



St Austell Town Council Annual Report 2018/19

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





2 Contact

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council
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Pondhu House
Penwinnick Road
St Austell
Cornwall
PL25 5DP

Telephone: 01726 829859

E-mail: info@staustell-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.staustell-tc.gov.uk



TOWN TEAM: (L-R) David Pooley (Town Clerk) Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Clerk), Kimberley Gay (Assistant) and Steve Skinner (Operations Manager)

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council has the following responsibilities:

- Parks at Bethel, Chapel Fields, Chy Pons, Jubilee Meadow, Landrew Road, Linear Park, Lostwood Road, Manfield Way, Penmere Road, Polmarth Close, Poltair, Prince Charles, Sandy Bottom, The Meadows, Thornpark Road, Truro Road, Woodland Close and Woodland Road.
- St Austell Library
- Priory and Tregonissey Lane End Car

Parks

- Public conveniences, Priory Car Park
- Allotments at Alexandra Road and Landrew Road
- Maintenance of footpaths
- Weed spraying
- Grass cutting cemeteries, verges and roundabouts
- Flower beds
- Town centre CCTV
- The House Youth Centre

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
- Housing and homelessness
- Libraries and Arts
- Fire Brigade
- Refuse collection, recycling and waste disposal
- Environmental Health
- Leisure
- Youth Services

- Crime and Disorder / Anti-social behaviour

Cornwall Council can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council	Cornwall Council
County Hall	One Stop Shop
Treyew Road	39 Penwinnick Rd
Truro	St Austell
Cornwall	Cornwall
TR1 3AY	PL25 5DR

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

E-mail: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2018/19 civic year Cornwall Council had five Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Brown, Bull, French, Heyward and Pears.





Message from the Mayor

This past year as your Mayor and Town Council Chairman has been incredibly busy, at times quite challenging, thoroughly enjoyable and a huge privilege and honour.

In the space of two years, the Town Council has completely transformed itself. Following extensive consultation, we agreed an ambitious programme of service devolution from Cornwall Council to safeguard services in St Austell and generally improve the environment in a way which would reinstall pride in the town.

We have taken responsibility for the public conveniences in Priory Car Park, two sets of allotments, the Priory Road car park, 17 parks and open spaces across St Austell, St Austell Library and The House Youth Centre.

We have had to learn rapidly about these services and adapt to the demands of running them with a very small workforce.

We have entered into an agency agreement with Cornwall Council to allow the Town Council to cut the grass on highways verges and in cemeteries owned by Cornwall Council across the town.

In 2018/19 we have planted over 250 trees, four wild-flower meadows and 5,000 bulbs and cleared and tidied roundabouts and flower beds around the town and have made good progress with addressing maintenance backlogs across all of the parks and open spaces.

We are working closely with Cornwall Council to



Gary King : Highlights the achievements and hard work by St Austell Town Council during his tenure as Mayor and Chairman of St Austell Town Council.

develop a Town Heritage Scheme which has been awarded a grant of £980,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which should generate a total investment in the Town Centre of over £1.3 million for improvements to historic buildings. This project started in September and will include some public realm works to improve the wall and fountain on the edge of Holy Trinity Church.

I have supported the St Austell Bay Economic Forum with the development of a greening and ceramics project which has attracted Government funding and will deliver significant improvements across the Town over the next 2 years.

One thing that particularly interests me is services for children and young people.

The Town Council has helped to fund and support Young People Cornwall to

run youth services out of The House building at Polkyth following cut backs to funding for youth services across Cornwall.

We have now negotiated a lease of The House from Cornwall Council and extensive improvement works have been undertaken including a new roof. Young People Cornwall have moved their operation from Truro to St Austell bringing 40 to 50 jobs to St Austell and creating a centre of excellence for youth services in the Town.

Two motions that I proposed, and were passed by the Council, during my term of office were to do with establishing St Austell as a Plastic Free Community and work is on-going to ensure as many businesses, community groups and individuals as possible stop using single use plastic items.

The second motion con-



4 Message from the Mayor

cerned the growing issue around global warming and in April a 'Climate Emergency' was declared by the council as acknowledgement of our impact on climate change.

Further work needs to be started as a matter of urgency so we can reduce our carbon footprint and support others in St Austell to do the same.

On a lighter note: I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Mayor and have undertak-

en many community and civic events and enjoyed a whole range of birthdays, wedding anniversaries and community events.

During these celebrations, it has been a real privilege to meet local residents and to listen to and share life stories and experiences.

I hope that members of the public will recognise how much work has gone into the last year and how far the Town Council has grown

while maintaining a below average council tax and a very lean staffing team.

I would like to thank all of our partners and the people of St Austell for their help and support during this busy year and record a special thank you to the Council staff that supported me throughout my period in office.

Gary King
Mayor of St Austell 2018/19



Gary King becomes Mayor

Mayor Gary King with his consort, daughter Hannah Jarman (Left) and above they join Mayor King's deputy for the year, Councillor Tim Styles for the official Mayor making ceremony at the Council Chambers inside Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop.

The ceremony sees the formal installation of the incoming Mayor and recognises the achievements of his or her predecessor who passes over the chain of office and robes midway through the ceremony.



St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council has 20 elected Councillors (four Councillors representing the Gover Ward, four Councillors representing Poltair Ward, two Councillors representing St Austell Bay Ward, five representing Bethel Ward and five representing Mount Charles Ward). Town Council elections were held on the 4th May 2017.

A list of current Councillors is included on page 15 of this report.

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 adopted 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 or at the Town Council's offices at The Stable Block, Pondhu House,

Penwinnick 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 & Regeneration Committee and Community 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.staustell-tc.gov.uk. Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

The Council employs ten full-time and ten part-

time members of staff who are based either at the Stable Block or St Austell Library. Key contacts are:

- David Pooley – Town Clerk
- Sara Gwilliams – Deputy Town Clerk
- Steve Skinner – Operations Manager
- Kimberley Gay – Mayor's Secretary / Administrative Assistant (Part-time)
- Terry Shaw – Senior Library and Information Assistant
- Janine Sargent- Community Projects Officer

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 improve local pride in St Austell and to ensure that however the town changes in the future the process is managed and that appropriate infrastructure accompanies it.

An important role of the Council is to represent and champion local residents and businesses to ensure that their views are taken into account by the larger organisations operating and investing in the area.

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 seeks 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.



St Austell Town Councillors elected in May 2017 inside the council chambers situated in Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop



2018/19 Activities

Service devolution



Secretary of State James Brokenshire visiting St Austell Library in July 2018

In November 2015 the Town Council undertook a comprehensive consultation exercise to raise public awareness and gauge public support for the Town Council taking responsibility for a wide range of Cornwall Council functions.

Following this, the Council negotiated a package of services to be devolved to the Town Council from Cornwall Council including toilets, allotments, parks and open spaces, maintenance of highways grassed areas, car parks, the library and The House Youth Centre. Over the last two years these functions have transferred to the Town Council.

This has involved a tremendous amount of work in a short period of time including the recruitment of staff, moving offices, installing new telephone and computer systems, acquiring vehicles and machinery, negotiating the transfer of land, arranging new contracts for services and supplies and introducing new health and safety and working procedures.

The benefits of the local management of services are already being demonstrated through better maintenance of parks, public conveniences and play areas and more frequent grass cutting.

The Town Council's visionary devolution project has been praised by the Secretary for State, James Brokenshire MP, and by Cornwall Council and others as an example of good practice.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Town Council co-ordinates an anti-social behaviour group including representatives of a very broad range of agencies and organisations to deal primarily with anti-social behaviour issues. This group has been instrumental in contributing towards the reduction in crime in and around the town centre and other parts of St Austell and has been highlighted as a model of good practice.



A new generation of CCTV cameras are installed in and around St Austell Town centre including Park House Flats (Above).



St Austell Town Council Grounds team maintaining play areas and parks throughout the town



Town Heritage Scheme

The Town Council is working with Cornwall Council and the Market House to implement a Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme for St Austell. The Heritage Lottery Fund has approved a grant of £980,000 which should generate an overall investment of over £1.3 million in St Austell town centre over the next four years.

Townscape Heritage schemes fund quality traditional repairs to targeted historic buildings in Conservation Areas.

The scheme in St Austell will complement planned actions in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the Business Improvement District (BID) scheme.

It will boost the local economy and make the town a better place to live, work and visit.

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 five years of operation and is pleased that it has just received approval for another five year term.

It is making significant progress and has organised a number of events and environmental and security initiatives in the town centre.

CCTV

Since April 2015 the CCTV system in St Austell has been owned and maintained by the Town Council with monitoring arrangements shared with Newquay Town Council. The Town Council has upgraded the system and added cameras in 2018/19 with support from the Police and Crime Commissioner to help address anti-social behaviour.

Youth Services

The Town Council has provided annual funding of £20,000 to secure the future of The House youth project.

It is close to securing the long-term future of The House. Terms for a lease have been negotiated and improvement works have been



St Austell's ancient Market House sees more diverse usage such as 2018's music day completed.

Young People Cornwall have re-located their headquarters to the building and created a centre of excellence for youth services in St Austell.



Town Clerk David Pooley alongside Deputy Sara Gwilliams and Operations Manager Steve Skinner visit The House youth project at Polkyth.

LIBRARY

The Town Council has refurbished the St Austell Library, installed a coffee machine, arranged events and computer classes and increased footfall by over 12%.

The Council aims to make the Library a community hub which provides benefits way beyond the traditional functions of a library such as the Tywardreath Players adaption of A House on the Strand this year (Below).



8 2018/19 Activities

Environmental Initiatives

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2018/19 we:

- Planted over 250 trees which were donated to the Town Council;
- Worked closely with Urban Buzz to plant over 5000 bulbs and pollinating plants;
- Created four wildflower meadows
- Installed a new accessible swing at Truro Road Park;
- Improved several of the local parks including major schemes at Truro Road Park, the Meadows and Linear Park;
- Undertaken works at Linear Park to improve bridges and reduce flooding;
- Achieved a 4-star award for Poltair Park in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks Scheme.



Laura Larkin from Urban Buzz in Sandy Hill Park (Above) as well as fellow volunteers in Linear Park (below) planting bulbs and pollinating plants



Other Initiatives

- The Town Council has:
- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups. The Council gave 29 grants totalling £7,965 in 2018/19;
- Provided a number of larger grants including grants to St Austell Sea Cadets (£10,000), Torchlight Carnival (£3,000), St Austell BID (£2,000 and £5,276) and St Austell Bay Economic Forum (£2,500);
- Helped to co-ordinate a range of World War 1 commemorative events including a number at the Library
- Undertaken pre-planning consultations with developers, arranged large-scale public meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise concerns or suggest improvements to major planning proposals and responded to 154 planning application consultations.
- Achieved the Foundation Quality Status award



St Austell Garden Festival



10 Committees

Standing committees 2018/19

Planning Committee

Purposes Committee

Jackie Bull
John Colwill
Tim Jones
Gary King (Mayor)
Andrea Lanxon
Robin Leonard
Nicky Oxenham
Brian Palmer
Crystal Pearce
Tim Styles
Mike Thompson
Graham Walker

Community Committee

Peter Bishop
Malcolm Brown
Jackie Bull
Anita Cohen
John Colwill
Jamie Hanlon
Sandra Heyward
Tim Jones
Gary King (Mayor)
Robin Leonard
Crystal Pearce
Richard Pears
Mike Rees
Tim Styles
Mike Thompson

Finance and General

Malcolm Brown
Peter Bishop
Anita Cohen
Tom French
Tim Jones
Gary King (Mayor)
Andrea Lanxon
Nicky Oxenham
Brian Palmer
Mike Rees
Tim Styles
Graham Walker

Ward	Planning Committee	Community Committee	Finance and GP Committee
Bethel	3	4	3
Gover	2	4	2
Mount Charles	3	5	3
Poltair	3	2	2
St Austell Bay	1	0	2

*The Mayor is an ex officio Member of each Committee.

Staffing Committee: Councillors: King (Mayor), Bull, French, Jones, Lanxon and Palmer.

Mayor making June 2018





Annual accounts 2018/19

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The Council's Accounts are audited annually by an independent internal auditor and forwarded to PKF Littlejohn LLP, an external auditor, for final appraisal.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

2017/18 £		2018/19 £
	Income	
462,576.00	Precept payments	591,500.00
318,367.74	Car Park income	309,973.72
36,832.30	Council Tax Grant	29,781.59
8,098.76	Library Income	10,715.08
36,780.28	Other income	17,637.76
4,283.18	Public Convenience charges	4,096.11
10,776.00	Transfers from Reserves	11,761.58
877,714.26	Total Income	975,465.84
	Less Operating Expenses	
329,662.43	Total Employee Expenses	441,266.02
176,200.92	Total Premises Expenses	174,950.96
306,475.49	Total Supplies and Services	309,319.25
38,433.00	Total Transport Related Expenses	25,219.13
0.00	Transfers to Reserves	40,160.44
850,771.84	Total Operating Expenses	990,915.80
26,942.42	Net Surplus (+)/ Defecit (-)	-15,449.96

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2019

31 March 2018 £		31 March 2019 £
	Assets	
	Current Assets	
18,686.80	Debtors and Prepayments	14,975.92
94,550.84	Bank and Cash	186,669.64
309,392.51	Short Term Investments	312,435.97
422,630.15	Total Current Assets	514,081.53





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Balance sheet as at March 31, 2019 (continued)

31 March 2018		31 March 2019
£		£
238,948.49	Fixed Assets	311,941.83
661,578.64	Total Assets	826,023.36
	Liabilities	
	Current Liabilities	
7,524.55	Creditors and accruals	86,027.03
7,524.55	Total Current Liabilities	86,027.03
7,524.55	Total Liabilities	86,027.03
654,054.09	Net Assets	739,996.33
	Equity	
97,037.00	Asset Revaluation Reserve	96,892.00
141,911.49	Capital Financing Reserve	215,049.83
178,161.18	Earmarked Reserves	206,560.04
236,944.42	General Reserve	221,494.46
654,054.09	Total Equity	739,996.33

Notes

1. Ceremonial assets have been valued by independent valuers using an insurance methodology as at 31st March 2010. It is not considered necessary to re-value all assets annually. Other fixed assets are included at cost.
2. Debtors and prepayments include an insurance premium, car park income in transit and BID levy fees.
3. Accounts payable relate largely to contract and operational expenses paid by direct debit after the year end.
4. The following sums have been set aside as earmarked reserves:

Projects Reserve	£ 71,560.04
Elections	£ 25,000.00
Devolution of Services	£ 30,000.00
Service Improvement Reserve	£ 50,000.00
Repairs and Renewals Reserve	£ 30,000.00
	£206,560.04





First World War Centenary 13

LEST WE FORGET



St Austell service of Remembrance



St Austell Town Council

Councillors



	Bishop, Peter Mount Charles Ward 01726 71130 CouncillorPeter.Bishop@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Brown, Malcolm Bethel Ward 01726 63696 CouncillorMalcolm.Brown@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Bull, Jackie Poltair Ward 01726 74619 CouncillorJackie.Bull@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Cohen, Anita Bethel Ward 07871060969 CouncillorAnita.Cohen@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Colwill, John Bethel Ward 01726 68494 CouncillorJohn.Colwill@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	French, Tom Bay Ward 01726 73735 CouncillorTom.French@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Hanlon, Jamie Poltair Ward CouncillorJamie.Hanlon@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Heyward, Sandra Gover Ward 01726 65045 CouncillorSandra.Heyward@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Jones, Tim Mount Charles Ward 07976490942 CouncillorTim.Jones@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	King, Gary Mount Charles Ward 01726 77944 CouncillorGary.King@staustell-tc.gov.uk

	Lanxon, Andrea Poltair Ward 01726 74640 CouncillorAndrea.Lanxon@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Leonard, Robin Mount Charles Ward 01726 70719 CouncillorRobin.Leonard@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Oxenham, Nicky Bay Ward 07891346689 CouncillorNicky.Oxenham@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Palmer, Brian Poltair Ward 01726 65379 CouncillorBrian.Palmer@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Pearce, Crystal Bethel Ward 07552502024 crystalpearcest.austellcouncil@outlook.com
	Pears, Richard Mount Charles Ward 07793113150 CouncillorRichard.Pears@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Rees, Mike Gover Ward 01726 69590 CouncillorMike.Rees@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Styles, Tim Gover Ward 01726 216106 CouncillorTim.Styles@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Thompson, Mike Gover Ward 07505952790 CouncillorMike.Thompson@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Walker, Graham Bethel Ward 01726 63707 CouncillorGraham.Walker@staustell-tc.gov.uk

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A busy year in office for Mayor Gary King with the launch of Plastic Free St Austell



And celebrating with Olympic sailing hopeful Finn Hawkins