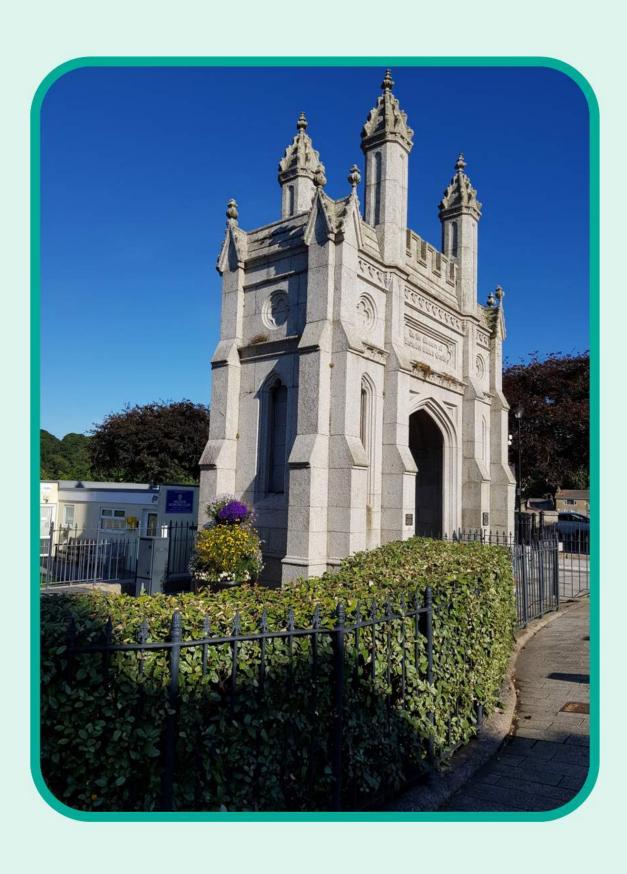




Your

Councillors



# Mayor's Report

Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report for the Civic Year 2022-2023.

The year started with RNAS Culdrose marching through the town to commemorate the Honorary Freedom of Helston and marking the 75th anniversary of the air station. The impact of the establishment upon the town is considerable. It is the largest single site employer in Cornwall with many families and personnel embedded in our community. It was wonderful to witness so many youngsters observe their parents in uniform, celebrating their service.

2022 saw the much longed for return of Flora Day after the Covid interruptions and it was a privilege to lead the dances throughout the day. It was a particularly poignant moment when the band struck up at the start of the first dance. They remained stationary and played to mark the loss of so many loved ones during the pandemic. It was an emotional moment watching so many adults in tears at the beginning of a gloriously hot day. I want to offer my thanks to all those involved in delivering Flora Day to our Town.

In June the Town Council marked the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a beacon lighting event and a Community Lunch at Coronation Park with music from Helston Town band. Sadly, less than 3 months later we also marked the death of our Queen and the accession of King Charles. I want to thank all of those who helped to deliver these events at short notice.

In 2023 we were delighted to recognise the service of two individuals in the Town, Jenny Harvey and David Turnbull, by awarding them the Honorary Freedom of the Town. This is the highest honour the Council can bestow and was well deserved by the individuals.





During the year the Town Council has worked hard to provide services to benefit the residents of Helston. The Grounds maintenance team have continued to enhance the verges with wildflower beds and the hanging baskets within the town centre looked amazing.

The Council has worked in partnership with Porthleven Town Council to provide funding for a youth worker to support young people in Helston and Porthleven. The Town Council has also held an engagement event with the local schools to help develop a youth manifesto.

The Council's Projects Officer has been busy developing proposals to improve Coronation Gardens and the King George V Play Area in consultation with local residents and other community organisations. Amongst her many activities she has also worked with a range of local organisations to help secure the creation of a Community Banking Hub in the town. Following the closure of the last bank in Helston this will be a valuable resource for the town and surrounding area and I look forward to seeing this progress over the coming months.

You can find further details on these activities and many others within this report. If you want to keep up to date with our latest news, please check out the Council's website and Facebook page.

It has been an enormous privilege to have been your mayor for the past two years. I know that my successor will be working hard for the benefit of Helston.

Hellys Bysvyken

Councillor Tim Grattan-Kane Town Mayor 2021-2023





# Highlights of the Year

#### **Events**

The Civic Year 2022-23 saw the return of many events including Flora Day and a Freedom Parade to mark the 75th Anniversary of RNAS Culdrose as well as the Mayor's Civic Service and Merchant Navy Day. In addition the Town Council also held a big community lunch at the Boating Lake with entertainment provided by Helston Town Band to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. Sadly, in September 2022 the late Queen Elizabeth II passed away and the Town Council organised appropriate memorial and proclamation events on behalf of the Town in recognition of the occasion. The Town Council will also be organising a further Big Lunch event in May 2023 to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Following on from the successes of the St Piran's Event in March 2022 the Town Council commissioned the City of Lights CIC to hold a lantern parade around the Boating Lake in March 2023 which was enjoyed by all who attended and it is hoped to make this an annual event.

# **Coronation Gardens**

The Town Council is working with a range of local partners to transform Coronation Gardens and the King George V Play Area to make the area more accessible and to create something for everyone to enjoy. Views from the community have been sought via surveys of neighbouring residents and at a Community for the community for everyone to enjoy.

neighbouring residents and at a Community Fun Afternoon held in September 2022 which also featured a nature treasure hunt, bug themed face painting and an opportunity to make wildflower bee bombs and bug hotels.

The project is in three phases. The first phase was a major planting and landscaping project including new and wider pathways for improved access which was managed by the Making Space for Nature team at Cornwall Council, and took place over the Autumn and Winter. The second phase will proceed in the Summer of 2023 following a successful funding bid and will provide new equipment for the existing play area. The aim is to provide equipment which is suitable for children of all ages including those with disabilities and also inclusive seating.

The third phase and final phase is the largest of the whole project and will involve a major funding bid. The proposals include the demolition of a disused toilet block to create a café facility with indoor and outdoor seating, the demolition and rebuilding of the scout hut offering improved facilities and the installation of outdoor gym equipment for people 13 years and

over. We look forward to seeing these proposals progress over the forthcoming year.

#### Youth Worker

Helston Town Council has worked in partnership with Porthleven Town Council to provide funding for two youth workers with Helston Town Council funding two days support in Helston and Porthleven Town Council funding a further day in their town. The Youth Worker facility is providing a range of activities to help improve the aspirations of young people living in the community, the aim is to give young people a voice on the issues that affect them in their communities.

The aspiration is to give local young people an increased knowledge around issues of mental health, drugs and alcohol, exploitation, sexual health and informed choice with the goal of reducing risk taking and improving their wellbeing.

# Jubilee Wildflowers & Hanging Baskets

The Council's Ground Maintenance Team has expanded our existing wildflower beds and have created more wildflower areas around the town on verges and other areas including at the entrances to the town and within the housing estates. The Jubilee wildflowers bloomed beautifully, with pockets of red, white and blue dotted around Helston honouring Queen Elizabeth II. The hanging baskets, which were planted by Kehelland Trust and maintained by the team, looked amazing and brightened the town with their mix of Cornish and jubilee colours. The Council has also introduced two planters either side of the Grylls Monument which certainly brightened up that area. The team will be taking over the maintenance of more

areas of grassland from Cornwall Council in the new year and once the maintenance of these areas has been devolved we hope to extend the wildflower beds further.

## **Ethical Banking**

During the course of the year Helston Town Council were delighted to announce their move to Unity Trust Bank which is an award-winning ethical bank. Their lending helps organisations to grow and make a positive difference to their communities and they work with organisations that deliver social impact and strive to create a better society with uncompromising integrity and honesty. The service provided by Unity Trust Bank is comparable to other main stream banking providers but the Town Council had seen reduced banking costs compared to our previous banking provider and therefore every aspect of this move has been welcomed as a positive change.

# Freeman Ceremony

On Tuesday 7th February 2023 Helston Town Council was delighted to be able to award the Honorary Freedom of the Town to two deserving members of the community, Mrs Jenny Harvey and Mr David Turnbull. The Honorary Freedom is the highest award the Town Council can bestow and the current recipients have become part of only 42 individuals who have been admitted as Honorary Freeman since 1835.

The honour was awarded to Jenny in recognition of her continuing inspirational leadership and dedication to the Helston Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Whilst the Honorary Freedom of the Town was conferred upon David in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the town and community of was conferred upon David in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the town and community of Helston, particularly through his roles with the South Kerrier Alliance, South Kerrier Heritage Trust, Helston CIC and the Place Shaping Board.

# Community Banking Hub

Helston Town Council is pleased to have been able to work with a range of local organisations to help secure the creation of a Community Banking Hub for the town. They have been working for a number of months in partnership with the Helston Place Shaping Board Market

in partnership with the Helston Place Shaping Board, Helston & District Chamber of Commerce, Inclusion Cornwall, Helston Methodist Chapel and Citizens Advice Cornwall in advance of the closure of the last bank.

The initial application to LINK for a Community Banking Hub for Helston was not successful, so the partnership worked hard to secure a meeting with senior officials from LINK to discuss the application and to secured and additional evidence would be needed in order to make a difference to the decision. A meeting was secured and additional evidence supplied including letters of support from local Parish Councils.

Helston Town Council was delicated in the closure of the last bank.

Helston Town Council was delighted to hear the good news that
LINK had listened to the partnership and that the
re-assessment had been successful, meaning Helston
will get a Community Banking Hub. We understand
that property negotiations are ongoing and we
hope to be advised of the proposed location
in the very near future.

## **Helston Signposts**

In response to the cost of living crisis the Town Council's Cost of Living Working Party gathered

together information on various sources of support for the residents of Helston. This leaflet contained contact details for organisations offering support for those with money worries, locations for warm spaces, groups providing assistance with saving energy or places to pick up food. It also included contacts for mental health support and various organisations offering assistance to those worried about safety, abuse or neglect. The leaflet was delivered to all properties in Helston and is available from the Guildhall.

#### Solar Panels

As part of the Town Council's activities to reduce the Council's carbon footprint we have been investigating ways to reduce our energy use. The Council had previously moved to a 100% green energy electricity supplier but it wanted to pursue solar panels on the Guildhall to provide direct access to a renewable energy source and to reduce the Council's rising electricity costs.

This aspiration was not straight forward with the Guildhall being a Grade II\* listed building but the required planning permissions have been obtained. The Council went out to tender for the works during the year and a supplier has been appointed. Unfortunately repairs required to the roof of the Guildhall to prevent further water ingress have delayed the installation of the solar panels. The repairs are being considered as part of a larger refurbishment projects at the Guildhall and we hope to have the panels installed as soon as the works have been carried out.

# Youth Engagement Events & Youth Manifesto

Helston Town Council's Youth Engagement
Working Party engaged with the youth of the town
through a series of Autumn Youth Engagement events.

The first was an evening with the 2nd Helston Brownies as part of Parliament Week. The focus of the event was to enable the Brownies to learn about local democracy and involved a question and answer session with the Mayor and Town Clerk about the roles of Members and Officers at the Town Council, a presentation on the impact of plastic on the oceans and a debate on the topic 'is plastic fantastic?'. The conclusion of those involved in the debate was "Essential plastic is fantastic but other plastics are not fantastic."

A further youth engagement day was attended by young people from all the schools in Helston. The focus of the day was to learn about what Helston Town Council does and to debate issues close to their hearts and then to create the first ever Helston Youth Manifesto of topics they would like to see the Town Council address

over the coming years.

Helston Town Council would like to thank Flambards
Theme Park for sponsoring the food for both
these youth engagement events.



# **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, in 2022-23 the Council had 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. 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
- Cost of Living Working Party
- Emergency Plan 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.



# **Amenities Committee**

The Amenities Committee was Chaired by Cllr Ramsden and met on six occasions during the 2022/23 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.

# Report of the Chair



A major project has been the refurbishment of the King George V/Coronation Gardens park and play area, with new trees, a sensory garden, wildflower meadows, many new benches, and brand new children's play equipment (including some that allow disabled children to join in the fun, of which I'm especially proud to see in our town). The Town Council have worked with Cornwall Council's Making Space for Nature team, Helston Climate Action Group, Coastline Housing, St Michael's School, the Scouts, and local residents to try and make the best park possible for everyone to enjoy.

Elsewhere refurbishment and maintenance of council buildings has been an ongoing process. Solar panels have been approved for installation on the Guildhall, pending repairs to the roof. We're exploring ways to improve public toilet facilities.

I'd like to personally thank the dedicated staff working for Helston Town Council, without whom the committee would just be a group of people sat around a table their hard work ensures that our decisions become practical reality. I also want to whole-heartedly thank the many volunteer organisations and members of the public who have given up their time to help us to achieve beyond our budget and resources. Whether providing information to the committee or getting stuck in with their hands in the soil in our green spaces, we've been able to do so much more thanks to you.

Cllr Samuel Ramsden - Chair

## **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 2022 to May 2023, 50 Category I and 27 Category II planning applications were considered.

# Report of the Chair



The last year has been very busy for the Planning Committee of Helston Town Council. The Committee has considered a a wide variety of applications and in turn made recommendations from contentious ones including the development of an estate of 12 houses, the application for a weddings licence in a large, central gardens and the commencement of HX2 an estate of approximately 880 separate units.

As a committee we continue to ensure that the town's Conservation Area is recognised, and that the heritage of the town is protected for both the present and future. We have given great emphasis when reviewing applications on their impact on the environments and mitigating actions of developers to reduce this. Additionally, whenever the committee see activities or actions which could further reduce the environmental impact, we make comment and recommendations accordingly.

Again, committee members have completed additional training and development for their role this year which, with the addition of one committee member also being a Cornwall Councillor on the West Sub-Area Planning Committee, has continued to further develop the expertise and experience of our Town committee.

Cllr Miles Kenchington - Chair

# Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

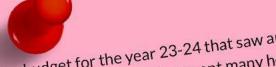
The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of eight Members, Chaired by Councillor Grattan-Kane, met on seven occasions during the year with meetings initially held on the Tuesday of the week prior to Full Council and then moving to the Monday of the same week.

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.

# Report of the Chair



The past year saw the committee establish a budget for the year 23-24 that saw an increase in the local element of the precept by 22%. The committee spent many hours considering various options for the local community before reaching this decision.

Helston is the 10th largest town in Cornwall. In addition to maintaining the Guildhall, a listed building, it also is responsible for maintaining some 66000m Sq. of verges a number of public toilets, which have been subject to considerable vandalism over the past year. The Council also maintains 8 open spaces, 6 planted roundabouts and 8 bus shelters together with a number of play areas. The Council also supports the maintenance and monitoring of the local CCTV system, an ever increasing number of Public Access Defibrillators, which have saved lives over the past year along with support for specific groups such as the Museum of Cornish Life and Helston Christmas Lights. The Council also awards a number of grants each year to local organisations and helps to fund

The Council has been affected by the impact of the cost of living with considerable outreach youth work. increases in all the goods and services we use. Council employees also received a nationally agreed pay rise after many years of pay freezes or below inflation increases.

The increase amounts to a 73p per week increase for a band D council tax payer. In Helston 75% of residents fall within Bands A-C and pay a lower sum. The Council constantly seeks to provide services that represent value for money. It is interesting to note that even after this increase Helston still has a charge that ranks 18th in Cornwall

Cllr Grattan-Kane - Chair





# **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

for 2022/23

# Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC)

Helston and South Kerrier Community Network Panel

Helston & the Lizard Works

# Helston Christmas Lights Committee

AT WAR

Helston Climate Action Group

**Helston Community College** 

Helston Community Interest Company

Helston Welfare Trust

HCIC Marketing Steering Group

## Representative

Councillor M J Kenchington (Deputy: Councillor G T Looker)

Councillor J Martin (Deputy: Councillor A J Wilkin)

Councillor M Benyon

47111

Councillor Wilkin

Councillor M Benyon (Deputy: Councillor J Martin)

Councillors M H Thomas, J Martin, T Grattan-Kane & A J Wilkin

Councillor M J Kenchington (Deputy: Councillor G T Looker)

Councillors R Williams, Mrs FNE Boase & M H Thomas

Councillors Ramsden
(Deputy: Councillor A J Wilkin)



# **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.



### **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.



#### **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.



#### 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.



#### **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.



## **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 63 benches across the town. It also provides 9 picnic benches in various play areas and open spaces.

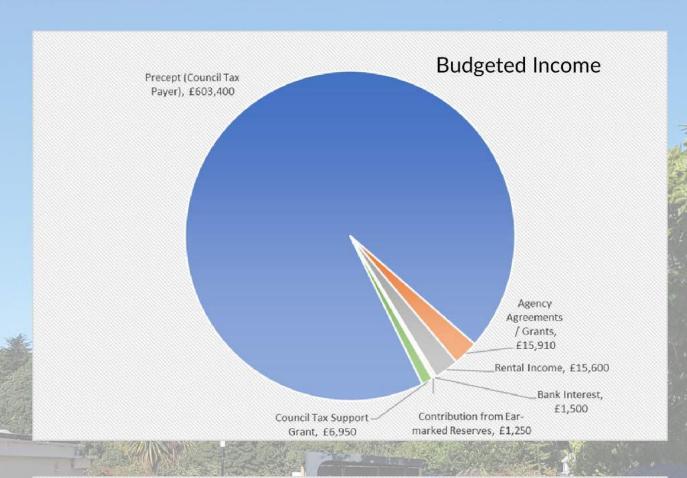


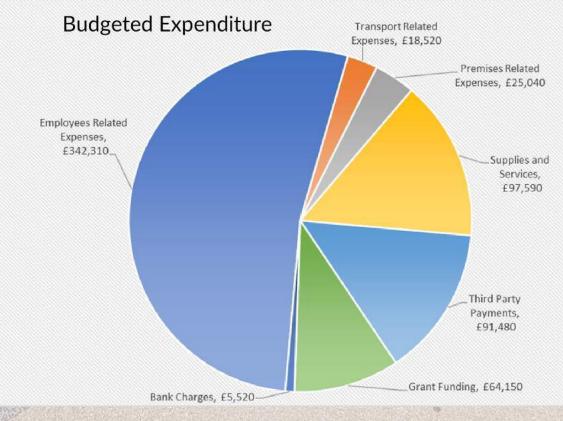
## Verges

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 2022/23 is summarised below:





# Projects we supported During 2022/23

	Grant Amount	Project
3 (Helston) Sqn Air Training Corps	£800	Defibrillator
Citizens Advice Bureau	£500	Advice services for Helston residents
Community Energy Plus	£2,500	Winter warmth boxes for Helston Residents
Cornish Seal Sanctuary	£1,000	Fund Our Future campaign
Cornubian Arts & Science Trust	£2,000	CAST-Off event
Helston Athletic Football Club	£1,125	Installation of a hardstanding
Helston Bowling Club	£475	Installation of emergency lighting
Helston Friendship Club	£500	Trips for club members
Helston Railway Preservation Society	£1,000	Defibrillator
Helston Youth Football Club	£3,200	Allow youth team members to represent Cornwall in Germany
Penrose Judo Club	£4,000	Internal refurbishment of rear extension
Porthleven Harbour Hedgehog Rescue	£500	Installation of a new rescue shed
The Butterfly Wood Project	£400	Provision of a safer walkway and replacement

# **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 0SP 07879 277343 (Mobile) m.thomas@helston-tc.gov.uk



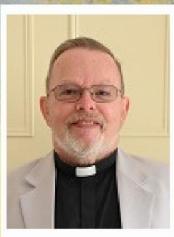
Councillor M J Kenchington 14 Tremenheere Avenue, Helston, TR13 8SY 01326 561056 (Home) 07903 442239 (Mobile) m.kenchington@helston-tc.gov.uk



m.benyon@helston-tc.gov.uk
Telephone number available on request



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



Councillor M P Andrew Catholic Presbytery Clodgey Lane TR13 8PJ 07515 472547 (Mobile) p.andrew@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 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



Councillor D Willey d.willey@helston-tc.gov.uk

# **Contact Us**

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