

Falmouth Week Sailing 7th-13th August



**FALMOUTH
TOWN COUNCIL**

**2016
SUMMER
ISSUE**

Events & Town Council Information

FATHOM



WELCOME TO
FATHOM
2016
SUMMER
ISSUE

The Mayor's Welcome

Welcome to the latest and revamped edition of Fathom – your local newsletter covering community developments, news and events.

I have been honoured to have been elected Town Mayor and I am looking forward to helping the Council continue to deliver community services at the local level. The Council has a proven track record of engaging with residents and providing services that we are told by you are needed, often working in partnership with others to achieve this. A good recent example of this is the delivery of cultural services across Falmouth, which has enabled the local and improved delivery of Falmouth Library and better use of the Municipal Buildings and education and outreach services including the Visitor and Education Officers at Gyllyngdune Gardens and youth services at Dracaena. This was started because residents told us they did not want to see the Falmouth Library lost or be reduced.

The 'local voice' will be heard through our Neighbourhood Plan and thank you to everyone who contributed to that, the plan is nearing its publication.

Falmouth regularly features as amongst one of the best places to live or visit in the UK. Whilst we of course already know that it is nice to see it recognised. It is about having and maintaining a vibrant, clean and safe local environment and that is certainly what your Town Council is currently about.

Please do let us have your thoughts and views about the issues that are important to you.

Councillor Grenville Chappel
Town Mayor

Focus On Art

The Council have revised how Cultural Services are delivered informed by the Community Plan 2009 providing a cohesive approach to supporting the vibrant cultural sector in Falmouth. Over the coming months we will be talking to residents and visitors to formulate a strategic approach to the delivery of community engagement with audiences of all ages and abilities across the town, so if you have any great ideas we would love to hear from you.

The Library has been transferred from Cornwall Council and we will look to increase opening hours. We are supporting Kate Springfield, the Youth Services Officer at the Dracaena Centre and will develop new opportunities for our local young people. We are also working with Cormac to maintain the excellent outdoor learning programmes in our gardens currently delivered by Jacqui Owen and Sara Baistrocchi. The Art Gallery will continue to deliver a vibrant programme of exhibitions including Wreck and Ruin, for our younger visitors with piratical tendencies, a series of dastardly activities drawing on our John Ryan collection for Captain Pugwash.



A Deeper Insight

The Council were pleased to receive the report from the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, marine consultants Royal Haskoning with Plymouth University's Marine Institute showing robust scientific assessment that dredging of a deep water channel in Falmouth Harbour would not adversely impact the environment.

The Council is cognisant of the need to protect the environment and ensure the Special Area designations are not affected but it recognises that there has consistently been demonstrated an essential economic need for the dredge. In simple terms a deeper channel enables access by larger vessels and that will lead to infrastructure investment in the port facilities and see local job creation. This is the overwhelming view of residents of the Town. Dredging will not have a long term environmental impact but it would have long term beneficial impact both to the town and the port. The application will now be considered by the Marine Management Organisation and the Council hopes that consent will be quickly achieved.



Residents Precept Letter

Dear Resident. This year we have listened to you that we should continue to have a library in Falmouth. Cornwall Council will no longer fund our library so we have decided to take it on, increase its opening hours, creating a cultural hub in the Municipal Buildings.

We will open the first genuine one stop shop to access all local government services. Our new building will be home to Council Officers and the Town Team. This development has not been funded by local tax payers and this historically important building to our town has been saved from undesirable housing development.

We continue to fund some youth services after all were cut last year, we will continue the environmental education outreach service and have taken over Dracaena Fields and plan to develop the leisure facilities there for everyone. The Neighbourhood Plan and Article 4 Direction will ensure we have a mixed and vibrant town in future years. We have installed new CCTV throughout the town to help to keep us protected and Falmouth Town Council led the successful Britain in Bloom team of volunteers and gardeners who won Tourism Town of the Year. We continue to provide all the services you are used to.

All these services cost money. If we do not keep on top of litter, weeds, rubbish and other amenities then the town will decline. After debate we believe that the services we are providing ranging from keeping Falmouth clean through to taking on apprentices will improve the town for us all and we have had to increase the precept this year by 60 pence per week (Band C) in order to keep the town as we all want it. Elsewhere on this page is a breakdown of our income and expenditure.

According to the national press Falmouth is the Best Place to Live in the South West. Let's keep it that way!

Open Space

Trescobeas Cycle Track

A recent study of open space provision in Falmouth by Cornwall Council to inform its "Local Plan," identified that most of our community are well catered for, with the exception of our teenagers, the provision for whom is under the national average. Falmouth Town Council have taken action and it's grounds maintenance team have been working for the past few weeks with Martin Beck a Cycle track builder to enhance the facility at Trescobeas Recreation Area. The old "BMX" track installed in the early days of cycle track building was not the easiest to ride, as the layout wasn't quite right, meaning that it was under-used. The new track is a "Pump" track, with the guidance of Martin's expertise this pump track has several different routes cyclists can take with varying degrees of difficulty.



Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan team have been hard at work using your response to the survey last summer, along with other evidence, to produce initial ideas for inclusion in the Plan. These will be consulted on in the Autumn. An issue for the Plan is how Falmouth can respond properly to the impacts from the growth being sought by the Universities. We need to develop a strong strategy to keep a balanced and liveable community.

An important element is the 'Article 4 Direction' making landowners wanting to convert properties to student accommodation to apply for planning permission. The Neighbourhood Plan will contain policies to guide Cornwall Council making decisions on these applications. The Plan Team and the Town Council have been working with Cornwall Council to get the Article 4 Direction into place, that process is now well in hand.

Alongside an Economic Plan has been created to base bids into the Government's Coastal Communities Fund. This was delivered to the Government in January 2016, bids for project funding for schemes will be made annually up to 2020.

Pecking Order



Falmouth Town Council get a large number of issues reported by our residents that are caused by gulls ripping open black bin bags and distributing the contents over the pavements of our town, which not only looks unsightly but encourages rats and other such vermin. The Council have listened to and responded to these complaints by negotiating a really good deal direct from the manufacturer for enough sacks for every residence within the town, we will take delivery of the seagull-proof sacks at the beginning of September 2016 in time for the next academic year and these will be available to any resident requiring one free of charge.



Pitch Perfect

From April of this year Falmouth Town Council have taken over the management and grounds maintenance operations for Dracaena Avenue playing fields, the freehold transfer of the land will follow in due course, this area was formally maintained by Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council's financial situation is dire and will only get worse as central government year on year systematically reduces funding, with a "0" funding level to be in place by the year 2020.

The survey completed by residents of Falmouth to inform the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan identified that preservation of our green spaces in Falmouth was of very high priority to the people, the Town Council listened to its residents and acted by seeking to take ownership of the site so that its continued use could be guaranteed.

Falmouth Town Council will be organising a public consultation to listen to how its residents would like the site better used in the future, initial ideas from the community have suggested outdoor gym facilities, a toddlers play area and outdoor seating near to the Dracaena Centre to compliment the excellent services supplied by Richard May and his team, a new bigger and better Skateboard Park and an all-weather surface football area.

Have your say, by emailing your suggestions to
admin@falmouthtowncouncil.com



Play(ground)

The play area Falmouth residents asked for in Kimberley Park has been a tremendous success, with nobody really appreciating just how busy and well used it would be. The original rubber matting safety surfaces installed to protect users from harm should they fall from the equipment, was designed to have grass growing through it, as the original consultation told us that people wanted the area to look as natural as possible. Unfortunately due to the extremely high usage of the play area this system has not delivered the effect it should have as the grass just doesn't get a chance to grow. The bare rubber matting makes the play area look a bit tired and is not serving the purpose for which it is designed so we feel now is the time to re-look at the surfacing and are proposing to install a better and safer surfacing, we have researched the possibilities and are in favour of using bonded rubber mulch as replacement surface, if you are wondering what this surface is like, it can be seen around the bases of some of our street trees where the buses stop on the Moor in Falmouth's centre. Staged works will commence at the beginning of June to install the new surfacing, we are sorry but unfortunately there will be disruption although we will endeavour to keep the play area open throughout, we will need to close-off with fencing the areas we are working on to protect the children from harm, gradually we'll work through the play area replacing each safety surface and the play area will be visually enhanced with safer surfacing fit for the future.

Councillor Contact Information

Arwenack

G F Evans CC

19 Arwenack Ave
Falmouth TR11 3JW
01326 311543
gfevans@cornwall.gov.uk

Mrs M Davies

Tophouse
5 Seaview Road
Falmouth TR11 4EF
01326 312508
Councillor-mdavies@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

S Gray

Pixie Corner, Oakland Park,
Falmouth, TR11 4JL
07932677929
Councillor-sgray@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

Boslowick

A J Jewell CC

Pennance Mill Farm
Maenporth Road
Falmouth TR115HJ
01326 317431
ajewell@cornwall.gov.uk

S D Eva

34 Trescobeas Road
Falmouth, TR11 2JP
01326 311539
Councillor-sdeva@fal-
mouthtowncouncil.com

Mrs R D Brock

8 Swans Reach
Falmouth, TR11 5GG
07585809852
Councillor-rbrock@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

Mrs P A Minson

171 Boslowick Road
Falmouth, TR11 4QF
07986900821
Councillor-pminson@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

Penwerris

I J Body

88 Boscundle Ave
Falmouth TR11 5BX
07967249154
Councillor-ijbody@fal-
mouthtowncouncil.com

M McCarthy

87 Killigrew Street
Falmouth TR11 3PU
07576561747
Councillor-MMcCarthy@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

G G Chappel

26 Grenville Road,
Falmouth, TR11 2NW
01326 218690
Councillor-ggchappel@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

Trescobeas

D W Saunby CC

20 Trevithick Road
Falmouth TR11 2JP
01326 315285
dsaunby@cornwall.gov.uk

Mrs V E Eva

34 Trescobeas Road
Falmouth, TR11 2JP
07974 812103
01326 311539
Councillor-veeva@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

B M A Ross

Osprey, Swanpool
Falmouth, TR11 5BD
07587 890588
Councillor-bmaross@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

Smithick

Mrs C Atherton CC

Osprey, Swanpool
Falmouth, TR11 5BD
07587 890588
Councillor-catherton@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

O K Cramp

16 Harbour Terrace
Falmouth TR11 2AN
01326 316400
Councillor-olivercramp@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

Mrs D Merrett

30 Conway Road
Falmouth TR11 4LA
01326 212097
Councillor-dmerrett@
falmouthtowncouncil.com

www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk

www.falmouth.co.uk

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Falmouth Town Council

Municipal Buildings
The Moor, Falmouth
Cornwall, TR11 2RT

Tel: 01326 315559

admin@falmouthtowncouncil.com



