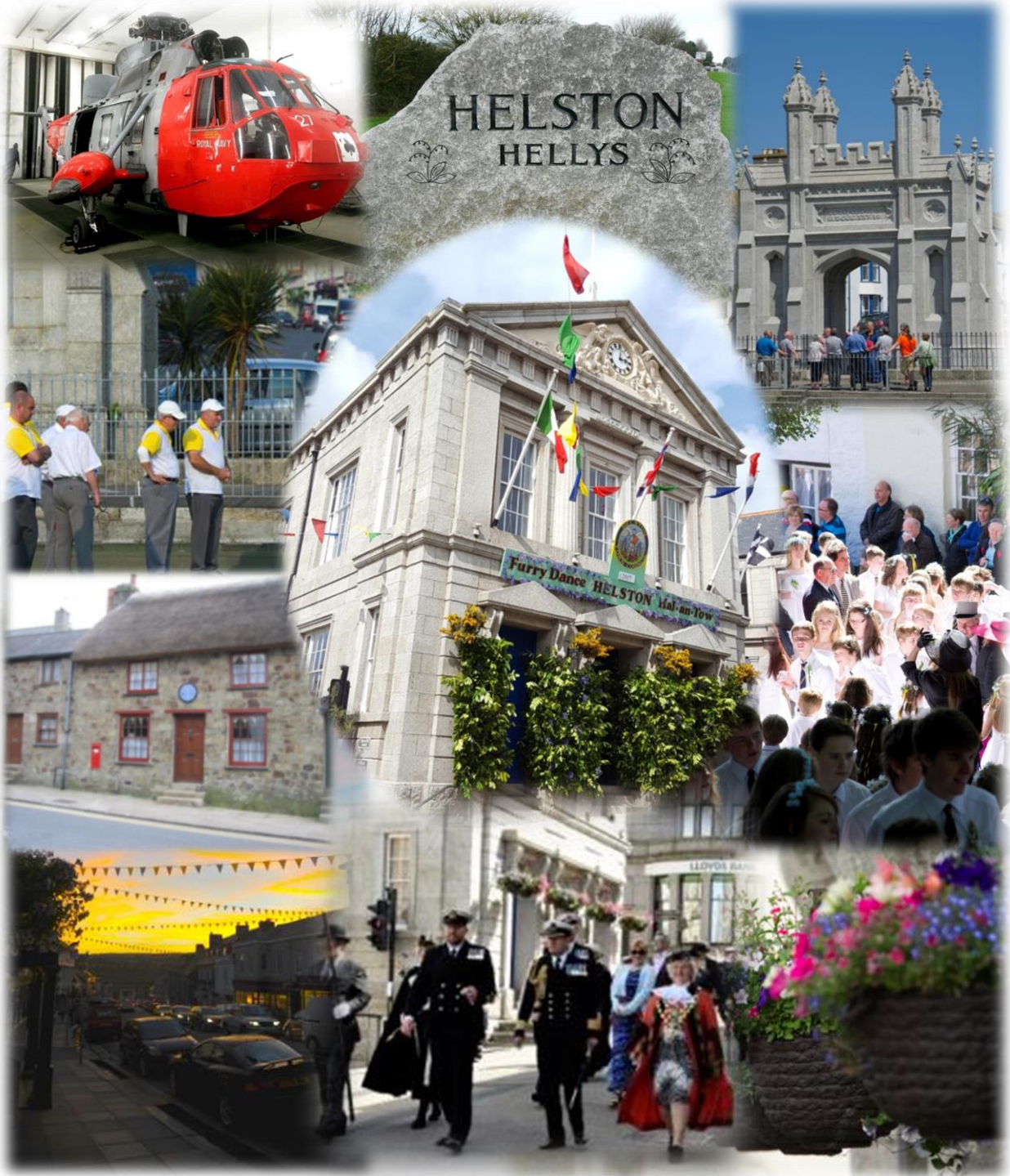




Helston Town Council

Konsel an Dre Hellys



Annual Report 2016/17

Message from the Mayor



One of the things I like best about being the Mayor of Helston is discovering the amount of voluntary work that is done in the town: the totally altruistic achievements of so many people.

Starting with the town councillors, who give of their time and efforts to aid the town, I have much more respect for local councils four years down the line.

A new group, Helston in Bloom, has taken on the town tidy task, and run with it - to make and tend new flower beds, flower boxes and hanging baskets. What a difference they make! Helston in Bloom has shown what can be done if you just get on with it! Their work has won silver awards at national level in the past two years.

There are people all over the town who volunteer to ferry the elderly and disabled to lunch clubs and afternoon sessions, events which combat loneliness and help create a busy social life for many who are not as independent as they used to be. Then there are the social clubs themselves, all run by warm hearted volunteers.



One of the most visible volunteer contributions to Helston is made by the Christmas Lights team, who expend a huge amount of effort to transform Helston at Christmas and make it the best lit town for miles around.



Our town is most famous for another event - Flora Day. The committee who organise this ancient event take on a very large responsibility: everything from the dances to the bunting going up across the streets. But there are other aspects of their work which are just as important though not so visible: insurance, health and safety considerations, road closures, marshals ... the list goes on.

The newest aspect of Flora Day is the work of another group. Go to visithelston.com on Flora Day and you can be part of the event whether you are in Breage, Birmingham or Brisbane: the whole day is broadcast over the internet thanks to Steve Hole and his team.

These are just a few of the wonderful groups who make Helston a special place. It's my good fortune to live here, work here, and sit on the Town Council. I want to thank everyone who gives their time and expertise to our town - with pride in their achievement as their only reward.

I know that the town centre is not as busy as we would like it to be, but we are working on it. There is an Events Committee which is working to create and encourage a program of events throughout the year. The coming year will see at least one major public event every month. Keep your eyes open for the publicity.





The Council is doing its bit. A complete face-lift takes time, but we've made a start. A pleasing, tidy and welcoming environment cannot be measured, but we all know the difference between a littered and weedy piece of waste ground and the cared-for ambience of a soccer field or a bowling green. This year has seen the transformation of the most prominent part of the town centre - the area around the Grylls monument now known as Monument Walk. Humphrey Grylls was Helston's biggest benefactor and it is appropriate that the Monument in his memory should be the focus of a pleasant environment for

everyone. Traditional granite teams with a modern, maintenance-free walking surface and Helston-focussed artwork to make the town centre's centre something we can be proud of. The Monument itself has been scrubbed and a fine but unwelcome display of buddleias has been removed from its top.

It all looks great, feels welcoming and smells - well, it doesn't smell, actually. That's because the eyesore of the public toilets which blighted the area has gone. Its drainage had always been an issue which has now been corrected. Our new, state-of-the-art loo is sited where it will not be an eyesore, with architecture that allows it to blend in rather than stand out.



The Guildhall has had a facelift, too, with its granite cleaned and its doors repainted a rich shade of blue. Look up to the town clock, which was restored a couple of years ago, and you can see the work that has been done to restore the dragon and angels. Most of the repair work, however, you can't see. The building's design features a parapet around the ridge of the roof. Over the years the gully between the two has sprung many leaks, and consequent damage inside the building has become more and more evident. It's now all repaired.

Looking to the future...

Although Helston Community College and its redevelopment have nothing to do with the Town Council, they have a lot to do with the town's residents. I am delighted that, at last, the old building can be put out of its misery. Work on a new, fit-for-purpose building will soon start. I offer my congratulations to all who have secured the huge amount of funding required.

You will know that the town library is currently able to open for restricted hours only. I have to report that it is soon to close temporarily. But - when the building reopens, it will house the library, Cornwall Council's One-Stop Shop (currently tucked away up Coinage Ope), and the Jobcentre from Coinagehall Street. All surrounded by public parking. We shall therefore not lose any of these important and valued facilities, and Cornwall Council will save hugely on the costs of commercial leasing. In addition, the amalgamation will save money and allow a much valued resource to open five and a half days a week.

The new housing developments around Helston will not be to everyone's taste: displeasing to those who value our green-field environment; and welcome to those without homes and who see enhanced prosperity in an enlarged town. Like them or not, the developments are the result of directives from Central Government. Areas throughout England have been given quotas of new-build housing, much needed in a country where population growth has exceeded housing growth for a generation. You can see that work has already started on a new estate on the left as you leave the town on the Falmouth Road.



Despite worries about matching provision of facilities such as shops, Post Offices and schools, let us be positive and hope that the new builds will be matched by a boost in jobs for the area, and that newcomers will be attracted from all over to live and get involved in our lovely town.

We have a new Director at the super Helston Museum. We hope that Annette McTavish enjoys her new job, and we look forward to seeing even more growth in that flourishing and outward-looking institution.



The CCTV security cameras around Helston are working well. They continue to justify the joint Town Council initiative under which they are run throughout west Cornwall.

There were no Town Council elections this year. That is a shame - though I might have lost my own seat, of course - but not enough people put themselves forward to become councillors. It does mean that I can continue doing my bit alongside a great bunch of people, augmented without election by Ron Edgcombe (Councillors Aiden Harrison and Paul Williams retired, leaving two vacancies). The second vacancy has been filled by Miles Kenchington through co-option.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Judith Haycock for her years of service to Helston. Judith stood down as a Cornwall Councillor, having been a Town Councillor and Kerrier District Councillor before that. She has made a big contribution to our town, working hard - tirelessly, even - for all of us. We will miss her vigour and success in promoting our interests. Thank you very much, Judith. Likewise, I also thank Philip Martin for his service to the Town as Cornwall Councillor until the May elections.

Helston has two new Cornwall Councillors – Cllrs John Martin and Mike Thomas. Both are also Town Councillors so I am sure they will help to forge strong links between our two Authorities. I also congratulate Cllr Andy Wallis on his re-election to Cornwall Council.



I must mention Chris Dawson, our Town Clerk, and his staff. This year the Council's work and administrative systems has been recognised with the awarding of Quality Gold Status by the National Association of Local Councils. It means that Helston's share of your council tax is in safe, productive, responsible hands.

Chris has also taken a close interest in the Helston Lizard Works Project that helps local unemployed people find work. This obviously benefits the jobless, but is also good for the rest of the community in terms of prosperity and good prospects for the future. The project has stood out as a Town Council thinking 'outside the box' and was awarded NALC Project of the Year runner-up. The recognition is an amazing achievement for us in such a small, remote area. Well done, everyone involved.

I have heard it said that Helston, with its famous Flora Day, is a one-trick pony. It isn't. But what underlies Flora Day is what creates the rest of community life in our lovely town. Enhanced by the spirit of spring, it is an emotional thing, a collective pride that, in our British way, we do not display most of the time but which shouts out on Flora Day. It lives on for the rest of the year, quietly making itself felt in all the good things that characterise Helston and its generous-hearted people. I could not be more proud than to be Mayor of the ancient and important town of Helston.



Hellys bis vykken! Helston for ever!
Councillor Mrs G A Geer
Town Mayor – May 2017

THE COUNCIL

Helston Town Council was formed in 1974 and has 12 elected Councillors (5 Councillors represent the North Ward, 5 Councillors represent the South Ward and 2 Councillors represent the West Ward). A list of current Councillors can be found on page 11. Elections will next be held in May 2021.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2016, the Council re-elected Cllr Mrs Gillian A Geer as Mayor for the 2016/17 civic year.

Meetings of the Full Council are held at the Guildhall, Helston on the third Thursday of every month (no meeting in August). In addition to the Full Council meetings, the Council has three committees to facilitate the effective management of its business:

Amenities

Planning

Policy, Finance & Resources



There is public participation at the monthly Full Council meeting to enable members of the public to make comments or to raise local issues. There is also public participation during committee meetings during which comments can be made regarding items on the agenda. A Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 civic year can be found on the Council's website www.helston-tc.gov.uk. Agendas and Minutes are also published on the website and Facebook page.

Councillors do not receive payment or any allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business. A record of meetings attended during 2016/17 is included in this report on page 9.

During Full Council meetings there is an agenda item for the Cornwall Council Local Members and the Community Link Officer to give reports.

The Council employs three full-time and three part-time officers based at The Guildhall:

Mr Chris Dawson	–	Town Clerk
Miss Pamela Lavelle	–	Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs Julia Chambers	–	Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant (Part-time)
Miss Rachel Cook	–	Administrative Assistant (Part-time)
Mr Craig Bowcutt	–	Town Warden
Mr Martin Searle	–	Town Centre Regeneration Officer (Part-time)

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Committee was Chaired by Cllr Mrs Boase. The Committee met on seven occasions during the 2016/17 civic year. This Committee is responsible for the Council's property such as the Guildhall and Public Conveniences as well as bus shelters, public seats and litter bins.

The Town Warden regularly reports to the Committee and an excellent working relationship has been developed with the National Trust at the Penrose Estate.

I would like to thank former Councillor Jonathan Radford-Gaby who resigned due to work commitments, for his hard work, expertise and chairing of the Amenities Committee and wish him well. I also thank members for entrusting me with the position of Chair.

After reports on the condition of the fencing at the Hellis Wartha play area we have replaced them with railings.

Finally I would like to thank the staff and the National Trust for all their input and support. Thank you.

Cllr Nicola Boase – Chair

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee, consisting of six Members meets on the first and third Thursday of every month and has delegated authority to consider all planning applications and to make recommendations to Cornwall Council – the Planning Authority. All Applications are categorised into those that are non-contentious (Category I) and those that require more in-depth consideration (Category II). Each Category II application is allocated to a Committee member who visits the site and contacts neighbours to establish a balanced view and to make a presentation and recommendation at the Planning Committee meeting. If a near neighbour of the application site cannot be contacted a letter is left giving the application details and how to contact the Committee member. The public are welcome to attend the meeting and again have the opportunity to express their opinions to the Members.

From June 2016 to May 2017, 31 Category I planning applications were considered and 52 Category II.

The Helston Town Council Planning Committee continues to deal with a great variety of planning issues with a focus and enthusiasm for what is best for the town. One of the two large housing developments is now underway, and the planned new build for Helston Community College is under consideration. We ensure that the town Conservation area is carefully observed. The relationship with the Cornwall Council Planning Department continues to be enhanced with two of our committee now elected as Cornwall Councillors, and both are on the West Planning Committee, gaining valuable experience for our Town Council.

Cllr John Martin – Chair

POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of six Members, Chaired by Councillor Thomas, met on seven occasions during the year with meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Committee's functions include reviewing existing Council policies and risk assessments and the consideration of new policies. With regards to finance, the Committee regularly monitors the budget and considers reports of the independent internal auditor and the external auditor. The Committee also agrees a draft forward budget and determines the Precept for recommendation to Full Council each year.

Committee membership (2016/17)

Amenities Committee

Cllr R Williams – *Vice Chair (from September)*

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase – *Vice Chair and Chair (from September)*

Cllr M H Thomas

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby – *Chair (to September)*

Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Cllr A R Harrison

Cllr D J Potter

Cllr P E Williams

Planning Committee

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr M H Thomas – *Vice Chair*

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby

Cllr J Martin – *Chair*

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Cllr P E Williams

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase

Cllr M H Thomas – *Chair*

Cllr J Martin

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Cllr Mrs G A Geer – *Vice Chair*

Cllr T E Grattan-Kane

Current Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies from May 2017

West Cornwall CCTV Group	Cllr M H Thomas
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Cllr J Martin
Helston Community College	Cllrs R Williams, M H Thomas, J Martin, T E Grattan-Kane & Rev D P Reed
Helston and the Lizard Works	Cllr M H Thomas
Helston Welfare Trust: Nominated Trustees	Cllrs R Williams, Mrs G A Geer & Mrs F N E Boase
Helston in Bloom	Cllrs R Williams & R J L Boase
Loe Pool Management Forum	Cllr R Williams
The Furry Youth Café Directorate	Cllr M H Thomas
Helston & South Kerrier Community Network Panel	Cllr J Martin

Attendance at meetings 2016-2017

<i>Number of meetings</i>	Full Council	
	14	Absent and no apology received
Cllr Mrs G A Geer (Mayor)	13	
Cllr R Williams	13	1
Cllr R J L Boase	14	
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	14	
Cllr J P Radford-Gaby	6/7	
Cllr J Martin	14	
Cllr M H Thomas	14	
Cllr N Roberts	12	
Cllr A R Harrison	10	
Cllr D J Potter	12	
Cllr T E Grattan-Kane	12	
Cllr P E Williams	12	
Cllr Rev D P Reed	5/5	

Committee	Amenities	Planning	Policy, Finance & Resources
<i>Number of Meetings</i>	7	22	6
Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor)	7	20	6
Cllr R Williams	6		
Cllr R J L Boase		20	5
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	7		5
Cllr J P Radford-Gaby	3/4	8/11	
Cllr J Martin		21	6
Cllr Mrs G A Geer	6	19	5
Cllr N Roberts		15	4
Cllr A R Harrison	0		
Cllr D J Potter	5		
Cllr T E Grattan-Kane			5
Cllr P E Williams	5	19	
Cllr Rev D P Reed	2/2		

FINANCE

Set out below is a summary of the Council's accounting statements for the financial year 2016/17.

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Balances brought forward	705,647	640,854
Annual Precept	303,691	336,580
Total other receipts	71,075	148,273
Staff costs	207,448	182,848
Loan interest / capital repayments	0	0
All other payments	232,111	581,431
Balances carried forward	640,854	361,428
Total cash & short-term investments	666,850	378,785
Total fixed assets & long-term assets	1,883,988	1,944,013
Total borrowings	0	0

During the year the Town Council gave financial support to the following organisations:-

Cornubian Arts & Science Trust
Helston Athletic Football Club
Helston Christmas Lights
Helston Cricket Club
Helston & District Town Twinning Association
Helston & the Lizard Foodbank
Helston Railway Preservation Society
Helston WW1 Heritage Project
Shelter Cornwall
South Kerrier Heritage Trust (Helston Museum)



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Following extensive public consultations in 2016, and on the recommendation of the Public Realm Board, the Town Council embarked on the Monument Walk improvement scheme. The project included a new granite build-out in front of the Grylls Monument, demolition of the public conveniences and construction of a modern unisex/disabled toilet, resurfacing of the area around the Monument and bowling green and the provision of new seating, bins and interpretation & noticeboards. The project also included the cleaning of the Monument itself and an education programme of talks and visits about the life of Humphrey Millet Grylls. Still to be completed is a shelter at the top of Castle Hill steps and the area between the bottom of the steps and Castle Green car park (including planters, cycle racks and finger-post). The scheme was entered into the national Civic Voice Design Awards 2016 and achieved runner-up in the public realm category. The area, including the Monument, Garden of Remembrance and bowling green is in the process of being devolved freehold to the Town Council. There are plans afoot to hold small markets and music events on the area behind the bowling club pavilion. The project was funded by the following:-

- Helston Town Council
- Cornwall Council
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Tesco and Sainsbury S106 contributions
- Cornwall Heritage Trust
- Cory Environmental Trust

The Town Council also thanks Meiloci Landscape Architects and 3HW Architecture & Design Ltd for their designs and project management.

The Monument Walk project incorporated an additional public realm CCTV camera to increase public safety in the area. This brings the total number of cameras to eight in and around the town centre. The Town Council is a member of the West Cornwall CCTV Group with eight other town councils who jointly manage and fund the system in west Cornwall. The West Cornwall CCTV Group is administered by one of the Town Councils and 2017/18 is the turn of Helston to Chair and administer. The Group jointly contracts out the monitoring to Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service.

Continuing with the devolution of services theme, unlike other nearby towns, Cornwall Council decided to continue running the Helston Library and has invested in the building to absorb the One Stop Shop and Jobcentre Plus thus making savings on property costs whilst at the same time committing to extending opening times to five-and-a-half days a week.

The Town Council continues to play a lead role in the very successful partnership project that immersed during 2014/15 – Helston & the Lizard Works. Partners include: Helston Jobcentre Plus, Inclusion Cornwall, Volunteer Cornwall, Helston Community College, Active Plus and the National Trust. The aim of the project, that attracted a Government grant of £50,000, is to assist the area's unemployed into work by facilitating volunteering opportunities to develop skills and gain valuable work experience. Over 30 local businesses signed up to the scheme with more than 200 local unemployed engaging, of which over 100 have found paid employment or have entered training schemes. So unique has the project turned out to be, that it was awarded runner-up in the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) star Councils – Local Council Outstanding Project of the Year 2016. The judging panel thought that *'Helston Town Council's activities were a shining example of the direction taken by many councils in looking to move beyond their traditional service delivery boundaries'*.



The Town Council has acted as Lead Accountable Body and is the first local council to manage a Government-funded project of this kind which is now being rolled out in other parts of the Duchy.

In November the Council reviewed its Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020

http://www.helston-tc.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/HTC%20Strategic%20Plan%202016%202021.pdf.

The document contains the Town Council’s aims and aspirations for the coming years and is available to view on the website. The Plan will continue to be reviewed and updated annually.

The Council’s website www.helston-tc.gov.uk and Facebook page also include a wealth of information about the Town Council and its activities.

The new website was instrumental in the Town Council being designated **Quality Gold** in the Local Council Award Scheme by the National Association of Local Councils. To date, Helston is the only council in Cornwall to receive this accolade and one of just 32 nationally. NALC states that Quality Gold *‘demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development’*.



Finally, Town Council elections took place in May. Helston returned eleven councillors uncontested and co-opted its twelfth Member in June. I welcome the two new councillors; Ron Edgumbe and Miles Kenchington. The Council will serve the Helston community until the next elections in May 2021.



Mr Chris Dawson, FILCM, MAAT
Town Clerk

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

Helston North Ward

Councillor R J L Boase
11 Cross Street, Helston, TR13 8NQ
Tel: 01326 573200 (Home)
e-mail: r.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership
Planning Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Helston South Ward

Councillor R Williams
21 Beacon Parc, Helston, TR13 8AL
Tel: 01326 572179 (Home)

Committee Membership
Amenities Committee



Councillor M H Thomas
54 Nanscober Place, Helston, TR13 0SP
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e-mail: m.thomas@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership
Planning Committee (Vice Chair)
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee (Vice Chair)



Councillor J Martin
Stevens Cottage, Godolphin Cross, Helston, TR13 9QY
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Committee Membership
Planning Committee (Chair)
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor Mrs N Roberts
Address and home number available on request
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Committee Membership
Planning Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor)
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e-mail: g.geer@helston-tc.gov.uk
Committee Membership
Amenities Committee
Planning Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor Reverend D P Reed
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Committee Membership
Amenities Committee
Planning Committee



Councillor T E Grattan-Kane

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Committee Membership
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee (Chair)



Councillor M J Kenchington
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Committee Membership
Planning Committee



Councillor R F Edgumbe
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Committee Membership
Amenities Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Helston West Ward

Councillor Mrs F N E Boase
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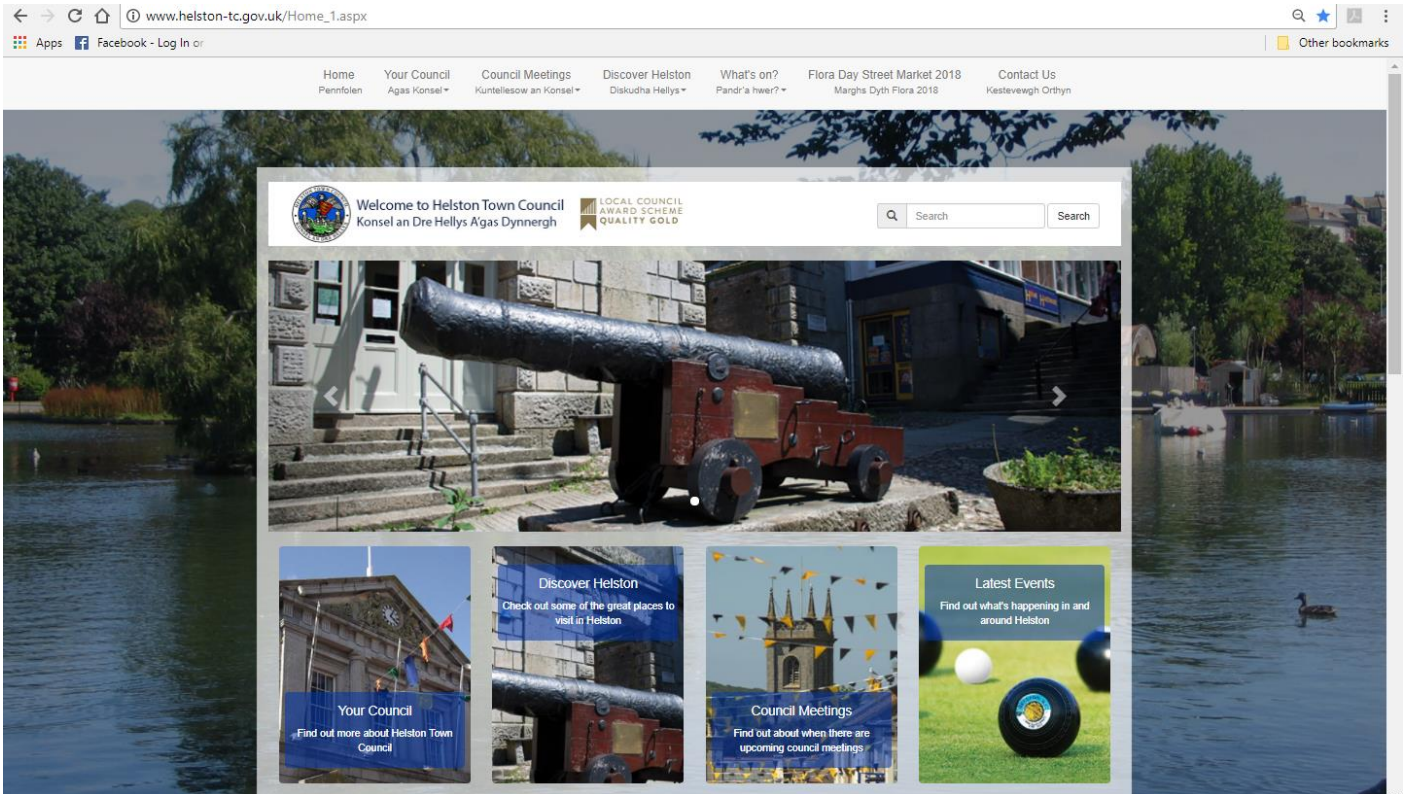
Committee Membership
Amenities Committee (Chair)
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor D J Potter
Address: 49 Church Street, Helston, TR13 8NJ
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e-mail: d.potter@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership
Amenities Committee





The Council can be contacted on **(01326) 572063** or e-mail **townclerk@helston-tc.gov.uk**
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 Full details about your Town Councillors can be found on our website www.helston-tc.gov.uk or visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/helstontc/

