

2019 Localism Summit.

This meeting was held at Wadebridge show ground on Wed. 6th Nov. 19. It started at 9-30am and was an all day event. The meeting was well attended by councillors, county councillors, and council clerks. Everybody was given a table number to sit at and they had worked out that each table had a mixture of people on them. On my table we had a county councillor who was also a councillor, and the rest of us was a mix from large and small councils.

The meeting was chaired by Edwina Hannaford. The morning was all about Localism. There were several speakers on this. Julian German (leader of Cornwall council.), Tony Armstrong (CEO Locality), and Sarah Mason (CEO CALC).

Each one of these gave a talk about localism. Library services was shown how they do not only do books these days but are a centre for obtaining a whole pile of other information. We were told localism is not about power being given away but to harness the power that is already available. We need to have good relationships with groups in the area. Councils need to strengthen the community engagement and partnerships at local level. Address barriers to access and participation, and strengthen community capacity and leadership. Councils need to have better communication with their parish. Openness and transparency was mentioned a few times.

Localism affects all the services that Cornwall council delivered.

After a tea break we had our first work shop where each table had a leader. Ours was Helen Nicholson. There was a large piece of paper that Helen wrote on that we could say what could be done and some of the problems that they knew about. There were problems with planning. One department not talking to another. Places that were known by locals to flood but the planning department not knowing about it or if they do they say it is not something that affects planning. Other points made by everybody was that schools should be included in. A lot of schools are already doing this. Speeding issues through villages was brought up.

After a break for dinner the meeting moved on to climate change.

Edwina Hannaford started the talk about how Cornwall council was aiming for carbon neutral Cornwall by 2030. The talk went on to say the disadvantaged and vulnerable are most likely to be impacted by climate change.

Climate change can be influenced by things we control. Through funding. Policy influence. Influence locally and nationally.

Grow nature tool kit (CC website) Managing nature. Making space for nature in Cornish towns (Launceston).
Partnership is everything.

Steve Ford introduced the second workshop. Talking about some of the things you might consider. Forrest for Cornwall (planting Trees). Whole house retrofit.

Helston climate action group. Dave Potter and Kathrine Lewis.
They talked about Green spaces, Food and consumption, Energy and transport, Communication and education, Business engagement, Health and wellbeing.
They talked about talking to the public. Having workshops and showing people what they can be doing.

Chacewater Community Energy Group. John Carley and Steve Leech.

These people held open days to show the public what was available and what they could do. They was trying to educate and explain and encourage everyone.

Camelford Network Panel

Camelford's team had struggled to get climate change on the agenda. They was trying to get people motivated.

Workshop 2

This was the same as the first one where our ideas were wrote down.

How do we respond to climate change? How do CC and parish councils respond to the request of our communities to provide them with the appropriate leadership and governance to address local climate change.

My thoughts for the day.

The whole day was well planned. With each table having a good mix of people and big and small councils put together. Some of these were the same as our council where they are sceptical about all of this. The gentleman next to me found the knowledge of Helston very useful and was going to follow that up.

The main point that came across to me from both the localism and climate change talks is that this is not going to go away. LPC is part of the Launceston Community Network Area. They hold meetings in The Town Hall, Launceston. The next one is Thursday 12th Dec. 19. On both of these subjects these people will be able to help you.

The senior schools in Cornwall have all signed up to climate change. The school council was also mentioned a few times. This is one area that LPC is already considering and I think would be a good starting point for this council.