

The following notes encapsulate the comments made by members of the public during the public participation section of the meeting:-

Brian Kingshot - Former Police Inspector - significant depletion of police officers and PCSOs; there is a direct correlation between this and increased problems seen in Penzance. Visual presence of police is key to tackle the problem. Resources should not be used by the Town Council itself but be made available for the primary authority (the police) to increase their presence if these problems are to be tackled effectively.

David Andrewartha - Traffic wardens from Cornwall Council being over-zealous in tackling established parking for his business.

Stephen Pearce - Wants to see action taken by Cornwall Council (social elements) and the Police (ASB), what is happening currently is simply not good enough and they need to provide the public with information on what action is being taken currently and what will be taken in the future to improve the current situation.

Pauline Schofield - Need to “see” police as a deterrent. CCTV is a support function to the police but should never replace “feet on the ground”

Andrew Swann - Employ local people and volunteers to support an increased police presence in the town - security firms should be kept to parks and open spaces

Shane Rogers - The town has been on a consistent decline due to lack of activity from the Councils and Police force despite paying more Council Tax. Why are we paying more and getting less?

Judith Lawrence - Safer Cornwall has conflicting information with the police message - the Town Council should look at developing strategies for the youth to prevent future issues.

Martin Ward - Unacceptable comments from the police about “moaners” becoming specials. Police figures for Devon and Cornwall 6000 total employees with 354 PSCOs - rural areas are being left to fend for themselves whilst more fashionable areas are better supported.

Rev. Sian Yates - Take positives from so people coming together because they care about Penzance - we should not turn on one another and people in need.

No name - Why is the police station closed to the public when it is so difficult to report things via 101; town centre based PCSO to help with this?

Ricky O’Shea - Why is Breadline closed? What has happened to St Petroc’s funding? These were the two bodies who helped him and his recovery / reform. Addaction seem content with the current situation. These bodies are not receiving good enough support. Penzance has a “new” crack cocaine issue as well as heroin

Keith Perry - Insufficient street signage and too much street drinking - has seen more police since the meeting was publicised but how long will it last? Visible police presence makes the difference.

Thomas Galea - Has started collecting needles after his child found one. Lack of support from Cornwall Council despite regularly reporting the issues. Lack of response - needles being left in the open for hours on end before being collected. Contacted the police on numerous occasions, hours on hold on 101, police refusing to enter public toilets or deal with issues despite problems being reported and him collecting camera evidence. PCSOs not doing their jobs properly - misreporting problems - not taking alcohol off people - deliberately avoiding known trouble spots, not taking action or making arrests where people are breaking the law.

Kathy Allen, Holland and Barrett - PCSOs not responding or supporting the public properly when things are being reported to them; they need more training or monitoring to make sure they are doing their jobs properly. Public do not know what they should and shouldn't report to the police or how to report it - 101 too slow - too much time on hold, makes it difficult to report issues.

Emma Morse - Proud Penzance resident - witness to hard drugs being used openly in town in the middle of the day. No police response when reported. Sad to see the decline in police support in Penzance and therefore the decline in Penzance.

Shane Rogers - Drug use prominent in Penzance High Streets - Intimidatory begging - people looking in bags, aggressive behaviour, parts of the town where people will not walk alone. 101 not working - too long, too difficult to get a proper response. Police not responding and when they do, they do not take appropriate action, often laughing and joking with the people causing the trouble. Council should be ashamed of themselves.

Many people - what good is increasing our reporting of issues if there are still no police to attend quickly in the Town?

Sue Culvert - Alfred Smith flower bed full of discarded needles - lack of response from Cornwall Council to clear the area. No one taking action, no one taking responsibility. Needles and drugs being handed out in ridiculous quantities - some new needles being discarded.

Sharon Holmes – Inspector Nick Clarke is okay - Cornwall Council are the ones failing the Town - they are greedy with Council tax and we are seeing less and less for it. Time to “take Penzance back”

Lynne Dyer - Cuts to public services are what has led to a lot of the problems witnessed in and around Causewayhead. Financial support to projects like Street Food Project before it becomes a crisis.

Jodie Tellam - "Growing Links" - Youth work is what is breaking the cycle of anti-social behaviour - reduces likelihood and involvement in anti-social behaviour. Policing matters need to be solved by local MP challenging the cuts that have led to the situation - not for the Council to sort out. Wants to see a comprehensive Youth Strategy for the Town - £25k not going to make a huge difference to policing but could make a massive difference to social strategy.

Abbi Rowland - Need to be looking to the future of Penzance as one thing and deal with the current issues as a separate matter. Must not just push the problem elsewhere, Drug deals taking place in and around our parks and play areas. Is public money being spent wisely - are planters what we should be talking about this evening with the real problems we have got to deal with?

Jane Purkiss - Diminishing financial resources for the police are resulting in the decline and problems we are seeing.

No name - why would we invest in other areas of the Town without getting the police to get to grips with the problems that we are facing first? Sort these out then investment and improvement will be encouraged.

Hannah Wallis, Causewayhead Traders - downturn in trade has been noticed by many - problems at the bottom of Causewayhead contributing to people not wanting to travel to the top of the street. Aggressive behaviour becoming more and more frequent and having an impact on local residents and visitors to the area.

Felicity Edwards - Large decline in the town. There are issues in supporting begging - not enough action being taken with camping in areas around the town, lack of Cornwall Council effective enforcement, lack of care taken by Cornwall Council with surrounding areas. Not good enough for the tents to still be in place - sends a terrible message that it is acceptable behaviour.