

## **Fowey Town Council**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

In the Annual Parish Meetings of 2016-2018 the Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan has hosted the event with a display of information boards, provided refreshments and included key issues such as the work of the Community Land Trust and speaker Andrew George also the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to discuss the role of the Community Hospital as well as health and well-being in Fowey parish.

#### **2016**

**Cllr R Finlay, Mayor of Fowey:** Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been in existence since January 2015 and we have achieved a lot in just over a year. Towns and parishes are recommended to create a Neighbourhood Plan for their area as it allows locals to influence how our neighbourhood develops in the future. It has to be community led and the Plan, when written will have statutory status and have more weight than previous planning documents like the Parish plan.

**C Cllr David Hughes:** I congratulate the Mayor and her team on the impressive progress which they have made with the Neighbourhood Plan and would urge everyone to give them their active support. This is not just another “paper exercise”. When completed and if supported in a referendum, this will become a document with significant “planning” weight and will allow the people of Fowey to have a significant say in shaping the town into the future.

#### **2017**

**Cllr R Finlay, Mayor of Fowey:** The Neighbourhood Plan is making us ask questions about where we want Fowey to be in the next twenty years, what sort of Housing do we need? Will there be sufficient infrastructure for new residents? Are we a sustainable town? In other words is Fowey a place where there are jobs and houses for young families? Will we have a secondary school? Will we have an open Community Hospital?

In just over two years the steering group is very pleased to be now writing draft policies for Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan. This is an achievement to be proud of. NDP's have to be community led and so far through the involvement of residents at exhibitions working groups there have been over 150 people actively involved in sharing their views and opinions. Over 300 people have also completed a major questionnaire about how they want Fowey to develop in the next 20 years. As soon as these draft policies are completed they will be available for residents' scrutiny.

**C Cllr David Hughes:** The Fowey Neighbourhood Plan is making real progress thanks to the efforts of a small but committed group of people. I would urge all local residents, of all ages, to play an active part in its development. This is your opportunity to help shape the way our community develops over the next 20 years. We cannot “ban” any future development but we can influence where development should take place and shape the nature of that development in terms of scale, design, housing mix etc. With the Local Plan in place, Neighbourhood Plans are significant planning documents which must be considered by Inspectors at appeal.

**Andrew George explained that the Cornwall CLT** was a charitable body committed to helping local people build genuinely affordable homes; 200 had been built in the last 10 years, with the latest ones at St Teath costing 56% of market value. These homes would remain affordable in perpetuity and were designed to be energy efficient with rooms 10%-20% larger than the government space standard. Mr George stated there was no better time for communities to consider forming a Community Land Trust to build affordable homes in their area, with the newly adopted Cornwall Local Plan and emerging Neighbourhood Plans making life much more difficult for developers. The Mayor invited all present to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for refreshments before leaving. Members of the SG were available to answer questions and various exhibits were displayed at the rear of the Hall.

## **2018**

**Cllr R Finlay, Mayor of Fowey:** Fowey Neighbourhood Plan In just over three years the steering group of the NP are very pleased to announce we have now completed the writing of our draft policies. This is an achievement to be proud of. The Fowey Parish NP is community led and so far through the involvement of residents at exhibitions, working groups there have been over 190 people actively involved in sharing their views and opinions. Over 300 people have also completed a major questionnaire about how they want Fowey to develop in the next 20 years. By the end of April 2018 the steering group will submit the draft NP and our evidence file for an initial screening by Cornwall Council and dependent on their findings we hope to then publish the draft NP for scrutiny by the parish residents