

# St Austell Town Council



## Community Committee

**To: All Members of the Community Committee** (Councillors: Cohen, Clemo, Hawken, Kimber, Lingham, Nott, Preece, Rowse, Stephens, Taylor, Thompson, Whitehouse and Young).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Community Committee** to be held at **Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ** on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 at 6pm.**

David Pooley  
**Town Clerk**

26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Tel: 01726 829859  
e-mail: [david.pooley@staustell-tc.gov.uk](mailto:david.pooley@staustell-tc.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.staustell-tc.gov.uk](http://www.staustell-tc.gov.uk)

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### AGENDA

- 1. Election Of Chair**
- 2. Election of Vice-Chair**
- 3. Apologies for absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**

(Purpose: To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other non-registerable interests in respect of items on this agenda).

- 5. Dispensations**

(Purpose: To receive requests for dispensations under the Code of Conduct).

**6. Minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Pages  
1 to 4**

(Purpose: To agree that the minutes of the above meeting be signed as a correct record).

**7. Matters to Note**

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.

**8. Public participation (15 minutes maximum)**

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.*

**9. Poltair Park – Skateboard Park**

(Purpose: To receive a presentation from Maverick Industries on a potential upgrade of the skateboard park in Poltair Park).

**10. Carefree Cornwall**

(Purpose: To receive a presentation from Mari Eggins, Chief Executive Office on the work of Carefree Cornwall).

**11. Community Committee – Terms of Reference**

**Pages  
5 to 6**

(Purpose: To consider a revised Terms of Reference for the Community Committee). (Attached).

**12. Small Grants Scheme**

**Pages  
7 to 28**

- Friends of Doubletrees
- Regenerative Food and Farming CIC (Gleaning Cornwall)
- Trewoon Pantomime Group

- 13. Community Engagement Policy** **Pages  
29 to 32**
- (Purpose: To review and approve a draft Community Engagement Policy)
- 14. CASA – People’s Emergency Briefing** **Pages  
33 to 34**
- (Purpose: To consider making CASA – People’s Emergency Briefing on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 an approved duty).
- 15. Events Schedule**
- (Purpose: To note a draft schedule of events from May 2026 to December 2026). (Attached).
- 16. Projects Update**
- (Purpose: To receive a verbal report on the projects currently being worked on). (Verbal update).
- 17. To consider excluding the press and public.**
- Under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the business specified for the following item:*
- Item 18 is confidential because it contains personal data.
- 18. Poltair Café**
- (Purpose: To receive an update on the operation of Poltair Café post September 2026). (Verbal update).
- 19. Dates of Meetings**
- (Purpose: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (TBC) and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026.



**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2026 at Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Hamilton, Hawken, Kimber, Nott, Preece, Taylor and Whitehouse.

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

**Also in attendance:** A Etheridge (interpreter).

**CC/25/58) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Clemo, Lingham, Stephens, Thompson and Young.

**CC/25/59) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CC/25/60) Dispensations**

None.

**CC/25/61) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CC/25/62) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that he had nothing further to add.

**CC/25/63) Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present other than Mr Jake Richards.

**CC/25/64) Jake Richards**

Mr Jake Richards thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting.

Mr Richards advised that he is the owner of Jakes Bakes in the Market House, founder of the St Austell STAR Awards and Chair of the newly formed Town Team.

Mr Richards expressed a view that St Austell town centre suffers from inconsistent footfall outside of the summer season, increasing rents, rates and utility bills for local businesses, little promotional activity and a lack of a coordinated approach to regeneration. He added that he has spoken to lots of people who do not know who the BID or St Austell Town Centre Regeneration Partnership are and expressed a view that there needs to be better communication and a collective action to drive footfall, reduce shop vacancies, strengthen the identity of St Austell, support businesses, attract new investment and build local pride.

Mr Richards referred to towns such as Newquay and Mevagissey who promote themselves well by selling memorabilia such as fridge magnets, promotional hoodies, local shortbread, fudge etc and felt that St Austell could do something similar. He expressed concern with regard to the lack of visitor information, information for potential new businesses and an unreliable discovery trail around the town due to problems with the QR codes and software issues relating to android telephones.

Mr Richards concluded that the Town Team would like to open a shop within the town centre which will act as a hub of information, provider of local produce and mementos and assist with the marketing and promotion of the town. He advised that once a proposal has been worked up, the Team would like to seek grant funding from the Town Council to support set up costs.

During discussion, Members raised the following:

- The difficulties in attracting visitors to the town;
- The excellent revitalisation projects undertaken by the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership (piazza, banners and greening across the town);
- The lack of willing volunteers to sustain community projects;
- The need to learn from history (eg: SABEF, Carnival Committee);
- Gratitude to Mr Richards and the Team for looking at the issues with a fresh set of eyes and ideas.

Arising from a question, Mr Richards advised that the Town Team Members are:

Mr Jake Richards (Chair)  
Mr Dave Halton  
Mr Andrew Stickland  
Mr Mark Gray  
Mr Steve Nott

The Chair thanks Mr Richards for his presentation.

### **CC/25/65) Small Grants Scheme**

#### *Cornwall Performing Arts CIC*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Cornwall Performing Arts CIC towards their Creative Writing for Young People in St Austell project.

#### *Cornwall International Male Choral Festival*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 to the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival due to take place at St John's Methodist Church in May 2026.

#### *Cornwall Pride CIO*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Cornwall Pride CIO subject to confirmation from the organisations of the date that the event is due to take place in St Austell.

## *iSight Cornwall*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to iSight Cornwall towards their BUGS (Blind Using Guided Sights) Shooting Club activity.

### **CC/25/66) Projects Update**

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk provided an update as follows:

#### *Shared Prosperity Funding*

**Pump Track** – the project is now complete and an official opening event is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**Town Revitalisation and Improvement Programme** – the five projects are now complete and the final grant claim details are being worked up for submission to Cornwall Council within the next few days.

**CCTV** – the cameras are still on their winter hours monitoring, but continue to provide an excellent service. A grant has been obtained for additional cameras in the Polkyth area, but there are some technical issues to overcome. The mobile camera is being repaired.

**Young People Cornwall** – the Town Council continues to be represented at the quarterly steering group meetings. They are an important local service and have received good publicity with Children in Need. Nick Smith, CEO is due to attend the Parish meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**Anti-social behaviour** – still a few new faces about, but generally the town is quiet. Shoplifting, like in many towns, continues to be a problem. The Hotspot funding has been extended for six months which is good news although what happens after this time is still uncertain.

**CIL Funding** – two expressions of interest have been submitted to Cornwall Council for CIL funding.

1. Accessible paths in the Meadows and Poltair Park
2. Lighting of the opes in the town centre

**Bowls Club** – the Bowls Club lease is due for renewal and will be progressed within the next few months.

**Library and The House** – the freehold/leasehold transfer of the two buildings is still being negotiated.

**Poltair Park** – the potential for a new skateboard park at Poltair Park will be discussed at the next meeting. The replacement of aging equipment are being undertaken in a phased manner and a consultation process will start shortly with regard to the replacement of the helter skelter.

**Events** – at the present time there are plans for:

- Easter Event at Studio 4 - 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- Cornwall Armed Forces Day – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026

- Mayor Making Ceremony – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Pump Track Opening – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Councillor Kimber is liaising with the Clerk from Treverbyn Parish Council about the potential to put on a Proms in the Park style event in either Poltair Park or in an indoor location towards the end of August/beginning of September.

### **Youth Council**

Councillor Preece advised that he had recently met with teachers from Poltair and Penrice Schools with Councillor Whitehouse and the Senior Projects Officer. It was agreed that each school would nominate 6 young people to sit on the youth council. When the new term starts, training for the young people will be provided. Once the training has been completed the youth council meetings will be held after school, once a month on a Tuesday (during term time) from 3.45pm to 5pm.

### **CC/25/67) To consider excluding the press and public**

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### **CC/25/68) Priory Car Park**

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint APS Construction Services Ltd to reconstruct a length of wall in Priory Car Park, St Austell based upon their quotation dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### **CC/25/69) Re-admit Press and Public**

It was **RESOLVED** to re-admit the press and public.

### **CC/25/70) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

The meeting closed at 7.29pm.

## **Community and Environment Committee**

### **Purpose:**

To direct all activity designed to improve the community and cultural life of the St Austell area including the environment. To investigate and report such measures that will impact efforts to meet the challenges of a climate emergency and make recommendations to full Council.

### **Responsibilities:**

- To direct all activity designed to benefit the town and its community, except those aspects reserved to other Committees;
- To develop and maintain a climate emergency plan;
- To direct activity designed to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- To liaise with Government agencies, Cornwall Council, strategic partners and members of the community to educate, inform and advise on carbon reduction;
- To operate the Council's Small Grants Scheme, and recommend revisions to the Scheme for approval by full Council;
- To manage the allotments, sports grounds, open spaces, verges and bus shelters which are owned, leased or managed by the Town Council;
- The management of contracts for CCTV, parks and open spaces, footpath maintenance and weed treatment works within budget;
- To approve responses to consultation papers relating to matters within the remit of the Committee;
- To manage the Council's input to issues relating to youth services and The House;
- To maintain the Council's environmental initiatives;
- To prepare an annual budget estimate for the areas within its remit for submission to full Council;

- Spending Limit: Up to £12,500 on any one item, subject to expenditure being within agreed budget head and policy and a suitable procurement process being put in place. (Expenditure outside these limits to be recommended to full Council for approval).

**Relevant delegations:**

- Grants under the Council's Small Grants Scheme.
- Miscellaneous grants up to £10,000 provided they are within an approved budget.
- Environmental projects up to £12,500 provided they are within an approved budget.
- The management of contracts for CCTV, parks and open spaces, footpath maintenance and weed treatment works within budget.
- To approve responses to consultation papers relating to matters within the remit of the Committee.

**ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2026**

**SMALL GRANTS SCHEME - APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider funding requests received under the Town Council's Small Grants Scheme.

**2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The Council has the legal power to grant funding under the General Power of Competence which was formally re-adopted by the Town Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**3. RESOURCE ISSUES**

The Council has earmarked the sum of £10,000 for the small grants scheme in the 2025/26 financial year. To date £0 has been awarded leaving a balance of £10,000.

**4. EQUALITIES ISSUES**

The Small Grants application form asks organisations to demonstrate their commitment to equal opportunities.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

The environmental impact for proposed projects will vary for each grant application received.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Consider and determine whether they wish to support the grant applications received.

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## **Background**

The application forms for the funding requested are reproduced with this report. Supporting information for the grant applications (including financial) can be viewed upon request prior to this meeting.

### **1. Friends of Doubletrees**

Friends of Doubletrees is seeking funding towards new playground equipment.

### **2. Regenerative Food and Farming CIC (incorporating Gleaning Cornwall)**

Regenerative Food and Farming CIC (incorporating Gleaning Cornwall) is seeking funding towards a new lap top.

### **3. Trewoon Pantomime**

Trewoon Pantomime is seeking funding towards their Sleeping Beauty Pantomime - 2027.

SARA GWILLIAMS  
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

# St Austell Town Council



## Small Grants Scheme

### Application Form

#### PART B

##### 1. Your organisation

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	"FRIENDS OF DOUBLETREES"
<b>Charity/company number</b> (if applicable)	Charity No: 1027045 Company No: NA
<b>Are there any Members of St Austell Town Council on your Committee?</b> (if so, please list them)	NO
<b>What are the aims and objectives of your organisation?</b>	We are dedicated to supporting children and young people, from Doubletrees School who have special educational needs and disabilities.
<b>Please demonstrate your organisation's commitment to equal opportunities</b> (please enclose any relevant policies)	We fundraise for <u>all</u> of our children, to maximise their experiences and opportunities. Children attend Doubletrees from all over the county.

## 2. Purpose for which the grant is sought

<b>Project title:</b>	New PLAYGROUND equipment.
<b>Description of project</b> (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary):	New playground equipment, which has to be bespoke due to the complex needs of the children.
<b>How would this grant be of benefit to the community in St Austell?</b> (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary):	It would benefit the community of St. Austell, by enhancing the children's outdoor play experiences. Cont: Page 1
<b>What arrangements do you have in place to ensure safeguarding of children and young people</b> (applicable only if your project involves working with this client group).	"DOUBLETREES SCHOOL" HAS A SAFEGUARDING POLICY IN PLACE. (Reviewed each year.)

## 3. Finance

<b>What is the total cost of the project?</b>	£ 69,760
<b>Amount of grant applied for</b> (Up to £250) *	£ 250 -
<b>Have you previously received a grant from St Austell Town Council?</b>	<del>Yes</del> /No
<b>If "Yes" please indicate:</b> a) When b) Amount received c) For what purpose	/

\* Should you wish to apply for a grant over £250, the Council may consider a larger grant in exceptional circumstances, but you may be asked to provide a presentation to the Town Council.

Please list any applications you have made for funding from other organisations.

Organisation	Contribution Sought (£)	Applied (please tick as appropriate)	Granted (please tick as appropriate)
TESCO	£1,200	✓	✓
WAIN FOUNDATION	£1,200	✓	✓
ST. AUSTELL LIONS	£500	✓	✓

#### 4. Further information enclosed

Information	Enclosed (please tick)
A copy of your organisation's most recent bank statement(s) (mandatory)	✓ note on paper 2 <sup>nd</sup>
A copy of your constitution (or similar document showing the organisation's status)	✓
A copy of your organisation's latest set of accounting statements (if any exist)	NA

#### 5. Publicity

Please explain how you will publicise and acknowledge the Town Council's grant.

We would use "Doubtree's Facebook" page and our own school newspaper. Also could arrange a photo shoot, at the school, for the local paper / papers.

Please return your completed form to:

Sara Gwilliams  
Deputy Town Clerk  
The Stable Block  
Pondhu House  
Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP

E-mail: [sara.gwilliams@staustell-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.gwilliams@staustell-tc.gov.uk)

<b>Signed:</b>	Wendy E.V. Hazleton
<b>Name (s):</b>	WENDY E.V. HAZLETON
<b>Status</b>	CHAIR OF P.O.O.
<b>Date:</b>	11th May 2026

### 3. Privacy Information

To help us process your claim, please read the privacy notice below.

**Privacy Notice:** This information is being collected by St Austell Town Council. The Town Clerk is the Council's Data Protection Officer. Any information provided will be retained on the Town Council's computers and manual files for 2 years. This information will be used for processing your grant application request only. It will not be disclosed to any third party.

The Town Council's full privacy notice can be found on the Town Council's website at the following link: [http://www.staustell-tc.gov.uk/Privacy\\_Notice\\_21655.aspx](http://www.staustell-tc.gov.uk/Privacy_Notice_21655.aspx)

**Part A** of this form will be separated from **Part B** of this form before it is published in the public domain. The Town Council's Community Committee will make their decision based on **Part B** without access to any personal information.

I agree to my personal details being held in the Town Council's computer and manual filing systems as described above. **(Please tick accordingly).**

YES
  NO

The Town Council may from time to time wish to contact you about an event or activity that could be of interest to you. If you would like to be contacted, please tick the box below.

I am happy for the Town Council to contact me about future events or activities using the contact details provided. **(Please tick accordingly).**

YES
  NO

# St Austell Town Council



## Small Grants Scheme

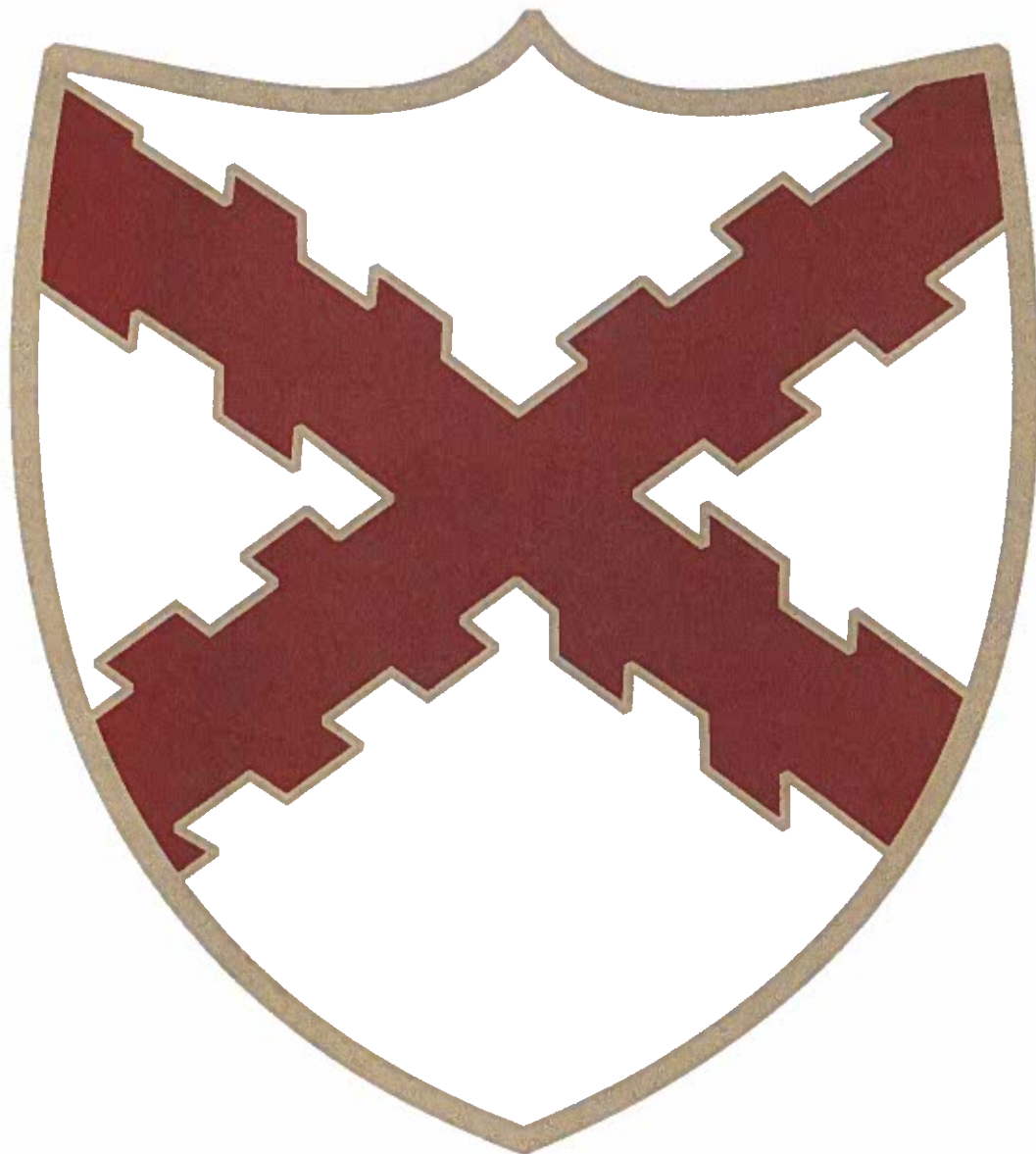
### Application Form

#### PART B

#### 1. Your organisation

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Regenerative Food and Farming CIC incorporating Gleaning Cornwall
<b>Charity/company number (if applicable)</b>	Charity No: 1215626 (Note only set up in Nov 2025 so applying through Regenerative Food and Farming as we don't have accounts for new charity) Company No: 12385557
<b>Are there any Members of St Austell Town Council on your Committee? (if so, please list them)</b>	No

**PLEASE LEAVE THIS PAGE BLANK**



## 2. Purpose for which the grant is sought

<p><b>Project title:</b></p>	<p>Equipment needed by Gleaning Cornwall to continue.</p>
<p><b>Description of project</b> (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary):</p>	<p>We have managed the organisation on a borrowed computer, old phones and now need to give the laptop back and seek funding for other laptops and phones with good cameras. We need a total of three laptops and two phones.</p>
<p><b>How would this grant be of benefit to the community in St Austell?</b> (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary):</p>	<p>Yes because without this we will not be able to continue. We currently deliver free, fresh vegetables to St Austell Food bank, the food cupboard in Penrice school, Remake Cornwall, Mount Edgcumbe Hospice and nearby; Gover larder and Roche Foodbank. This we do nearly every week of the year. We know from surveys with them that we are helping to feed nutritious food to mainly families struggling with the cost of living, then the elderly and then the sick. Often people who have had a knock too, such as a divorce or large bill or repair.</p> <p>We also help the organisations listed better communicate with each other as we communicate through a regional WhatsApp group where information, such as about funding opportunities, is shared. This helps them share surplus food and support each other. We have supported the people in St Austell since mid 2021. Since that time we have 'saved £860,000 worth of food, gleaned 425 tonnes of produce, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1000 tonnes of CO2e.</p>
<p><b>What arrangements do you have in place to ensure safeguarding of children and young people</b> (applicable only if your project involves working with this client group).</p>	<p>We occasionally have children come with parents or suitable adults to glean, and we have had vulnerable adults help too. Everyone has to fill in a medical consent form. We also have certain procedures in place and a strict policy so that we keep people protected. I have also done Level 3 Safeguarding training and coordinators have had Level 2. I've attached our relevant policy.</p>

## 3. Finance

<p><b>What are the aims and objectives of your organisation?</b></p>	<p>We reduce on-farm food waste and delivery it, for free to people in need via charitable organisations. Our aim is to help ensure people who are suffering, has access to healthy, nutritious food.</p>
<p><b>Please demonstrate your organisation's commitment to equal opportunities (please enclose any relevant policies)</b></p>	<p>We enable disabled people to glean. We encourage all to join in, if interested, even if they can't manage gleaning. We encourage all to work to their strengths and have included our equal opportunities policy.</p>

<b>What is the total cost of the project?</b>	<b>£259</b>
<b>Amount of grant applied for</b> (Up to £250) *	<b>£250</b>
<b>Have you previously received a grant from St Austell Town Council?</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
<b>If "Yes" please indicate:</b>  a) <b>When</b> b) <b>Amount received</b> c) <b>For what purpose</b>	

\* Should you wish to apply for a grant over £250, the Council may consider a larger grant in exceptional circumstances, but you may be asked to provide a presentation to the Town Council.

*Please list any applications you have made for funding from other organisations.*

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contribution Sought (£)</b>	<b>Applied (please tick as appropriate)</b>	<b>Granted (please tick as appropriate)</b>

#### **4. Further information enclosed**

<b>Information</b>	<b>Enclosed (please tick)</b>
A copy of your organisation's most recent bank statement(s) <b>(mandatory)</b>	Yes
A copy of your constitution (or similar document showing the organisation's status)	Yes
A copy of your organisation's latest set of accounting statements (if any exist)	Accounts yes

#### **5. Publicity**

Please explain how you will publicise and acknowledge the Town Council's grant.

We will put your logo on our website and promote on our socials'.

Please return your completed form to:

Sara Gwilliams  
Deputy Town Clerk  
The Stable Block  
Pondhu House  
Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP

E-mail: [sara.gwilliams@staustell-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.gwilliams@staustell-tc.gov.uk)



Gleaning Cornwall,  
11 Bosorne Street,  
St Just,  
Cornwall TR19 7LX.

01736 787921 / [REDACTED]

David Pooley, Town Clerk  
St Austell Town Council  
The Stable Block  
Pondhu House  
Penwinnick Road  
St Austell PL25 5DP

21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear David and town councillors,

As you may be aware, Cornwall produces a high percentage of Britain's vegetables. However, farmers have to over-produce in order to ensure they can supply their markets and the resulting surplus, along with the crops that do not meet supermarket specifications, often goes to waste.

Since mid-2021, Gleaning Cornwall has harvested surplus or out-graded fruit and vegetables, delivering it to food banks, community larders and kitchens across Cornwall, helping to feed some of the most vulnerable in the County.

We are looking for funding from across Cornwall to help fund three laptops, two phones, two sets of weighing scales, some high viz jackets and some sacks for produce and are asking for a donation from St Austell Town Council to help Gleaning Cornwall continue its work.

Every year we survey the recipient organisations and know that we are mainly supporting families who are struggling with the cost of living, as well as many others in need of assistance. Last year we gleaned over 90 tonnes of produce, which saved recipient organisations around £160,000 and helped to feed some 9,000 people in need each week.

In the St Austell area we distribute to St Austell Food bank, the food cupboard in Penrice school, Remake Cornwall, Mount Edgumbe Hospice and nearby; Gover larder and Roche Foodbank.

Our importance to the community is indicated by the fact that the map on our website of food banks etc. that we serve has had almost 22,000 hits in the last 1 ½ years.

Any support, however small, you could kindly offer us will help us continue getting fresh, healthy produce to people in need.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Holly Whitelaw  
(Manager and founder).  
[gleaningcornwall.org.uk](http://gleaningcornwall.org.uk)  
[REDACTED]  
Charity No – 1215626



## RELEVANT DATA RE. CORNWALL:

- **Income**

In Cornwall the full time average weekly income is £425 (Ref 1) (UK average £767).

In 2024 there were around 53,000 people claiming Universal Credit in Cornwall (up from 37,000 in 2020), namely, 11% of the total resident population of 583,289.

- **Seasonality**

Tourism accounts for 20% of employment in Cornwall (Ref 3), creating systematic seasonal insecurity.

- **A Rural Community**

Rural residents typically need to spend 10-20% more on everyday requirements, (Ref 4) than urban residents. A single adult needs £18,600 in remote countryside compared to £14,400 in urban areas, (Ref 3) to reach minimum living standards. While the IoD 2025's AHC approach captures housing costs, it cannot measure transport costs (the largest rural household expense excluding mortgages), fuel poverty, or higher food and service costs. The Government's report acknowledges rural households face additional costs but concludes "there is little information available in national administrative microdata to reflect this".

Other "hidden" rural factors include the cost of energy – only half (49%) of homes in Cornwall are connected to mains gas, (Ref 5) (cf 74% in UK), instead relying on more expensive options such as oil, LPG or electricity for heating. A higher reliance on alternative fuels contributes to approximately 14% of households in Cornwall living in fuel poverty. (Ref 40).

- **Housing**

Cornwall has a much older housing stock than most parts of the country, with 31% of properties built before 1930. 25% of all dwellings in the County are estimated to be in severe disrepair. A higher proportion of homes in Cornwall (51%) require more insulation compared to the national average (38%). (Ref 3)

20,000+ second homes driving housing displacement and increasing housing costs. (Ref 4)

- **Food Insecurity**

3.87% of adults suffered from hunger; 9.49% struggled to access food; 11.11% worried about not having enough food. (Ref 6)

30% of children are estimated to be living in food poverty in Cornwall. (Ref 2)

The number of food parcels distributed in Cornwall by the Trussell Trust increased by 60% between 2021 and 2025 (compared with just a 13% increase across England). (Ref 2)



- **Summary**

Cornwall faces a significant, often hidden 'pretty poverty' crisis, with 27,000 children living in relative poverty as of late 2025. Despite its idyllic image, the region suffers from low wages, high seasonal unemployment, and a severe housing emergency driven by old housing stock, tourism and second homes. The issue is exacerbated by rurality, increasing the cost of transport, energy and an older than average population, often with complex medical conditions.

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Ref 1 Office for National Statistics, April 2025

Ref 2 Cornwall Council "The Kernow we Know", May 2025

Ref 3 Plymouth University Pretty Poverty Report 2025

Ref 4 Joseph Rowntree Foundation, based on Loughborough University research, Smith, Davis, Hirsch, 2010

Ref 5 Cornwall Council "Cornwall Housing Decarbonisation Strategy", (October 2024)

Ref 6 University of Sheffield research, food insecurity of adults (Jan 2021)



# St Austell Town Council



## Small Grants Scheme

### Application Form

#### PART B

##### 1. Your organisation

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Trewoon Pantomime Group
<b>Charity/company number (if applicable)</b>	Charity No: N/a Company No: N/a
<b>Are there any Members of St Austell Town Council on your Committee? (if so, please list them)</b>	No
<b>What are the aims and objectives of your organisation?</b>	We aim to provide entertainment to the community of St Austell with our shows that are put on every year in the February half term, these shows bring joy, laughter, and community cohesion, particularly for families and children. We also aim to provide individuals with the opportunity to join our group and get involved with the productions. Enabling them to make lifelong friendships and connections.

**PLEASE LEAVE THIS PAGE BLANK**



<p><b>Please demonstrate your organisation's commitment to equal opportunities (please enclose any relevant policies)</b></p>	<p>Everyone has an equal opportunity to join our group. With children this can be difficult due to ratio numbers with adults but any child unsuccessful in joining the group due to number limits are placed on a wait list and will be given the opportunity to join once a space becomes available for them. The spaces may come free due to someone no longer partaking or simply because some of the older children have moved into the next age bracket and there has now been spaces available for the younger ones to join. With young adults and adults alike, we are always open to people looking to join our group as we don't usually have that many partake in the productions. But again if we did reach our maximum numbers then again, a waitlist would be created and once a space is available the opportunity to join would be provided.</p>
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## 2. Purpose for which the grant is sought

<p><b>Project title:</b></p>	<p>Sleeping Beauty Pantomime 2027</p>
<p><b>Description of project (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary):</b></p>	<p>Our upcoming 2027 pantomime is Sleeping Beauty which is also our 40<sup>th</sup> year running. We are hoping to make this our best production yet as it is our anniversary year! To do this we need to raise as much money as we can to cover the general costs of the production such as rehearsal and performance space hire along with hire of the lighting equipment. We also need to look at the never ending task of costume design, alteration and purchase!</p>
<p><b>How would this grant be of benefit to the community in St Austell? (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary):</b></p>	<p>This grant would assist us in putting on the production and would allow us additional funding to spend on the production itself whether this be costumes, props, scenery or equipment. This would make the show better than previous years providing the community of St Austell with a week of family friendly show, filled with slapstick, topical jokes and amazing songs and dances whilst telling the story.</p>
<p><b>What arrangements do you have in place to ensure safeguarding of children and young people (applicable only if your project involves working with this client group).</b></p>	<p>We have a safeguarding policy in place due to the number of children and young people within our group. This year various members of the group undertook safeguarding training to ensure all knowledge is as up to date as can be. Anyone that helps out backstage with the children and young people during rehearsals and shows week (this includes members of the group and the children's parents) have to undertake chaperone training as well before they are able to help out.</p>

### 3. Finance

<b>What is the total cost of the project?</b>	<b>£7,000 (This is based on the costing of the last few years productions).</b>
<b>Amount of grant applied for</b> (Up to £250) *	<b>£250</b>
<b>Have you previously received a grant from St Austell Town Council?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If "Yes" please indicate:</b>  a) <b>When</b> b) <b>Amount received</b> c) <b>For what purpose</b>	

\* Should you wish to apply for a grant over £250, the Council may consider a larger grant in exceptional circumstances, but you may be asked to provide a presentation to the Town Council.

*Please list any applications you have made for funding from other organisations.*

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contribution Sought (£)</b>	<b>Applied (please tick as appropriate)</b>	<b>Granted (please tick as appropriate)</b>
Cornwall Community Foundation	-	Currently enquiring of they can assist	
Persimmon homes Community Champions	£5,000	Yes	Waiting to hear

### 4. Further information enclosed

<b>Information</b>	<b>Enclosed (please tick)</b>
A copy of your organisation's most recent bank statement(s) <b>(mandatory)</b>	Yes
A copy of your constitution (or similar document showing the organisation's status)	
A copy of your organisation's latest set of accounting statements (if any exist)	

## 5. Publicity

Please explain how you will publicise and acknowledge the Town Council's grant.

We will publicise this through our facebook page when advertising the show a mention will be made to the Town Council and the funding they have provided to us this year enabling and their support.

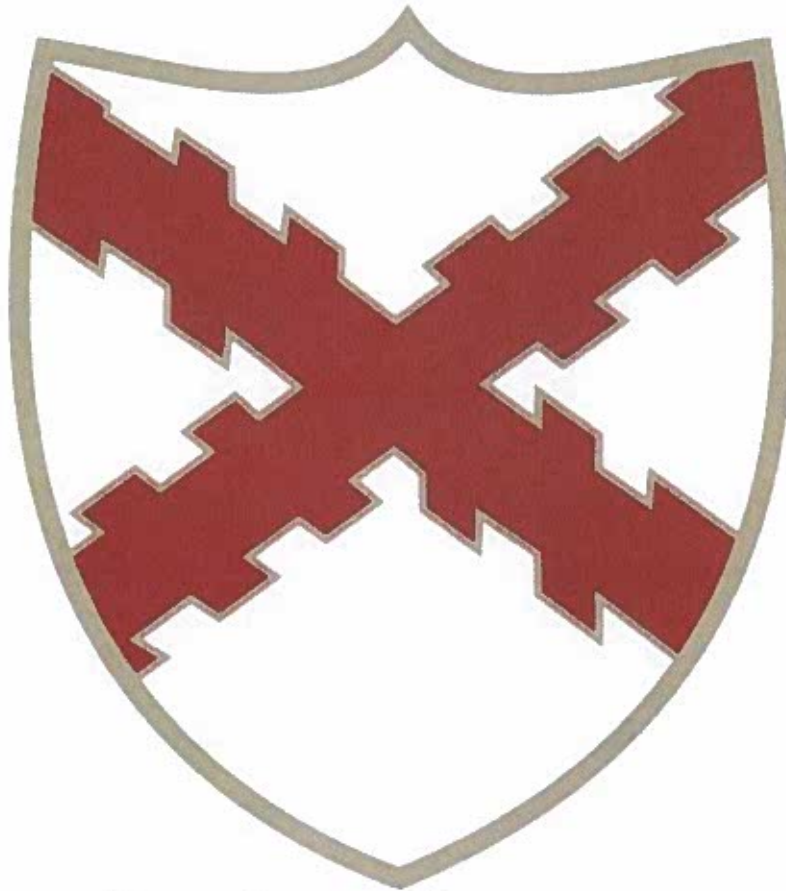
Please return your completed form to:

Sara Gwilliams  
Deputy Town Clerk  
The Stable Block  
Pondhu House  
Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP

E-mail: [sara.gwilliams@staustell-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.gwilliams@staustell-tc.gov.uk)



# ST. AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

**Responsible Officer:**  
**Date approved:**  
**Date of review:**

**Town Clerk**  
**May 2026**  
**April 2029**

## **1. Introduction**

St. Austell Town Council is committed to encouraging residents to participate actively in decisions that affect them and the wider community. Active engagement ensures that Town Council services reflect the needs of residents, supports informed decision-making, and contributes to a more active, inclusive and resilient community. This policy supports the Town Council's efforts to achieve and maintain recognition under the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) by ensuring best practice in community engagement.

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

The aim of this policy is to guide how the Council engages with the community to inform, involve and empower residents.

### **Aims:**

- Ensure residents and partners are kept informed and can contribute to Council activities and decisions.
- Continuously improve methods of engagement and consultation.
- Promote inclusivity and engage with all sectors of the community.
- Ensure resident views are listened to and influence service delivery, environmental improvements and quality of life.
- Support the long-term social, economic and environmental well-being of the community.
- Facilitate town development in line with community priorities and needs.

### **Objectives:**

- Provide information through a variety of accessible methods.
- Actively facilitate and encourage community participation.
- Proactively engage with all sections of the community.
- Involve residents in decision-making processes to ensure decisions meet community needs.
- Collaborate with other organisations and authorities to improve services.
- Enhance the overall well-being of residents.

## **3. Provision of Information**

The Town Council ensures information is accessible to all residents through multiple channels:

- Town Council Office: Opening hours Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. Staff are available to assist residents at the office, Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. PL25 5DP.
- Council Website: [www.staustell-tc.gov.uk](http://www.staustell-tc.gov.uk) provides updates, agendas, and minutes in line with the Local Government Act 1972.

- St. Austell Library: Opening hours Monday – Friday 9am-5pm and 10am-1.00pm Saturday where staff can signpost customers to Town Council and other services
- Social Media: Facebook and Instagram are used to inform residents of Council activities, consultations and local events.
- Noticeboards: The Council noticeboards provide event information, meeting dates, agendas and community notices.
- Newsletter: The Mayor contributes to the quarterly newsletter distributed to all households in St. Austell.

**Accessibility Considerations:** Upon request the Town Council will provide information in other formats, including for those with disabilities to ensure full inclusivity.

#### **4. Opportunities for Community Involvement**

Residents have multiple avenues to participate and influence Town Council activities:

- Attend Council and Committee meetings, open to the public, with opportunities to engage with Councillors.
- Use the contact form available on the Council's website.
- Participate in the Annual Town Meeting (between 1 March and 1 June) to raise issues or discuss Council activities.
- Access the Town Council office for advice, assistance, or to raise concerns.
- Submit formal written representations to be included as agenda items, subject to approval by the Town Clerk after reference to the Mayor
- Attendance at events and open theme days at the Library

#### **5. Consultation**

- The Council undertakes consultations and surveys on matters affecting residents.
- All residents, particularly those directly impacted, are given the opportunity to provide feedback.
- Consultations are promoted via the Council website, St. Austell Library, social media, noticeboards, and other appropriate channels including specific events.
- The Town Council has a Youth Council which meets monthly and feeds back views of young people in the Town Council area.

#### **6. Partnership Working**

- The Council engages with local partnerships, committees, and authorities to enhance consultation and community engagement.
- Collaborative working ensures that community voices are heard in policy development, action planning, and service delivery.
- Partnerships help the Council respond effectively to local priorities and improve outcomes for residents.





[www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org)

# People's Emergency Briefing

**Climate Action St Austell & Mevagissey  
Climate Action responding in your community  
to the Climate and Nature Crises**

A must see public information film about the climate and nature breakdown - and what we still need to do about it

Join us to watch the film and participate in a community conversation. Looking at what we can do about the climate and nature crises to help create the world we want

Everyone 16 and over is very welcome

**FREE Tickets, Refreshments & Pasties**

**Holy Trinity Church, Church St, St Austell, PL25 4FZ**

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Doors: 3pm**

**Film: 3.30pm**

**Conversations: 4.30pm**

Please book with QR code or just come along



[tinyurl.com/emergency-staustell](http://tinyurl.com/emergency-staustell)

