



# Annual Report 2008/09



June 2009

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Helston Town Council's fifth Annual Report.

It has been a very busy year like no other; Cornwall has faced one of the largest local government reorganisations in its history. Whilst most of the attention has been focused at County Hall in Truro the Town Council has been quietly preparing for whatever functions and services we are able to deliver. Having actively engaged where possible with the officers and Implementation Executive of the Cornwall Council, we have developed the basement office area into a flexible open plan office with power, telephone and data cabling, and also increased our staffing from one full time and two part time office staff to two full time and one part time staff ready for the challenges ahead.

When I became Mayor I said that the new council arrangements for Cornwall would not be like switching on a light switch but would evolve over time and the Town Council has seen our initial role as getting ready and being as prepared as possible for that evolution. Part of that preparation also includes the drafting of a Town Plan. If the Plan is to be successful we need your input and involvement throughout the process.

Without doubt the future of the Community Centre has been a very hot topic once more. A lot of criticism has come the Council's way for holding our discussions behind closed doors – so let me set the record straight once and for all. If Council deliberations concern legal or financial matters, discussions relating to a person or group and their financial relationship to the Council, commercially sensitive or confidential information then it must be discussed during our "closed door session". This is not a choice we have - if it falls into these categories, and this is not an exhaustive list, then we are duty bound to treat them so. Secondly, as the Helston & District Community Association has served legal papers on the Council, it has been decided that the matter will now be treated as sub judice and as such there will be no further comment until after the Hearing.

One of the reasons I joined the Council was to try to improve the quality and availability of children's play equipment in the Town - something I am pleased to say was wholeheartedly supported by my Town Council colleagues. This year has seen the redevelopment of the King George V play area to incorporate equipment for a wider range of age groups up to teenagers. The whole project was supported by Kerrier District Council, Cory Environmental, Helston & Lizard Rotary and the Helston Playgrounds Forum, and will be officially opened very soon. The Town Council will shortly take ownership and responsibility for the new play area at An Henlys. It is intended to work in partnership with local residents to maintain a well designed and already well used local area via our newly formed Play Committee under the Chairmanship of my Deputy Councillor John Boase. The Council has also just announced plans for a teen play area in the Penrose Amenity Area, which we intend to seek funding for, starting with our own contribution of £10,000 towards the project total of £80,000.

Kerrier District Council, in its last months also enhanced the play facilities at the Coronation Park with the new tower unit.

Helston is developing fast. As well as the large housing developments, at An Henlys and that area, we also saw two large Supermarket applications granted for Tesco and Sainsbury's. These applications as well as creating jobs for the area will also bring in Section 106 money which the Town Council hopes to secure to fund a Town Manager to further enhance the local economy and rejuvenate the town centre. The Council feels very strongly that we, as the elected body of the town, are best placed to deliver this local regeneration and that the forthcoming Town Plan I mentioned earlier is a vital part of that work.

As well as the activities I have already reported we have always tried to encourage youth activities in the town, as I said recently in my Mayor's Blog....

“I am not in denial or saying there is enough for young people to do, there is always room for even more youth opportunities and activities and I will always support youth provision”

So the Town Council has agreed to make space available on its website for a directory of Youth Activities. Any group which would like to be included, please contact the Guildhall.

This year also saw us say goodbye to a much admired and hard working public servant in the person of Ex PC Nigel Treloar. Described in the local Press as 'Helston's Dixon of Dock Green' he was our Neighbourhood Beat Manager for many years and made a real and tangible difference to our community. So it was my pleasure to present him with a Town Plaque in recognition of this sterling service.

**Councillor Niall Devenish**

**Town Mayor**

## **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 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 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 2008 to May 2009, 29 Category I planning applications were considered and 104 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 2009/10.

## **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 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. The Committee is Chaired by Cllr Mrs Susan Swift and met on nine occasions during the 2008/09 civic year.

## **PLAY COMMITTEE**

The Play Committee was created to continue the good work of the Playgrounds Working Party. The Committee consists of six Councillors and six members of the public. The Committee held its first meeting in March 2009 Chaired by Cllr John Boase.

## FINANCE

Set out below is a summary of the Council's income and expenditure for the financial year 2008/09.

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Precept	128,560	General Administration	144,323
Agency Services	1,718	Agency Services	1,802
Interest on Investments	9,304	Grants	7,576
Harvest Fair	2,109	Capital Expenditure	3,144
Fees & Charges	18,167	Community Support	30,500
Grants	12,740	Tourism	3,562
Commuted Sum	20,161	Harvest Fair	2,865
Reimbursements	3,614	Property Running Costs	63,153
Other	614	Other	9,106
	<u>196,987</u>		<u>266,031</u>

## **Attendance at meetings May 2008 – May 2009**

	Full Council	
		Absent and no apology received
<b><i>Number of Meetings</i></b>	<b>16</b>	
Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)	16	
Cllr R Williams	11	
Cllr J.H.M. Keay*	2/10	
Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift	16	
Cllr N.C. Martin	14	
Cllr P Phillips	13	
Cllr R.J.L. Boase	15	
Cllr K. Reynolds	16	
Cllr Mrs V.J. Matthew	16	
Cllr D.C.Swift	14	
Cllr Mrs F.N.E.Boase	15	
Cllr R.R.Pryor	16	
Cllr M.H. Thomas**	2/2	

\* Cllr Keay resigned from the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

\*\* Cllr Thomas was elected on to the Council on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Committee	Policy, Finance & Resources	Planning	Amenities	Harvest Fair	Play
<b>Number of Meetings</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)	6	21	1/1	8	1
Cllr R Williams			6		
Cllr J.H.M. Keay*					
Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift	4		9		
Cllr N.C. Martin	4		4/7	7	
Cllr P Phillips		21	6		
Cllr R.J.L. Boase		22		9	1
Cllr K. Reynolds	6	23			1
Cllr Mrs V.J. Matthew	6	21		6	
Cllr D.C.Swift					
Cllr Mrs F.N.E.Boase	5		8	10	
Cllr R.R.Pryor		4/4	9	10	1
Cllr M.H. Thomas**					

### **Current Committee membership 2009/10**

#### **Policy, Finance & Resources Committee**

Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor) – *Chairman*  
 Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift – *Vice Chairman*  
 Cllr K Reynolds  
 Cllr Mrs F.N.E. Boase  
 Cllr R R Pryor  
 Cllr M.H. Thomas

#### **Planning Committee**

Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)  
 Cllr P Phillips - *Chairman*  
 Cllr R.J.L. Boase  
 Cllr K Reynolds  
 Cllr Mrs V.J. Matthew – *Vice Chairman*  
 Vacancy

#### **Amenities Committee**

Cllr R Williams  
 Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift – *Chairman*  
 Cllr P Phillips  
 Cllr Mrs F.N.E. Boase  
 Cllr R R Pryor – *Vice Chairman*  
 Cllr M H Thomas

#### **Harvest Fair Committee**

Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)  
 Cllr R.J.L. Boase - *Chairman*  
 Cllr Mrs V.J. Matthew – *Vice Chairman*  
 Cllr Mrs F.N.E. Boase  
 Cllr M.H. Thomas  
 Vacancy

#### **Play Committee**

Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)  
 Cllr R.J.L. Boase - *Chairman*  
 Cllr Mrs V.J. Matthew  
 Cllr D.C. Swift – *Vice Chairman*  
 Cllr R.R. Pryor  
 Vacancy

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

Carers Support Service	Epworth Hall Management Group
Helston & Kerrier Music Society	Helston Shotokan Karate Club
Home Start	Shelter
Sithney Cornish Wrestling Club	Victim Support Cornwall
WRVS	Carleen Church Community Care Centre
1 <sup>st</sup> Helston Scout Group	Parc Eglos School
Helston Rugby Football Club	Kerrier District Citizens Advice Bureau
Cornwall Blind Association	Chritmas Lights Committee

### **CURRENT TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES AS AT JUNE 2007**

<b>Executive Committee – C.A.L.C.</b> .....	Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift
<b>Helston &amp; Kerrier Youth Club Management Committee</b> .....	Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor) & Cllrs R. Williams & Mrs S.M.E Swift
<b>Helston &amp; Lizard Health Board</b> .....	Cllr R. Williams
<b>Redruth Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee</b> .....	Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift
<b>Mayors Parlour Campaign Group</b> .....	Cllr Mrs S.M.E. Swift
<b>Partners &amp; Communities Together (PACT)</b> .....	Cllr N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor)
<b>South Kerrier Alliance</b> .....	Cllr P. Phillips
<b>Victim Support West Cornwall Advisory Group</b> .....	Cllrs P. Phillips & K. Reynolds
<b>West Cornwall CCTV Group</b> .....	Cllr D.C. Swift
<b>West Cornwall Healthwatch Committee</b> .....	Cllr P. Phillips
<b>Helston Welfare Trust</b> .....	Cllrs R. Williams, Mrs S.M.E. Swift & P. Phillips

### **SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 2008/09**

May	Mayor Choosing Ceremony 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Town Twinning Beating of the Boundaries Flora Day
June	Civic Sunday RNAS Culdrose Freedom Parade
July	Helston in Bloom Competition
September	Harvest Fair 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	swift945@btinternet.com
R.J.L. Boase	01326 573200	rjlboase@helstontc.com
N.J.C. Devenish ( <i>Town Mayor</i> )	01326 561418	n.devenish@helstontc.com
Mrs V.J. Matthew	01326 574441	vickimathew@helstontc.com
R.R. Pryor	01326 561264	
J. Radford-Gaby	01326 560210	

### Helston East Ward

R. Williams	01326 572179	
P. Phillips	01326 573317	phillips@helstontc.com
K. Reynolds	01736 762344	reynolds@helstontc.com
M.H. Thomas	01326 562947	thomas@helstontc.com

### Helston West Ward

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

## COUNCIL OFFICERS

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

The Council can be contacted on **(01326) 572063** or e-mail [townclerk@helstontc.com](mailto:townclerk@helstontc.com)

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

For more information regarding meetings and the latest news visit our web site [www.helstontc.com](http://www.helstontc.com)