

CALC Update for August 2024 council meeting

The first part of the meeting was heavily weighted towards the devolution of car parks and the fact that some councils were having an issue with CC offering these to an outside company prior to contacting town council's. Although we are not currently interested in the devolution of the car parks, I was interested to hear the issues town councils were having trying to obtain them.

We then discussed strategies for the upcoming elections 2025, a few town councils discussed strategies they have used in the past and intend to for the year ahead, the Clerk supported this conversation explaining what this council did in 2021, regarding utilising social media to promote 'meet our councillors', where we shared a few lines about why members had joined the council. The Clerk stated the statements were removed from social media prior to the elections taking place.

A few councils discussed the importance of letting the community know the 'role of a councillor and what is expected, there will be a refresh of materials out in Autumn to support this process. Sarah Mason (CALC) stated that members are reluctant to encourage others to come forward to stand again. She would be happy to support events to promote democracy.

This agenda item was very interesting and I feel as a council we should take a look at our strategy ready for 2025 elections. There were other suggestions, such as the importance of our profile in Torpoint and showing 'what we have achieved' and producing a candidate pack - understanding the role of a councillor, so that anyone interested understands what they are signing up for. Also discussed the importance of induction training and a skills audit.

I am aware that Councillor Mrs Julie Martin has suggested utilising the Street Market to do this. Perhaps the council could look to have a stall manned by councillors on a street market day early 2025? I am happy to assist with the production of these packs and support the stand at the street market.

Under Any other Business, the Clerk highlighted about the Festival event the council is looking to host next year and asked whether anyone knew of any available funding. There were not many responses regarding this, although Melanie Brain - CC Devolution and Tourism team has forwarded a link for funding opportunities. Melanie Brain also discussed there will be new procurement training to be offered towards the end of October/beginning of November, which will take about 1.5 hours. She stated, CC is looking at developing a new strategic approach to devolution/tourism, calling it decentralisation/devolution and anticipates this could take around 9 months.

This meeting began at 10am and concluded at 11am, with the next meeting date being set for 17th October.

Councillor Lizeta Fellows
1st August 2024