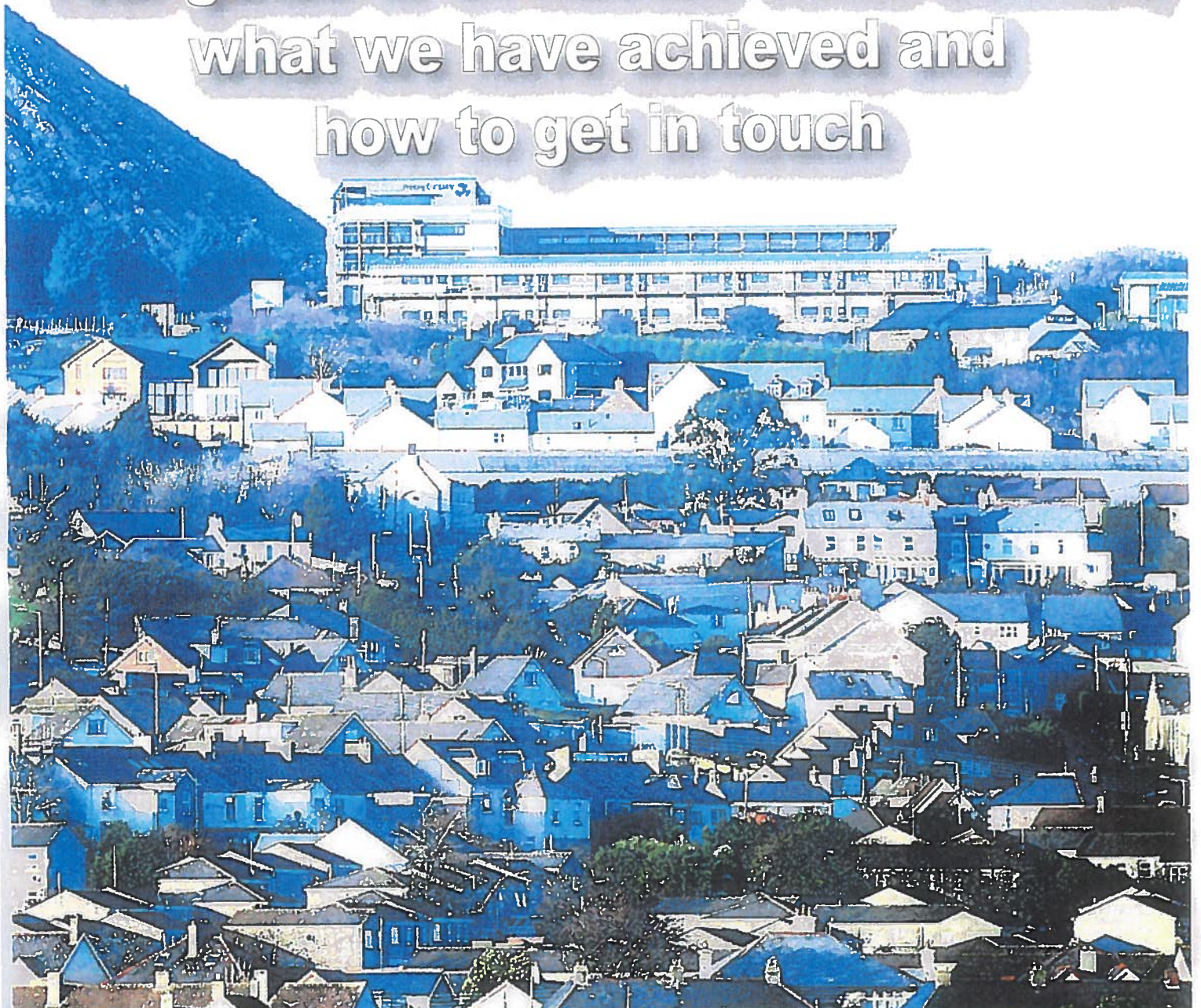


St Austell Town Council



Annual Report 2014/15

Your guide to St Austell Town Council,
what we have achieved and
how to get in touch



St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council
 Room 231
 St Austell One Shop
 39 Penwinick Road
 St Austell
 Cornwall PL25 5DR
 Telephone: 01726 223374

Email: sgwilliams@staustellc.cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.staustelltowncouncil.com

Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has wide ranging responsibilities, including:

- Education
- Social Services
- Highways and Transportation
- Determining Planning Applications and Development Control.
- Collection of Council Tax
- Benefits Administration
- Social Housing
- Libraries and Arts
- Fire Brigade
- Magistrates Courts and Probation Services
- Waste Disposal and Refuse collection
- Environmental Health
- Leisure and Parks
- Youth Services

Cornwall Council can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council
 County Hall
 Treyew Road
 Truro
 Cornwall TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100
 Email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2014/15 civic year Cornwall Council had five Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Brown, Bull, French, Heyward and King.



TOWN TEAM:
 Clerk David Pooley with Deputy Clerk Sara Gwilliams and (seated) Assistant Kimberley Gay

or

Cornwall Council
 One Stop Shop
 39 Penwinick Road
 St Austell
 PL25 5DR

Message from the Mayor

Message from the Mayor

Being the Mayor of St Austell has been a huge honour.

My wife Gilly and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the past year. I have sought to represent our town to the best of my ability and make sure the views of local people have been listened to.

I want to say a huge thank you to my fellow Town Councillors and also to our council staff David Pooley, Sara Gwilliams and Kimberley Gay for their hard work and support over the past year.

It has certainly been an interesting year for our town and the council. We have seen further cuts to the services provided by Cornwall Council as they continue to need to save money from their budget. This has meant the Town Council having to decide whether to allow certain services to be stopped or to take responsibility for delivering them locally.

So far we have taken on the responsibility for maintaining footpaths, spraying for weeds on roads and pavements and also for the provision of CCTV coverage in the town centre. I am sure there will be much more to come in the months and years ahead, but we have shown that even though we are still a relatively new council we have the willingness and capacity to provide services where needed.

It has been really pleasing during my year of office to see the Youth Council blossom and grow. Their enthusiasm and passion is wonderful. The outdoor cinema event organised in September was really well supported and a tremendous success.

Following concern expressed by a number of people about street drinking and begging in our town centre, we held an Anti-Social Behaviour Summit and invited representation from a wide range of organisations and agencies. Arising from this a working group was formed which has helped to improve communications between the various organisations operating locally and improved the approach to managing the issues.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the success of



MAYOR DEREK COLLINS

our football team St Austell AFC this year and congratulate all of those connected with the club who have contributed to the success. The football club are working closely with the Town Council and other community groups and will support this year's feast events and Gorsedh Kernow in September 2015. This community spirit is so valuable and commendable.

We have also seen progress on the Town Framework and the Town Council has



MAYOR MAKING: Cllr Derek Collins with wife Gilly (top), being prepared for the ceremony by deputy clerk Sara Gwilliams and with ATC coders's Flo and George

worked hard to make sure that the views of local residents have been made known to Cornwall Council. We can only hope that those views are taken into account when the final document is published. We are now into our seventh year as a Town Council. I believe we are growing into our role and responsibilities and will continue to play a vital role in helping to

provide the leadership our town needs to help make it an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

I have done my best for the past year and I now pass on the chains of office to Cllr Brian Palmer and wish him well for his year as Mayor of our Town.

**Derek Collins
Mayor of St Austell 2014/2015**

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council was formed in June 2009 and has 20 elected Councillors (4 Councillors representing the Cover Ward, 4 Councillors representing Pollair Ward, 2 Councillors representing St Austell Bay Ward, 5 representing Bethel Ward and 5 representing Mount Charles Ward).

A list of current Councillors is included on page 15 of this report. Town Council elections were held in May 2013 and will take place next in 2017.

Each year, the Council elects one councillor to be the Mayor who then acts as the civic leader and chairs Council meetings. The Council has a Code of Conduct and is committed to proper standards and sound corporate governance arrangements.

Meetings are usually held in Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop at Penwinick Road, St Austell. The full Council meets approximately every six weeks. In addition to the full Council meetings, the Council has three standing committees to ensure the effective management of its business:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Planning Committee
- Communities Committee

There is a public participation session at each of the Council's official meetings to allow members of the public to make comments or raise issues about items on the agenda.

From time to time, working groups are formed to address particular issues. A calendar of Council meetings for the forthcoming year can be found on the Council's website at www.staustelltowncouncil.com Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

The Council employs two full-time and one part-time member of staff who are based at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR. These are:

- David Pooley — Town Clerk
- Sara Gwilliams — Deputy Town Clerk
- Kimberley Gay — Mayor's Secretary / Administrative Assistant (Part-time)



MAYORAL TEAM: Mayor Derek Collins with Deputy Mayor Brian Palmer

The Town Council serves the town of St Austell which has a population of approximately 22,000. Services and facilities provided within the town of St Austell are also enjoyed by people living in the surrounding villages and by the many tourists who visit the town each year.

The Town Council is very keen to ensure that however the town changes in the future the process is managed properly and that appropriate infrastructure accompanies it.

The Town Council currently manages very few services. Its main role is to represent and lobby on behalf of local residents and businesses to ensure that their views are taken into account by the larger organisations operating in the area.

It has, however, submitted a business case to Cornwall Council to demonstrate how it could provide more services within the town. Cornwall Council is currently considering this.

The Town Council is consulted on all planning and some licensing applications in its area and in relation to many of the other services provided by Cornwall Council.

The Town Council is keen to work in partnership with Cornwall Council and other agencies in order to ensure delivery of the highest quality services and facilities to local residents.

2014/15 Activities

Feast Week

St Austell Town Council, along with a large number of community groups, charities, businesses and community interest groups, organised a week of feasts in celebration in July 2014 in St Austell. The week was a real success in the town and was recreated in the summer of 2015.

The week included historic talks, walks, a school's concert, a furry dance, a community play, an open air church service, a gargoyle parade and theatrical performances. A number of events had a World War One theme to commemorate the commencement of the war. Most of the events were free for the public to attend and geared towards the entire St Austell community. The Town Council successfully obtained £5,700 of grant funding from

various sources to enable this event to take place.

Town Heritage Scheme

Following the successful completion of the Conservation Area Appraisal for St Austell, the Town Council is working with Cornwall Council and the Market House to bid for a Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme for St Austell. Such bids usually take up to two years to develop.

An initial bid in 2014 was unsuccessful but a further bid is being prepared to be submitted in August 2015.

Townscape Heritage schemes fund quality traditional repairs to targeted historic buildings in Conservation Areas. A scheme in St Austell would complement Management Plan actions in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the ongoing Business Improvement District (BID) scheme. It will boost the local economy and make the town a better place to live, work and visit.

Town Framework

The St Austell and surrounding parishes Town Framework will be a document which will set out a vision and options for the future development and change of the urban area of St Austell and its immediate hinterland. Work has taken place throughout the year with Cornwall Council's planning officers to produce a draft Town Framework consultation document. A number of consultation



PLANNING: BID members and the council have worked together to brighten the town centre



exercises and meetings have taken place and it is hoped that a final Town Framework will be in place within the next 12 months. Once finalised, this document will be part of Cornwall Council's formal planning policies.

St Austell Business Improvement District (BID)

The Business Improvement District (BID) for St Austell became operational in April 2013. This is an initiative funded by local business ratepayers in the town centre to enhance and promote the BID area. The Town Council has supported the BID in its first two years of operation. It is already beginning to make significant progress and has organised a number of events and environmental initiatives in the town centre.

Footpaths/Weed Treatment

Due to cutbacks at Cornwall Council, the Town Council in the summer of 2013 took on the maintenance of the designated footpaths in St Austell for the first time. Responsibility for weed treatment on public highways and pavements also passed to the Town Council in the spring of 2014. The Town Council let and managed contracts with local contractors for these services at a cost significantly lower than being paid by Cornwall Council.

Youth Council

On the 28th April 2014 a Youth Council for St Austell was formally constituted and is currently working very well on a number of events and issues for young



YOUTH COUNCIL: Members promote the successful outdoor cinema event



TORCHLIGHT CARNIVAL: Supported by St Austell Town Council

people in the town. An outdoor cinema event held at the Football Club in September was a resounding success.

Environmental initiatives

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2014/15 we:

- Cleared an area of land at Menacuddle Well
- Improved the flower beds in the town centre
- Provided planting in the red tubs in the town centre
- Arranged for anchors to be displayed on Mount Charles roundabout
- Liaised with Cornwall Council on improvements to local parks
- Continued negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding allotments

Other initiatives

The Town Council has:

- Arranged an anti-social behaviour summit and created a multi-agency working group to address anti-social behaviour is-

sues in and around the town;

- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups. The Council gave 30 grants totalling £9,050 in 2014/15;
- Held negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding the devolution of services;
- Undertaken pre-planning consultations with a number of developers, arranged a number of large scale public meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise concerns and suggest improvements to major planning proposals;
- Responded to consultations affecting the town on many issues including Cornwall Council's Local Plan, a Town Framework Plan, car parking, road improvements, licensing policies and libraries;
- Worked closely with local businesses to strengthen their representation and input local issues;
- Supported the newly formed Friends of Sandy Hill Park with initial fund raising events;
- Provided funding once again to the St Austell Discovery Map, meaning that the map can be distributed free of charge to members of the public.

Standing committees 2014/15

Planning Committee

Community Committee

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Valerie Bradford	Jackie Bull	Valerie Bradford
Derek Collins	Derek Collins	Malcom Brown
Gary King	Anne Double	Derek Collins
Peter Murtagh	Sandra Heyward	Steve Double
Nicky Oxenham	John Keast	Tom French
Brian Palmer	Monica Lake	Robin Leonard
Janet Pollard	Robin Leonard	Peter Murtagh
Jenny Stewart	Richard Pears	Nicky Oxenham
Graham Walker	Janet Pollard	Brian Palmer
	Jenny Stewart	Graham Walker

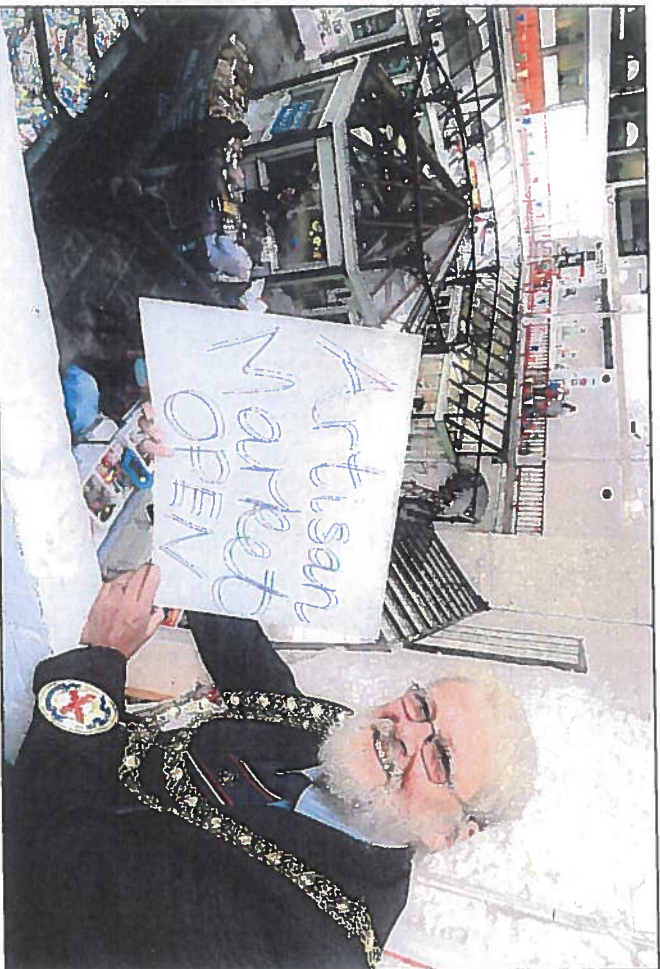
Working Parties

A number of working groups met during 2014 /15 to help progress Council business. These were:

- CCTV Consultation Working Group
- Town Framework Working Group
- Devolution of Services Working Group

Representatives on outside bodies

- St Austell Carnival Committee — Councillor Heyward.
- St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce — Councillor A Double.
- CALC - Langer Councils Liaison Group — Councillor Palmer.
- CCTV Liaison Group — Councillors Collins, Oxenham and Palmer.
- Cornwall Council – Town Framework Steering Group — Councillors S Double and Palmer.
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Flood Forum — Councillor Stewart — Deputy Councillor Collins.
- St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) — Councillors T French and M Brown.
- St Austell Business Improvement District (BID) — Councillor Walker.



BUSY YEAR: Cllr Collins opens the Artisan Market in the Market House, delivers Christmas chocolates to the town's nursing homes (below right), starts the Lions Swimathon (below left) and visits the Brewery's World War One exhibition (bottom)



Annual accounts 2014/15

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. The Council's Accounts are audited annually by an independent internal auditor and forwarded to Grant Thornton, an external auditor, for final appraisal.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

2013/14

2014/15

£

£

RECEIPTS

Miscellaneous Income and Grants	17,325.33
Interest received	1,918.45
Precepts	208,250.00
Council Tax Support Grant	34,323.26
Mayor's Charities Income	150.00
Total Receipts	261,967.04

253,608.14

PAYMENTS

Employee Expenses	99,230.80
Salaries and Wages (inc. oncosts)	487.00
Recruitment costs	857.33
Training Expenses	196.67
Travel & Subsistence	175.22
Chairman's Allowance	187.15
Members' Allowances	
Total	101,134.17

106,364.29

General Administration

Room Hire	20.00
Office Accommodation	5,181.00
Office Supplies	763.82
Refreshments	224.75
Printing and binding	1,049.28
Postages	618.29
IT Support & software	141.64
Website	285.00
General publicity	2,320.00
Insurance	1,898.94
Bank Charges	21.00
Subscriptions	2,933.83
Books and Publications	20.80
Total	15,478.35

17,509.94

PAYMENTS cont.

Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00
Elections	
Grants	19,377.83
Projects	12,331.53
CCTV	50,231.23
Civic Ceremonial	998.09
Audit fees	1,100.00
Mayor's Charities	150.00
Grounds Maintenance	9,277.26
Feast Week	7,564.09
Total Expenses	101,030.03
235,146.11	217,642.55
18,462.03	44,324.49
Surplus for Year	44,324.49
General Fund Balance B/Fwd	94,743.52
Add Surplus for Year	44,324.49
Add Contributions from Reserves	11,059.10
Less Contribution to Reserves	13,932.33
General Fund Balance C/Fwd	136,194.78



TOWN COUNCIL: Councillors elected in May 2013

USEFUL NUMBERS

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999
AND ASK FOR THE SERVICE YOU REQUIRE.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOODLINE

0845 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INCIDENT HOTLINE

0800 807 060

AGE CONCERN

01872 266388

RSPCA ANIMAL WELFARE

0300 1234 999

WESTERN POWER (ELECTRICAL)

0800 365 900

EDF ENERGY

0800 096 9000

SOUTH WEST WATER

0800 169 1144

BRITISH TELECOM

0800 800 151

TRAVELINE

0871 2002233

POLKYTH LEISURE CENTRE

01726 223696

WHEAL MARTYN MUSEUM

01726 850362

ST AUSTELL MOBILITY CENTRE

01726 624060

ST AUSTELL SHOP MOBILITY

01726 70706

RAILWAY ENQUIRIES

08457 484950

ST AUSTELL LIBRARY

0300 1234 111

THE EDEN PROJECT

01726 811911

PINE LODGE GARDENS

01726 73500

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

01726 223374



