

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LYNTON AGENCY 2019/2020

This report is issued on a yearly basis to assure North Devon Council (NDC) of the effective and efficient management of its assets in Lynton and Lynmouth under the Agency Agreement.

The main annual expectation is to deliver a positive financial surplus of £50,000 for Agency assets. This is demonstrated in financial year 2019/20 by surplus out-turn figures of £65,800

The 2019/20 surplus demonstrates an increase of £5,600 over 2018/19 surplus.

All 2015 Agency Review Recommendations have been achieved and recorded in previous reports.

Agency Business during 2019/20 financial year.

Harbour safety inspections continue on a daily and monthly basis in line with the Port Marine Safety Code. A number of safety enhancements were undertaken in this reporting period including; access ladders brought up to modern safety compliance; handrail installed on main slipway; safety warning signs erected on Slipway and Harbour Arm; a safety fence beside May Bridge wall and clear delineation of the Slipway from public highway. As usual silt had to be removed from the harbour mouth to allow unrestricted seaborne access.

Lynmouth Harbour has now been fully brought under the auspices of NDC Harbour Board and its meeting/reporting structure. An external harbour audit was commissioned by NDC and a draft report received. However, legal research is ongoing by NDC solicitors to establish clear ownership and designation of Lynmouth Harbour as this will impact future licensing, maintenance and management protocol.

Public conveniences in Lower Lyndale Car Park, Lynmouth were completely refurbished by the Agency workforce following a successful PAG bid by Town Clerk.

Safety works in the closed cemetery were undertaken in respect of trees and headstones. The old entry gates were removed and refurbished.

Town Clerk was successful in application to The Woodland Trust for a 30 tree copse to be grant funded in Pavilion Park, betwixt Lynmouth and Lynton, off Zig Zag Path. The 'free' trees will be delivered for installation in autumn 2020.

APPENDIX A

Lynton Tennis Club has a new group of trustees who have completed maintenance on the courts and are now running the Club in a more positive and constructive way. They have seen an uplift in players and activity.

Similarly, Lynton Bowls Club has a new Chairman and committee members. They have been successful in securing grants allowing much needed capital repairs to the Clubhouse building. They applied for Planning Permission from Exmoor National Park and are awaiting works commencement.

All Car Parks bar Lynmouth Esplanade have been upgraded to NDC Corporate signage and colour scheme. Parking Fine issue/administration continues to meet the norm for NDC. Qualitative issues are reviewed monthly in the liaison meeting between Town Clerk and NDC Car Park Manager.

4G went live for Pay and Display card payments in both Lyndale Car Park machines however, it is still intermittent as Flowbird (the machine operators) use Vodaphone modems not EE which has widest UK coverage. Town Clerk is working with Flowbird in an attempt to remedy this situation and further improve card payments in Lynmouth Car Parks.

Repairs to retaining walls in Watersmeet and Cross Street Car Parks have stalled due to COVID19 restrictions at the end of season 2019/20. Fencing (temporary) has been deployed to ensure a safe environment for public, vehicles and staff moving forward.

One new Doo Poo Bin and a [relocated] Street Litter bin have been installed in Lynmouth on popular walking routes in response to public requests. Agency staff continue to manage and service 56 Litter Bins and 15 Dog Poo Bins in the Parish.

At the completion of this fourth reporting year The Agency once again achieved required outcomes with greater financial benefit than predicted.

The benefits of closer working and economies of scale are still being realised. NDC Customer Services advise residents attend Lynton Town Hall to collect replacement items from local supplies including Wheelie Bins reducing need for NDC to travel from BEC to deliver one item.

Agency staff would like to thank NDC officers for the continued working relationship and regular meetings to manage Agency business in Lynton and Lynmouth.

Kevin A Harris

Town Clerk

Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council

Oct 2020