



Helston Town Council

Konsel an Dre Hellys



Annual Report 2014/15

Message from the Mayor



During the past year the town has continued to grow with a number of new residents choosing to join us. Several businesses have arrived and several have left. The most notable being the loss of a much cherished Helston business, Oliver's. We have lost people that made Helston the place that it is, the characters, the memories of whom will linger for many years to come, I think especially of Wesley Bowden and Allan Healy.

The choice of Helston for even greater expansion in the years ahead has challenged our community. The urban extensions named HX1, HX2 and HX3 have seldom been out of the headlines and whilst we all wish to see our town prosper and grow, the growth should be carefully structured and well within the capabilities of the town to manage. It is essential that this growth is planned in the certain knowledge that there will be an increased demand on our GP surgeries and our schools.

Being in business is always challenging and the Helston Business Improvement Partnership has been serving our town well this year. I would like to put on record my thanks to Wendy Radford-Gaby for all that she has contributed to the town as she quite rightly focuses on growing her own business. Andy Perry and Shirley Moralee have been working very hard to prepare the town for BID decision making. It was heartening to see so many people at the Old Cattle Market in February learning what this means. I fully support the BID process, however, the decision to embark on this can only be made by the business people of this town.

I am very grateful to the staff, members and community representatives that have spent a great deal of time researching our Public Realm commitment. We have a sum of money from the S106 supermarkets to enhance the visual appearance of our town. After a great deal of discussion and consultation it was decided that the Bowling Green and Grylls Monument area is our preferred area to improve. I am grateful for the work of the Public Realm Project Board that continues to meet to progress this important development under the leadership of our Regeneration Officer Mr. Martin Searle.

Our town's relationship with RNAS Cudrose has continued to prosper and news of the continued investment in the base has been received very positively. It has three major roles: serving the Fleet Air Arm's front line Sea King and Merlin helicopter squadrons; providing search and rescue for the South West region until this transfers to Newquay on the 1st January 2016; and training divers for the Royal Navy. Whilst numbers on board are low compared to previous decades, the presence of Seahawk crew in our town has been most welcome and, as new members arrive, it is great to hear them being introduced to the customs of this place. The previous Captain, Mark Garrett agreed to the gifting of two aerial photos of our town and these are now on display in the Mayor's Parlour and in the Guildhall. The new Captain, Adrian Orchard received our thanks when he was welcomed to the Guildhall in February.



The past year has also seen a steady campaign of support for Helston Community College. The governors and head teachers have all worked tirelessly to bring the plight of C, D and E block to the attention of our country's senior politicians. Working in partnership with Cornwall Council, the governing body unashamedly lobbied Parliament for a rebuild. In February an announcement was made at the school by Nick Clegg MP that an award of £19 million was being made for a rebuild. Then in March the Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan MP, made a short visit to the School to discuss how the Department of Education would be helping to organise the spending of that £19 Million. We have entered an exciting new chapter in Helston's rich involvement with the world of education and I look forward to reporting even greater progress next year.

Numerous town groups and individuals have done the town proud during the past year, too many to mention. However, I will draw your attention to Helston Athletic Football Club which gained promotion to the Premier Division of the South West Peninsula League. This will require major investment in the ground to ensure that spectators' health, safety and comfort are fully catered for. If successful it will see the town regularly hosting teams that have not played in Helston for some time.

Other groups are buzzing with enthusiasm, from Helston & District Rifle Club to the 50+ Forum to the Helston Friendship Club and the Helston Bell Ringers and not forgetting Helston Bowling Club. Something in Helston for everyone! Our twinning groups are thriving and at the start of my Mayoralty I threw out a challenge to them to form an umbrella group so that the Town Council can be kept up-to-date with planned visits both going and coming. I am pleased to report that these have begun. I also suggested that spaces be set aside for a Port Augusta group as we confirmed last year that we were indeed twinned with this city in South Australia.



No report could fail to mention yet another of the jewels in Helston's crown - Helston Town Band. I have attended numerous events around the area where a band has been playing, invariably I would look at the band players and think you look familiar and sure enough they were on loan from Helston. The band was placed fifth in the Torquay South West competition in March under the leadership of their new conductor David Johnson. Well done!

Our work with Cornwall Council, especially with our three Division Members, has been very positive and Helston Town Council is always grateful for their attendance at our meetings and their willingness to answer questions put to them from members of the public. The transfer of assets has continued with the addition of the Trengrouse toilets, however, we have not been able to utilise this particular toilet due to problems with a nearby retaining wall. This will be rectified in the near future.

The commemoration of the outbreak of WW1 was held throughout the UK and Helston contributed through a number of outstanding events. An exhibition at the Museum drew much acclaim together with a flower festival, civic service and memorial garden. A WW1 heritage group has been formed which is aiming to continue with extensive projects that will be worked on over the duration of the time period culminating with events that will celebrate the end of war and the Armistice of November 1918.



Volunteers to assist with this group are being sought. I am grateful to Councillors and members of the public who have contributed to this very important way of remembering the fallen from this town and surrounding area. I am particularly struck by the intention to ring a bell at St Michael's church on the anniversary of the death of those recorded on our war memorial plus the additional names as discovered through research. The first was for Herbert Pascoe on 25th March and the next will be for two, possibly three, Helstonians lost on HMT Royal Edward on 13th August 1915.

Our Council has worked through a range of immediate issues as well as dealing with the usual day to day business of a small town. Our most recent success story is the tarmac of the lane between our newest cafe and Peacocks. The name of the lane we are currently researching.

After more meetings about meetings we have decided to reduce the number of our Committees and the frequency of others. The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee will meet every other month instead of every month. We have found that some meetings agendas have not really justified the time set aside for them. Should there be a serious need to meet Special Meetings can still be called.

The new web site will soon be live and over the next few months will contain valuable links and pages about the civic life of our town. Town Councillors and officers have new email addresses with the .gov as part of their address showing that we are a part of Cornwall's local government structure. There are some 2000 local councillors in Cornwall.

The town is beginning to look ready for summer and I await with genuine excitement the arrival of hanging baskets to brighten our pathways and byways. The town's CCTV cameras have been replaced with up-to-date devices which will be able to monitor the town at Tolvadon from midsummer. The funding of maintaining the cameras and monitoring has come from the people of Helston through the town Precept.

It is always nice to give gifts to people and it was an absolute pleasure to gift the Guy Gibson picture to Porthleven. The gift was gratefully received and Mayor Williams and Porthleven Town Council expressed their outright gratitude for this to take place. Guy Gibson now hangs in Porthleven and will, I am certain, be very well cared for by the citizens of that town. To thank us for the present Vic Strike gave a showing of his acclaimed films on Guy Gibson. The event was well attended by representatives of both towns.



Flora Day 2015 will see the Mayor being tagged so that the progress of the dances can be followed on-line. There will also be some ten cameras beaming this event around the world. No need for a periscope in Helston, we've got it covered.

By next April I hope to report progress on our urban extensions and a scheme of work for a new Helston Community College. I also look forward to being in a position to advise on the arrival of yet more choices in our hospitality area, together with the continued development of Water-Ma-Trout and Tresprison Business Park as essential business areas in our town. In addition I hope to report that Helston Business Park will be starting to take shape.

It has been a privilege to be your Mayor and I look forward to reporting back next year during my final year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Councillor Mike Thomas

Town Mayor

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 2017.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2014, the Council elected Cllr Michael Henry Thomas as Mayor for the 2014/15 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 2015/16 civic year can be found on the Council's website www.helstontc.com. 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 2014/15 is included in this report on page 8.

A representative of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is usually present at Full Council meetings to report on crime statistics and to discuss issues as they arise. There is also an agenda item for the Cornwall Council Local Members and the Community Link Officer to give reports and they attend when possible.

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

Mr Chris Dawson – Town Clerk

Miss Pamela Lavelle – Assistant to the Town Clerk (*Deputy Town Clerk from June 2015*)

Mrs Shelly Price – Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

Mrs Julia Chambers – Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

Mr Craig Bowcutt – Town Warden

Mr Martin Searle – Town Centre Regeneration Officer

Mrs Amanda Boxer – Town Centre Management Project Assistant

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Committee was Chaired by Cllr Martine Knight and met on six occasions during the 2014/15 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 this Committee and an excellent working relationship has been developed with the National Trust at the Penrose Estate.

The Amenities Committee has, this year, worked hard to provide additional provision for those using public transport or walking around the town. To that end, 13 additional benches have been located at various locations and the two long-awaited bus shelters have been erected in Coinagehall Street. It is hoped that both these facilities will provide relief to both residents and visitors alike.

The Committee has also had to address fairly serious problems with the condition of the Guildhall itself. As custodians of this iconic building it was vital to ensure its future and, to that end, a full survey was commissioned. As a result of its findings, a programme of works has begun and will continue over the coming months. Part of that work will be to continue the cleaning of the exterior and replace the defunct floodlights and noticeboards with less obtrusive ones. The final effect of all the works should be to restore the Guildhall to pride of place within the town centre.

Cllr Martine Knight – Chair

PLAY & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

The Play & Young People Committee, which consisted of six Town Councillors and up to six members of the public, was Chaired by Cllr Mike Thomas and met on five occasions with two Working Parties meeting frequently to discuss details. The Committee's remit included the maintenance of the Town Council-owned play areas at Hellis Wartha and Cades Parc plus three others leased from Cornwall Council. The Committee also promoted youth engagement and organised several visits of young people to meet the Mayor and Councillors at the Guildhall and to hold a topical debate.



King George V play area

This Committee was disbanded in May 2015 with the responsibility for play areas transferring to the Amenities Committee and youth engagement to a Working Party reporting directly to Full Council.

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 2014 to May 2015, 45 Category I planning applications were considered and 64 Category II.

The planning Committee has been involved in several important planning decisions over the past twelve months. These include major housing development applications proposed on the east side of the town. These controversial applications attracted quite an interest from members of the public who attended meetings with enthusiasm. The Committee members are particularly committed to scrutinising planning applications that fall within the town's Conservation Area.

Cllr John Martin - Chair

POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of six Members, Chaired by the Mayor - Councillor Thomas, met on ten 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 (2014/15)

Amenities Committee

Cllr R Williams

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase – *Vice Chair*

Cllr Miss J A Hornsby

Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Cllr M Knight – *Chair*

Cllr A R Harrison

Play & Young People Committee

Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor) – *Chair*

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr M Upton

Cllr Miss J A Hornsby – *Vice Chair*

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Cllr A R Harrison

Planning Committee

Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor)

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby

Cllr J Martin – *Chair*

Cllr M Upton – *Vice Chair*

Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Cllr M H Thomas – *Chair*

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase

Cllr J Martin

Cllr M Upton – *Vice Chair*

Cllr M Knight

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Current Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies from May 2015

Bulwark Group	Cllr Mrs F N E Boase
West Cornwall CCTV Group	Cllr M H Thomas
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Cllr M Knight (Cllr J Martin)
Helston Community College	Cllrs M H Thomas & J Martin
Helston Business Improvement Partnership	Cllrs Miss J A Hornsby & J Martin
Helston and the Lizard Works	Cllr M H Thomas
Helston Welfare Trust: Nominated Trustees	Cllrs R Williams, Mrs G A Geer & M Knight
Local Council Planning Forum	Cllr M H Thomas (Cllr J Martin)
Loe Pool Management Forum	Cllr R Williams
The Furry Youth Café Steering Committee	Cllr M H Thomas
Victim Support West Cornwall Advisory Group	Cllr Mrs G A Geer
Public Realm Project Board	Cllrs Mrs F N E Boase & Miss J A Hornsby

Attendance at meetings May 2014 – May 2015

	Full Council	
		Absent and no apology received
Number of Meetings	19	
Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor)	19	
Cllr R Williams	17	1
Cllr R J L Boase	18	
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	19	
Cllr J P Radford-Gaby	14	
Cllr Miss J A Hornsby	13	
Cllr J Martin	17	1
Cllr M Upton	13	
Cllr Mrs G A Geer	14	
Cllr M Knight	18	
Cllr N Roberts	11	
Cllr A R Harrison	13	1

Committee	Amenities	Planning	Play & Young People	Policy, Finance & Resources
Number of Meetings	6	22	5	10
Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor)		22	5	10
Cllr R Williams	5			
Cllr R J L Boase		21	5	
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	5			10
Cllr J P Radford-Gaby		14/20		
Cllr Miss J A Hornsby	5		3	
Cllr J Martin		21		10
Cllr M Upton		12	3	6
Cllr Mrs G A Geer	4	18		
Cllr M Knight	6			8
Cllr N Roberts			4	6
Cllr A R Harrison	4		4	

FINANCE

Set out below is a summary of the Council's accounting statements for the financial year 2014/15.

	2013/14	2014/15
	£	£
Balances brought forward	643,416	769,714
Annual Precept	212,240	269,650
Total other receipts	393,285	95,772
Staff costs	182,237	204,881
Loan interest / capital repayments	0	0
All other payments	296,990	224,608
Balances carried forward	769,714	705,647
Total cash & short-term investments	745,766	696,196
Total fixed assets & long-term assets	1,811,035	1,858,804
Total borrowings	0	0

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

Cornubian Arts & Science Trust	Helston & District Town Twinning Association
Cornwall Air Ambulance	Helston Christmas Lights
Epworth Hall	Helston Bell-ringers
Helston Chamber Choir	Helston Bowling Club
Helston Cricket Club	South Kerrier Heritage Trust (Museum)
Helston Flora Day Association	Swallows of Helston
Helston Friendship Club	

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Over the past twelve months talks with Cornwall Council have continued regarding the possibility of further devolution to the Town Council. Areas that are under scrutiny and up for consideration include Libraries and One Stop Shops currently run by Cornwall Council, Leisure Facilities under contract to Tempus Leisure and public green spaces.

During the year Cornwall Council has funded the upgrading of Helston's CCTV equipment, the ownership of which is soon to be transferred to the Town Council. Working in partnership with other towns in the west of Cornwall, a contract has been agreed with the Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service to carryout monitoring of the cameras at core times and to record images 24/7.

Following extensive public consultation, and on the recommendation of the Public Realm Project Board, the Town Council took the decision to develop the Monument and Bowling Green area and the steps to Castle Green utilising the S106 public realm funding obtained from Tesco and Sainsburys. A detailed scheme will now be drawn up and the project is due for completion in June 2016. The Town Centre Regeneration Officer is seeking additional funding to add to the S106 public realm budget.

Over the past few weeks town map boards have been installed at six locations. This was another partnership project with contributions from the Helston Business Improvement Partnership, South Kerrier Heritage Trust, South Kerrier Alliance and the National Trust. The map boards provide orientation information for visitors as well as highlighting local attractions and facilities. The Town Council has also renewed the 'Welcome to Helston' signage on the gateways to the Town and the boundary boulders received a tidy up and planting by volunteers.

Another very successful partnership project immerged 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 50 have found paid employment, are volunteering or have entered training schemes. The Town Council has acted as Lead Accountable Body and is the first local council to manage a Government-funded project of this kind.



To finish, on behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Mr Paul Cooke for his service as Sergeant-at-Mace. Mr Cooke retired from the role after serving 18 years alongside Mr Fred Angove attending civic events to protect the Mayor from harm!

Mr Cooke was presented with a Town Plaque by the current Mayor, Cllr Mike Thomas.

Mr Chris Dawson, MAAT, MILCM

Town Clerk

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

Helston North Ward	Home Telephone	E-mail
R J L Boase	01326 573200	j.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk
A R Harrison	07983 441177	a.harrison@helston-tc.gov.uk
J P Radford-Gaby	01326 560210	j.radford-gaby@helston-tc.gov.uk
Mrs N Roberts	07889 191514	n.roberts@helston-tc.gov.uk
M H Thomas (Town Mayor)	01326 562947	m.thomas@helston-tc.gov.uk

Helston South Ward

Mrs G A Geer	07974 817520	g.geer@helston-tc.gov.uk
M Knight	01326 564710	m.knight@helston-tc.gov.uk
J Martin	01736 763814	j.martin@helston-tc.gov.uk
M Upton	01326 561636	m.upton@helston-tc.gov.uk
R Williams	01326 572179	

Helston East Ward

Mrs F N E Boase	01326 573200	n.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk
Miss J A Hornsby	01326 374498	j.hornsby@helston-tc.gov.uk

The Council can be contacted on **(01326) 572063** or e-mail **townclerk@helston-tc.gov.uk**

Or write to:- The Town Clerk, Helston Town Council, The Guildhall, HELSTON, Cornwall, TR13 8ST

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