



St Austell
Town Council

Annual Report 2022\23

Message from the Mayor

This past year as your Mayor and Town Council Chairman has been a huge privilege and honour. It has given me the opportunity to meet lots of organisations and interesting people. St Austell really has some wonderful people, businesses and community groups. It was a busy and productive year. Some of our achievements are listed below which I hope you find interesting.

We have declared a climate emergency and have a Climate and Environment Committee to take forward our climate change agenda. We have reviewed our grass cutting and wildflower planting to improve local biodiversity. In 2022/23 we held a climate awareness afternoon at the Library, supported the St Austell Garden Festival, created and refreshed several wildflower areas and planted 85 trees. We have a polytunnel and nursery area at our depot and are growing plants and trees and recycling plants to support our greening endeavours.

We worked closely with Cornwall Council to deliver a Town Heritage Scheme which attracted a grant of £980,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project has improved a number of town centre buildings and included some public realm works to improve the wall and fountain on the edge of Holy Trinity Church. The fountain will be operational from June 2023.

To compliment this we attracted £165,000 of funding from Cornwall Council to plan measures to revitalise the town centre. The Town Council co-ordinated this work and a partnership made up of representatives from councils, business and voluntary sectors guided the work. A masterplan was published in December 2022 which will hopefully put St Austell in a strong position to bid for Government funding to make major improvements to the town centre.

All towns and cities are suffering from anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol related issues. We have continued to focus resources on measures aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the town centre and actively helped to attract grants and fund extra hours for the Security Personnel employed by the BID. We work very closely with the Police and other agencies and have maintained an excellent CCTV system and increased budgets for monitoring and maintenance of the camera systems. It is pleasing to note that as a result of the efforts locally St Austell has moved from the top of the league table for anti-social behaviour in Cornwall to fifth place. This does not mean that we can rest on our laurels. We will continue to lobby nationally and locally for more Police resources and for measures which will improve public safety in St Austell.

We continue to invest in our parks and open spaces. In 2022/23 we secured grant funding to upgrade Bethel Park, entered into a lease with Edible St Austell for land for a community garden at Landrew Road, repaired safety surfacing at The Meadows, Poltair Park and Sandy Hill Park and undertook repairs to play equipment in Poltair Park and Truro Road Parks.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Mayor and have undertaken 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 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 my deputy, Councillor Crystal Pearce, and the Council staff that supported me throughout my period in office.

Andrea Lanxon
Mayor of St Austell

2022/23



Mayor Andrea Lanxon with Deputy Mayor Crystal Pearce May 2022
Photo: Peter Williams

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.
- The management of St Austell Library
- Priory and Tregonissey Lane End Car Parks
- Public conveniences, Priory Car Park
- Allotments at Alexandra Road
- Maintenance of footpaths
- Weed spraying
- Grass cutting on roadside verges and roundabouts for Cornwall Council
- Flower beds
- Town centre CCTV
- The House Youth Centre

Contact Details

St Austell Town Council
The Stable Block
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

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 and Business Rates
- 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
- Cemeteries

Cornwall Council can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council
County Hall
Treyew Road
Truro
Cornwall TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

E-mail: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2022/23 civic year Cornwall Council had three Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Double, Rowse and Pears.



St Austell Town Council has 20 Councillors (7 Councillors representing the Central and Gover Ward, 6 Councillors representing Poltair and Mount Charles Ward and 7 representing Bethel and Holmbush Ward). Town Council elections were held on the 6th May 2021, 9 councillors were re-elected and 11 new councillors were appointed. A list of current Councillors is included later in 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 governance arrangements.

Meetings are currently held in Cornwall Council's Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell 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 four standing committees to ensure the effective management of its business:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Planning & Regeneration Committee
- Community Committee
- Climate and Environment 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 eleven 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 – Finance/Administrative Support Officer (Part-time)
 Terry Shaw – Library Manager

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 to ensure delivery of the highest quality services and facilities to local residents.



2022/23 Activities

Service Devolution

The Town Council is a strong advocate for service devolution and has taken a broad range of services and assets from Cornwall Council including toilets, allotments, parks and open spaces, maintenance of highways grassed areas, car parks, the library and The House Youth Centre. The Town Council's visionary devolution project was praised by the late Secretary for State, James Brokenshire MP, and by Cornwall Council and others as an example of good practice.

The benefits of the local management of services are being demonstrated through better maintenance of parks, the library, public conveniences and play areas and improved floral displays, tree planting and grass cutting.



Climate Change

The Town Council has declared a climate emergency and has a Climate and Environment Committee to oversee environmental issues. It has arranged events at the Library and used the annual town centre garden festival to raise awareness of climate issues. An action plan has been developed and initiatives undertaken include tree planting, creation of wildflower and wildlife areas, rainwater harvesting, plant recycling, seed gathering and the growing of plants and trees. Safe and natural

treatments for weeds have been trialled and initiatives including e-bikes, cycling and walking trails and electric vehicle charging points are being explored with Cornwall Council.



The Meadows June 2023
Photo: St Austell Town Council

Town Heritage Scheme

The Town Council worked closely with Cornwall Council and others to deliver a Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme for St Austell. Townscape Heritage schemes fund quality traditional repairs to targeted historic buildings in Conservation Areas. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided a grant of £980,000 and this generated significantly more investment in valuable historic buildings. A number of buildings and in particular shopfronts have been improved and a number of public realm works have been completed.

St Austell Business Improvement District (BID)

The Business Improvement District (BID) for St Austell is funded primarily by local business ratepayers in the town centre who determine their priorities for the BID area.

The Town Council is pleased to support and work closely with the BID which plays an important role in the town and organises a number of events and environmental and security initiatives in the town centre. The Town Council and the BID fund security personnel who patrol primarily the town centre but also other areas in St Austell which experience anti-social behaviour. Regular meetings are held with the police, Cornwall Council's ASB officers, security personnel and CCTV staff to ensure that intelligence is shared and appropriate supportive or enforcement action is taken.

CCTV

The CCTV system in St Austell is owned and maintained by the Town Council with monitoring arrangements shared with Newquay Town Council. In 2021/22 the Town Council acquired a redeployable or mobile CCTV camera which can be located at sites across the town temporarily as needed. In 2022/23 this camera supported a number of convictions for drug related offences. Recording equipment was upgraded in 2022/23 to ensure the effectiveness of the camera system.

Youth Services

The Town Council has provided annual funding of £20,000 to secure the future of The House youth project. A lease has been granted to Young People Cornwall (YPC) who have re-located their headquarters to the building. This has secured over 40 jobs in St Austell and created a centre of excellence for youth services in the town. Face to face services were restricted during the pandemic but are now fully functioning again. Youth workers undertake outreach work on behalf of the Council when issues with young people arise. YPC provide a range of important health and well-being services, training, support, activities and guidance for young people.

Library

The Town Council has negotiated a new lease for the St Austell Library, arranged community events and computer classes and increased footfall by over 12%. St Austell library is one of the busiest libraries in Cornwall and under the Town Council's management continues to provide benefits way beyond the traditional functions of a library. In 2022/23 the Town Council took on the management of the Home Library Service locally from Cornwall Council.



Environmental initiatives

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2022/23 we:

- Planted 85 trees some of which were donated to the Town Council;
- Trained two grounds maintenance apprentices, one of which was largely funded by the St Austell Bay Economic Forum;
- Secured funding for the improvement of Bethel Park ;
- Entered into a lease with Edible St Austell to enable the creation of a community garden at Landrew Road;
- Lifted trees and carried out safety surface improvements to make Poltair Park safer;
- Undertaken safety surface repairs at The Meadows and Sandy Hill Park and extensive play equipment repairs at Truro Road and Poltair Parks;
- Improved the café at Poltair Park.



Other initiatives

The Town Council has:

- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups. The Council gave 24 small grants totalling

- £8,257 in 2022/23 which included 6 grants totalling £1,034 for community groups celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee;
- Provided a number of larger grants including grants to Daisy Dukes (£3,000), St Austell BID for Christmas lights (£9,761), and St Austell BID for security personnel (£17,000);
- Attracted £165,000 grant funding from Cornwall Council and completed a master planning exercise for the town centre which included engagement events to boost the town centre footfall and gather public opinion;
- Agreed to freeze the car park charges at the Priory Car Park and improved the Tregonissey Lane End Car Park and enforcement arrangements on site;
- 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 113 planning application consultations.



Annual Accounts 2022/23

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 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 BDO LLP, an external auditor, for final appraisal. These accounts are subject to audit.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Income	
795,350	905,520
243,984	260,407
30,200	15,239
5,918	6,935
279,571	33,165
2,992	2,732
16,683	155,866
1,374,697	1,379,864
Less Operating Expenses	
514,891	628,992
204,931	187,337
274,021	397,007
30,199	74,912
339,706	86,520
1,363,748	1,374,768
10,948	Net Surplus (+) / Deficit (-) 5,096

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

31 March 2022	31 March 2023
£	£
Assets	
Current Assets	
Debtors and Prepayments	29,243
Bank and Cash	116,806
Short Term Investments	835,390
Total Current Assets	981,439
Fixed Assets	559,407
1,048,865	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Creditors and accruals	41,404
Total Current Liabilities	41,404
1,490,376	1,499,442
Net Assets	
1,490,376	1,499,442
Equity	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	96,892
Capital Financing Reserve	462,515
Earmarked Reserves	573,408
General Reserve	366,627
Total Equity	1,499,442

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 and car park income in transit.
3. Accounts payable relate largely to contract and operational expenses paid by direct debit after the year end.

Councillors

	Brown, Malcolm Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07821154590 CouncillorMalcolm.Brown@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Bull, Jackie Polair & Mount Charles Ward 01726 74619 or 07800732558 CouncillorJackie.Bull@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Clemon, Richard Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07711477189 CouncillorRichard.Clemon@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Cohen, Anita Central & Gover Ward 07871060969 CouncillorAnita.Cohen@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Double, Anne Bethel & Holmbush Ward 01726 829379 CouncillorAnne.Double@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Fox, Julie Polair & Mount Charles Ward 07814373137 CouncillorJulie.Fox@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	French, Tom Central & Gover Ward 07875842553 CouncillorTom.French@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	George, Deborah Bethel & Holmbush Ward
	Guest, Peter Central & Gover Ward 07947826627 CouncillorPeter.Guest@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Hamilton, Colin Central & Gover Ward 07880790351 CouncillorColin.Hamilton@staustell-tc.gov.uk

	Lanxon, Andrea Polair & Mount Charles Ward 01726 74640 CouncillorAndrea.Lanxon@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Nott, Steve Polair & Mount Charles Ward 07718644622 SMS or WhatsApp only CouncillorSteve.Nott@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Pearce, Crystal St Austell Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07714207597 CouncillorCrystal.Pearce@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Pears, Richard Polair & Mount Charles Ward 077933113150 CouncillorRichard.Pears@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Rowse, Jordan Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07908704835 CouncillorJordan.Rowse@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Stephens, Ethan Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07843093758 CouncillorEthan.Stephens@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Styles, Tim Central & Gover Ward 07961120478 CouncillorTim.Styles@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Thompson, Mike Polair & Mount Charles Ward 07505952790 CouncillorMike.Thompson@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Young, Julian Central & Gover Ward 07768143438 CouncillorJulian.Young@staustell-tc.gov.uk

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