



Helston Town Council

Konsel an Dre Hellys



Annual Report 2017/18

Message from the Mayor



One of the things I like best about being the Mayor of Helston is to discover the vast 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 their time and efforts to aid the town. I have much more respect for local councils four years down the line.

A relatively new group – Helston in Bloom- has taken on the Town Tidy task creating new flower beds and providing tubs and hanging baskets. What a difference they make...!

There are the people who transport the elderly and disabled to lunch clubs and social events that all help to combat loneliness for those not as independent as they used to be. Not forgetting the 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 Flora Day Association who organise this ancient event take on a very large responsibility.

There are so many volunteers I cannot mention everyone but take this opportunity, on behalf of Helston, to thank you one and all.

I am a shopkeeper and I know that the town centre is not as busy as we would like it to be. But we are working on it. It is hoped to create an annual events programme to cover all tastes. You can keep up-to-date at www.facebook.com/VisitHelston/ and monthly updated posters around the town.



The Town Council is doing its bit with the creation of a much more welcoming space around the Grylls Monument and Bowling Green. Facilities have been installed to supply electricity and water to small markets and events on the open space, a marvellous seated shelter depicting Flora Day and a new public toilet have been built.

Unlike other nearby towns, Cornwall Council decided to continue running the Library and invested in the building to allow the Information Service (former One Stop Shop) and Jobcentre Plus to move in. We shall therefore not lose any of these important and valued facilities, and a huge saving will be made on the costs of leasing.

The new housing developments around Helston will not be to everyone's taste: displeasing to those who value our green-field environment; and welcomed by those without homes and those who see enhanced prosperity in an enlarged town. Like them or not, the developments are the result of directives from central government. Work has commenced on a site as you leave town on the Falmouth Road and also at Higher Nansloe (near the school). Despite worries about the provision of extra facilities such as school and doctors surgery, let us be positive and hope the new builds will boost jobs and the new occupiers join in and become involved in the community within our lovely town.

To sum up, our town centre needs investment, but unfortunately Helston is overlooked when it comes to funding. To this end and referring back to the start of my report, another group of willing volunteers has come together to create a Community Interest Company (CIC) with a view to assisting with improvements to Helston's infrastructure. Look out for invites to public meetings in the near future.

Come on Helston. Let's start a new era by all working together!

Hellys bis vykken! Helston for ever!

Councillor Mrs G A Geer
Town Mayor
May 2016 - May 2018



The Council

Helston Town Council was formed in 1974 and consists of 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 14. Elections are held every four years with the next in May 2021.

In February 2017 the Town Council was awarded Quality Gold status 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 36 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*’.



The Council then went on to be awarded National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Council of the year runner-up for 2017. The judging panel said



“Our observations were that Helston was consistently strong across all categories - effective relationships with other parts of the public sector, excellent service delivery, communicating with its community, and training & developing its Member and Officer team.”

The panel went on to say *“We liked the dedication they showed in engaging with the community.”*

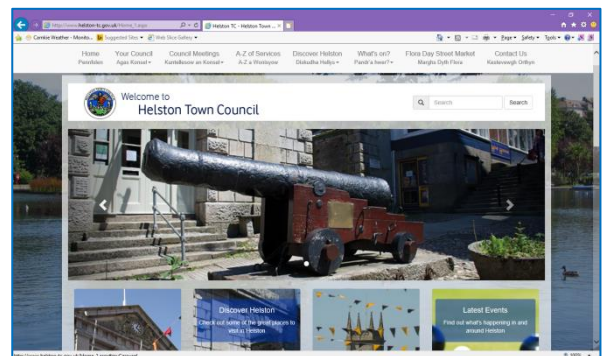
Meetings of the Full Council are held at the Guildhall, Helston on the third Thursday of every month (no meeting in August). In addition to the Full Council meetings, the Council has three committees to facilitate the effective management of its business:

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 2018/19 civic year can be found on the Council’s website www.helston-tc.gov.uk. Agendas and Minutes are also published on the website.





Items of news and forthcoming events are regularly posted onto the Town Council’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/helstontc/> and a Twitter account will be created for 2018.

Councillors do not receive payment or any allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business. A record of meetings attended during 2017/18 is included in this report on page 10.

During Full Council meetings there is an agenda item for the Cornwall Council Divisional Members to give reports.

The Council employs four 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)
- Mrs Katie Best – Administrative Assistant (Part-time)
- Mr Martin Searle – Projects Officer (Part-time)
- Mr Craig Bowcutt – Town Warden
- Mr Ian Moore – General/Grounds Maintenance Operative



Amenities Committee

The Committee was Chaired by Cllr Mrs Boase and met on six occasions during the 2017/18 civic year. The Committee is responsible for the Council's property such as the Guildhall, play parks 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 the Members for electing me as chair for the past year.

We have achieved some good results this year. The Council has taken over two roundabouts one of which is looking spectacular (by rugby club). This was achieved with the help of our new grounds maintenance employee Mr Ian Moore who we welcome to our team and plants supplied by Trevena Cross Nurseries. The second is scheduled to be done in July. We have also seen the completion of the area at the bottom of Monument Walk steps and to finalise the project, the new shelter has been installed at the top of the steps enhancing the area giving more seating as well as a shelter.

Finally I would like to thank Members and all our staff for their sterling support and work throughout the year.

Thank You

Cllr Nicola Boase – Chair

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee, consisting of seven 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 2017 to May 2018, 39 Category I planning applications were considered and 54 Category II.



Helston Town Council Planning Committee has had a range of applications to deal with this past year, including some contentious issues concerning applications to build on land with rented garages, currently under appeal. We can now see the steel structure of the new building at Helston Community College and the ground being prepared for several units on Helston Business Park, at last. We endeavor to ensure that the town Conservation Area is recognised and that the heritage of the town is protected. Two of our committee are Cornwall Councillors, and both are on the West Sub-Area Planning Committee, this has enhanced the expertise and experience of our Town committee.

Cllr John Martin – Chair

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of eight Members, Chaired by Councillor Grattan-Kane, met on eight 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. Two members of the Committee conduct audits of internal controls on a quarterly basis.

The Committee agrees a draft forward budget and determines the Precept for recommendation to Full Council each year.



As I review the performance of Helston Town Council over the past year, there is much to be pleased with. The Council maintains a highly effective system of internal and external audit, ensuring that we are financially sound and work in accordance with recognised best practice. This continual process was recognised with the runners up award for best performing councils by NALC. The Council constantly strives to ensure that the services we provide represent value for money. In an era of financial austerity and reductions in the services provided by Principle Councils, the lowest tier of government faces the increasing challenges of trying to provide services that meet local expectations.

The rise in our Precept charge was 0.6% - less than many other small councils as well as being significantly lower than the rate of inflation.

The Council will continue to manage its resources in a prudent manner whilst trying to deliver the best possible service to the people who live, work and visit this wonderful town.

Cllr Tim Grattan-Kane – Chair



Committee membership (2017/18)

Amenities Committee

Cllr R Williams
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase – *Chair*
Cllr M H Thomas
Cllr Mrs G A Geer
Cllr D J Potter
Cllr Rev. D P Reed – *Vice Chair*
Cllr R F Edgcumbe

Planning Committee

Cllr R J L Boase
Cllr M H Thomas – *Vice Chair*
Cllr J Martin – *Chair*
Cllr Mrs G A Geer
Cllr Mrs N Roberts
Cllr Rev. D P Reed
Cllr M J Kenchington

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Cllr R J L Boase
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase
Cllr M H Thomas – *Vice Chair*
Cllr J Martin
Cllr Mrs N Roberts
Cllr Mrs G A Geer
Cllr T E Grattan-Kane – *Chair*
Cllr R F Edgcumbe

Current Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies from May 2018

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

Attendance at meetings 2017-2018

<i>Number of meetings</i>	Full Council	
	13	Absent and no apology received
Cllr Mrs G A Geer (Mayor)	11	
Cllr R Williams	11	
Cllr R J L Boase	12	
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	13	
Cllr M H Thomas	12	
Cllr J Martin	13	
Cllr N Roberts	8	
Cllr D J Potter	10	1
Cllr T E Grattan-Kane	12	
Cllr Rev D P Reed	10	
Cllr R F Edgcumbe	10	
Cllr M J Kenchington	10/11	

Committee	Amenities	Planning	Policy, Finance & Resources
<i>Number of Meetings</i>	6	21	8
Cllr Mrs G A Geer (Mayor)	6	18	7
Cllr R Williams	6		
Cllr R J L Boase		19	6
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	6		8
Cllr M H Thomas	6	19	8
Cllr J Martin		21	7
Cllr N Roberts		17	7
Cllr D J Potter	4		
Cllr T E Grattan-Kane			8
Cllr Rev D P Reed	3	15	
Cllr R F Edgcumbe	6		8
Cllr M J Kenchington		16/19	

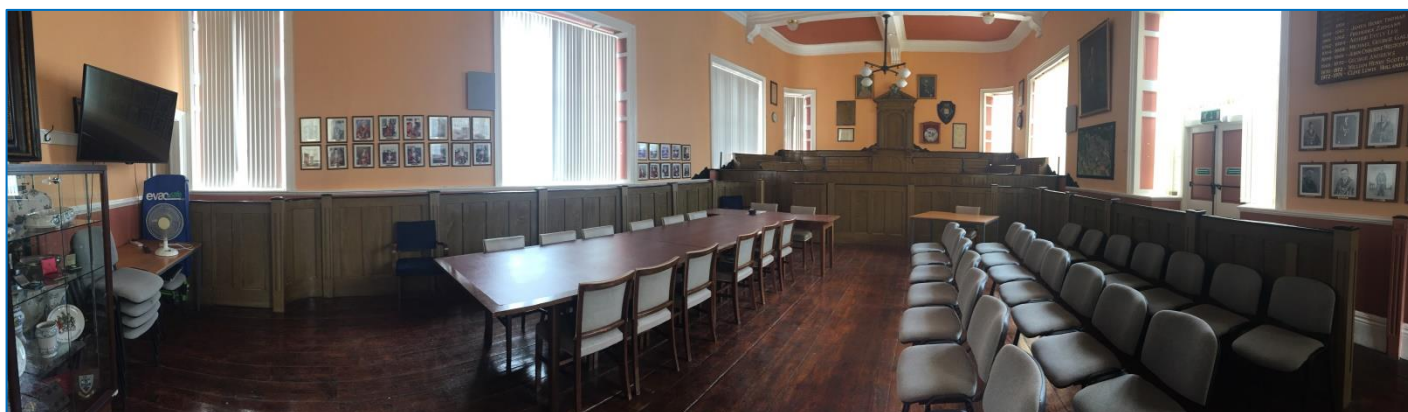
Finance

Set out below is a summary of the Council's accounting statements for the financial year 2017/18.

	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
Balances brought forward	640,854	361,428
Annual Precept	336,580	352,740
Total other receipts	148,273	57,472
Staff costs	182,848	167,143
Loan interest / capital repayments	0	0
All other payments	581,431	196,053
Balances carried forward	361,428	408,444
Total cash & short-term investments	378,785	425,916
Total fixed assets & long-term assets	1,944,013	1,942,379
Total borrowings	0	0

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

1 st Helston Scout Group	Helston & the Lizard Foodbank
2 nd Helston Brownies	Helston Bowling Club
3 rd (Helston) Sqn Air Training Corps	Helston Christmas Lights
ACT1 Youth Theatre Group	Helston Netball Club
Argyle Community Trust	Helston Railway Preservation Society
Cornubian Arts & Science Trust	Helston WW1 Heritage Project
Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit	One & All Judo Club
Helston & District Carers Group	South Kerrier Heritage Trust (Helston Museum)



Council Activities



Following the main Monument Walk improvement scheme in 2016, the remaining elements of the project were completed during the past twelve months. At the bottom of Castle Hill steps a planter has been created along with cycle racks, new public seat, finger-post and re-surfacing.

At the top of the steps is a new shelter designed by MeiLoci Landscape Architects incorporating images by local artist Emma Unwin. Another local company - In Steel (Blacksmiths &

&
Fabricators)

Limited was commissioned to fabricate and install the shelter. The Town Council is grateful for the grants obtained from Cornwall Council's Devolution Fund and the National Lottery's Awards for All.



There are plans afoot to hold small markets and music events on this area behind the bowling club pavilion once the Town Council obtains the freehold transfer from Cornwall Council.

In April this year the Town Council signed an Agreement with Cornwall Council to take responsibility for the grounds maintenance of two roundabouts. The roundabout outside the rugby ground was planted-out in May by contractors Cormac with the assistance of the Town Council's own Grounds Maintenance Operative. The Town Council is extremely appreciative of the generous donation of plants by Trevena Cross Nurseries. The Falmouth Road roundabout is due to be planted in July.



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.

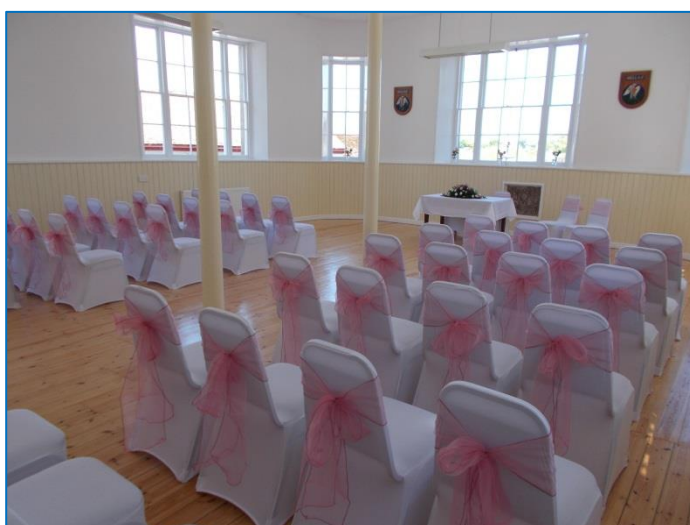
In January the Council reviewed its Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021

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.

One of the Council's aims that came to fruition during the year was for the Guildhall to become a civil wedding venue. The license was granted in February and the first ceremony took place in the Corn Exchange on 5th May quickly followed by the second on 19th May.

More information about booking a civil ceremony can be found on the Town Council's dedicated wedding Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/guildhallhelston/>.



For more information on the Council's activities please visit our website www.helston-tc.gov.uk and the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/helstontc/>.

Details of events and activities can be found at www.facebook.com/pg/VisitHelston/posts/?ref=page_internal

Looking forward, the Town Council will complete the freehold transfer of the Grylls Monument and Monument Walk area, continue talks about taking over responsibility for the grounds maintenance of open spaces (including grass verges) and lobby for improved road and pavement surfaces. A small group of councillors is working on an Emergency Plan for Helston and volunteers will be sought in due course. The Council is also keen to develop a green culture for the town.



Mr Chris Dawson, FSLCC, MAAT
Town Clerk

Your Town Councillors (with 2018/19 contact details)

Helston North Ward

Councillor R J L Boase

11 Cross Street, Helston, TR13 8NQ
Tel: 07770 347544 (Mobile)
e-mail: r.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Planning Committee (Vice Chair)
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
Tel: 07879 277343 (Mobile)
e-mail: m.thomas@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Amenities Committee
Planning Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor J Martin (Town Mayor)

Stevens Cottage, Godolphin Cross,
Helston, TR13 9QY
Tel: 01736 763814 (Home) 07756 059837 (Mobile)
e-mail: j.martin@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Planning Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor D J Potter

Address: 49 Church Street, Helston, TR13 8NJ
Tel: 01326 562632 (Home) 07971 848442 (Mobile)
e-mail: d.potter@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Amenities Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor Mrs G A Geer

Address: 4 Meneage Street, Helston, TR13 8AB
Tel: 01326 554330 (Home) 07974 817520 (Mobile)
e-mail: g.geer@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Amenities Committee
Planning Committee



Councillor Reverend D P Reed

Address: 2 Parc Ledden, Helston, TR13 8NB
Tel: 01326 572303 (Home)
e-mail: d.reed@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Amenities Committee (Vice Chair)
Planning Committee



Councillor T E Grattan-Kane

Tel: 07747 866201 (Mobile)
e-mail: t.grattan-kane@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor M J Kenchington

Address: 14 Tremenheere Avenue,
Helston, TR13 8SY
Tel: 01326 561056 (Home) 07903 442239 (Mobile)
e-mail: m.kenchington@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Planning Committee (Chair)



Councillor R F Edgcumbe

Address: 1 Penberthy Road, Helston, TR13 8AS
Tel: 01326 561392 (Home) 07969 743264 (Mobile)

Committee Membership

Amenities Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Helston West Ward

Councillor Mrs F N E Boase

11 Cross Street, Helston, TR13 8NQ
Tel: 01326 573200 (Home)
e-mail: n.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Amenities Committee (Chair)
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee



Councillor Mrs N Roberts

Tel: 07889 191514 (Mobile)
e-mail: n.roberts@helston-tc.gov.uk

Committee Membership

Planning Committee
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee





Mr F Angove
Macebearer

Mr C Bowcutt
Town Warden

Miss R Cook
Administrative
Assistant

Miss P J Lavelle
Deputy Town
Clerk

Mrs J Chambers
Mayor's
Secretary

Mr M Searle
Town Centre
Regeneration Officer

Mrs A Boxer
Macebearer

Mr J Moran
Beadle

Cllr M H Thomas

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Cllr D J Potter

Cllr T E Grattan-Kane

Cllr R F Edgumbe

Cllr M J Kenchington

Cllr R Williams

Cllr. Rev. D P Reed
Mayor's Chaplain

Cllr J Martin
Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr Mrs G A Geer
Town Mayor

Mr C Dawson
Town Clerk

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase