



St Austell
Town Council



2025-26

ANNUAL REPORT

DERIVAS BLEDHYNNEK

Introduction from Mayor Colin Hamilton

Raglavar an Mer Colin Hamilton



This has been a most successful year for St Austell Town Council in terms of its completion of projects, delivery of services and engagement with the local community. Having obtained funding, two new banners were installed on the Poundland building, a new Piazza constructed at the Holy Trinity Church and an exciting Pump Track built at the Meadows with the official opening on 28th May 2026. Further funding under the Town Regeneration and Investment Programme (TRIP) enabled the entrance to the old Fire Station to be refurbished, a design study for phase two of the Holy Trinity Church improvement project, new railings and planters outside the Baptist Church and further greening in the town centre.

Our highly dedicated grounds team do a tremendous job in the 17 parks and open spaces. The roundabouts at Charlestown, Asda and Truro Road have received in particular a lot of praise for their colourful displays.

The Library continues to perform admirably and is one of the busiest in the county. It is a community hub for a huge range of activities for the young and old supported by the wonderful SALSA (St Austell Library Support Association).

The Town Council has considered 110 planning applications and approved 30 grants for local organisations. The CCTV camera coverage has been extended in the Town Centre along with an increase in patrolling hours for the street marshals which is helping to tackle anti-social behaviour issues.

Community Engagement has been a strong feature with many traditional events. Some highlights being: a Stepping Stones Charity event in Poltair Park, a Fun Day with a Victory in Japan theme, Remembrance Day Parade that took a new return route finishing in the centre of Town. New events were introduced: After School Games using new equipment has proved very popular and we thank Young People Cornwall for their help in running the games. A school welly boot competition that involved 6 schools led to a Schools Concert being held at Christmas. It was an enchanting evening and I am delighted to announce 4th December 2026 for this year's concert.

Finally, we had the absolute honour of a royal visit by Their Majesties the King and Queen. The aim was to show support for the regeneration of the historic quarter of the Town and the Market House. Despite big changes to the programme by the minute, it was a real success and served to show the recognition and importance of *our* Town.

I would like to thank all our partners and the people of St Austell for their help and support during my year as the Mayor, with a special thank you to my deputy, Councillor Ethan Stephens, and to the Town Council team who have supported me so well throughout my period in office.

Councillor Colin Hamilton Mayor of St Austell 2025/26

The Mayor's Year in Pictures

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The Mayor and Mayoress at the August 2025 VJ Day celebrations in White River Place.



The Mayor lays a wreath at the 2025 Remembrance Day service.



The Mayor and Mayoress at the 2026 St Piran's Day celebrations in White River Place.



The Mayor, Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor at the Christmas Lights switch-on event at White River Place.



The Mayor meets His Majesty The King at The Market House, March 2026



The Mayor and Mayoress at the 2026 Mayor Making Ceremony.

How the Council works

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The Town Council serves the town of St Austell which has a population of approximately 22,000. The boundary of St Austell Parish is drawn very tightly around the urban area of St Austell and excludes much of the recent expansion of the town.

Members

St Austell Town Council has 20 councillors representing the 3 wards in St Austell:

- St Austell Bethel & Holmbush
- St Austell Central and Gover
- St Austell Mount Charles and Poltair

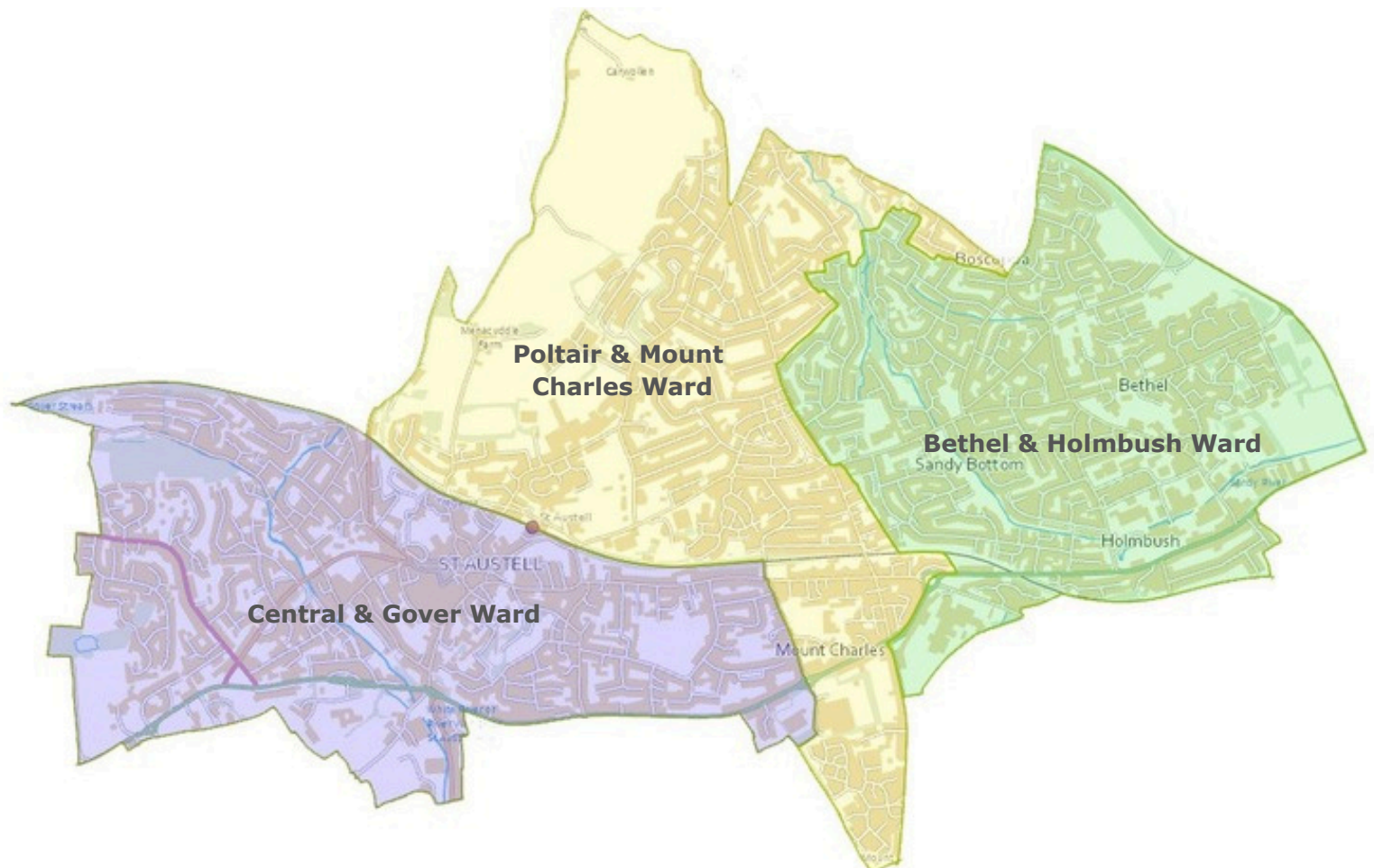
Councillors are elected to represent the views of the public, assist with concerns and help shape the future of the town.

Councillors are volunteers and receive no payment for being a councillor.

Partnerships

St Austell Town Council continues to work with a number of organisations across the local area to deliver positive change for St Austell.

The Town Council works particularly closely with St Austell Business Improvement District (BID) and the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership to continue to improve the Town Centre. Recent initiatives include additional funding for street marshals, Christmas lights and an extension of the CCTV coverage in the Town Centre.



Meetings

Meetings are currently held in Cornwall Council's Chi Austel office in White River Place 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 and Regeneration Committee
- Community and Environment Committee
- Staffing Committee

A calendar of Council meetings for the forthcoming year can be found on the Town Council's website at www.staustell-tc.gov.uk and on the last page of this report.

Town Mayor

Each year the Council elects a new Mayor who acts as civic leader and chairs full council meetings. For the 2025-2026 civic year the Mayor was Councillor Colin Hamilton, and the Deputy was Councillor Ethan Stephens.



An aerial view of St Austell Town Centre, supplied by photographer Paul Williams

Your Councillors

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Listed here are the current members of St Austell Town Council

Bethel & Holmbush Ward



Councillor Malcolm Brown

Email: councillormalcolm.brown@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Richard Clemo

Email: councillorrichard.clemo@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Anita Cohen

Email: councilloranita.cohen@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jeremy Preece

Email: councillorjeremy.preece@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jordan Rowse

Email: councillorjordan.rowse@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Ethan Stephens

Email: councillorethan.stephens@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor James Bullock

Email: councillorjamesbullock@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Mark Gray

Email: councillormark.gray@staustell-tc.gov.uk



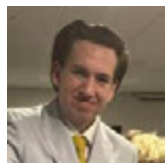
Councillor Colin Hamilton

Email: councillorcolin.hamilton@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Maggi Hawken

Email: councillormaggi.hawken@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Oliver Kimber

Email: councilloroliver.kimber@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Sean Marshall

Email: councillorsean.marshall@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Richard Whitehouse

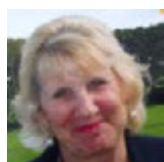
Email: councillorrichard.whitehouse@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Julian Young

Email: councillorjulian.young@staustell-tc.gov.uk

Poltair & Mount Charles Ward



Councillor Jackie Bull

Email: councillorjackie.bull@staustell-tc.gov.uk



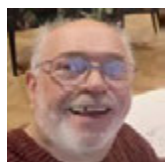
Councillor Andrea Lanxon

Email: councillorandrea.lanxon@staustell-tc.gov.uk



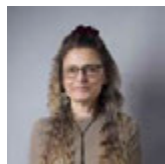
Councillor Jenny Lingham

Email: councillorjenny.lingham@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Stephen Nott

Email: councillorstephen.nott@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Tina Taylor

Email: councillortina.taylor@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Mike Thompson

Email: councillormike.thompson@staustell-tc.gov.uk

Council Services

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St Austell Town Council delivers the following services:



Car Parks*



Open Spaces



CCTV



Toilets**



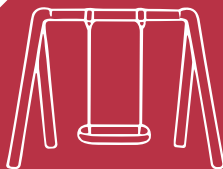
Cutting of
Grass
Verges***



St Austell
Library



Small Grants
Scheme



Play Parks



Footpath
Maintenance



The House
Youth Centre



Community
Events



Flower
Beds



Bimonthly
Newsletter



Alexandra Road
Allotments

*Priory Car Park & Tregonissey Lane End Car Park

**Public Toilets in Priory Car Park

***On behalf of Cornwall Council

Finance and General Purposes Committee

This committee oversees the governance arrangements of the Council including its financial and administrative arrangements and the management of the Council's property, information technology and communications. It also manages public conveniences, car parks and the library service. The chair is Cllr. Mark Gray. This year the committee reviewed, updated and approved over twenty Council policies.

Cllr Gray, chair
for 2025-26
Civic Year



Planning and Regeneration Committee

This committee deals with planning, regeneration, economic development, highways and licensing matters on behalf of the Council. It responds, on behalf of the Town Council, to consultations on planning matters. It also directs activity designed to regenerate the town and promote economic development in the St Austell area. Its chair is Cllr. Malcom Brown. This year the committee considered over one hundred planning applications.



Cllr Brown, chair
for 2025-26
Civic Year



Community Committee

This committee directs activities designed to improve the community and cultural life of the St Austell area including the environment. It oversees the running of our 17 parks and open spaces and their play equipment and also our highways work where we are responsible for 10 miles of verges as well as lots of floral displays. It oversees the Council's CCTV arrangements and administers the Council's small grants scheme. Its chair is Cllr. Jeremy Preece. This year the committee oversaw the opening of the Town Council's Pump Track at the Meadows.



Cllr Preece, chair for 2025-26 Civic Year



Staffing Committee

This committee deals with all staffing matters on behalf of the Council including recruitment and job creation, interviews and staff performance and appraisal. It also scrutinises the council's response to employment legislation. The chair is the Mayor. This year the committee oversaw the appointment of a senior projects officer for the Town Council.



Cllr Hamilton, chair for 2025-26 Civic Year

Councillors' Attendance

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The table on the right shows the average attendance percentage for all council meetings in the 2025-2026 civic year.

Brown, M	100%
Bull, J	54%
Clemo, R	63%
Cohen, A	84%
Gray, M	72%
Hamilton, C	94%
Hawken, M	67%
Kimber, O	57%
Lanxon, A	100%
Lingham, J	50%

Marshall, S	80%
Nott, S	83%
Pearce, C	35%
Preece, J	93%
Rowse, J	14%
Stephens, E	81%
Taylor, T	100%
Thompson, M	83%
Whitehouse, R	82%
Young, J	74%

Councillors on outside Committees

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Councillors are also nominated to sit on outside committees and community groups detailed in the tables below.

Outside Body	Councillor
BID - St Austell Business Improvement District	Cllr O Kimber
CALC - Larger Councils Liasion Group	Cllr M Brown
CASA - Climate Action St Austell	Cllr T Taylor
Cornwall Community Flood Forum	Cllr A Cohen
Holy Trinity Church Grounds Steering Group	Cllr C Hamilton
Community Area Partnership	Cllr A Laxon

Outside Body	Councillor
The Rural Service Network	Cllrs E Stephens & J Preece
Safer St Austell	Cllr J Lingham
St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce	Cllr O Kimber
Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership	Cllrs M Gray, C Hamilton & M Brown
The House Steering Group	Cllrs M Gray & O Kimber
White River Steering Group	Cllr R Clemo

Councillor Jordan Rowse also serves as Cornwall Councillor for the St Austell Bethel & Holmbush ward.

St Austell Library

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St Austell Town Council currently leases St Austell Library from Cornwall Council and is in the process of assuming the freehold for the building. Consistently ranked as Cornwall's second busiest library, St Austell Library plays a vital role within the local community and, under the Town Council's management, delivers benefits that extend far beyond its traditional library functions.

The Town Council works closely with the voluntary St Austell Library Support Association (SALSA) to provide a wide range of community activities and events. These include weekly Story Time and Sing 'n' Shake sessions for babies and young children; drop-in support days; evening talks; and a variety of school holiday activities. These events are just a small selection of the diverse programme hosted at the Library throughout the year.

During the 2025–2026 civic year, St Austell Library issued more than 113,000 books, DVDs and audiobooks, demonstrating its continuing popularity and importance as a community hub, learning resource and cultural venue.



Members of staff at St Austell Library dress up to advertise The Summer Reading Challenge

The Mayor, Mayoress, Library Manager Terry Shaw, SALSA Treasurer Helen Barden and SALSA Chair Peter Cornall at St Austell Library's 65th Birthday Party.

2025-26 Achievements & Activities

Kowlwriansow ha gwriansow 2025-2026

Holy Trinity Church Piazza

In partnership with Holy Trinity Church the transformation of Church grounds was undertaken to create a modern piazza area linking the Church with the historic Market House and Trinity Café in the Heritage Quarter of the town. The Town Council worked with the church and local community to create a design which was turned into reality by a local builder and opened to the public in December 2025.



Poundland Building Banner

Aylmer Square is a central meeting space in St Austell which was dominated by a once colourful and informative banner the size of two tennis courts which in recent years had become dilapidated, worn and faded. It destroyed pride in the town. Following public consultation in 2024 a plan was enacted to replace the banner and new banners were installed in September 2025 which features scenes chosen by the public to represent St Austell. Paul Williams, local photographer, kindly supplied the photos and the banner was designed and installed by local companies.



TRIP Projects

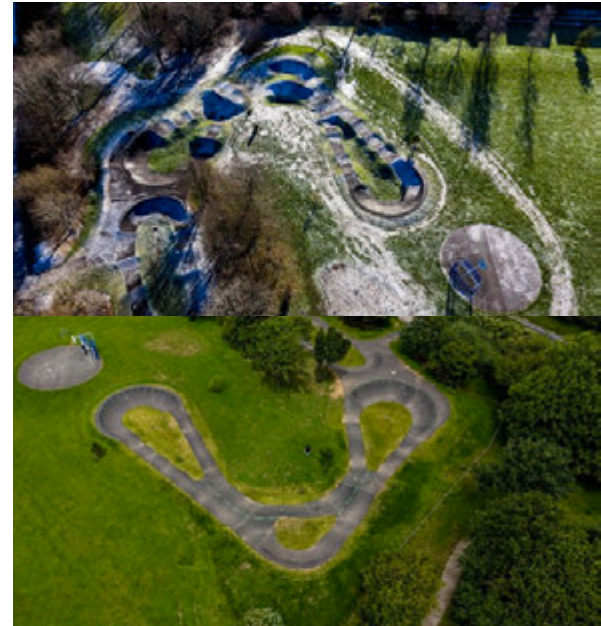
Several key projects funded through the Town Revitalisation and Improvement Plan (TRIP) were completed in the last year.

At Priory Car Park, new signage was installed to direct people to the town centre, the old fire station site received improvement works to make the area more attractive and welcoming as a gateway to the town centre and new railings have been installed outside the Baptist church. The planters on the railings have been planted up and additional planters have been installed in Old Vicarage Place adding colour and greenery to this busy walkway.



The Meadows Pump Track

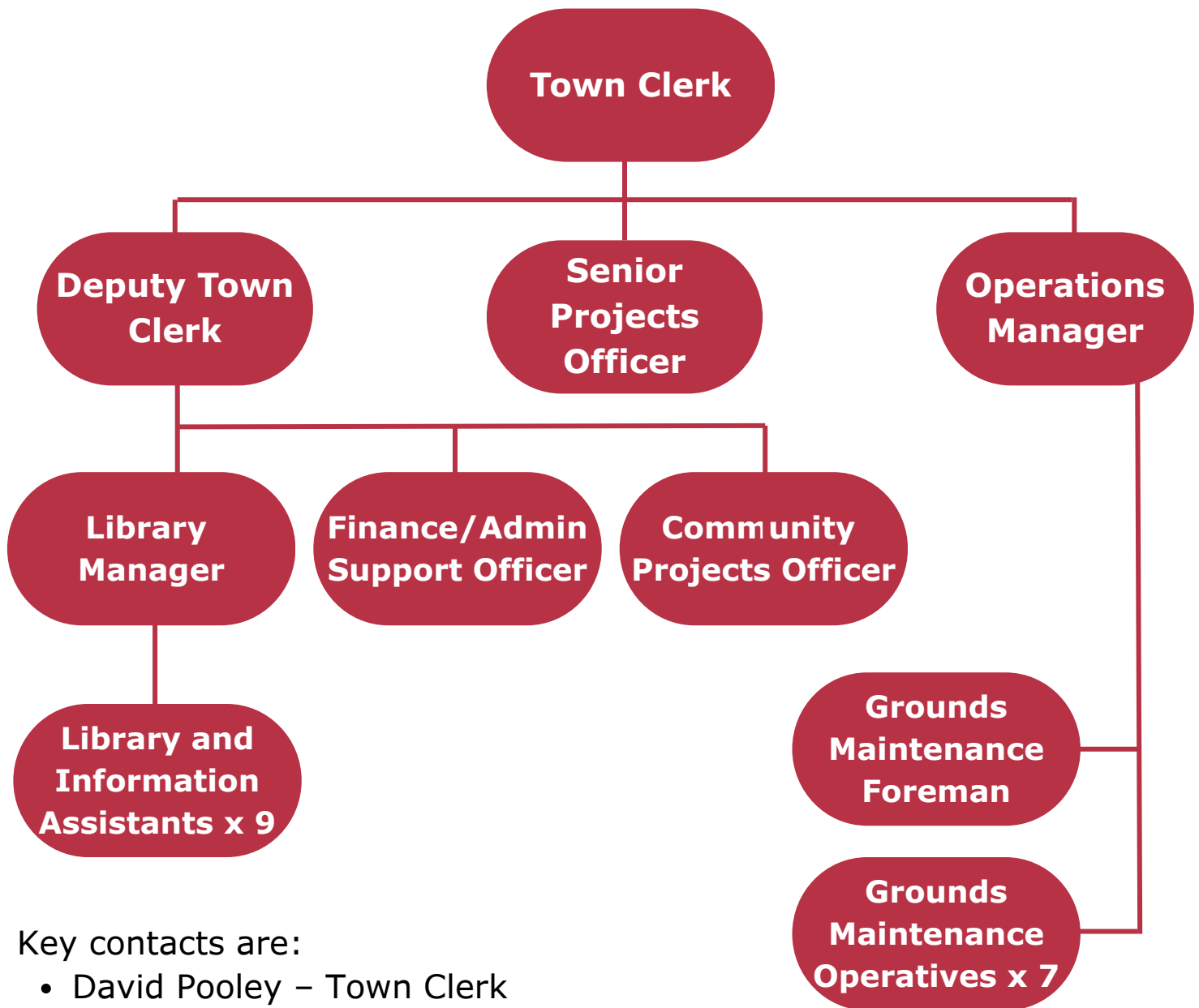
The largest park project delivered during 2025 was the design and build of St Austell's first Pump Track at The Meadows. This was completed in November 2025 and attracts riders from all over Cornwall and beyond due to its state-of-the-art design. St Austell has a number of sporting attractions in the area, and this is a particularly popular facility as it caters for all age ranges and abilities.



Staff Structure

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Officers and staff at St Austell Town Council are currently a team of 11 full-time and 12 part-time staff. The Town Clerk is the Council's most senior member of staff and is supported by a senior leadership team which includes the Deputy Town Clerk, Operations Manager and a Senior Projects Manager.



Key contacts are:

- David Pooley – Town Clerk
- Sara Gwilliams – Deputy Town Clerk
- Steve Skinner – Operations Manager
- Kim Gay - Finance/Admin Support Officer
- Terry Shaw – Library Manager
- Mark Mitchley - Senior Projects Officer
- Jessica Lewis - Community Projects Officer

Community Grants

Grontys kemeneth



St Austell Town Council uses its small grants and other schemes to support a range of community-focused projects. Following the scheme's success, the Council has increased the small grants budget to £10,000 for 2026–2027, creating more opportunities for local groups to access funding.

Climate Action St Austell	£500
Cornwall International Male Choral Festival	£500
Cornwall Performing Arts	£500
Edible St Austell	£250
Imerys Singers	£250
iSight Cornwall	£250
No Limits Personal Training & Wellbeing	£250
St Austell Amateur Operatic Society	£1,000
St Austell BID - Christmas Lights Contribution	£12,250
St Austell BID - Funding for Town Centre Security	£28,054
St Austell Festival of Children's Literature	£1,000
St Austell Festival of Music and Speech	£250
St Austell Fire Station	£250

St Austell Hockey Club	£500
St Austell Library Support Association	£500
St Austell Old People's Welfare Committee	£250
St Austell Sea Cadets	£2,500
St Austell St Piran's Day Event	£500
St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society	£500
Stepping Stones Childcare Cornwall	£250
Studio 4 Dance	£4,000
Sunshine and Showers	£250
The Farming Mother	£250
True Butterflies Foundation	£500
VE Street Parties	£450
YMCA Cornwall	£500
Young People Cornwall	£20,250

30 recipients received a total of **£76,504**
from St Austell Town Council

Organisations interested in applying can visit the Town Council's website or email info@staustell-tc.gov.uk for more information.

Events

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During the 2025–2026 financial year, St Austell Town Council and the Library organised and supported a number of events across the parish. Building on this successful year, the Council looks forward to developing the events programme in the years ahead.



- Plant Swap Event to Support St Austell Library's Eco Awareness Day.
- Planted Wellington Boot Competition for Schools at St Austell BID's Summer Festival.



- Two weeks of After School Games in the Town Council's parks.



- Supported St Austell BID to organise and deliver a VJ Day Fun Day in the Town Centre.



- Halloween Silent Disco at St Austell Library.



- Remembrance Day Parade and Service at Holy Trinity Church.



- School's Christmas Concert at St John's Methodist Church
- Supported St Austell Library to provide a free Santa's Grotto and fun day.
- Supported St Austell BID by providing a grant towards the cost of the Christmas lights.



- Easter Fun Day at Studio 4 Dance.



- 2026 Mayor Making Ceremony.

Events Gallery

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Plant swap stall at the Library's Eco Awareness Event, May 2025



Wellington boots decorated and planted by local school children, June 2025



After School Park Games, Truro Road Park, July 2025



Company B perform at VJ Day, August 2025



The Mayor and Deputy Mayor try line dancing at VJ Day, August 2025



Members of staff from the Library at VJ Day, August 2025



Members of staff from the Library at the Halloween Silent Disco, October 2025



Remembrance Day Parade, November 2025



Schools Christmas Concert at St John's Methodist Church, December 2025



Santa and a member of Library staff read to children, December 2025



Reindeers at the Library, December 2025



The Mayor waits to meet Santa with a member of Library staff, December 2025

Open Spaces

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The Grounds Maintenance team continues to play a key role in maintaining and enhancing St Austell's public spaces. The team are responsible for the upkeep of 17 parks and open spaces, 2 car parks, 4 roundabouts and 10 miles of highway verges across the town.

Over the last 12 months, the team completed numerous improvement projects and maintenance programmes, including;

- 4,000 spring bulbs planted along the A390 entrances to the town
- Over 12,000 seasonal bedding flowers planted
- Soft landscaping around the new Meadows Pump Track
- Replacement of 500m of climbing rope at Poltair Park
- Replacement of 300m of play chain on swings across 11 parks
- Planting of 17 heavy-standard trees at Woodland Road Park, The Meadows and Jubilee Meadow

Day to day the grounds team cut the grass on the highways and residential areas, litter pick and empty the bins on the parks and open spaces, undertake reactive repairs across the sites and carry out environmental improvements such as tree pruning and planting. All these activities help to promote pride in place and make St Austell an attractive and welcoming town for residents and visitors.

The Green Spaces they maintain are:

- Bethel Park
- Chapel Field Park
- Chy Pons
- Cosgarne Triangle
- Jubilee Meadows Open Space
- Landrew Road Play Area
- Linear Park
- Lostwood Road Garden
- The Meadows Play Area
- Penmere Road Open Space
- Poltair Park
- Prince Charles Park
- Sandy Hill Park
- Thornpark Road Play Area
- Truro Road Park
- Woodland Close Open Space
- Woodland Road Park

Open Spaces Gallery

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The Meadows Pump Track during construction



High Sherrif of Cornwall, Geraint Richards, plants a tree in the library's front garden



Woodland Road Park



A wild flower area at The Meadows Open Space



A flower bed on Trinity Street in the town centre



A wild flower area at Bethel Park



The Band Stand in Truro Road Park



Wild paths mown into the top of Linear Park



Chy Pons Open Space



A flower bed at Cosgarne Triangle



Poltair Park cafe

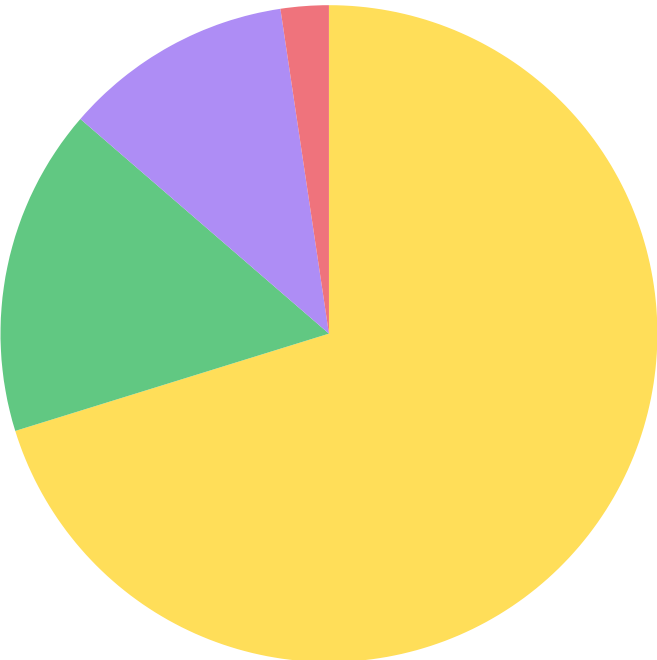


Mount Charles Roundabout

Council Funding

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St Austell Town Council receives over half of its income from precept payments - a portion of council tax allocated to the Town Council.



Town Council Revenue 2025/26

- Precept (£1,301,100)
- Services Income (£298,761)
- Grants and Other Income (£209,433)
- Reserves (£43,764)

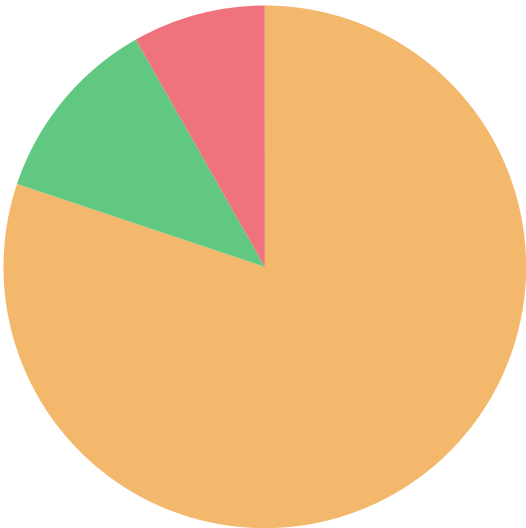
Compared to other Towns 2026/27

*Based on a Band D property

Falmouth	£488.15
Truro	£459.89
Bodmin	£389.90
Launceston	£389.83
Redruth	£384.74
Newquay	£349.10
Hayle	£334.52
Penzance	£328.07
Wadebridge	£316.41
Helston	£290.87
St Ives	£287.74
Saltash	£286.96
Camborne	£281.75
Liskeard	£268.06
St Austell	£213.90
Penryn	£193.44

Your Council Tax Breakdown 2026/27

The Town Council takes the smallest share, after Devon & Cornwall Police and Cornwall Council.



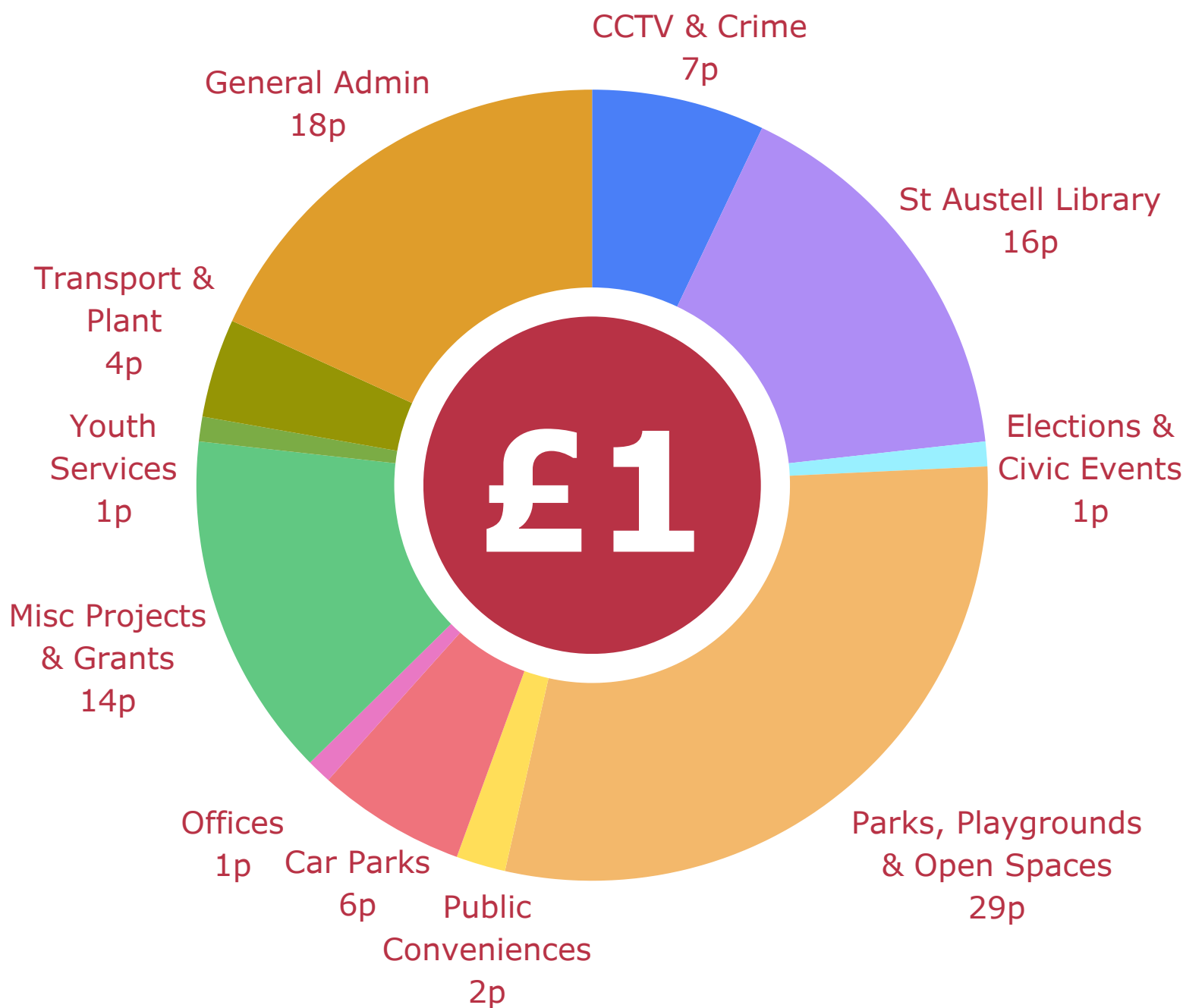
- Cornwall Council (£2086.36)
- Devon & Cornwall Police (£303.20)
- St Austell Town Council (£213.90)

*Based on a Band D property

How we spend your money

Fatel wren ni spena agas arghans

St Austell Town Council maintains local parks, playgrounds, open spaces, car parks and public conveniences and also funds events, Christmas lights, CCTV and security. Other expenses include Mayoral events, civic ceremonies and St Austell Library. The graph below shows a breakdown in expenditure for every £1 spent by St Austell Town Council in 2025/26.



Balance Sheet & Annual Accounts

Rol asadow hag akontow bledhynnyek

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2025-26 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.

24/25	ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	25/26
	Income	
£1,177,920	Precept Payments	£1,301,100
£ 273,811	Services Income	£ 290,433
£ 278,293	Grants & Other Income	£ 298,761
£ 10,998	Transfers from Reserves	£ 43,764
£1,741,022	Total Income	£1,934,058
	Less Expenditure	
£ 731,609	Employee Expenses	£ 791,852
£ 168,213	Premises Expenses	£ 173,066
£ 439,156	Supplies & Services	£ 599,598
£ 75,998	Grants	£ 76,504
£ 61,797	Transport Expenses	£ 62,541
£ -	Election Expenses	£ 7,944
£ 225,575	Transfer to Reserves	£ 220,000
£1,702,348	Total Expenditure	£1,931,505
£ 38,674	Net Surplus/Deficit (-)	£ 2,553

The Council's balance sheet shows a simple snapshot of the Council's finances as of 31st March 2025 & 31st March 2026. This shows what the council owns, what it owes, and the overall value of its finances at the above dates.

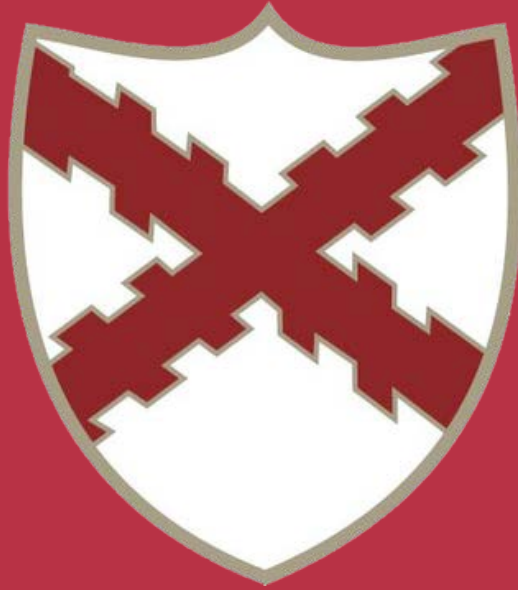
	BALANCE SHEET	
	AS AT 31 MARCH 2026	
31-Mar-25	Account	31-Mar-26
£ 856,606	Fixed Assets	£1,030,030
	Current Assets	
£ 83,256	Debtors and Prepayments	£ 79,080
£ 114,995	Bank and Cash	£ 108,793
£ 995,260	Short Term Investments	£1,189,717
£1,193,511	Total Current Assets	£1,377,590
	Current Liabilities	
£ 32,159	Creditors and Accruals	£ 37,448
£ 32,159	Total Current Liabilities	£ 37,448
£2,017,959	Net Assets	£2,370,172
	Equity	
£ 856,606	Capital Financing/ Revaluation Reserves	£1,030,030
£ 743,025	Earmarked Reserves	£ 919,261
£ 418,328	General Reserve	£ 420,881
£2,017,959	Total Equity	£2,370,172

Calendar of Meetings for 2026-27

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The table below shows the dates for all Full Council and Committee meetings in the 2026/27 Civic year. Meetings are held in Cornwall Council's Chi Austel Office in White River Place or at the Town Council's offices at The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell. Agendas are published online and on noticeboards at least three clear working days before a meeting is due to take place. Minutes for Committee and Council meetings are published on the Town Council's website - www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

11/05/26	Annual Town Council Meeting	30/11/26	Planning & Regeneration
18/05/26	Planning & Regeneration	14/12/26	Full Council
01/06/26	Community & Environment	04/01/27	Planning & Regeneration
15/06/26	Planning & Regeneration	18/01/27	Community & Environment
22/06/26	Finance & General Purposes	25/01/27	Full Council
06/07/26	Community & Environment	01/02/27	Planning & Regeneration
13/07/26	Full Council	15/02/27	Finance & General Purposes
20/07/26	Planning & Regeneration	22/02/27	Community & Environment
17/08/26	Planning & Regeneration	01/03/27	Planning & Regeneration
01/09/26	Full Council	15/03/27	Finance & General Purposes
14/09/26	Community & Environment	22/03/27	Community & Environment
21/09/26	Planning & Regeneration	01/03/27	Planning & Regeneration
28/09/26	Finance & General Purposes	15/03/27	Full Council
12/10/26	Full Council	22/03/27	Community & Environment
19/10/26	Community & Environment	05/04/27	Planning & Regeneration
26/10/26	Planning & Regeneration	12/04/27	Finance & General Purposes
02/11/26	Finance & General Purposes	19/04/27	Annual Parish Meeting
23/11/26	Community & Environment	10/05/27	Annual Town Council Meeting



St Austell Town Council
The Stable Block
Pondhu House
Penwinnick Road
St Austell
PL25 5DP

01726 829859
www.staustell-tc.gov.uk
info@staustell-tc.gov.uk