Reports for BFPC Full Council October 2013

This report on WDBC has an element of *deja-vu*. T18 or the Transformation programme is monopolising most of our thoughts, for those who don’t know, this is a way for the council to make vast savings, but continue to provide the services required by residents. Members have been participating in numerous workshops and even taking a coach trip to Wiltshire to see how other councils do their work. A vote will take place next week and after that will begin the process of blueprinting the systems required -watch this space.

Elsewhere in the Council Janet Rosser the longstanding secretary of the Chief Exec and Major has retired and a presentation made to Wesseling to mark the 30th anniversary of the twinning of the German city and West Devon. To save costing a recording was made of the presentation which was sent to Wesseling. The members room has been renamed the Wesseling room.

Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison October meeting

I attended the last meeting held in the Plymouth Guildhall. There was a presentation on developments within the Coastal Zone between the high and low water mark, these would include harbours, marinas and sea walls, household jetties do not require planning permission but do require MMO Consent. The European Marine site has special protection for migrating birds, and underwater activities, as many marine plants only survive this far north, because of our mild maritime climate. The Tamar Estuaries plan rollout is going well but the introduction of the MCZ’s has not been announced.

Plymouth Plan is going out to consultation; this will include improving access to water and guidance to all local authorities’. The issue of bathing water and missed connections effect on it was discussed. Quality sampling was mentioned Environment Agency will end in March next year. Work will shortly start on a new cycle way including the old railway bridge at Laira. There was a presentation on SPART the removal of Marine Litter with the aim of not using plastic within the marine environment. This was followed by work on a review of fishing, bylaws to prevent towed fishing, illegal fishing & prosecution. The meeting finished with the QHM requesting that boat owners ensured that their craft were secure during the winter months.

Bere Peninsula Community Plan

As you will know the Community Plan Group launched the questionnaire on September 25th. All 1460 homes within the peninsula should have received copies of the survey document, many delivered by the Bere Alston Trekkers; this survey was also available on line through Survey Monkey. A whole series of promotions have been used to encourage residents to return the completed document before the October 31st deadline .A window display was created at the bottom of Bedford St; this contained changing banners and such things as a model railway and village. On top of this a series of posters again with changing messages put up around the whole peninsula. These were backed up by press releases in the Tavistock Times, Bere Link, and latterly Evening Herald, Western Morning News, Radio Devon, Heart FM, Facebook &twitter. Two questionnaire sessions have been held in Bere Alston and Bere Ferrers all to encourage returns in the twelve ballot boxes placed in locations throughout the parish. Returns have also been made through this council’s post box. Printing of the questionnaire was paid for directly by the Tamar Valley AONB; however there are many other costs that will need to be paid for. Our budget breakdown indicated that the overall costs will amount to £2300. West Devon & Devon CC will be providing grants of £500 each. This council agreed to earmark reserves of up to £1500 to assist with the process. So far £200 have been paid to the group, I would formally request a further £250, to help with cash flow to cover the costs of printing all these promotional material.