

TOWANS PARTNERSHIP MEETING – 29th JUNE

Report from Cornwall Council's Environment Officer

- Cornwall Council is no longer cleaning privately owned beaches because of a significant reduction in its budget for beach management functions. The Council is now only actively managing their own beaches.
- Cornwall Council's Neighbourhood Services has split Cornwall into two operational areas – East & West. In the east the beaches are managed by a ranger team led by Jolyon Sharpe and in the West there is Sue Nicholls (*plus another member of staff who is currently on maternity leave*).
- Staff in Neighbourhood Services weekly checks of all public rescue equipment during the summer but from October this changes to monthly checks and maintenance.
- The team continue to facilitate various voluntary beach cleans throughout the West area all year round. The Environment Officer is now working closely with Keep Britain Tidy's Beach Care project Officer to establish volunteer groups in the West area. Regular groups undertaking beach cleans can register with the project and receive free insurance cover, help with risk assessments and equipment i.e. litter pickers.
- Events are continuing to be held on Hayle beaches, in conjunction with the RNLI Lifeguards, throughout the season, most of which have gone well so far. The latest list of events is attached to this report.
- The zoning scheme approach to Gwithian/Godrevy beaches has been altered this season with the setting up of a new website www.gwithianbeach.org which we hope to give informative advice to visitors regarding weather reports, where to undertake activities and how to do them safely, dog and car park information, RNLI safety information, countryside events calendar, events information, information from landowners etc. It is hoped that each landowner will contribute to the cost of setting up the site and it will be hosted by Sunset Surf Café with links to other providers etc.