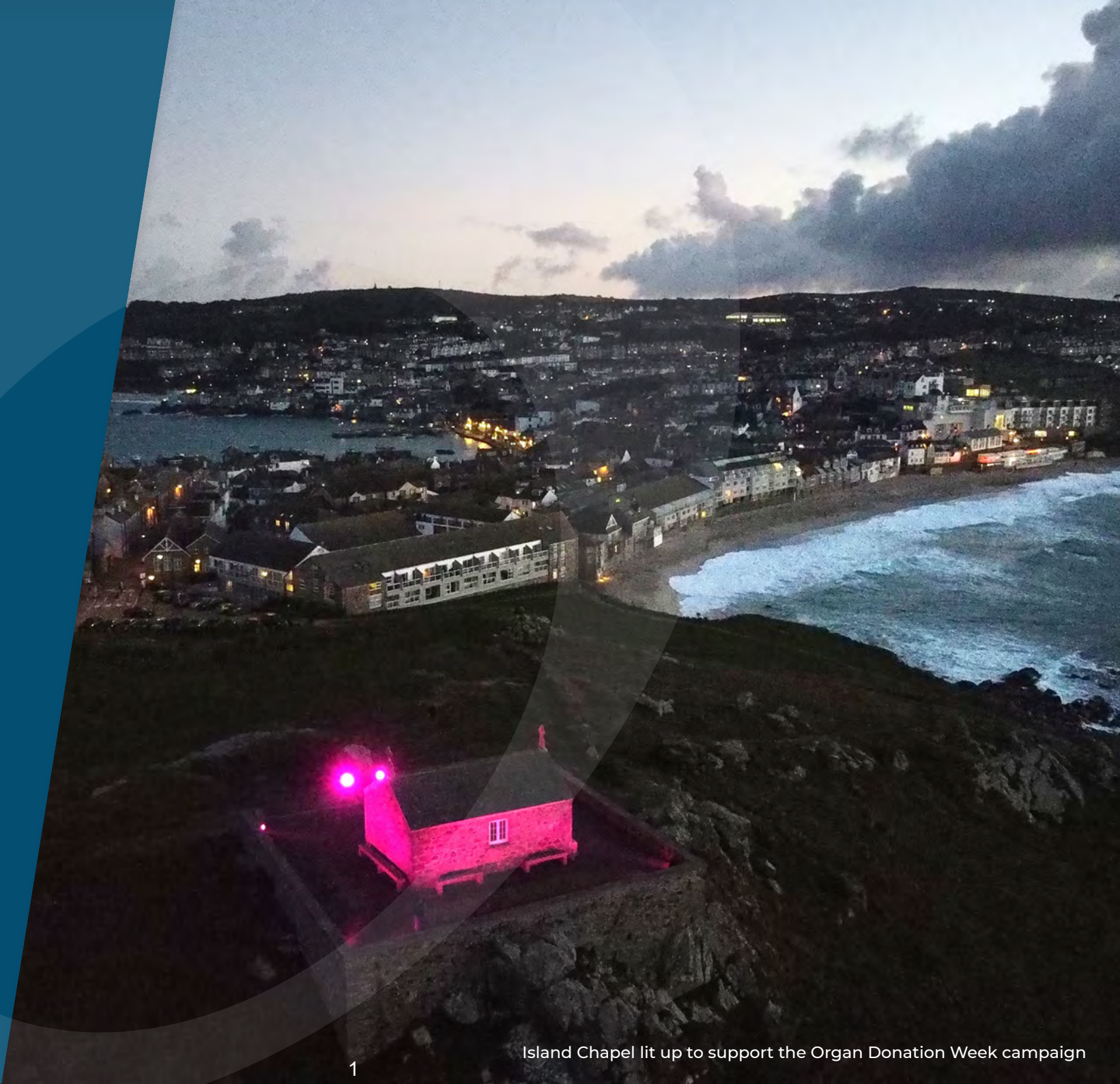




# St Ives Town Council

Annual  
Review  
2022-23





# Introduction from Mayor Kirsty Arthur



Town Mayor  
Kirsty Arthur

Welcome to the Annual Report of the year 2022-23, a busy time for all of us as we attempted to "catch up" after two years of uncertainty.

We enjoyed some amazing weather in the Summer, and the very special occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I enjoyed walking along the harbour, as it teemed with people sharing picnics and even managed to track down the official jubilee trifle!

Yet just weeks later, we were marking the shocking death of our Queen and events which, for most of us, will be unique in our lifetime.

Our community has been hit hard by the extreme rise in energy prices and fuel bills. But I continue to be inspired by so many in the town, who are still able to help each other. Groups like Food Share, St Ives Food Bank, and the Citizen's Advice Bureau are needed more than ever, and the Council is proud to support and help fund their work. The Salvation Army and Flashlight have done much to support young people and this will continue to be a priority for the Council. I have also valued my involvement with the Hayle Day Care Centre and Trewartha Care Home in Carbis Bay which support many of our older residents - and even managed to attend a centenary birthday party!

Looking back at my calendar, I reflect on the richness and diversity of our town. I have been privileged to attend many charity and community events from the ancient to the very modern. I've celebrated important traditions with the Old Cornwall Society such as Crying the Neck, our historic Feast Day and Mayor Choosing, accompanied Father Christmas and visited so many community fayres, club celebrations, and civic occasions. I have kicked rugby balls (poorly), flown kites (very poorly), cut ribbons, and shaken many hands - but most of all I have enjoyed being able to share these events with you all. One event that will stand out, of course is the collaboration between the Council and the community to finally see the Edward Hain Hospital building returned to us.

The Council has made some huge strides this year. We published our first ever strategic plan, recruited and retained a strong staff team and welcomed new councillors, who have helped broaden public representation and community engagement. We have invested in local improvements, from flowers and benches to toilets. With monumental plans to improve the Guildhall, a fresh and dynamic library service, and progress on our devolution plan - there is much to celebrate.

It has been an honour to stand at the helm of this community for these past few years and see our team deliver on so many of our ambitions. We will continue to strive to improve and collaborate and protect all that is special about our community's heritage.

Kirsty



Jubilee Celebrations

# About the Council

## Halsetown



Senara Wilson-Hodges



Charlie Hodson



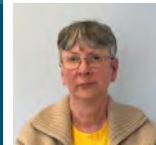
Kirsty Arthur



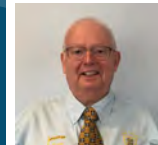
Lisa Smith



Andrew Mitchell



Joan Beveridge



Kenny Messenger



Michael Evamy

## St Ives West

## East & Carbis Bay

## Lelant



James Ryall



Luke Rogers



Sinead McNamee



Rachel Gaunt



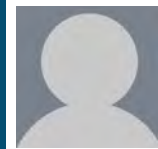
Steve Hynes



Tony Harris



Johnnie Wells



Councillor Vacancy

## About the Town Council

St Ives is a Town Council with 16 councillors, supported by a town clerk and 25 council employees. Local Town and Parish Councils form the second tier of local government. Unlike the Unitary Cornwall Council, which has to deliver statutory services like housing, planning and waste, Town Councils focus on very local services. From benches to footpath cutting, running the new skate park to the library - we use our well-being powers to help our communities.

## Our Core Values

- **Ambitious for the future.** We want St Ives to be a happy, healthy vibrant place where everyone can thrive. We will be forward thinking and innovative to achieve positive outcomes.
- **Celebrating our history and culture.** We value the rich history and culture which make St Ives special. We will continue to celebrate, promote and invest in our unique heritage.
- **Championing St Ives.** We will put St Ives at the heart of everything we do.
- **Collaborative – working with others.** We can achieve more working with others. We will work closely with other councils, the local community, voluntary groups, and businesses to develop common goals and get things done.

## Committees

The Council manages its work in 6 Committees. Each of the Committees delivers an annual work programme to help the Council deliver. Each has priority projects and an annual work programme:

### The Community and Environment Committee

Is responsible for social, cultural, community and environmental issues and projects

### The Facilities Committee

Is responsible for the repair and maintenance of Council's physical assets and properties and how they are run. It also looks after weddings, events and live performance at the concert hall

### The Planning Committee

Is responsible for commenting on planning proposals and implementing and reviewing St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan

### The Finance and General Purposes Committee

Is responsible for the Council's spending, land and property, policies, and strategies

### The Staffing Committee

Is responsible for dealing with all staffing matters, both policy and operational

### The Devolution and Place Shaping Panel

Is responsible for taking the lead on discussions and negotiations with Cornwall Council for devolved services, facilities and functions.

# Councillors Attendance

## Council

	16 May	18 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	08 Sep	13 Oct	08 Dec	16 Feb	% Att.
Arthur, L	X	✓	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25
Arthur, K	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Beveridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	88
Dale	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	86
Evamy	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	75
Gaunt	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	63
Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	88
Hodson	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	75
Hynes	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	75
McNamee	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	63
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Rogers	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	63
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wilson-Hodges	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	100

## Planning

	19 May	23 Jun	14 Jul	11 Aug	06 Oct	10 Nov	01 Dec	05 Jan	23 Feb	23 Mar	% Att.
Beveridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
Hodson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	90
Hynes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
McNamee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Rogers	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	50
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	90
Wilson-Hodges	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	X	✓	✓	75

## Community & Environment

	26 May	25 Aug	20 Oct	12 Jan	% Att.
Beveridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Dale	✓	✓	✓	X	75
Evamy	✓	X	✓	✓	75
Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hodson	X	✓	✓	X	50
McNamee	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	100

## Facilities

	30 Jun	01 Sep	03 Nov	19 Jan	9 Mar	% Att.
Arthur	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	80
Beveridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Dale	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	100
Evamy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Harris	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
Hodson	✓	X	✓	✓	X	60
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	80

## Finance & General Purposes

	07 Jul	01 Sep	29 Sep	17 Nov	26 Jan	30 Mar	% Att.
Beveridge	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	67
Dale	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	N/A	80
Harris	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	83
Hynes	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	67
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	67
Wilson-Hodges	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	100

## Staffing

	14 Jun	07 Jul	29 Nov	14 Mar	% Att.
Arthur	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Dale	✓	✓	X	X	67
Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hynes	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	X	✓	✓	75

## Devolution & Place Shaping Panel

	11 Jul	30 Nov	22 Mar	% Att.
Arthur	✓	✓	✓	67
Beveridge	✓	✓	✓	100
Dale	X	X	X	0
Evamy	N/A	✓	✓	100
Gaunt	✓	✓	✓	100
Harris	X	X	✓	33
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	N/A	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	100
Wilson-Hodges	N/A	✓	N/A	100



# What the Town Council Does

**Your council tax pays for the police, Cornwall Council and Town and Parish Councils and it can sometimes be confusing to know who is responsible for what**

- Cornwall Council is the principal Council in Cornwall. It has lots of legal duties to deliver services such as schools, care for children and adults, highways, domestic waste, planning.
- In addition, there are 213 Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall. These are local councils and they don't have many legal duties (things they **have** to do), but they do have many powers which they can use to help their local communities. Town Councils are becoming more and more ambitious about what they want to achieve for their communities. With large councils having their budgets cut, local councils are stepping into the gap to do more and prevent services being lost.

## **St Ives Town Council currently owns, delivers and manages the following services:**

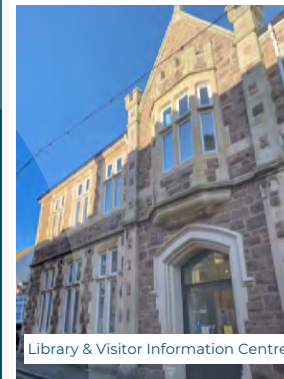
- The public CCTV system
- 7 lots of public toilets in the parish
- The Library and Visitor Information Service
- The Guildhall concert hall, putting on events and live performances
- Weddings at the Guildhall and chapel blessings at the Island Chapel
- Heritage buildings including the two historic chapels, the Guildhall and library, the Huer's hut, Market House, St Ia's well
- 220 public benches
- 74 allotment plots
- Maintain the Island Community Centre
- Funding a community grants programme
- Running youth projects
- Manages retail and commercial spaces for rent (e.g. Market House, the Guildhall, the Island Centre)
- Hosting important traditional feasts and events (Feast, Knill, good Friday boating, mayor choosing, New Year's Eve)
- The Palemon Best park and skate park
- Hosts farmers, arts & craft markets
- Provided responses to 260 planning applications
- Applies its adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies
- Licensing and enforcement for ticket sellers and street businesses
- Footpath cutting and street weeding.



New tiller for the St Ives Lugger, Barnabus



Weddings at the Guildhall



Library & Visitor Information Centre



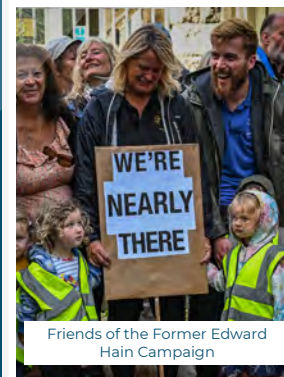
St Ives & Camaret-sur-Mer Twinning Celebrations



The Loving Cup at the Mayor Choosing 2022



Dove St Toilets Refurbishment



Friends of the Former Edward Hain Campaign



New Year's Eve at the Guildhall

Credit: Nik Read



# Community & Environment Committee



**Vice- Chair**  
Sinead McNamee



## Committee Aims

- To improve the quality and number of community facilities in the parish
- To develop closer links with community initiatives and voluntary sector groups
- To respond to the declared climate change emergency

## Future Goals

- Deliver projects in our climate emergency action plan
- Increase the amount and quality of community infrastructure in St Ives, (benches, bins, street planting, allotments, play equipment) and ensure it is managed locally
- Champion the delivery of more affordable housing
- Support the delivery of a community café at the Palemon Best recreation ground
- Support the development of plans for green spaces and parks across the parish and take over their management, through devolution
- Work with BID to deliver an innovative commercial waste solution
- Working with others, deliver local community events, including the Town's key festivals and New Year's Eve
- Ensure the better management of the harbour front through new licensing arrangements
- Continue to prioritise investment and funding for youth projects

## What's Happened This Year

- Delivered many park improvements include a new drinking / refill fountain, picnic tables and benches, repainting the play equipment and secured funding for CCTV and a composting toilet
- Continued funding the successful Skate ranger project in partnership with the skate park group and supported a launch event
- Installed the first phase of our new recycled St Ives blue benches
- Introduced a licensing scheme for boat trip ticket sellers and hairbraiders to improve management of the seafront
- Adopted climate action plan and set up a new group, working with other organisations to deliver actions. Many are underway, such as switching to 100% renewable energy across the Council sites
- Working with a townwide low carbon transport group championing pedestrianisation and improved cycling and walking routes
- Hosted a Town Twinning visit with Camaret in Brittany to mark our 40th anniversary.
- Successfully bid for funding to re-develop Richmond Gardens and developed a scheme for community consultation
- Crowdfunded for the first black and white heritage plaque in St Ives, marking its link with Virginia Woolf
- Maintaining high quality footpaths and coastpath routes
- Continued to give grant funding to important local organisations including the Hayle Day Care Centre, May Day, the St Ives Archive and September Festival



# Facilities Committee



**Committee Chair**  
Johnnie Wells

## Committee Aims

- To improve the quality and energy performance of the Council's property and buildings
- To manage high quality facilities available for the benefit of the community and which deliver income to support service delivery
- To increase the number of community buildings and spaces

## Future Goals

- We will aim to make more of our buildings accessible, including support for a new changing places toilet
- We will repair the Library & Visitor Information Centre (VIC) roof
- We will pilot charging for high volume toilet sites, to reduce the cost burden on council tax payers
- We will modernise the Library & VIC layout and introduce new signage
- We will celebrate the Town's rich cultural past, introducing black and white heritage plaques and submit a funding application for the huer's hut

## What's Happened This Year

- Securing £3.11 million of capital funding to develop the Guildhall as a dynamic arts venue
- Securing planning permission and funding the replacement of the Library & VIC roof and a new solar array
- Installed a new lift at the Guildhall to ensure our buildings are accessible for the whole community
- Let a new high quality toilet cleaning contract with a local company
- Delivered an exciting programme of live performances at the concert hall, including sell out live music, ground breaking theatre and taking performances onto the Island.
- Increasing the programme of activities and events in the Library & VIC from yoga to silk printing
- Launched a new St Ives box office to sell tickets on behalf of all local venues
- Modernised facilities at the Island Community Centre, including heating
- Hosted over 90 weddings and blessings and an open house wedding fair
- Launched an on-line shop for the visitor information centre to raise funds to support the services
- Secured funding for a changing places fully accessible beach toilet
- Investment in the repair and maintenance of public toilets at Dove Street and West Pier



# Planning Committee



**Committee Chair**  
Kenny Messenger

## Committee Aims

- To provide meaningful scrutiny and comments on all planning applications
- To support an effective pre-application process
- To be lead committee for the review of the neighbourhood development plan
- To respond to important national and countywide policy documents

## Future Goals

- Support the development of planning briefs to safeguard important community assets, including the former Edward Hain Hospital and the huer's hut
- Review the role and status of the St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Proactively use planning policy and future investments to protect independent businesses and the high street and meet the needs for affordable housing
- Support affordable housing and local needs housing proposals

## What's Happened This Year

- The Planning Committee met monthly and provided comments on 260 planning applications
- Held a number of pre-application meetings with developers and provided feedback on their proposals which often improved the submitted scheme
- Championed and supported community concerns over controversial planning proposals including the Carbis Bay Hotel, Premier Inn, land SW of Joannie's Avenue and the former Cottage Hotel
- Supported planning conditions which safeguarded new dwellings as permanent homes by applying the H2 planning policy on over 120 new community homes
- Provided an effective voice in a number of enforcement matters, reporting breaches of planning where they were identified.



# Finance & General Purposes Committee



Committee Chair  
Tony Harris

## Committee Aims

- **Budgeting:** To increase the Council's financial resilience maximising income, identifying efficiency savings and increasing the level of general reserves.
- **Procurement:** To oversee the review and successful letting of contracts for capital works, services and utilities
- **Property Management:** To ensure that the Council's commercial property portfolio is operating efficiently
- **Audit:** To review all financial, risk and internal control measures for the year

## Future Goals

- To ensure we have the financial capacity to support further devolution of services from Cornwall Council
- To build on our past successes in bidding for external project grant funding
- To adopt a medium-term financial strategy in order to better plan for an uncertain future
- To ensure that our finances support imminent major projects, such as the Guildhall Redevelopment Scheme
- To ensure that we harness the most cost-effective technologies to underpin what we do and how we do it
- To embark on selected investments , designed to reduce costs over time.
- To work further toward higher accreditation for Quality Council status.
- To continue to be a low cost; low-precepting town council.

## What's Happened This Year

- We continued to provide good value for money by being a low-spending, low-precepting town council
- We managed to improve our financial reserves to more sustainable levels
- We worked with others to secure the former Edward Hain Hospital for the Community
- We rationalised our VAT status in order to save costs on important capital projects
- We received positive reports from our internal and external auditors for sound financial management
- We continued to invest in our town CCTV system
- We achieved 100% occupancy levels in our commercial property portfolio
- We provided £16,000 grant funding to deserving community bodies in the parish prioritising those helping with the cost of living crisis
- We achieved a Quality Award in the Local Council's Award Scheme
- We adopted new IT systems to enable us to provide better, more efficient and more interactive services , moving our data to the cloud and began livestreaming meetings.



# Staffing Committee



**Steve Hynes**  
Committee Chair

## Committee Aims

- To develop policies, procedures and strategies to support the Council's ambition to become an excellent employer
- To recruit and retain staff and support their professional development to better meet the organisation's aims and objectives

## Future Goals

- Review the staffing implications of devolving services from Cornwall Council
- Offer support and training opportunities to help staff to perform at a high level
- Review the Health & Safety framework to ensure best practice and compliance
- Regularly review all HR policies and procedures to support a modern effective workforce.

## What's Happened This Year

- The staff team was restructured to better align with evolving service demands
- Ensured all staff are on secure contracts
- Recruited and supported 2 new apprentices into the workforce
- Recruited new cultural volunteers for the Library & VIC and Guildhall
- Filled all council vacancies with suitably qualified and professional individuals
- Continued to be a living wage employer
- Invested in a training programme, provided new uniforms and upgraded staff facilities
- Reviewed safeguarding, health and safety and staff handbook policies



# Devolution & Place Shaping Panel



**Committee Chair**  
Rachael Gaunt

## Committee Aims

Devolution means taking on the ownership and management of Cornwall Council land and property at local level. The Council has taken on toilets, the library and benches and has asked if it can take ownership of many other community green spaces and buildings. The Council has several aims in doing so:

- Using land and buildings to address economic issues, (affordable workspace, housing) and prevent them being sold off for holiday and second homes
- Re-imagining and investing in important green spaces to develop parks for the future and community growing spaces, allotments and nurseries
- Taking on some income generating assets to create cross-subsidy that funds expanding environmental services, green parks and spaces
- Developing a property portfolio which supports affordable workspace, maintains a broad base of retail businesses on the high street and supports professional craftspeople

## Future Goals

- We will progress an ambitious devolution package to take on the ownership and management of key parks and green spaces and work with the community to re-imagine their future role
- Through devolution we will explore more opportunities for community growing and allotment spaces



Flight Day 2022 on The Island

- We will manage small affordable commercial and retail spaces to assist local businesses and aim to increase the portfolio through devolution
- Following approval from Cornwall Council, we will begin a detailed programme of community consultation on the plans

## What's Happened This Year

St Ives has been taking ownership of community land and property for over a decade. For the past three years, the Panel has been leading the most ambitious negotiation to date, which would see almost all Cornwall Council assets in St Ives devolved into local management. In the past year, this exciting project has gained real momentum with many discussions at political, and director level. We now have an agreed set of places and buildings which all parties agree could be better managed locally. This needs formal approval from Cornwall Council cabinet this Summer.



# Resources & Finances

## How the Town Council is Funded

The Town Council's budget for 2023-24 is £1,517,501. Unlike some Councils, St Ives is able to raise some of its budget from services it charges for, such as commercial rents, room hire, event and bar income, weddings and blessings. By maximising our income, the amount needed from the Council Tax is far less. Next year, the Council plans to raise £412,016 of its budget from income, that means 27% less comes from Council Tax (also known as the Precept). After income, the balance, £1,067,182 comes from Council Tax. This is a small proportion (9.22%) of your overall Council Tax bill, paid to Cornwall Council, which is passed onto the Town Council.

Average Cornwall Council tax bill for 2022-23 in St Ives (band D) property = £2,274.29

Of this:

Average annual Town Council element for 2022-23 (band D) property = £209.94

Monthly cost of Town Council services for a Band D household = £17.50 (£4.04 a week)

## What is the Council's Budget Spent on?

A significant proportion of the Council's budget goes into running front line services, such as all the public conveniences, the Library and Visitor and Information Service and also repairing and maintaining the historic buildings it owns, such as the chapels. It cuts footpaths, carries out street weeding and manages the recreation ground. It also give grants to local community organisations and the management and improvement of 220 benches in the parish. The table on the following page shows the Council's income and expenditure by Committee.

For next year, the Council has committed to a large programme (over £250,000) of capital investment. In 2023-24, we are investing in:

- Repairs and replacement of the library roof and new solar panels to reduce heating costs
- Upgrading public toilets
- Funds for the modernisation of the concert hall to upgrade the facilities for a new programme of live events
- Preparing for devolution - taking over the ownership and management of a significant number of community assets from Cornwall Council





# Resources & Finances

Credit: Verity Westcott

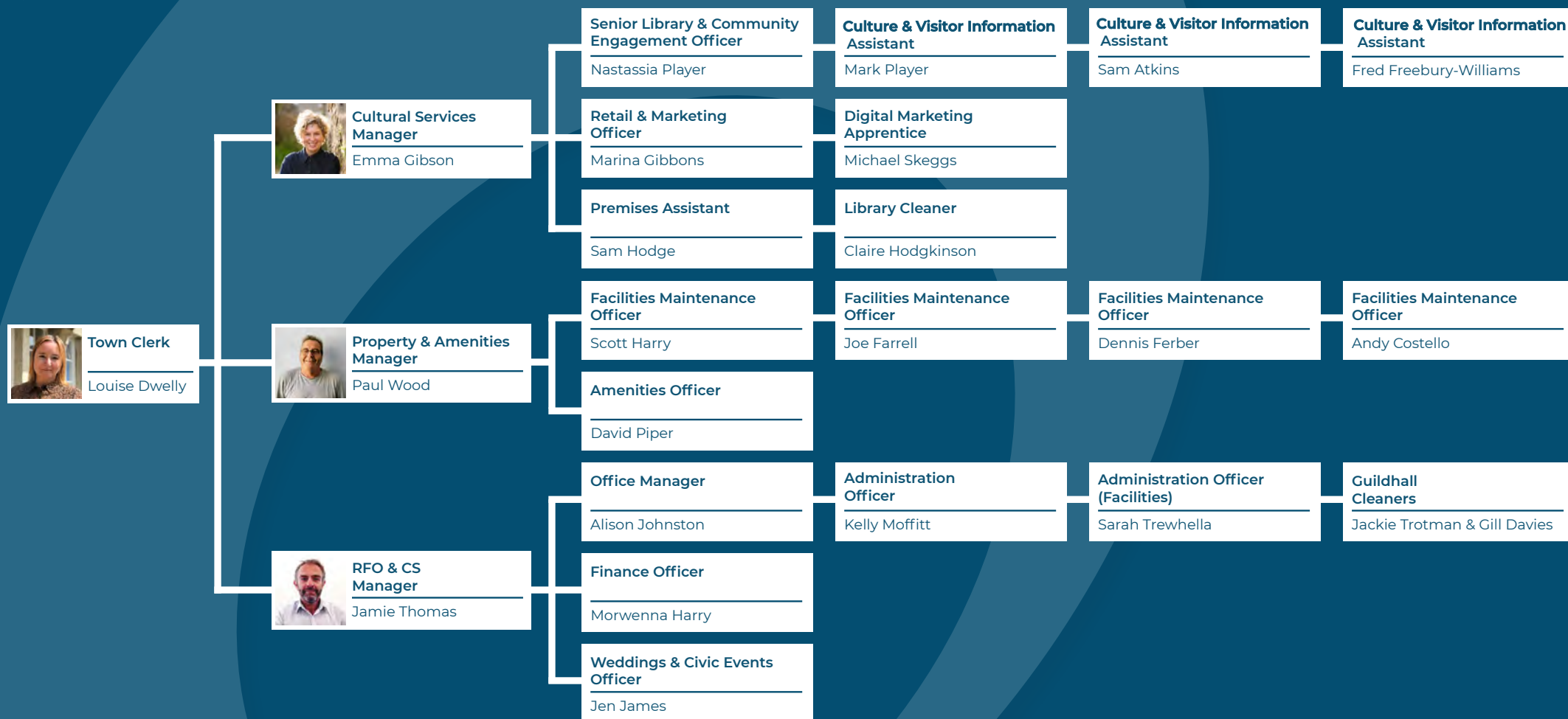
## Overview of Proposed Budget 2023-24

	Draft Budgeted Income (£)	Draft Budgeted Expenditure (£)
<b>Finance &amp; General Purposes</b>		
Administration	11,100	447,955
Community Provision	-	21,375
Planning	-	5,400
Devolution	85,000	85,000
Use of Reserves	38,303	-
<b>Facilities Committee</b>		
Concert & Guildhall	64,696	100,230
Guildhall Bar	30,000	20,000
Library & Information Service	40,100	266,322
Public Conveniences	31,029	228,666
Island Centre	23,700	17,544
Market House, Huers Hut & Lodges	53,178	3,700
Chapels	8,900	2,750
Facilities Maintenance & Management	56,455	247,814
<b>Community &amp; Environment Committee</b>		
Allotments	5,398	2,750
Civic/Hospitality	-	25,970
Amenities & Public Realm	2,460	31,225
Palemon Best & Open Spaces	-	10,800
<b>Total (difference = Precept £1,067,182)</b>	<b>450,319</b>	<b>1,517,501</b>





# Council Staff



St Ives Town Council

## St Ives Town Council

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 @stiveslibrary