

Penzance Harbour – The Vision of Waterside Restaurants.. **and the value of tourism in the local economy...**

We are attempting to put forward a vision for the future of Penzance Harbour and the surrounding area; a vision that is a balance between a traditional ‘working Harbour’ and a Harbour area that fully realises the full economic & amenity potential of Waterside Restaurants extending around from Abbey Basin through the Wet Harbour area and on to Coinagehall Street and Jubilee Pool...a vision that provides a ‘destination’ for both locals and tourists-visitors alike; as clearly stated in the Penzance Neighbourhood Plan “reconnecting to the sea..”

But we are constantly being told that “tourism has little of ‘value’ to the local economy & community due to the ‘low wages’ associated with tourism...”

We believe this needs to be challenged; a truly simplistic analysis of the complex matrix of tourism and its overall contribution to the well-being for the whole of Cornwall and in particular the whole of the Penwith area...

Consider all of the local Owners/Managers & staff of the hundreds of B&B and Guest Houses in the area.. do they not have value; contribute value to the local community & economy...

Consider all the local Hotels: the Queens Hotel in Penzance owned and run by three generations of a much respected local family and all their staff over the years.. do they not have value; contribute value to the local community & local economy...

Consider the largest Hotel in the area Tregenna Castle a family hotel in St Ives. Employs over 160 staff: 100,000+ visitors per year with an estimated spend of £50 a head in the St Ives local area of £5million...

The Director and the Hotel Manager with all of their support staff – over ten Heads of departments – Accountants & bookkeepers/Receptionists & booking staff/Executive Chef & cooks/Food& Beverage Manager/ Maitre d’ Housekeeper Manager & staff/Human Resource Manager/ Leisure Manager/ Beauty Salon Manager with specialist staff/full-time maintenance staff electricians, plumbers, painters & decorators, carpenters/Head Groundsman & gardeners/ Timeshare Manager/Health& Safety Manager!.. all live in the local area .. do they not have value; contribute value to the local community & local economy...

Consider all the local Restaurants of all types & sizes. The Owners/ Managers /Chefs –some with Michelin Stars..! and their supporting staff.. do none of them have value; contribute to the local economy...

Consider all the local fisherman who service these Hotels & Restaurants with their ‘catch of the day’ and all the local farmers and growers who supply fresh picked local produce... do they not have value; contribute to the local economy...

Consider all the major national & internationally renowned tourist attractions in the area; St Michaels Mount – the Owners/Managers & support staff and the local Ferryman that service the Mount...

The Tate St Ives - the Director Heads of Departments and all the support staff; This one building had a profound impact on the number of visitors to St Ives; before just two months in the year - mayhem!.. now all year round with wall to wall restaurants servicing the locals and visitors...

The Directors & support staff of The Exchange & Penlee Galleries in Penzance: with the renown Newlyn School of Art collection.. Founder staff & local Artists & students at the Newlyn Art School.. The all year round visitors to the famous Cornish Gardens; the owners and staff of Tremeneer Sculpture Garden/Trengwainton/Trewidden et al...

do they not all have value; contribute to the local economy...

All the private owned Galleries throughout Penwith providing many outlets for local artists and craftsmen & woman...all rely heavily on the visitor -tourist for support... all have value: contribute to the local economy

Consider all the local Professionals who service all the above Hotels/Guest Houses/Restaurants/Galleries et al...the professional Accountants/Insurance Brokers/Architects/Solicitors/PR-ITwebsite specialists et al...do they not have value; contribute to the local community and local economy...!!!

And of course the owners/managers& staff of the hundreds of retail shops throughout the whole area that sell to the tourists- visitors...do they not have value; contribute to the local community and local economy...

Sure there are low paid jobs in parts of the Tourism spectrum but as the Director said of his son who was serving in the Bar & Restaurants of his Hotel “I consider my son will experience the ‘work place’ working with others and relating to members of the public.. all this will give him valuable life learning skills that will give him a sound grounding for the rest of his working career.. plus the opportunity of earning for his desire to travel in his gap year prior to going on for further vocational or Uni education...”

Many young people –students are able to do this within the tourism industry especially during the summer seasons which allows them to save for travel and or contribute to their upkeep & time in further education...

All the above clearly illustrates that there are very many people gainfully employed in meaningful and rewarding work; wholly or in part servicing the Tourism industry which is valued at £1.8 billion per year for Cornwall...

The simplistic often repeated mantra that *'tourism only equals low wages'* surely needs to be dropped once and for all !!!

John Moreland

Chair of Penzance Civic Society

past PzTCllr & Deputy Mayor

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