



Annual Report

2007/08



June 2008

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Helston Town Council's fourth Annual Report.

During a very busy year we have seen a lot of concern over the future of the Penrose Road Community Centre. The Council is looking for a solution which has to comply with legal requirements. Meanwhile, an Assets Working Party, comprising of Councillor Mrs Swift, Councillor Devenish (Mayor-elect) and the Town Clerk is looking at potential sites to build a new Community Centre.

Helston has seen some of its older buildings restored with the aid of grants through the Helston Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme. The Scheme has also funded the restoration of the kennels on the south side of Coinagehall Street. The lower end of town, which had been an eyesore for many years, has been transformed by improvements to the park area. It now boasts a café, events area, and popular skate park. South Kerrier Alliance is introducing monthly farmers markets there for a trial period. Another area of waste ground nearby now houses a new supermarket.

The lives of those living on the Falmouth Road and at Turnpike have been much improved by the new bypass from the Falmouth Road to Clodgey Lane. There is further expansion in that area, with the building of the Travel Lodge and more housing. Near here we also have the Tresprison Business Park with its industrial units and I am very please with the quality of work being done.

King George V Play Area has been the focus of the Playgrounds Working Party. Consultations with St Michaels School children have been carried out and a design agreed. To date £40,000 of the £60,000 required has been secured. Funding for the balance is actively being sought.

The policing of our town, with Community Police Support Officers and our new Town Warden present on patrol in the streets and estates provides public confidence and they do an excellent job – my thanks go to them.

I must praise the work of the Council's Committees, Working Parties and staff. The Guildhall offices have been updated to enable us all to cope better with the increasing demands the Unitary Authority system will bring.

Finally, I must thank all the organisations involved for making Flora Day 2008 yet another success.

Councillor Ronnie Williams

Town Mayor (May 2006 – May 2008)

THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Full Council are held on the third Thursday of every month and are open to the public. Time is set aside at these meetings for the public to ask questions or to make their personal views known. A representative of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is usually present to report on crime statistics and to discuss issues as they arise.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee, consisting of six Members Chaired by Cllr Paul Phillips, meets on the first and third Thursday of every month and has delegated authority to consider all planning applications and to make recommendations to the District 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 can not 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 May 2007 to May 2008, 49 Category I planning applications were considered and 85 Category II.

POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Policy, Finances and Resources Committee, consisting of six Members Chaired by The Mayor, met on six occasions during the year to consider new policies, monitor the current budget and consider the draft budget 2008/09. This committee does not have delegated powers and thus makes recommendations to Full Council.

HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE

At the beginning of 2007, by mutual agreement with the existing Harvest Fair Committee, the Town Council assumed responsibility for organising the annual Harvest Fair activities. A new Town Council committee was formed consisting of six Town Councillors and six members of the community. The Committee, in turn, has created a number of Working Parties to organise specific events and involve more members of the public. The main Committee meets on the first Thursday each month and is Chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr John Boase.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

In January 2008 the Town Council accepted a Recommendation by the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee to create a new committee to take responsibility for civic amenities such as public seats and bus shelters along with the Council's land and buildings to name a few. Although established in January, it was decided not to elect its membership until the Annual Town Council meeting in May 2008. The first meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June.

FINANCE

Set out below is a summary of the Council's income and expenditure for the financial year 2007/08.

	£		£
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Precept	124,800	General Administration	116,736
Agency Services	1,723	Agency Services	1,772
Interest on Investments	9,807	Grants	8,366
Harvest Fair	1,252	Capital Expenditure	9,420
Fees & Charges	22,058	Community Support	8,870
Grants	5,600	Tourism	865
Commuted Sum	20,160	Harvest Fair	1,540
Reimbursements	1,612	Town Heritage Initiative	5,000
Other	498	Property Running Costs	16,733
		Other	2,145
	<u>187,510</u>		<u>171,447</u>

Attendance May 2007 – May 2008

	Full Council		Policy, Finance And Resources Committee	Planning Committee	Harvest Fair Committee
		Absent and no apology received			
<i>Number of Meetings</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>12</i>
Cllr R Williams (Town Mayor)	19		6	5/7	2
Cllr J.H.M. Keay	7	2			
Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift	19		6		
Cllr N.C. Martin	15		4	12/15	9
Cllr P Phillips	16			20	
Cllr R.J.L. Boase	17			22	11
Cllr G.F. Dyer*	5/7				
Cllr N.J.C. Devenish	17	1	6	23	12
Cllr K. Reynolds	18		5	21	
Cllr Mrs V.J. Matthew	16		4	20	9
Cllr D.C.Swift	14				
Cllr Mrs F.N.E.Boase	18				11
Cllr R.R.Pryor**	7/7				

* Cllr Dyer resigned from the Council on 5th October 2007.

** Cllr Pryor was co-opted onto the Council at a Special Meeting held on 13th December 2007.

Cllr Williams stood down from the Planning Committee in July 2007 and Cllr Martin was elected onto the Committee in September.

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

50+ Management Committee	Victim Support Cornwall
Helston & District Town Twinning Association	Kerrier District Citizens Advice Bureau
Epworth Hall Management Group	Helston & Kerrier Music Society
Helston & District Rifle Club	Helston School Jazz Orchestra
Helston Railway Preservation Company Ltd	First Air Ambulance Trust
Helston Christmas Lights Committee	“We Can” Committee
Cruse Bereavement care Cornwall	Helston Youth Centre
ACT 1	

CURRENT TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES AS AT JUNE 2007

Executive Committee – C.A.L.C. and C.A.L.L.C.	Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift
Helston & Kerrier Youth Club Management Committee	Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)
Helston & District Victim Support	Cllrs P. Phillips & K. Reynolds
Kerrier Citizens Advice Bureau	Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift
South Kerrier Alliance	Cllr Mrs F.N.E. Boase
West Cornwall Healthwatch Committee	Cllr P. Phillips
West Cornwall C.C.T.V. Group	Cllr D.C. Swift
Keep Helston Tidy Group	Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor),
.....	Cllrs N.C. Martin, D.C. Swift & Mrs F.N.E. Boase
Helston Townscape Heritage Initiative	Cllr R Williams
Partners & Communities Together (PACT)	Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)
Helston Business Forum	Cllr P. Phillips
Helston Welfare Trust	Cllrs R. Williams, J.H.M. Keay & N.C. Martin
Nansloe Junior & Infant School Governor	Cllr J.H.M. Keay

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 2007/08

May	Mayor Choosing Ceremony Beating of the Boundaries Flora Day
June	Civic Sunday RNAS Culdrose Freedom Parade
July	Helston in Bloom Competition
September	RAFA Battle of Britain Service
November	Remembrance Sunday Christmas Lights Switch-on

Throughout the year the Mayor and Mayoress have attended various events as invited.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Helston North Ward

	Home Telephone	E-mail
Mrs S.M.E. Swift	01326 565120	
N.C. Martin	01326 574421	
R.J.L. Boase	01326 573200	rjlboase@helstontc.com
N.J.C. Devenish (<i>Deputy Town Mayor</i>)	01326 561418	n.devenish@helstontc.com
Mrs V.J. Matthew	01326 574441	vickimathew@helstontc.com
R.R. Pryor	01326 561264	

Helston East Ward

R. Williams (<i>Town Mayor</i>)	01326 572179	
J.H.M. Keay	01326 561294	
P. Phillips	01326 573317	phillips@helstontc.com
K. Reynolds	01736 762344	reynolds@helstontc.com

Helston West Ward

Mrs F.N.E. Boase	01326 573200
D.C. Swift	01326 565120

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Town Clerk	Mr Chris Dawson	Street Stall Superintendent	Mr Steve C.C. Mole
Administrative Assistants	Miss Pamela Lavelle Mr Leonard Phillips	Town Beadle	Mr Jim Moran
Town Warden	Mr Craig Bowcutt	Sergeants-at-Mace	Mr Fred G. Angove Mr Paul J. Cooke
Senior Caretaker	Mrs Jean Johns	Flag Flyer	Mr Paul Upperton
Assistant Caretaker	Mrs Sam Goss	Tree Warden	Mr Martin Maylam

The Council can be contacted on (01326) 572063 or e-mail townclerk@helstontc.com

For more information regarding meetings and the latest news visit our web site www.helstontc.com