

CHAIRMANS REPORT December 1st. 2025

1. I attended the CALC AGM at St Erme.
 - The first part of the meeting followed the standard format of minutes confirmation, finances, election of the new board, etc. It was advised that the subscription fee would likely rise by 3.6% if confirmed by the new executive board.
 - The second part was a presentation by Cllr Sarah Preece (Portfolio holder for Tourism. Localism and Planning) who was supported by Louise Wood (Head of Planning) and Adam Birchall (Head of Planning policy) all about the new Cornwall Local Plan that is in preparation for the period 2030 to 2050. There are some very tight timescales that have been set by the government to achieve the new plan, but as yet no legal framework has been given by the government. Therefore, CC are doing what they can to prepare what they believe will be required of them. This includes public consultations across the various CAPs and getting councils to present their own Neighbourhood Policy Statements to help form the new LP. A few local councils are preparing these now to iron out the kinks in the system and it is hoped the model templates will be released to all councils early in the New Year. The results of the consultations and the NPS's that are submitted will inform the Local Plan makers of what to include. Louise Wood advised of planning requirements across Cornwall. The government initially set an ambitious target of 2707 homes to be built in Cornwall during the life of this parliament. They have now raised this figure to 4421 which is even harder to achieve. Hence, she stated that whilst environment, heritage etc will still need to be addressed, everybody is going to have to make compromises. The priority will be brownfield/previously developed sites but if they cannot be found then greenfield sites will need to be used. With 850 households in Cornwall presently in emergency accommodation, the need for more housing is obvious. One thing of note is that she said that the previous housing targets that were set under the old local plan would now not be determined relevant when planning applications were considered. (i.e. our NDP showed that we had exceeded the new properties that were specified in the previous LP.) I spoke to her privately after the meeting and asked about the WAAF Site. Her opinion was that if the application were to be re-submitted, it could be looked at more favourably in light of the new requirements! She had also outlined the "call for sites" and so I asked her about the Lighthouse Hill amenity area. I said that it seemed wrong that one dept in CC were selling off land that could be used for housing and another was calling out for housing sites. She was aware of this and promised to look into the situation.
2. The WAAF Site working group report has been circulated with the agenda and is on the parish website. It's a big read, so I would ask all councillors to read it thoroughly so that we can make an informed decision on the way forward.
3. I was invited by Perran Moons office, along with other local council chairmen and mayors, to attend a Christmas card judging competition for the design of his official parliamentary Christmas Card. Some 15 primary schools across the constituency entered with around 250 entries. These were whittled down to a winner from Carharrack School (Portreath School had not entered the competition)

