

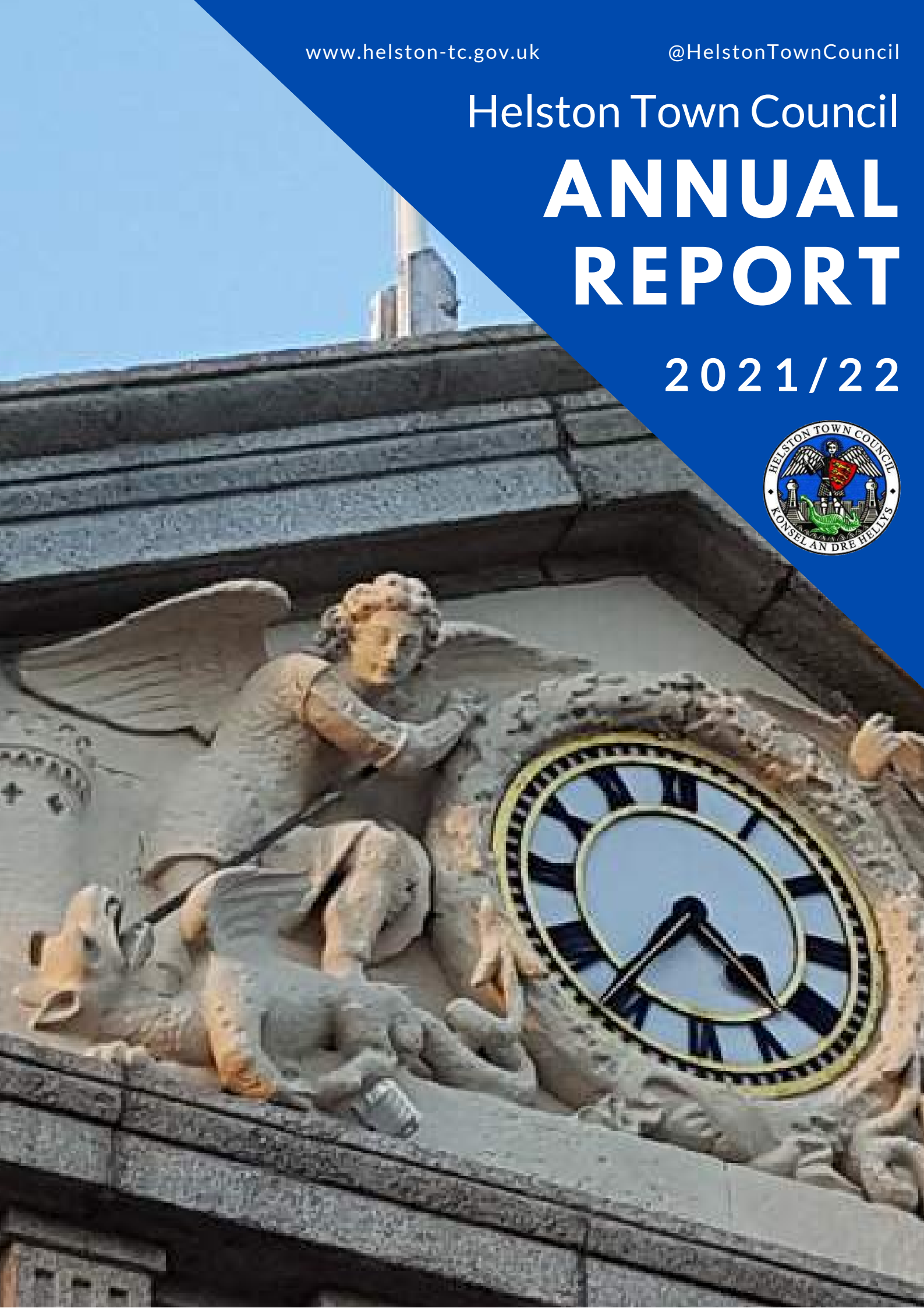
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@HelstonTownCouncil

Helston Town Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22







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## Highlights of the Year

### Verges

The Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Team continue to maintain many of the verges in Helston on behalf of Cornwall Council. This has also provided the Council with greater control over how the verges are maintained allowing the introduction of longer areas of grass on some of the wider verges to provide a habitat for wildlife. As a trial, wildflower beds were included near junctions in several areas to aid pollinators and following their success these were extended during the course of the year with further wildflower beds planned for the future.



### Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

Following concerns with the speed of traffic in a number of areas around Helston the Town Council have invested in a pair of vehicle activated speed signs. Permission has been obtained from Cornwall Council for these signs to be located in varying sites around the town and they are moved between the approved locations on a regular basis by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team. The signs highlight the vehicles speed encouraging motorists to remain below the speed limit which has the dual benefit of improving road safety as well as reducing vehicle emissions. Anonymised data on vehicle speeds is provided to both Cornwall Council and Devon & Cornwall Police to provide evidence of a need should further measures be required.



### Election and Mayor Choosing

The elections for Helston Town Councillors took place on 6th May 2021 and resulted in an uncontested election for Helston North Ward and a contested election for Helston South Ward. Due to changes from the latest Community Governance Review the number of Councillors on Helston Town Council increased on this date from 12 to 14. Contact details for all of our Members can be found on page 16.

On 20th May 2022, at the first physical Town Council meeting since the start of the pandemic, the Council elected Councillor Tim Grattan-Kane as Town Mayor for the 2021/22 civic year. Councillor Kenchington was elected Deputy Mayor at the same meeting.

## Weddings

Following the lifting of the restrictions imposed during the pandemic we were pleased to see the return of weddings at the Guildhall. Four lovely couples were married at the Guildhall over the year and each wedding had its own unique style. All of us at Helston Town Council offer our congratulations to the newlyweds, it was a privilege to be involved in their special day.

We have several weddings booked for the forthcoming year but still have availability. Please contact us on 01326 572063 or email [enquiries@helston-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@helston-tc.gov.uk) for more information or to book a viewing.



## Town Vitality Funding

Helston Community Interest Company, in partnership with Helston Town Council, were successful in bidding for Town Vitality Funding from Cornwall Council in November 2021. The funding was awarded to assist with the development of a number of place shaping projects designed to benefit Helston's town centre. A Place Shaping Board made up of local volunteers was created to oversee the project development and this board includes representation from Helston Town Council. The work carried out by the Board has put Helston in the position to submit a bid to the Government's Levelling Fund for capital works with a decision awaited in October. Further details of the projects can be found on the Discover Helston website at [www.discoverhelston.co.uk/projects](http://www.discoverhelston.co.uk/projects) or by scanning the QR code



## Climate and Ecological Emergency Training

In a ground-breaking initiative officers and members from Helston Town Council participated in a day of Climate and Ecological Emergency Literacy training with facilitators from the University of Exeter and Volunteer Cornwall. The objective of the training, which was designed in collaboration with the Town Council, was to raise awareness of the multitude of issues within the climate emergency and how even a small council can undertake simple steps to address the many challenges faced.

## Roundabouts

The Grounds Maintenance Team have planted up a further two roundabouts within the town. Firstly, they have enhanced the 'Sainsbury' roundabout with a selection of plants including Delosperma, Yucca and Aloes kindly provided by Trevena Cross Nurseries as part of their sponsorship. The team have also improved the Grange Road Roundabout with a design that incorporates ornamental grasses, Gaura, Echinacea, Coreopsis, Geranium Rozanne and Napeta.



## Welcome Back Funding

The Town Council were successful in securing a grant up to £28,000 from the Welcome Back Fund which was administered by Cornwall Council and supported entirely by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This grant allowed the Town Council to fund several different events held by external organisations including:

- Animate Helston
- Kickstart Helston Music
- St Piran's Day: Community Heritage Project Lantern Procession

- Henry Trengrouse celebrations
- Kickstart Helston Theatre
- The Ballad of Bob Fitzsimmons

In addition the funding provided added publicity for the Council's St Piran's Day: Pasties & Hevva Cakes competition and the Love Helston Photography competition with the winning entries being made into a calendar for 2023.

## Youth Work Support

Members are concerned with the health and wellbeing of young people within our community who have been particularly affected by the pandemic. They have experienced increased isolation and require greater access to support. For this reason, in a joint project with Porthleven Town Council, we contracted Young People Cornwall to offer detached youth worker provision in the town which commenced in the summer of 2022.

## How the Council Works

Helston Town Council was formed in 1974 and consists of 14 elected Councillors, 8 Councillors represent Helston North and 6 Councillors represent Helston South. The Councillors are elected by local residents to represent the Parish of Helston for a four year term with the latest election taking place in May 2021. Councillors do not receive payment or any allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business.

The Full Council meets on the third Thursday of every month, excluding August, to oversee the activities of the Council. In addition to the Full Council meetings, the Council has three committees to facilitate the effective management of its business:

- Amenities
- Planning
- Policy, Finance and Resources

There is public participation at the monthly Full Council meetings to enable members of the public to make comments or to raise local issues relevant to the Town Council. There is also public participation at committee meetings during which comments can be made regarding items on the agenda. A calendar of meetings for the civic year can be found on the Council's website [www.helston-tc.gov.uk](http://www.helston-tc.gov.uk). Agendas and Minutes are also published on the website.

During the past year the Council also established the following working parties:

- Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Party
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Training Working Party
- Events Working Party
- Housing Working Group
- Keep Helston Tidy Working Party
- Licensing Consultative Group
- Pesticide and Herbicide Policy Working Party
- Policy Review Working Party
- Traffic Regulation Order Working Party
- Youth Engagement Working Party

Items of news and forthcoming events are regularly posted onto the Town Council's Facebook page [@HelstonTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HelstonTownCouncil).

### Amenities Committee



The Amenities Committee was Chaired by Cllr Ramsden and met on six occasions during the 2021/22 civic year. The Committee is responsible for the Council's property including the Guildhall and several play areas and open spaces. The Committee also oversees the maintenance of these areas as well as the roundabouts and the majority of verges within the town and provides bus shelters, benches and litter bins.

### Planning Committee

The Planning Committee, currently consisting of six Members, meets on the first 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 a 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 have the opportunity to express their opinions to the Members.

From June 2021 to May 2022, 52 Category I and 41 Category II planning applications were considered.

### Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of eight Members, Chaired by Councillor Grattan-Kane, met on seven occasions during the year with meetings initially held on the Tuesday of the week prior to Full Council and then moving to the Monday of the same week.

The Committee's functions include reviewing existing Council policies and risk assessments and the consideration of new policies. With regard 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 regularly conduct audits of internal controls.

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





# Committee Membership

at end of 2021/22

	Amenities	Planning	Policy, Finance & Resources
Councillor R Williams			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor R J L Boase		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Mrs FNE Boase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor M H Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor J Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor T Grattan-Kane			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor M J Kenchington		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Rev D Reed			
Councillor M Benyon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor G T Looker		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor S L Ramsden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> April 2022 only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor C L D Real			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor P M Webb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor A J Wilkin			

# Appointments to Outside Bodies

for 2021/22

	Representative
Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC)	Councillor M J Kenchington (Deputy: Councillor J Martin)
Helston and South Kerrier Community Network Panel	Councillor J Martin
Helston & the Lizard Works	Councillor M Benyon
Helston Christmas Lights Committee	Councillor C L D Real
Helston Climate Action Group	Councillor S L Ramsden (Deputy: Councillor M Benyon)
Helston Community College	Councillors M H Thomas, J Martin, T Grattan-Kane, Rev. D Reed & CLD Real
Helston Community Interest Company	Councillor M J Kenchington (Deputy: Councillor M Benyon)
Helston Welfare Trust	Councillors R Williams & Mrs FNE Boase
HCIC Marketing Group	Councillors J Martin, M Kenchington & G T Looker

## Representative

Loe Pool Management Forum

Councillor R Williams

Plastic Free Helston  
Steering Group

Councillor S L Ramsden

Projects Group

Councillors Mrs F N E Boase, J Martin &  
T Grattan-Kane

Place Shaping Board

Councillor J Martin

Town & Parish Council Police  
Liaison Group

Councillor T Grattan\_Kane

West Cornwall CCTV Group

Councillor M H Thomas  
(Deputy: Councillor M H Kenchington)

Youth Cafes Cornwall

Councillor MH Thomas (Corporate Director) &  
Councillor M Benyon

## Our Services



### Bus Shelters

Bus shelters are a vital facility when waiting for the bus in bad weather and the Town Council is pleased to provide and maintain eight bus shelters within the town.



### CCTV

The Town Council funds eleven public realm CCTV within Helston. The cameras are linked to the Fire and Rescue Centre HQ at Tolvaddon where they are monitored regularly by a team of professionally trained officers.



### Footpaths

Helston Town Council cuts over 5,000m of footpath on behalf of Cornwall Council's Countryside Access Team. The Town Council's maintenance team carries out either one or two cuts a year depending on the grade of footpath in accordance with Cornwall Council's maintenance specification.



### Grant Funding

Helston Town Council has a limited amount of grant funding which is available to local organisations. Grant applications are usually considered twice a year at the September and February Full Council meetings.



### Litter Bins

The Town Council provides 24 litter bins located around the town centre and in our play areas and open spaces. These bins supplement those provided by Cornwall Council.



### Open Spaces

The Town Council maintains numerous open spaces within the town including Monument Walk, the Sunken Garden, the Trengrouse Way Amenity Area (near Helston Library) and the WWI Garden to name a few



## Planning

Whilst Cornwall Council is the Planning Authority who makes the ultimate decision the Town Council is a consultee and is notified of all applications for planning permission within the town. The Town Council makes recommendations to Cornwall Council which are taken into consideration by them when making the decision.



## Public Conveniences

Due to budgetary constraints at Cornwall Council, the Town Council took over responsibility Public Conveniences in Helston. Three premises are provided at the Guildhall, Trengrouse Way and Monument Walk and since their transfer the Town Council extended their opening times to 8am to 6pm 364 days a year.



## Represent Helston

Helston Town Council is a statutory body and is the most local level of government. It has an important role in promoting the town, representing its interests and supporting the work of different groups in the community.



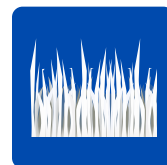
## Play Areas

The Town Council owns and leases a total of five equipped play areas around Helston. The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of these areas and has a regular inspection routine in place.



## Public Seats

The Town Council provides 62 benches across the town. It also provides 9 picnic benches in various play areas and open spaces.

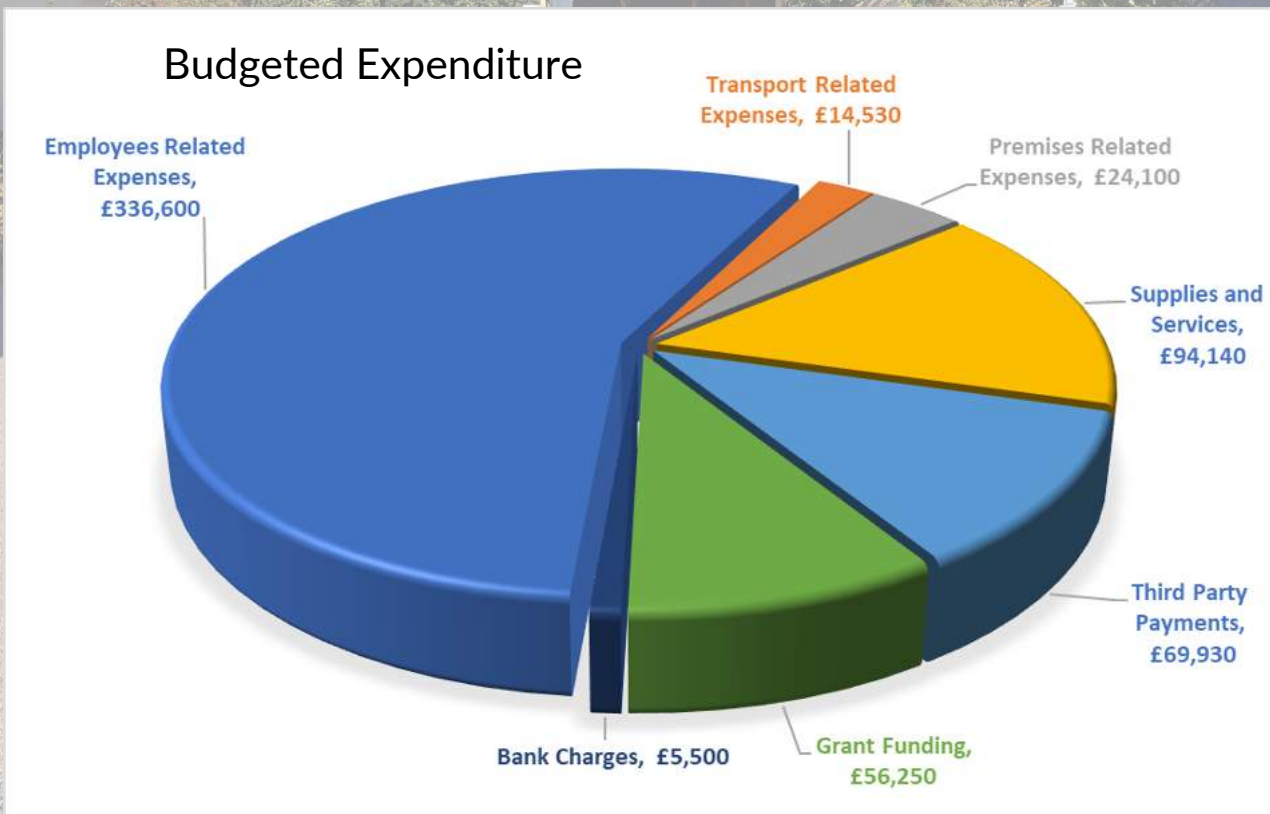
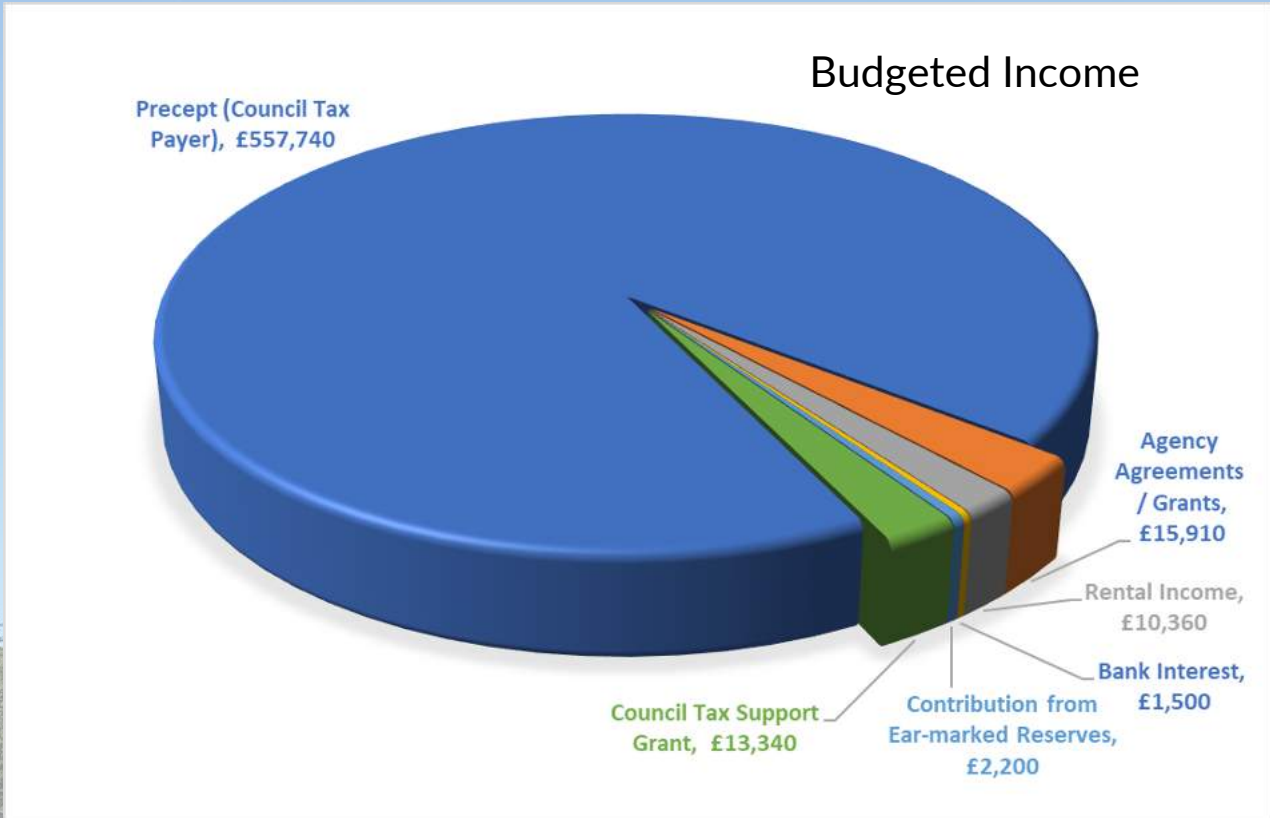


## Verges

The Town Council currently maintains 66,000 sqm of verges around Helston on behalf of Cornwall Council. This has allowed the Town Council greater control over the appearance of the town and to make adjustments for greater biodiversity.

# Council Finance

The Town Council's budgeted income and expenditure for 2021/22 is summarised below:



# Projects we supported

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During 2021/22

	Grant Amount	Project
Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust	£100	Towards developing clinical skills
Cornubian Arts & Science Trust	£2,500	CAST-Off event
Epworth Hall	£1,000	Towards refurbishment and renovation of garden area
Helston Athletic Football Club	£4,500	Provision of spectator hardstanding
Helston Bowling Club	£600	Improvements to ditches surrounding the green
Helston Bowling Club	£200	Towards installation of CCTV System
Helston Christmas Lights	£6,000	Maintenance of existing lights and purchase of new lights
Helston Climate Action Group	£2,315	Community Larder
Helston Community Meals	£3,100	Provision of a commercial oven
Helston Cricket Club	£2,000	New practice nets
Helston Town Band	£2,000	Flora Day Uniform Fund - provision of new hats
Lizard CHILD Trust	£985	Acoustic Treatment Sound Clouds
Southerly Point Co-op. Multi-Academy Trust	£1,700	Two boxes of texts
Museum of Cornish Life	£2,000	Museum of Cornish Life

## Your Councillors

## Helston North Ward



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



**Councillor R JL Boase**  
11 Cross Street,  
Helston, TR13 8NQ  
07770 347544 (Mobile)  
j.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor M H Thomas**  
54 Nanscober Place,  
Helston, TR13 OSP  
07879 277343 (Mobile)  
m.thomas@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor M J Kenchington**  
14 Tremeneere Avenue,  
Helston, TR13 8SY  
01326 561056 (Home)  
07903 442239 (Mobile)  
m.kenchington@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor M Benyon**  
m.benyon@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor G T Looker**  
The Old School House,  
Wendron, Helston, TR13 0PY  
07734 104285 (Mobile)  
g.looker@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor C L D Real**  
01326 562983 (Home)  
07980 977154 (Mobile)  
c.real@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor A J Wilkin**  
Flat 4 Lanjowan,  
St John's Road,  
Helston, TR13 8SY  
07958 133033 (Mobile)  
a.wilkin@helston-tc.gov.uk



## Helston South Ward



**Councillor Mrs F N E Boase**  
11 Cross Street,  
Helston, TR13 8NQ  
01326 573200 (Home)  
n.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor J Martin**  
155 Pendeen Park,  
Helston, TR13 0SL  
07494 687288 (Mobile)  
j.martin@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor T Grattan-Kane**  
(Town Mayor)  
07747 866201 (Mobile)  
t.grattan-kane@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor Reverend D P Reed**  
An Hyreth, Old Hill  
Helston, TR13 8HT  
01326 572303 (Home)  
d.reed@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor S L Ramsden**  
16 Trevenen Road,  
Helston, TR13 8AH  
01326 368904 (Home)  
s.ramsden@helston-tc.gov.uk



**Councillor P M Webb**  
01326 572410 (Home)  
p.webb@helston-tc.gov.uk

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