



PENZANCE COUNCIL

Annual Report 2023/24



Foreword

We are pleased to present the Penzance Council Annual Report for 2023/24.

This report outlines the work of your council over the past year and highlights our support for local community groups and initiatives.

As part of our Strategic Plan, over the past year Penzance Council has been working towards making our parish community a better place to work and grow, as well as delivering quality local services for local people.

This report provides an overview of our work and accomplishments, including progress on key projects, grant funding to local groups, and a directory of our services and civic & ceremonial events. It also provides information about how your money has been spent over the last year and our agreed budget and plans for the upcoming financial year 2024/25.

We value the feedback of our residents and community groups so encourage you to read this report and provide us with any thoughts or suggestions for how we can better serve all the communities of our parish, which encompasses Penzance, Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval and Eastern Green.

Our Vision

To maintain and enhance our community for the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations.

Our Mission

To make the community (of Penzance Council) a better place to live, work and grow.



Coronation Big Lunch at Morrab Gardens, May 2023

How your Council works

Penzance Council operates at the most local level of government across Penzance, Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval & Eastern Green

Councillors

We have twenty elected, unpaid Councillors. They represent the four wards in the Penzance Parish:

- Heamoor & Gulval
- Newlyn & Mousehole
- Penzance East
- Penzance Promenade

Councillors are elected to represent your views, address your concerns, and make decisions on the future of your town and village communities.

They also represent you on outside committees and community groups including, but not limited to: [GOFA](#), [Plastic Free Penzance](#), [Town Twinning Associations](#), [Penzance & District Tourism Assoc](#), [Penzance Neighbourhood Plan](#), [Penwith 50+ Forum](#), [The Centre, Newlyn](#), and the [Solomon Browne Memorial Hall, Mousehole](#).

All Councillors are elected by YOU – residents of the parish!

The Council

The Full Council meets at least six times a year to take major decisions and oversee activities of the Council.

The Full Council will also consider recommendations from its four standing Committees:

- Arts & Culture
- Finance & General Purposes
- Leisure & Amenities
- Planning

We also have two Sub-Committees: Climate Emergency and Social-Action.

Penzance Council also established a number of working groups, including:

- Penlee Masterplan Working Group
- Penlee House Plant & Facilities Task & Finish Group
- Devolution Working Group
- Public Toilets Working Group
- Youth Services Working Group
- Coach House Refurbishment Working Group
- Penlee House Independent Review Task & Finish Group
- Football Club Working Group
- Motion for the Ocean Task & Finish Group
- Idling Engines Task & Finish Group
- Warm Hubs Task & Finish Group

Meetings

Agendas are published at least three clear working days before a meeting is due to take place. They are posted on our public noticeboards, on [our website](#), on [our Facebook page](#) and on [our Instagram feed](#).

The press and public are welcome to attend all Committee and Full Council meetings and have the opportunity to ask questions or comment on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting.

The minutes for Committee and Council meetings are published once they have been approved and [can be viewed on our website](#).

The Calendar of Meetings for the year is also available to view on the Council's website and on the main noticeboard opposite St John's Hall.

Please contact the council's Democratic Services Officer, for any information regarding Council meetings by emailing: info@penzance-tc.gov.uk.

Partnerships

Penzance Council continues to play a key role in a number of Partnerships, all working across Penzance to not only face immediate challenges but to also look forward and deliver positive change for the town and community.

Penzance Council is represented on the [Penzance Town Deal Board](#), [Penzance Regeneration Company Board](#), [Safer Penzance](#) and works closely with the [Penzance Business Improvement District \(BID\)](#) to name a few.



From left to right: Mace Bearer, Town Clerk, Mayor's Consort, Town Mayor, Mace Bearer, Town Crier

Your Councillors

Penzance East Ward



Councillor Joan Beveridge

Email: joan.beveridge@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07488 317209



Councillor Melville Durrant

Email: melville.durrant@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07980 141001



Councillor Jonathan How

Email: jonathan.how@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07846 658193



Councillor Zach Lawlor

Email: zach.lawlor@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07565 647120



Councillor Jan Power

Email: jan.power@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07977 212254



Councillor Nadine Tonner

Email: nadine.tonner@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07989 446104

Heamoor & Gulval Ward



Councillor Bonnie Jackson

Email: bonnie.jackson@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 01736 361768 / 07818 828524



Councillor Stephen Reynolds (Mayor)

Email: stephen.reynolds@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07917 868470



Councillor Richard Sorrell

Email: richard.sorrell@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07979 514618

Penzance Promenade Ward



Councillor Nicole Broadhurst

Email: nicole.broadhurst@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 01736 350434 / 07935 127875



Councillor Simon Elliott

Email: simon.elliott@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07956 719956



Councillor Will Elliott (Deputy Mayor)

Email: will.elliott@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07969 842956



Councillor Jim McKenna

Email: cllr.jim.mckenna@cornwall.gov.uk

Tel: 07764 347910



Councillor Nigel Pengelly

Email: nigel.pengelly@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07811 154439



Councillor Penny Young

Email: penny.young@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07921 120775

Newlyn & Mousehole Ward



Councillor Dennis Axford

Email: dennis.axford@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 01736 366685 / 07790 448448



Councillor Sue Bosworth

Email: sue.bosworth@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07973 555509



Councillor Rob Crago

Email: rob.crago@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07896 300302



Councillor Nigel Davis

Email: nigel.davis@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 07554 618706



Councillor Thalia Marrington

Email: cllr.thalia.marrington@cornwall.gov.uk

Tel: 07702 704004



Committees

Finance & General Purposes

The Finance & General Purposes Committee has responsibility for overseeing the financial affairs of Penzance Council and all aspects of Corporate Governance.

The Committee also considers grant applications from local community groups and charities and strategic funding for key community partners; this year, a total of £249,956 was granted to 20 local organisations.

Over many years, spending cuts by central government and Cornwall Council mean that town councils like ours have had to step up the level of services we provide and our precept has to reflect this.

To keep providing much-used services our precept has increased by 7.12% (the overall Council Tax bill is not increasing by 7.12%).

80% of households in the Parish are Council Tax Bands A-C, which means the vast majority of households will see a real-terms increase of £18.97 per year or less; this works out as an extra £1.58 per month or less.

We want to deliver local services and support our local communities not just today, but in the future too! This year's precept rise will safeguard services now, while putting us on a sound financial footing for the years ahead.

£249,956 of funding was awarded to **20 local organisations** this year!



Arts & Culture

The Arts & Culture Committee was established at the beginning of the 2023/24 civic year to bring together all the arts and cultural projects that Penzance Council delivers, either directly or through a third party. This includes:

- Penlee House Gallery & Museum
- Penlee Open Air Theatre
- Town Christmas Lights
- Summer Town Banners & Promenade Flags
- Local festivals, including Golowan

Key achievements at Penlee House last year

- The establishment of a three-year funding package from Arts Council England as part of MC7, a consortium of Cornish museums which are using the funding to make museums accessible and relevant to their local communities and to tell the stories of Cornish history. The funding package is worth £80,000 per year.
- The commissioning of a detailed survey to enable the replacement of the Penlee House Plant. This includes refurbishment of the air handling units and upgrade to the environmental controls.
- Three major exhibitions: Lamorna Colony Pioneers, A Passion for Cornish Art and A Journey Through West Cornwall all showcased different aspects of art in West Cornwall, using both borrowed works and works from the Penlee House collection itself.



The last year's highlights

A highlight of the work at Penlee House this year has been a focus on providing new ways of accessing the gallery to a variety of different audiences:

- **Free sessions for the Under 5s and their families:** Little Penlee Explorers run monthly at Penlee, with the entire gallery devoted to early years provision. This includes our fortnightly Baby Sensory sessions and sensory play, storytelling and making activities for toddlers and pre-schoolers. The sessions have been well attended and have received excellent feedback.
- **Relaxed openings** on a quarterly basis. At these sessions, background noise is kept to a minimum and there are breakout areas and object handling sessions to enable a more sensory experience. These sessions are also free to attend, check the Penlee House website for more information.
- **Arts & Health sessions** continue to provide free artist-led workshops for adults experiencing long-term health conditions affecting their wellbeing.
- A brand new **After School Club** was trialled in the autumn, using funding from Little Parc Owles Trust. This has been so successful that we have used Arts Council funding to continue to offer this.
- Penlee House has worked in partnership with local charity **Trelya**, based at the Lescudjack Centre on Treneere Estate. Penlee has been running a **monthly art club for children and families**, using images of paintings and objects from the collections, to inspire artwork in lots of different media. An exhibition of this work was held at Penlee House.

Penzance Parish Residents can gain free entry to Penlee House all year round on production of proof of address.



A Saturday Art Club clay workshop at Trelya

Leisure & Amenities

The Leisure & Amenities Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of Penzance Council assets, as well as delivering a number of key services across the whole parish via a combination of the small 'in house' team and management of locally contracted services.

The Committee is also responsible for the delivery of projects and improvement works across the open spaces and facilities owned and managed by Penzance Council.

A full list of our services is [available on our website](#).

Major projects this year:

- Rebuilding a retaining wall in Wellfields Car Park
- Replacing the Penzance Football Club Grandstand roof
- Improvements to public toilet hand washing facilities
- Introducing electric Council vehicles
- Installing a public water fountain at Wherrytown
- Christmas Light display and tree in town
- Promenade and Town Banner/Flag Projects



Start of the replacement roof works at Penzance Football Club - October 2023

Whilst the initial delivery of these important projects often receives the most attention, the Leisure and Amenities Committee and small in-house team of staff take pride in the high standards of maintenance and upkeep that we apply to our sites after projects have been completed. This means that they remain in better condition for longer for parish residents and visitors to the area.

Parish-Wide Weeding

Penzance Council took on this service delivery in 2015 when Cornwall Council said it would no longer be undertaking the work. With over 120km of pavement area to cover across Heamoor, Gulval, Mousehole, Newlyn, and Penzance there is a significant area to cover!

Across the 9 members of staff making up the Leisure and Amenities Team, 25 hours per week are undertaken on "street weeding" alongside the day-to-day management of the sites that the team are responsible for. In addition to this, a further 3 hours per week are dedicated to inspection, prioritisation and scheduling of weed management shifts.

Penzance Council resolved to undertake a chemical-free weed management program. This means no spraying of chemicals on parish pavements or sites owned or managed by Penzance Council.

Instead, Penzance Council staff use battery-powered tools to cut the weeds off as close to ground level as possible. Whilst this method does mean a greater number of weeds are visible across the parish, the majority of feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive in favour of the Councils' efforts to find and implement a non chemical-based management programme.

The programme is time and labour intensive, however the Leisure and Amenities Team continue to refine the programme as much as our resources will allow to make the work more efficient and streamlined.

New public water fountain at Wherrytown

This Spring we have worked in partnership with Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) and Our Only World to install the first public water fountain in Penzance to further tackle plastic waste and provide access to safe and free drinking water on the go!

Funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, CWT's Your Shore project 'Tackling the Emergensea' and Penzance Council has enabled this project to expand on the years of hard work already established by Plastic Free Penzance, Sustainable Penzance, Kerbs Skateboard Association and Our Only World.



The new water fountain is unveiled at Wherrytown Public Toilet! (From left to right: Cllr Nigel Pengelly (Penzance Promenade Ward Councillor), Cllr Stephen Reynolds (Mayor), Katie Bellman (Community Engagement Officer - Cornwall Wildlife Trust), James Hardy (Town Clerk))

The fountain also forms part of [CWT's Mounts Bay Marine Trail](#) where locals and visitors can experience the iconic coast path of Mounts Bay between Newlyn and Marazion, discover interactive features, and find out about the wildlife, history and stories of the bay.

Officers will be monitoring the fountain's use over the coming months and gaining a valuable insight into the operating and maintenance costs for Councillors to consider for the future.

Planning

Statutory Consultee

Penzance Council is a statutory consultee for all Penzance Parish planning applications.

This means that Cornwall Council, who make the final decisions on all applications, are legally required to consult with Penzance Council before a decision is made on applications within the Parish.

The Planning Committee makes comments on applications based on submitted plans, public comments on proposals, and reports provided by other departments and outside bodies where appropriate eg. the Strategic Historic Environment Service, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

Penzance Council does **not** make the final decision on planning applications – these are made by Cornwall Council.

Our Meetings

Our Planning Committee meets on a Wednesday evening once every three weeks. They meet to discuss planning applications submitted within the Penzance Parish (this includes Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval, and Eastern Green).

Meeting agendas, and a list of planning applications to be considered, are published three clear working days in advance. They are posted on our public noticeboards, on [our website](#), on [our Facebook page](#) and on [our Instagram feed](#).

All members of the public are welcome to attend – you have the opportunity to comment on specific planning applications at the start of the meeting.



Local residents at the Planning Committee meeting where the Coinagehall development application was considered - Dec 2023

Penzance Neighbourhood Plan

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a way for communities to set a vision for the future of their Parish, Town or Village embedded in the Local Authority's planning framework in the form of planning policies.

If the Plan is approved by residents and Cornwall Council, all future developments requiring planning permission must abide by its policies along with the [Cornwall Local Plan](#).

What is in the Penzance Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies on housing, local green spaces, characters, community facilities, transport, economy, parking and sustainability.

Who drafted the Plan?

The Plan was drafted by community representatives from across the parish, alongside Town Councillors and an independent Chartered Town Planner, using the results of several public consultations.

What next?

As [set out in legislation](#), Penzance Council submitted a draft Neighbourhood Plan for Penzance to Cornwall Council at the end of 2023 for a further public consultation and independent examination.

Cornwall Council are currently running a second consultation - you can [view the draft Plan and make comments on Cornwall Council's Planning Portal](#) (the consultation runs until midnight on Saturday 11 May 2024).

How money was spent last year

Community & Services

Including, but not limited to:

- Wellfields Car Park
- War Memorials
- Pz AFC roof replacement
- Water fountain
- Public & Community Toilets
- 19 CCTV Cameras

£444,337

Grants & Strategic Funding

- General Grants
- Climate Emergency Grants
- Social Action Grants
- Youth Activities
- Strategic Funding Partners
- Centenary Hall purchase

£249,956

Arts, Culture & Heritage

Including, but not limited to:

- Penlee House Gallery & Museum
- Education & Family Activities
- Christmas Lights
- Town Flags & Prom Banners
- Civic events

£535,000

Parks, Play & Open Spaces

Including, but not limited to:

- Penlee Park
- Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts
- Heamoor Old School Field
- Foxes Lane Play Park, Mousehole
- Wherrytown Skatepark
- 190 allotment plots (approx)

£268,922

Grant funding

We are committed to helping community organisations who work to help local people in the Parish of Penzance - to achieve this, we provide grant funding.

Priority is given to Penzance-based organisations. However, the Council will consider grants to organisations not based in Penzance where they can show they are directly working with, or on behalf of, Penzance Parish residents.

More information on how to apply for a grant can be found on our website:

www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/grants



Grant funded by
**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**

Organisation	Amount
Chapel Street Creative CIO (purchase of Centenary Hall)	£80,000
Penzance Rotary Club	£900
Newlyn FISH Trust	£2,999
Chapel Street Music	£2,400
Newlyn Flora Group	£950
Global Jamming	£990
Heamoor CIO (Christmas Lights)	£950
Newlyn Harbour Lights	£6,000
Penzance LitFest	£3,000
St Piran in Penwith	£3,000
Montol Festival CIC	£5,000
Earth's Green Guardians	£502.86
West Cornwall Women's Aid	£2,950
MusicAbility CIC	£2,520
Devon & Cornwall Community Watch Association	£750
Kesoberi CIC (PZ & Newlyn Youth Project)	£10,000
	£122,912*

*rounded to nearest pound

**£122,912 of
grant funding
awarded***

Strategic Funding

Last year we provided a total of **£127,044** strategic funding to four organisations based in Penzance who provide essential services, health, and cultural events for our residents

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer - £33,544

In February 2019, Penzance Council agreed to jointly fund a dedicated ASB Officer based in Penzance. The role was initially a 12 month pilot however, due to the role's success, Penzance Council extended the agreement and continues to fund 80% of the role's costs - in the last year this has been **£33,544**.

In the last 12 months, the ASB Officer has continued to balance building rapport and relationships with some very complex, vulnerable and, at times, chaotic street drinkers and street homeless. They have supported them towards appropriate services and have enforced the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) by removing their alcohol, issuing warnings and building case files for court proceedings where necessary.

They have also actively engaged with businesses across the town, as well as members of the public, providing advice, reassurance and encouraging people to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.

You can [follow the Penzance ASB Officer on Facebook](#) for updates on their patrols and other pop-up events in the town.

ASB incidents should be reported directly to Devon and Cornwall Police by calling 101 or online: [Report antisocial behaviour | Devon & Cornwall Police](#)



The Golowan Band playing the 11am parade on Mazey Day, 2023

Golowan Festival CIC - £33,500

Golowan is the town's midsummer festival and the feast of our Patron Saint - St John the Baptist. The Cornish word 'Golowan' translates as 'Feast of John'. The festival traces its roots back to the vibrant traditions and customs observed in the town during the 19th century.

The modern-day festival was revived in 1991 by Alverton School, members of Kneehigh Theatre, Penwith Peninsula Project and Penzance Council. The Council now supports Golowan Festival CIC to deliver a massive range of events.

Golowan is a treasured part of the modern-day culture and community spirit of Penzance and has felt extra special, and needed in the post pandemic years.

Last year Penzance Council provided a total of **£33,500** in funding which included **£19,000** for the main festival, in addition to **£8,500** for a Youth Music Project and **£6,000** for the famous Mazey Eve Firework display at the harbour.

**£127,044 of
strategic
funding
awarded**

Jubilee Pool - £40,000

We have financially supported Jubilee Pool since its refurbishment in 2017 following the 2014 storms.

In the last financial year we have provided a total of **£40,000** funding. The breakdown of this funding was:

- **£10,000** for a new Free Under 16s swim scheme
- **£30,000** towards winter maintenance and storm damage

Our funding also ensures a 20% discounted entry for all residents who live the Penzance Parish area (proof of address required).

Jubilee Pool announced their decision to close January to May 2024. The Council's £30,000 funding for winter maintenance will be used during this time to make sure the pool is ready to welcome everyone back in, hopefully, warm and sunny weather!



Image: Greg Martin / Cornwall Live

Free Under 16s Swim Scheme

Jubilee Pool is an amazing and unique asset and it's only fair that young people from the Penzance Parish should have the chance to appreciate and enjoy it, just as generations have done before them.

In these hard economic times, we know that the price of taking children to the pool is a real barrier for many families: 27% of children in the Penzance area live in low-income households. Our Councillors felt it would be a tragedy if local children are denied the chance to connect with our local area and access such an iconic amenity simply because it is too expensive. The scheme was launched in summer 2023 as a pilot and was very successful!

Following this success, local Parish and Town Councils in the Penwith area were asked whether they wanted to join the scheme to provide free swimming for youngsters in their parishes. We're delighted to hear that three neighbouring councils have signed up for the 2024 season! The other councils who have signed up are: Madron Parish Council, St Just Town Council, and St Buryan, Lamorna & Paul Parish Council!

Pengarth Day Centre - £20,000

Originally opened in 1968, Pengarth Day Centre has become a much-loved resource and important daily care facility, for the senior and older community of West Cornwall.



Over the past year, Pengarth have been able to reduce isolation for the older people in our community, which has a major impact on people's health and wellbeing and can reduce their reliance on other front-line health services.

They operate early intervention to reduce the number of older people being admitted to hospital in the first instance as well as providing a 4-week 'discharge from hospital' programme where they can support people with meal deliveries and coming into the day centre. After the 4 weeks, many people can manage cooking for themselves again and the meal deliveries have given them the opportunity to get them back on their feet.

As well as front-line services support, Pengarth also offer a wide range of activities and therapies at the centre seven days a week including: armchair exercises, inter-generational activities with parents and their children under five, art projects, tea parties, bingo, a singing group, therapy dog sessions, hairdressing, and chiropody.

Last year, Penzance Council provided **£20,000** strategic funding to ensure this valuable partner can continue to deliver this essential community service.

Our Services

We provide a wide range of services to the local community and the large number of tourists who visit the town every year

Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts

Penzance Council took on [Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts](#) from Cornwall Council in the summer of 2021 and have carried out a full refurbishment of both.

We continue to build on the site improvements to keep both areas well maintained. We've had lots of positive feedback from people to say how great it is that the tennis courts are being used once again and that the whole facility is free for everyone to use all year round!

Allotments

We currently manage approximately 190 [allotment plots](#) across 8 sites in the parish.

Plots are available to anyone who lives in the Parish area of Penzance (proof of residency required). Due to their popularity, there is a long waiting list – when a plot becomes available, we will split it in two where we can to help reduce the waiting times.

Our teams continue to work hard to maintain standards and make improvements across all of our sites.



Community Safety

CCTV

Protecting public spaces and making our residents feel safe is very important to us so we own and maintain 19 CCTV cameras throughout the town.

Following Cornwall Fire and Rescue's decision to terminate the town CCTV monitoring contract at Tolvaddon in its current form, we have entered into a new partnership with St Ives and Hayle Town Councils to contribute towards the costs of a single CCTV monitoring service at the Island Centre, St Ives.

Building on existing infrastructure and arrangements, the new system provides the most financially viable option and will hopefully provide an improved service to ensure community safety.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer

We took decisive action to secure the future of the town's ASB Officer after Cornwall Council reported it was unable to continue to provide the same level of funding for the post in 2019 – we now cover 80% of the costs for the post. You can find more information about the role on page 10 of this report.

Safer Penzance

Under the umbrella of Safer Cornwall, we work in partnership with Safer Penzance to tackle the impacts of crime, alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour in our community.

Christmas Lights

We are responsible for the hire, installation, and maintenance of the suspended Christmas lights throughout Penzance town centre and the sourcing and lighting of the Christmas tree next to the Market House.

We would like to thank local businesses, and residents in Penzance for their continued support which makes

the lights in town possible each year.

We also provided grants to Heamoor CIO (£950) and Newlyn Harbour Lights (£6,000) to support their Christmas Light displays this year!



The 2023 Christmas Light Switch On in front of the Christmas Tree on Market Jew Street

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

[Penlee House Gallery & Museum](#) is a unique cultural venue, open to the whole community, with an important collection of paintings by the internationally- renowned Newlyn School and Lamorna artists, as well as a large collection of artefacts celebrating the archaeological and social history of West Cornwall.

Admission is free for everyone who lives within the Parish of Penzance. Please bring along proof of address to receive your pass.

PENLEE HOUSE
— — — — —
— — — — —
Gallery & Museum



Our award-winning Gardening Team

Penlee Park

Our Leisure and Amenities Team are based in [Penlee Park](#) – a popular public garden in the heart of the town.

The park offers a range of open spaces and wooded areas to explore, with the addition of an accessible play park, sensory garden and a Memorial Garden for quiet contemplation. The park is also home to Penlee House Gallery & Museum, [Penlee Open Air Theatre](#) and [Penzance Tennis Club](#).

Our Gardening Team achieved 5 stars in the 2023 Pride in Parks Award by South West in Bloom for the fourth time in a row! Pride in Parks is one of eighteen competitions that make up the RHS Britain in Bloom and we are incredibly proud of our team for their dedication to keep Penlee Park at such a high standard for our residents and visitors.

Toilets

Public Toilets

We operate 7 Public Toilets in and around Penzance Town Centre and at Newlyn Harbour. We continue to receive regular positive feedback regarding the cleanliness and condition of the facilities that we provide.

This year we've continued to make further improvements to the hand washing facilities as part of a rolling upgrading and maintenance programme.

You can find out more about the public toilets, where they are and their opening times on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/public-toilets

Community Toilet Scheme

We were one of the first local councils to introduce a 'Community Toilet Scheme' to boost our existing public toilet services. The scheme provides funding to local businesses to enable them to open their toilet facilities to members of the public to use free of charge.

13 businesses across Penzance, Newlyn, Heamoor, and Gulval are currently part of our scheme. All the businesses taking part receive funding from us to offer this service so you don't need to spend a penny!

You can find out more about the community toilets, where they are and their opening times on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/community-toilet-scheme/



Penzance Community Toilet Scheme participating business sign

Wellfields Car Park

We own and manage Wellfields Car Park (next to Penlee Park). It provides good value long-stay parking for people working in and visiting Penzance. The current price for a 24-hour ticket is £2.50 (subject to annual review). The car park has 141 spaces, including 4 spaces for Blue Badge Holders.

We also operate a Quarterly Parking Permit Scheme to provide further cost savings to those who use the car park regularly. All income from the car park is used to maintain the car park itself. You can find out more information on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/wellfields-car-park

Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza

Working closely with [Kerbs Skateboard Association](#), we manage and maintain the [Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza](#). The Plaza is open to all abilities of bikers, skaters and scooters all year round.

The cleanliness and upkeep of the facility is a credit to the Kerbs Association who promote ownership and responsibility amongst users to ensure it remains in good condition.

An earmarked reserve for the Plaza was established in 2020 to help fund future improvement projects with the support of Kerbs Association.



Foxes Lane Play Park, Mousehole

We took on Foxes Lane Play Park in Mousehole from Cornwall Council in 2021 and have since carried out a refurbishment project to improve the facilities for families in the village.

In the past year, our teams have continued with a rolling maintenance and cleaning programme to keep the space clean, safe and welcoming for children and families.



Heamoor Old School Field

Penzance Council owns and manages the [Old School Field in Heamoor](#) (located next to the former primary school on Madron Road).

Over the last few years we have carried out lots of improvement works to make the field an accessible community space for all residents to enjoy. We have installed a community noticeboard, benches, swings, bins and new hard surface path.

We also have a brilliant group of local volunteers known as the HGVs (the Heamoor Garden Volunteers) who help us to maintain the flower beds at the field!

If you would like to hold a community event at the field, please get in touch with our offices and our Leisure & Amenities Team will talk you through what you need to do to book the space!



Penzance Jewish Cemetery

Penzance Council look after the Grade II listed Penzance Jewish Cemetery, located between Leskinnick Terrace and Mount Street.

It was established in 1740 and is one of the best-preserved eighteenth century Jewish cemeteries in the UK, outside of London.

The Cemetery is Grade II listed. This means that the cemetery has been recognised by Historic England as having special architectural and historic interest. The listing also brings the cemetery under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.

We work closely with Penlee House Gallery & Museum staff who supervise maintenance works to ensure the site's heritage is protected.

Access to the Jewish Cemetery is strictly by appointment only - please [contact the Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery](#).



Pavement Weeding

Our Leisure & Amenities Team carry out weeding on over 120km of pavements across the whole parish!

As part of [our Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), we do not use any chemicals and the weeding is done using electric powered tools.



Fisherman Memorial, Newlyn Green

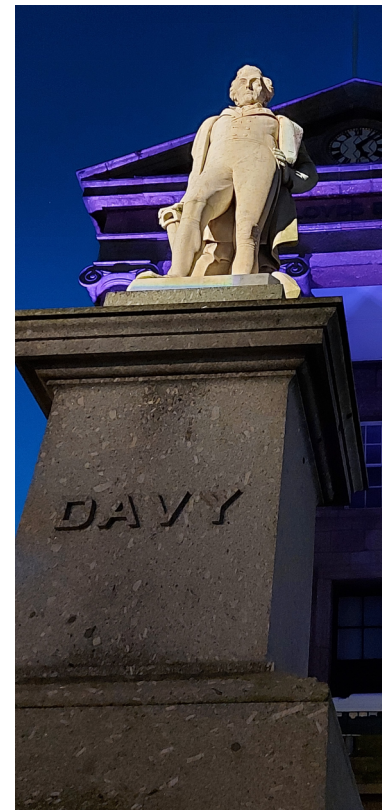
Memorial maintenance

We look after 6 memorials across the parish, including:

- Eileen McGrigor Memorial, Newlyn
- Fisherman Memorial, Newlyn Green
- Humphry Davy Statue, Market Jew Street
- Mousehole War Memorial
- Newlyn War Memorial
- Penzance War Memorial, Battery Rocks



Mousehole War Memorial, Mousehole Harbour



Humphry Davy statue, Market Jew Street



Penzance Coat of Arms

Events

Our Corporate Service Team organise a wide range of civic and ceremonial events within the community each year

May 2023 - King Charles III Coronation Celebrations



Top left: Crowds of people sat on the grass enjoying the Coronation Big Lunch at Morrab Gardens. **Top right:** Free Cream teas ready to be served at the Coronation Big Lunch. **Bottom left:** students from Mounts Bay Academy performing on the Morrab Gardens bandstand at the Coronation Big Lunch. **Bottom right:** Cllrs Young, How, S Elliott, and W Elliott on the Penzance Council stall at the Coronation Big Lunch.

May 2023 - Mayor Choosing & Community Awards



From left to right: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Cadet Edward Willetts (Police Cadet), Corporal Harry Jenkins (Air Cadet), Cadet 1st Class Sonny Marsden (Sea Cadet), Cllr Jonathan How (former Mayor), Terry Sampson (Citizen of the Year 2023), Isla Grace Walker (Young Citizen of the Year 2023), Joe Symonds (Sir Humphry Davy Prize Winner 2023). **From left to right:** Jonathan How (former Mayor), the late Jack Dixon (new Honorary Freeman), Mario Fonk (new Honorary Freeman), James Hardy (Town Clerk). (Sadly, Jack passed away in November 2023)

June 2023 - St John's Feast Parade



The Golowan Banner being carried at the start of the parade (Photo: Pete Carter)



We worked closely with Golowan Festival CIC to organise the civic parade and church service for St John's Feast. St John is the patron saint of Penzance and has been incorporated into the Golowan Festival since its revival in 1991.

The word 'Golowan' is made up of two Cornish/Kernewek words: Gool Jowan. Gool means feast/festival and Jowan is the Cornish name for John - so Golowan means the Feast of St John!

We are proud to be the festival's Lead Partner and provide grant funding each year to ensure Golowan remains on the calendar of Penzance events!

June 2023 - Armed Forces Flag Relay



Veterans, dignitaries and local representatives hold the Armed Forces Day flag in front of St John's Hall

November 2023 - Remembrance



Cllr Stephen Reynolds (current Mayor) lays a poppy wreath at the Penzance War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday 2023.



Sea and Army Cadet Standard Bearers at the Penzance War Memorial.

Looking forward

The 2024/25 budget

At the Full Council meeting held on Monday 15 January 2024, Councillors agreed a budget for 2024/25 and set out plans to spend over £2 million in the parish from 1 April 2024.

Over many years, spending cuts by central government and Cornwall Council mean that town councils like ours have had to step up the level of services we provide and our precept has to reflect this. To keep providing much-used services, our

precept has increased by 7.12% (the overall Council Tax bill is not increasing by 7.12%).

We want to deliver local services and support our local communities not just today, but in the future too! This year's precept rise will safeguard services now, while putting us on a sound financial footing for the years ahead. Below we have outlined how we plan to spend money in the parish over the next 12 months.

Community

Including, but not limited to:

- Pengarth Day Centre
- ASB Officer
- 19 CCTV Cameras
- 7 Public Toilets
- 13 Community Toilets
- Water fountain (Wherrytown)
- Penzance Football Club
- Education & family workshops
(at Penlee House)

£367,113
estimated

Grants

- General Grants
- Climate Emergency Grants
- Social Action Grants
- Youth Work & Activities

£71,158

Arts, Culture & Heritage

Including, but not limited to:

- Penlee House
- Golowan
- Christmas Lights
- Town Flags & Prom Banners
- Civic & Community events

£938,308
estimated

Parks, Play & Open Spaces

Including, but not limited to:

- Princess May Recreation Ground
- Penlee Park
- Alexandra Play & Tennis Courts
- Heamoor Old School Field
- Foxes Lane Park, Mousehole
- Wherrytown Skatepark
- 190 allotment plots (approx)

£778,635
estimated

Penzance Council's element of residents' Council Tax Bill from 1 April 2024 is:

Council Tax Bands	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Annual Total	£214.13	£249.82	£285.51	£321.20	£392.58	£463.96	£535.34	£642.40
Monthly Total	£17.84	£20.82	£23.79	£26.77	£32.72	£38.66	£44.61	£53.53

(80% of households in the parish are Council Tax Band A-C)

Over the coming year, we hope to build on our success and improve our parish for all of our residents

Penlee House

Redevelopment of the Coach House

Plans have been developed for the redevelopment of the Coach House to provide a restaurant/café, to supplement a smaller café at the Gallery. Penzance Council has made an application to the Town Deal Enterprise Fund to support this renovation.

The new café will offer increased opening hours and more covers, providing vital income generation to the Gallery. The Gallery entrance will be refurbished to create improved retail space and hospitality.

Exhibitions

This summer, Penlee House is staging a major exhibition: 'The Exceptional Harold Harvey'. Harold Harvey (1874-1941) was Penzance-born and the subjects that inspired him were those found on his doorstep: Cornish people at work, children at play, and intimate interiors.

Many of his contemporaries in Newlyn were visiting 'observers', but for Harvey, who rarely left Cornwall but was a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy, painting the Cornish world was his whole life.

This autumn, Kurt Jackson will be curating an exhibition at Penlee House of paintings exploring botany in the changing landscape of West Cornwall over the last 150 years.



Harvey, Harold - In the Whiting Ground, c.1900 - Penlee House Gallery and Museum

Family Activities

Penlee House will continue to offer free family activities every Saturday afternoon 2:30 - 3:30pm. Please also [check their website for holiday activities](#) too!

Leisure & Amenities

Open Spaces Team

Following the success of our weed treatment programme, Penzance Council have resolved to explore the possibility of developing an extension of the open spaces team.

Footpaths and pavements are one of the elements that link our parish together and ensuring that these are maintained at a high standard has been identified as a key priority for Penzance Council moving forward.

Initially, work will be undertaken to see how an additional team could manage the cutting of non-tarmacked footpaths, and how an extended team could improve on our current street weeding programme.

To be successful we would need the programme to slot in effectively with Cornwall Council's responsibilities around fly-tipping and street cleaning. We hope that initial proposals will be put in front of Councillors by the end of June 2024.

Green Flag for Penlee Park

After achieving 5 stars in the Pride in Parks Awards for the fourth time running, our Gardening Team will be looking to achieve the coveted Green Flag Award for Penlee Park over the coming year.

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world.

Community events

The cultural life of our parish is very important and we are committed to promoting and supporting its distinct cultural heritage and identity now and into the future.

Over the coming year we will continue to organise our own community events and financially support the many community groups and organisations who put on events for our residents to enjoy.



Grant Funded by

PENZANCE COUNCIL



Penzance Council

Penlee Centre
Penlee Park
Penzance
TR18 4HE

01736 363405

info@penzance-tc.gov.uk

www.penzance-tc.gov.uk

