked that this be progressed as soon as possible; in 	

	<p>response, Inspector Hughes acknowledged that assessment of sites took some time and explained that this was because a specialist officer was required to carry out this work.</p> <p>-A pedestrian crossing in Westgate Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been reported instances of “boy racers” seeing Vehicle Activated Signs as an incentive rather than a deterrent. It was suggested that, to avoid this problem, the signs be set to display to a specified upper speed limit. Other representatives thought this might already been done/possible, so it was agreed to check this with Oliver Jones and report back. • The Chairman encouraged parishes to make use of Launceston Speedwatch, which currently operated once a week, and to send in any requests/issues to Launceston Police c/o PCSO Hambrook <p>The Panel agreed to recommend Cornwall Council to progress the schemes listed in the schedule include within the presentation (a copy of the schedule is attached to the minutes).</p>	CS
6	<p>Notes of the last meeting (20 September 2018)</p> <p>The notes were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>Pg.5 Item 3 -Joan Heaton (PPG) - The PPG has submitted a counter proposal to provide parking for the medical personnel at the Medical Centre and Hospital.</p> <p>Pg.9 Item 9 -There are now two defibrillators in the Parish, situated in Langore and Truscott.</p>	
7	<p>Community Governance Review Cluster Meeting</p> <p>Chris Sims gave feedback from the informal discussions which took place at the cluster meeting on 19 November 2018. In terms of next steps in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Councillors were having a briefing in week commencing 17/12/18 • Cornwall Council would be writing to all Town & Parish Councils to brief them before Christmas, with further detailed advice to follow in the New Year <p>The Chairman commented that early indications were that where adjoining parishes were in agreement about smaller scale issues like minor boundary changes, Cornwall Council would likely be able to approve these without the need for significant review work. In this context, he advised Launceston Town Council had held some early conversations with South Petherwin Parish Council, with a view to identifying mutually beneficial changes, and was intending to do the same with St Thomas the Apostle Rural Parish Council.</p>	

<p>8</p>	<p>Library Devolution</p> <p>Councillor Margaret Young (Launceston Town Council) gave an update on the devolution of Launceston Library. After four years of hard work by the Town Council and Cornwall Council, the Town Council had formally agreed to take on the library service. The library staff are due to transfer to the Town Council in summer 2019. There were several issues in relation to the condition of the building; negotiations to secure a potential alternative building were underway but the details of these were confidential. Further news would be provided once this was available.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Cornwall Councillor updates</p> <p>There were no updates further to those that had been covered earlier in the meeting.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Town & Parish Council updates</p> <p>(i) St Stephens by Launceston Parish Council. The Council's Draft Neighbourhood Plan had been formally submitted to Cornwall Council under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning regulations prior to consultation with residents and other stakeholders.</p> <p>(ii) Boyton Parish Council. The parish was experiencing ongoing issues with broadband provision and was keen to share experiences with any other parishes in the network that were facing similar issues. Steve Foster advised that Liskeard & Looe Community Network had recently done work on this issue and advised Localism could put the Parish Council in touch with them.</p>	<p>CS</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>(i) Buses</p> <p>Les Whaley advised that, following the discussion at the last Panel meeting, the PPG had been in touch with Group Travel and Homeleigh Garden Centre regarding the bus service to the latter. Two successful trial runs had been arranged from Stourscombe to the garden centre and it was hoped that this would lead to a regular service. He would report back on this in the New Year.</p> <p>More generally, it was important Cornwall Council looked to improve bus services for the whole area; a regular bus to Bodmin (including in the future to the new urgent treatment centre) and Truro (including Treliske) would be particularly beneficial.</p> <p>Councillor Paynter advised that he and fellow Cornwall Councillors were seeking to progress the latter issue. The area was not served well by bus (and not at all by train of course). It was practicable to travel to Exeter and Plymouth, but not down</p>	

	<p>through Cornwall. The Council was looking at a trial bus route from Launceston to Bodmin including Bodmin Parkway, with onward connectons to Truro and the coast. The Council was also looking at how to link in school transport and public transport.</p> <p>(ii) Vehicle parked in disabled bay</p> <p>It was highlighted that a vehicle had been parked in a disabled bay in Madford Lane, with a for sale sign on it, for many weeks. This had been reported to Cornwall Council but was still there. Panel representatives were unclear as to whether or not it was permitted to be there. Councillor Paynter undertook to look into this.</p> <p>(iii) Trekelland Bridge</p> <p>A representative was reported that this bridge on the B3254 from Launceston to Congdon's Shop had been hit again by a large vehicle, underlining the need for action to be taken to protect or replace it. Another representative stated that he understood that Cornwall Council had carried out a feasibility study on this issue but that action was dependent on funding.</p> <p>(iv) Medical Centre update</p> <p>The building plan was almost completed and it was hoped that work would start on site in Spring 2019. The PPG had formed a building group to assist with this project.</p>	AP
12	<p>Urgent items:</p> <p>(i) Environmental Nuisance Update:</p> <p>Chris Sims reminded the Panel that one of their priorities was to promote work to tackle environmental nuisance, particularly in relation to fly tipping and littering, and improved enforcement. He advised that Cornwall Council's Public Protection and Civil Parking Enforcement teams had provided information regarding their work in these areas and how parish councils could assist; he undertook to circulate this to the Panel and suggested that officers could be invited to a future meeting to talk to the Panel about these issues.</p> <p>(ii) Future engagement with Police:</p> <p>Inspector Hughes (Sector Inspector for Launceston, Bude, Camelford & Callington) explained he was keen to engage with Launceston Community Network Panel and the other Panels in his sector, in order to consult on priorities and give a perspective on the issues and constraints the Police were dealing with. In terms of current issues, he referred to organised crime, drugs, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation. In terms of constraints, he highlighted the reduction in police numbers which had resulted in</p>	

less police covering wider geographic areas (his sector covered a wider area than Merseyside Police). He invited questions and comments from the Panel, which are summarised below:

- In response to a Panel request, Inspector Hughes agreed to pass on contact details for use by Panel representatives. In emergencies people should call 999 and for non-emergencies 101
- A Panel representative congratulated the Police for their swift response to, and effective handling of, a recent incident in Launceston Town Centre.

The Panel agreed to invite Inspector Hughes to lead a session on community safety at the next Panel meeting.

Next meeting:

Date: 21 March 2019
Venue: Launceston
Theme(s): Community Safety & Policing

Contact Officers:

If you have any queries about the Community Network Panel, please contact:

Name	Role	Telephone	Email
Chris Sims	Community Link Officer	07973 497332	csims1@cornwall.gov.uk
Nicola Drewett	Communities Support Assistant	01736 336506	@cornwall.gov.uk

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