

# St Austell Town Council



## Climate and Environment Committee

**To: All Members of the Climate and Environment Committee**  
(Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Gray, Hamilton, Hawken, Kimber, Pearce, Stephens and Taylor).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee** to be held at **Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ** on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026** at **6pm.**

David Pooley  
**Town Clerk**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  (Purpose: To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other non-registerable interests in respect of items on this agenda).	

<b>3.</b>	<b>Dispensations</b>  (Purpose: To receive requests for dispensations under the Code of Conduct).	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Public participation (15 minutes maximum)</b>  The Chairman will invite members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be carried out at the meeting.  15 minutes will be allocated for public participation (this can be extended at the Chairman's discretion). Each person addressing the Council will be allocated a maximum of two minutes.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>  (Purpose: To agree that the minutes of the above meeting be signed as a correct record). (Attached).	<b>Pages 1 - 4</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Matters to note</b>  (Purpose: A verbal update from the Town Clerk on the actions taken since the last meeting).  Note: No decision may be made under this agenda item.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Climate Action St Austell (CASA )</b>  (Purpose: To receive a presentation from representatives of CASA).	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Biodiversity Policy</b>  (Purpose: To consider approving a Biodiversity Policy) (Report attached).	<b>Pages 5 - 12</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Climate Action Plan</b>  (Purpose: To review the updated Climate Action Plan). (Attached).	<b>Pages 13 - 26</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>  (Purpose: To note the date of the next meeting – to be confirmed)	

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025 at Chi Austell, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Gray, Hamilton, Hawken and Stephens.

**Also Present:** Councillor Pearce observed the meeting by TEAMS.

**In attendance:** David Pooley (Town Clerk) and Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

**CE/25/01) Election of Chair**

The Town Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Stephens.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Stephens be elected Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2025/26 civic year.

**CE/25/02) Election of Vice-Chair**

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Cohen.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Cohen be elected Vice-Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2025/26 civic year.

Arising from the above, Councillor Cohen advised that due to a change in her working arrangements, she could now no longer commit to attending CASA meetings.

**CE/25/03) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kimber and Taylor.

**CE/25/04) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hamilton declared an interest in agenda item 11 (CASA update) by virtue of attending their meetings and events in his capacity as Mayor.

**CE/25/05) Dispensations**

The Clerk advised that no requests for dispensations had been received.

**CE/25/06) Public Participation**

There were no members of public present.

**CE/25/07) Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CE/25/08) Matters to note**

The Clerk advised that further to minute number CE/24/29, no further contact has been made from the Cornwall Council (Health Cornwall Team) with regard to installing smoke free signage in the Town Council's parks.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has a contract for weed spraying to control the weeds on kerbsides and surfaced paths, but this does not include the Town Council's play areas. Minute number CE/24/31 refers.

Mrs Earl, member of the public arrived during the next item.

### **CE/25/09) Climate Action Plan**

The Town Clerk went through the Climate Action Plan in detail as follows:

- **Energy.** Priory toilets and the town centre electric point are both on renewable energy contracts. The library is on a long-term contract with Kent County Council (Cornwall Council framework agreement) which is partially renewable energy.
- **Trees.** The High Sheriff has sourced a Red Oak which is due to be planted in the library garden on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025. This is part of a larger piece of horticultural activity in the library garden that the High Sheriff has overseen in conjunction with the grounds maintenance team.
- **Grants Scheme.** The Town Council's grants scheme encourages funding applications for climate emergency projects.
- **Apprentice.** The Town Council has approved the recruitment of another Grounds Maintenance Apprentice.
- **Organic foam-based weed treatment.** This treatment was trialled but was not particularly effective or environmentally friendly as the process used a lot of diesel.
- **In Bloom.** Due to a lack of resource, there are now limited entries to the South-West in Bloom competition in St Austell. The towns who enter the competition have very active community groups which is an essential part of the criteria.
- **Retro Fit.** The Clerk advised that Ocean Housing is due to meet with the Town Council later in the year/early next year for an update on their housing programmes.
- **Bus Services.** The Town Council has lobbied Cornwall Council for improvements to the bus services serving St Austell. There will probably be a need to lobby for an enhanced bus service and accessible bus stops when the Health Hub is up and running at Carlyon House.
- **Re-cycled paper.** Ecolabel paper is procured at the present time as re-cycled paper is still relatively expensive.
- **Street Lights.** The Town Council's streetlights are being replaced with LED's on a phased basis.

- **Community Engagement.** The Town Council continues to support a number of climate change themed events most recently a climate awareness event at the library and CASA's "cleaner, greener" day.
- **Composting.** The Town Council re-cycles plants and composts where it can.
- **Carbon Accounting.** Insufficient resource to complete the project at the present time.
- **Cycling facility.** Grant funding has been obtained and a pump track is being built at The Meadows. Due for completion late November/early December.
- **Reducing cash collection.** A contactless payment system installed which now accounts for more transactions than cash.
- **Solar Panels.** The Town Council has approved the installation of solar panels on the roof of the toilet block.
- **Buy Local.** The Town Council, wherever possible uses local suppliers and contractors.
- **Multi use Trails.** The Town Council has recently provided the Rotary Club with paint to paint the finger post signs at the Menacuddle end of the clay trail.
- **Re-cycling.** A re-cycling contract is held with Biffa. All new benches, tables and safety surfacing procured for the parks are made from recycled material.
- **Battery operated equipment.** The Town Council has purchased two battery operated blowers.
- **Engagement with young people.** The Town Council has set up a working group to facilitate the creation of a Youth Council.

Arising from the above, it was suggested that during the planning process, the Town Council should lobby Cornwall Council to ensure that the provision of solar panels is actively encouraged for all new builds.

It was further suggested that the Town Council considers making space available in Poltair Park for a community gardening project aimed at people who have not got a garden.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and add the suggestions outlined above to the Action Plan.

#### **CE/25/10) In Bloom**

The Chair invited Mrs Earl to speak.

Mrs Earl expressed her disappointment that there is a decline in the entrants to the annual "In Bloom" competition and made reference to the community cohesion that the competition brings.

Mrs Earl referred to some groups of people that might be interested in garden competitions similar to those held in Fowey. She also advised that she would like to see an annual harvest festival at St John's Church.

During discussion, it was noted that many of the community groups who used to enter the In Bloom competition, no longer exist.

Members felt that it would be helpful if the Town Council could advertise its Small Grants Scheme and encourage grant applications from community groups for environmental or horticultural projects.

It was **RESOLVED** to advertise the Town Council's Small Grants Scheme and encourage applications from community groups for environmental and horticultural projects.

#### **CE/25/11) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)**

Councillor Hamilton advised that the Chair of CASA is Rev Paul Salaman, the Vicar of St Mewan, who is a very welcome addition to the group.

Councillor Hamilton further advised that CASA were very appreciative of the £500 grant from the Town Council which helped fund their Cheaper, Greener day on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The event took place in St John's Methodist Church and had solar energy and recycling stalls, plant give aways and electric bikes on display. Councillor Hamilton advised that he opened the event and St Mewan School Choir provided the entertainment.

CASA are currently campaigning against toxic ash being taken from the St Dennis incinerator to Northamptonshire and an undeveloped oil field at Rosebank.

Mrs Earl added that CASA are hoping to have a table in the town centre over the Christmas period with promotional material entitled "Saving Energy, Saves Money"

#### **CE/25/12) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

**ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**  
**BIODIVERSITY POLICY**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider a draft Biodiversity Policy.

**2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

As a landowner the Town Council has duties and responsibilities in relation to biodiversity. Biodiversity is regulated by national guidelines and legislation.

**3. RESOURCE ISSUES**

The Town Council employs an Operations Manager who oversee the grounds maintenance service which includes biodiversity considerations.

**4. EQUALITIES ISSUES**

Accessibility and the needs of the community are considered when making land management.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

The Town Council maintains wildflower areas, trees and natural spaces as well as formal planting and well-mown grass areas. This policy will give greater clarity to the impact of the Town Council's work in relation to biodiversity.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members review and approve the draft policy.

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DAVID POOLEY  
TOWN CLERK



# St Austell Town Council



## Biodiversity Policy

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### 1. Policy Statement

St Austell Town Council acknowledges its duty under **Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**, as strengthened by the **Environment Act 2021**, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

The Council recognises that biodiversity underpins ecosystem health, climate resilience, and community wellbeing. Through the responsible management of its **17 parks and open spaces, rural footpaths, and one small woodland**, the Council is committed to taking proportionate, practical, and measurable action to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

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### 2. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out how St Austell Town Council will:

- Fulfil its **statutory biodiversity duty**
- Integrate biodiversity considerations into land management and decision-making
- Support national and local nature recovery priorities
- Deliver biodiversity improvements within the scale and resources of the Town Council

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### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all land and activities under the control or influence of St Austell Town Council, including:

- Public parks and amenity spaces
- Informal open spaces
- Rural footpaths, verges, and rights of way
- Council-owned woodland
- Trees, hedgerows, and boundary features

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# St Austell Town Council



## Biodiversity Policy

### 4. Legislative and Policy Context

This policy aligns with the following UK legislation and guidance:

- **Environment Act 2021** – Biodiversity duty for public authorities
- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**
- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)** (where published)
- **DEFRA Biodiversity Metric principles** (proportionate application)
- **Tree Preservation and wildlife protection legislation** including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

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### 5. Policy Objectives

The Town Council will seek to:

1. **Protect existing habitats and species** on council-managed land
2. **Enhance biodiversity value** through positive management practices
3. **Create and restore habitats** where feasible
4. **Support ecological connectivity** within and beyond council land
5. **Avoid biodiversity harm** and mitigate unavoidable impacts
6. **Engage residents and partners** in nature recovery
7. **Monitor and report** on biodiversity actions and outcomes

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### 6. Biodiversity Principles

The Town Council will apply the following principles:

- **Avoid – Minimise – Enhance:** prioritising avoidance of harm before mitigation
- **Right habitat, right place:** using native and locally appropriate species
- **Nature-based solutions** where appropriate
- **Long-term stewardship** of council land
- **Proportionate and evidence-led action**



## Biodiversity Policy

### 7. Land Management Commitments

#### 7.1 Parks and Open Spaces

The Town Council will:

- Maintain a **diversity of habitats** including grassland, trees, hedgerows, scrub, and water features
- Introduce **wildflower areas** or relaxed mowing regimes where suitable
- Reduce mowing frequency in selected areas to support pollinators
- Retain **deadwood, leaf litter, and natural features** where public safety allows
- Avoid the routine use of **pesticides, herbicides, and peat-based products where possible**
- Protect mature trees and implement **tree replacement and succession planting**
- Schedule works to avoid the **bird nesting season** (March–August) wherever possible

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#### 7.2 Rural Footpaths, Verges, and Rights of Way

The Town Council will:

- Manage footpaths to balance **public access and biodiversity protection**
- Adopt **sensitive verge cutting regimes**, avoiding peak flowering periods
- Retain hedgerows and boundary features and manage them sympathetically
- Avoid unnecessary widening, surfacing, or lighting of rural paths
- Work with the highway authority where responsibilities overlap

# St Austell Town Council



## Biodiversity Policy

### 7.3 Woodland Management

The Town Council will:

- Manage the woodland primarily for **biodiversity and natural regeneration**
- Retain standing and fallen deadwood where safe
- Promote a **mixed age and species structure**
- Control invasive non-native species where identified
- Avoid clear-felling and large-scale disturbance
- Protect woodland soils, ground flora, and nesting wildlife

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### 8. New Projects, Works, and Procurement

When undertaking new works or commissioning contractors, the Town Council will:

- Consider biodiversity impacts at the **earliest planning stage**
- Seek opportunities to deliver **measurable biodiversity enhancement**
- Use native and locally appropriate planting schemes
- Include biodiversity requirements in **tender and contract specifications**
- Incorporate features such as:
  - Bird and bat boxes
  - Hedgehog access
  - Insect habitats and log piles
  - Sustainable drainage and natural landscaping

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### 9. Community Engagement and Partnerships

The Town Council will:

- Encourage **community involvement** in biodiversity initiatives
- Support volunteer groups, schools, and local conservation organisations
- Promote biodiversity awareness through signage, events, and publications
- Encourage responsible use of green spaces

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# St Austell Town Council



## Biodiversity Policy

### 10. Monitoring, Reporting, and Review

The Town Council will:

- Maintain a **simple record of biodiversity actions** undertaken annually
- Use habitat maps, photographs, or surveys where proportionate
- Report biodiversity actions to Council meetings or via an annual report
- Review this policy every **3–5 years** or when legislation changes

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## Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2026

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Implement new in-house waste management function.	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Operations Manager <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	March 2020	New arrangements implemented utilising existing staff with reduced travel compared to previous contract. Working well.	Yes.
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources for Priory Toilets, Poltair Park and town centre electric point.	Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	Sept 2025	Renewable energy purchased for Priory toilets and town centre electric point.	Closely monitoring

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	680 trees planted since 2017. All trees planted are logged with Forest for Cornwall. Around 60 trees are being brought on at the Town Council's nursery.	Ongoing
Installation of a polytunnel to allow the re-cycling of plants and growing on of trees/shrubs and creation of a tree nursery.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Polytunnel well used since 2022 for the growing on of plants and trees. <b>500</b> plants have this year been grown from seed or plugs in the polytunnel and the nursery is currently housing around 60 young trees to be brought on for planting when they are mature enough.	Fully operational.
Replacement of external lights at The Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021		Complete
Replacement of internal lights in the Committee Room/Hallway at the Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Dec 2025		Complete
Installation of rainwater harvesting facility at Alexandra Road allotments	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021		Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Establish a small grants scheme for community climate change initiatives or amend existing scheme.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021	Existing grant criteria reviewed to encourage climate emergency projects.	Complete.
Review horticulture service/employ a horticultural apprentice dependent on workloads.	Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk/ Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	February 2021/ ongoing	New apprentice started April 2024 and <b>qualified in July 2025.</b>  <b>Further Apprentice to be recruited</b>	Complete
Trial of an organic foam based weed solution in the Town Council's parks and car park.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Spring 2021/ ongoing	Method is not suitable for all areas across the town and is powered by diesel. Machinery and service proved unreliable.	Trial complete.
Engage with GI4G to maximise improvements in biodiversity through "making space for nature"	Town Clerk/Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	March 2021/ ongoing	The Meadows and Cemetery Park schemes were completed and the Town Council have taken on maintenance responsibility for both sites.	Complete and waiting for future opportunities

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Town Clerk/Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	March 2021/ ongoing	Signed off by Council 22.03.21. Review due.	Complete
Develop Environmental Policy based on good practice identified by Cornwall Council.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	April 2021/ ongoing	Reviewed and approved July 2024. <b>Biodiversity Policy also created in 2026</b>	Complete
Enter one or more parks in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks competition to demonstrate environment initiatives.	Operations Manager/Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	May 2022/ ongoing	Poltair Park entered into the 2023 Pride in Park competition part of which is judged on sustainability. 3 Stars achieved. Truro Road Park entered in 2024.	Truro Road Park achieved a Silver Gilt award
Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	July 2022	Community Groups provided opportunity to enter IYN competition 2023. Library entered 2024 and 2025.	Community Groups encouraged to enter.
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	May 2022/ ongoing	Poltair Park café actively re-cycling and in contract with BIFFA.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Assist the St Austell BID with SWIB BID entry	Operations Manager Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	July 2022	BID have stopped entering due to resource issues.	
Lobby Government and Cornwall Council to introduce subsidised retrofit programmes for housing in deprived areas	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	December 2021	Cornwall Council and housing associations have taken advantage of funding opportunities.	Library event held in 2025 with CEP
Improve planting in Bethel Park.	Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Major improvement scheme completed and further planting to be undertaken Spring 2024.	Wildflower area created in Spring 2024 and expanded in summer 2025
Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Town Council has lobbied for improvements to the scheduling of buses. Timetables reviewed regularly.	
Procure re-cycled paper for St Austell Library and the office.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Due to the costs involved, ecolabel paper rather than recycled paper is procured for most uses at the present time.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	-	Woods sold to a private individual.	Complete
Street Lights. Explore energy saving measures for Town Council owned street lights.	Operations Manager <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	Ongoing	Town Council street lights being replaced with LED's on a phased basis. Comprehensive replacement cost prohibitive.	Lighting survey by Enerveo due to be carried out in Feb 2026 to determine which lights are end of life and should be converted to LED
Community Engagement	Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	Ongoing	TC worked closely with CASA. Garden festival and green festival supported. Rotary Club carrying out planting and litter picks across various sites	Library Event Planned for May 2026. TC supported the CASA climate event at St Johns Church in September 2025

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Liaise with St Austell BID with regard to the efficiency of the Town Centre Christmas lights.	Deputy Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	December 2022/ongoing	All Christmas lights are LED and were replaced in 2023.	Complete
Review composting arrangements and explore the potential to develop own compost.	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Spring 2022/ongoing	Orchard Car Park identified as a potential site to create formal composting bays.	
			Town Council's future at the Stable Block uncertain due to re-development of the Penwinnick Road site.	Discussions commenced with Treveth
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk Climate & Environment Committee	December 2021/ongoing	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project.	
			Still to be progressed.	
Investigate and consider installing electric charging point(s) in Priory Car Park	Town Clerk Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	February 2022/ongoing	EV charging points installed and operational.	Complete
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2022	Funding bid submitted to Cornwall Council for the creation of a pump track at The Meadows.	Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	May 2025	Priory Car Park Toilets identified. Suitability to be determined. Will review resource implications at next budget round.	Principle approved by Council.
Consider how best to engage with the town's residents to raise awareness of climate change issues.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	A further climate awareness event in the library is being planned for Spring 2025.	Event took place at the Library On 30.05.25
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Wildflower areas maintained at: Penwinnick Road, Daniels Lane, The Meadows and Trenowah Road. The Meadows wildflower areas refreshed October 2023.	Areas have been reseeded in spring 2026
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	LCWIP completed. Rooftop Garden feasibility tested. Report received.	Awaiting update from CC on LCWIP projects. Report complete.
			Church piazza project incorporates sustainable planting. Due to be completed November 2025.	Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Follow a buy local policy to support local businesses and reduce miles travelled by goods.	All officers <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Unless mitigating factors prevail, local suppliers and contractors are used.	
Improvement of Multi Use Trails	All officers <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Signage improved by Sustrans and Rotary Club in partnership with Town Council. Trail at Tremena Gardens improved. LCWIP completed.	Signage cleaned and painted again by the Rotary Club in September 2025
Provision for re-cycling	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Contract held with Biffa. Recycling of cardboard and plastics on a fortnightly basis for both the office and library. Shrubs and plants recycled where possible. Wood from Poltair pavilion and Lostwood Garden recycled.	

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Provision of battery-operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Battery operated blower acquired which due to battery capacity issues is only used for smaller parks/gardens.	
To keep grass cutting, wildflower and tree planting policies under review to support pollinators and carbon sequestration.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	<p>Grass cutting policy reviewed May 2024.</p> <p>Tree watering systems acquired to save water and watering.</p>	<p>9 large trees on order for planting in the parks during winter 2025</p>
Engagement with young people to encourage environmental issues	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	<p>Litter picks in Poltair Park and new litter bin purchased for the park on the recommendation of Young People Cornwall.</p> <p>YPC facilitating Summer Games in the Parks.</p> <p>Creation of a Youth Council being considered.</p>	
Environmental activities with regard to Town Council maintained public rights of way	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing		Maintenance work being absorbed by the Council workforce to reduce travel and carbon emissions.

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Creation of Truro Road Park – Friends Group	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Truro Road Friends Group resurrected and involved in improvement projects for the park. Recycling shrubs from Lostwood Garden to Truro Road.	Friends Group achieved a Silver Gilt award in the Pride in Parks competition in 2023
The Meadows	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Exploring the potential to enter The Meadows into the Pride in Park competition 2026.	
Landrew Road community garden	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Growing group of volunteers at the garden. Compost toilet created, covered area erected utilising re-claimed wood and regular composting at the site	
Planning & Regeneration	Town Clerk <b>Planning &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	Ongoing	National policy changes introduced regarding biodiversity. Committee has raised environmental concerns and issues for a number of planning applications and will continue to do so.	Government reviewing Biodiversity Policies

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Explore efficient ways to provide assistance in terms of warmth, shelter and food for the disadvantaged.	<b>Sara Gwilliams</b> <b>Deputy Town Clerk</b>	Winter 2022/23	St Austell Library engaged with NHS and Volunteer Cornwall to support the Safe Space and Warm Space initiatives.	Complete
Repairing play equipment rather than buying new.	<b>Steve Skinner</b> Community Committee	Ongoing	Small Grants Scheme terms and conditions reviewed to permit revenue expenditure such as energy costs to be funded for voluntary groups.	Complete
Creation of bat shelter in Poltair Park.	<b>Steve Skinner</b> Community Committee	February 2024	Winter maintenance includes comprehensive repairs and servicing which should extend the life of play equipment. Local engineering company used to manufacture and repair some parts.	Complete
Identify a suitable space in Priory Car Park for electric bikes to be located.	<b>Steve Skinner</b> Community Committee	Spring 2023	Beryl Bikes rolled out in St Austell by Cornwall Council in April 2023. Space in Priory Car Park identified, and line removal/re-lining carried out to allow the bikes to be picked up/dropped off in that location.	Beryl Bikes withdrawn in Sep 2024 due to lack of use.

Purchase re-cycled materials where possible	Steve Skinner <b>Operations Manager</b>	Ongoing	All new benches, tables and safety surfacing in parks are now made from recycled materials.	Ongoing
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