

St Austell Town Council



Annual Report 2012/13

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

Contact Details:

St Austell Town Council
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St Austell
Cornwall PL25 5DR

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Website: www.staustelltowncouncil.com



Clerk:
David Pooley



Deputy Clerk:
Sara Gwilliams

Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has wide ranging responsibilities, including:

- Education
- Social Services
- Highways and Transportation
- Determining Planning Applications and Development Control.
- Collection of Council Tax
- Benefits Administration
- Social Housing
- Libraries and Arts
- Fire Brigade
- Magistrates Courts and Probation Services
- Waste Disposal and Refuse collection
- Environmental Health
- Leisure and Parks
- Youth Services

Cornwall Council can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council
County Hall
Treyew Road
Truro
Cornwall TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

E-mail: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2012/13 civic year Cornwall Council had five Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Double, Oxenham, Polmouter, Stewart and Walker. In May 2013 Councillors Brown, Bull, French, Heyward and King were elected for the next four years.

Message from the Mayor

It was an unexpected honour to become the Mayor of St Austell for 2012-13. I have tried my best to live up to it. I should like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support, and the Council's small but amazingly efficient staff, David, Sara and George for all their dedicated hard work.

This year has been an important one in the short life of the Council. Negotiations have started on a package of services to be devolved from Cornwall Council to the Town Council. Whilst there is still a long way to go, a successful conclusion to these should result in the people of St Austell having more control over their own car parks, open spaces, public toilets and other vital amenities. Such a step is necessary if the Town Council is to become the local democratically accountable body to look after the interests of the town.

We have also had to face an unprecedented number of planning applications for new supermarkets and other developments, which we will probably not see again, on this scale, for many years to come. Whilst not itself the planning authority, the Town Council has had to make up its mind on what it thinks is in the best interests of the town, and represent its view at Cornwall Council's Strategic Planning Committee. So far the Town Council has done well, and its recommendations have been accepted in the most important cases. Coyte Farm remains to be decided. More of the money spent by our people needs to be spent in St Austell, not elsewhere, but nobody wants to damage the viability of the town centre. Exercising good leadership remains important for the newly elected Council.

The view of the town that I have been privileged to see in my mayoral year has convinced me of the amazing talent, energy, goodwill and potential our town has. Charities, arts and community groups, churches, sports clubs, and many others, do such good work! All rely on the effort and commitment of wonderful individuals. My wife and I have many pleasant memories of the events we have been privileged to share this year, too many to list here. Alongside the demonstration of faith by the business community in voting for the BIDS scheme, the increased interest in the work of the Council, and the higher footfall in the town itself, St Austell is showing that it is willing and able to face the difficult times the whole country is enduring.



Mayor John Keast with his Deputy Cllr Steve Double

Nowhere is that better exemplified than in the spirit of the Feast Week planning group, where people from many groups and walks of life are coming together to put on a week such as we have not seen before. The community play about the bread riots of 1847 will be accompanied by many other events including music, dancing, sports, ecumenical worship, bunting, historic talks and walks, competitions, drama, poetry, parades and singing! In 2015 the Cornish Gorsedh is coming to St Austell as well!

We have been through tough times as a town, and all is not well yet. There is much more to do to improve the prosperity and quality of life in St Austell. They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step; we have taken many more than that, and are well on the way to a better town. It has been a pleasure and privilege to lead the Council along this year's part of the journey.

Cllr John Keast OBE

Mayor of St Austell 2012/2013



Mayor John Keast with his wife Anne



Pictures on this page are from the Mayor's Annual Ball this year held at the Eden Project. Above: Mayor John Keast with his family. Right Deputy Mayor Steve Double with his wife Anne pictured with Cllr Bob Davidson and his partner Sheryll Murray MP. Photos: Paul Williams.



St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council was formed in June 2009 and has 20 elected Councillors (4 Councillors representing the Gover Ward, 4 Councillors representing Poltair Ward, 2 Councillors representing St Austell Bay Ward, 5 representing Bethel Ward and 5 representing Mount Charles Ward). A list of current Councillors is included on page 7 of this report.

Town Council elections will be held in May 2013 and will next take place in 2017. Prior to the election Councillors Blaylock, Bradford, Brown, Collins, Cook, Davidson, Derry, A Double, S Double, Earl, French, Heyward, Keast, Lake, Palmer, Polmouther, Stewart, Stocker, Tuite and Walker represented the Town Council.

Each year, the Council elects one councillor to be the Mayor who then acts as the civic leader and chairs Council meetings. The Council has a Code of Conduct and is committed to sound corporate governance arrangements.

Meetings are held in Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop at Penwinnick Road, St Austell. The full Council meets approximately every six weeks. In addition to the full Council meetings, the Council has three standing committees to ensure the effective management of its business:



- Finance and General Purposes
- Planning
- Communities

There is a public participation session at each of the Council's official meetings which enables members of the public to make comments or raise issues about items on the agenda. From time to time, working groups are formed to address particular issues. A calendar of Council meetings for the forthcoming year can be found on the Council's website at www.staustelltowncouncil.com and at the back of this report. Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

The Council employs two full-time and one part-time members of staff who are based at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR. These are:

David Pooley – Town Clerk
Sara Gwilliams – Deputy Town Clerk
George Masters – Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

The Town Council serves the Town of St Austell which has a population of approximately 22,000. Services and facilities provided within the town of St Austell are also enjoyed by people living in the surrounding villages and by the many tourists who visit the town each year. St Austell has been identified as an area which is capable of significant economic and residential growth. The Town Council is very keen to ensure that this growth is managed properly and that appropriate infrastructure accompanies it.

As a recently formed local Council, the Town Council currently manages very few services. Its role is mainly a representative and lobbying role to ensure that local views are taken into account by the larger organisations operating in the area. It has however submitted a business case to Cornwall Council to demonstrate how it could provide more services within the town. Cornwall Council is currently considering this.

The Town Council is consulted on all planning applications in its area and in relation to many of the other services provided by Cornwall Council.

The Town Council is keen to work in partnership with Cornwall Council and other agencies in order to ensure delivery of the highest quality services and facilities to local residents.

2012/13 Activities

Olympic Torch

2012 will be forever remembered as the year of the London Olympic Games. Along with thousands of towns, cities and villages around the UK, St Austell welcomed the Olympic Torch on the 18th May with a day filled with celebrations for all. Poltair Park came alive to the sounds, sights & smells of a celebration party with live music, dancing, culinary delights and a world record cream tea event.

Other mayor events were organised in Truro Road and Woodland Road Parks. Truro Road Park Bandstand was opened for the first time in many years and events were held throughout the town to mark the occasion which brought the entirety of St Austell together, encompassing the Olympic spirit which gripped the nation last year.



Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

In partnership with Cornwall Council St Austell Town Council has organised a larger Conservation Area Appraisal to ensure that a greater proportion of historical buildings in the town are preserved and properly maintained. The plan was approved formally by Cornwall Council in March 2013.

Town Centre

In the summer of last year, works to renovate Fore Street were completed. The £1.3 million scheme saw the original paving replaced with Cornish granite and improved drainage. A commemorative stone was funded by the Town Council to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee year.



Fore Street regeneration works completed July 2012
Photo: Paul Williams

Signage has also been improved in the town centre with finger posts and maps pointing visitors in the direction of shops, the cinema, toilets and tourist attractions. The town council now has a notice board in the centre which provides residents with information on council meetings and local events.

Town Plan

In the summer of last year, St Austell Town Council was pleased to have completed the St Austell Town Plan. The plan, which had been worked on for many months, represents a major step in the town's future development. The plan sets out changes and improvements which are needed and desirable in the town over the next four or five years, and is already playing a key role in helping Cornwall Council to shape the emerging town framework for St Austell.



It is hoped that the plan will encourage members of the St Austell public to get more involved in the work of the council, and empower us all to play our part in ensuring the future of St Austell.

River Walk

St Austell Town Council in collaboration with Cornwall Council and the Police completed the River Walk Improvement Scheme in August 2012. The newly improved footpath runs alongside the river from the old bridge at Ledrah Road to the bottom of Truro Road, Gover Ward, St Austell.

Work began in the spring starting with the pruning of trees, cutting back of vegetation, clearing the river bank, re-painting and repairing of railings and culminated with the siting and planting of one of the flower troughs salvaged from the Fore Street works in August 2012.

St Austell BID

St Austell Town Council in association with Cornwall Council and St Austell businesspeople have successfully secured a Business Improvement District for St Austell. The BID, which is paid for by a small levy on all business rate payers in the district (who have rateable values above a certain threshold), will be involved in funding various improvements in the town. The BID will be working to priorities agreed in the BID proposal, which will include improving the attractiveness of the town, promoting local businesses, hosting events and markets.

Chandlers Walk

In partnership with St Austell Bay Parish Council, St Austell Town Council has funded the Chandlers Walk Improvement Scheme. The scheme, following consultation with the local residents involved the improvement of an area of neglected land at the entrance to Chandlers Walk. The works were completed in March 2013.

Feast Week

This summer, St Austell Town Council, in collaboration with various businesses, voluntary organisations, arts groups, community interest groups and schools, will be putting on a week of events in the town. Funding has been secured and work has begun on the organisation of the events which will include: a gargoyles parade, a Victorian street theatre, a community bunting project, a family history day, catering events, a flash choir, traditional tea treat and a Mad Hatter's tea party to name but a few!

Other initiatives

The Town Council has:

- Provided funding towards the maintenance of CCTV camera monitoring in St Austell Town Centre;
- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups;



- Begun negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding the devolution of services.
- Undertaken pre-planning consultations with a number of developers, arranged a number of large scale public meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise concerns and suggest improvements to major planning proposals;
- Responded to consultations affecting the town on many issues including Cornwall Council's Local Plan, a Town Framework Plan, car parking, cycle ways, speed limits, public conveniences and bus shelters;
- Worked closely with local businesses to strengthen their representation and input to local issues;
- Provided funding to the St Austell Discovery Map, meaning that the map can be distributed free of charge to members of the public.



Committees

Planning Committee Membership – 2012 /13

Councillor Collins (Chairman)
Councillor Palmer (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bradford
Councillor Brown
Councillor Derry
Councillor A Double
Councillor Earl
Councillor Heyward
Councillor Keast
Councillor Stocker

The Planning Committee meets approximately every three weeks. All members of the committee have received training in the planning system. The Council dealt with over 140 planning applications from April 2012 to March 2013. This included a number of major applications.

Communities Committee Membership – 2012/13

Councillor Cook (Chairman)
Councillor Earl (Vice- Chairman)

Councillor Blaylock
Councillor Collins
Councillor A Double
Councillor Heyward
Councillor Keast
Councillor Lake
Councillor Polmounter
Councillor Stewart
Councillor Tuite

The Communities Committee deals with community and environmental matters. It administers a small grants scheme and provided financial assistance to 36 local community groups in 2012/13 totalling £9,558.

Working Parties

A number of working groups met during 2012/13 to help progress Council business. These were:

CCTV Consultation Working Group
Environmental Projects Working Group
Devolution of Services Working Group
Youth Council Working Group

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Membership – 2012 /13

Councillor French (Chairman)
Councillor Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bradford
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Derry
Councillor S. Double
Councillor Heyward
Councillor Palmer

The Finance and General Purposes Committee deals with the internal management and governance arrangements of the Council. Sound governance arrangements including budgetary, accountancy, banking, audit and risk management arrangements have been put in place and are monitored by the Committee. The Council's accounts for 2012/13 are shown on pages 13 and 14.

Representatives on outside bodies

St Austell Carnival Committee - *Councillor Cook.*

St Austell Chamber of Commerce - *Councillor Walker.*

CALC - Larger Councils Liaison Group - *Councillor Palmer.*

CCTV Liaison Group - *Councillors Collins and Palmer.*

Cornwall Council Town Framework Steering Group - *Councillors Keast and Collins.*

Attendance at Meetings

Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out any Council business. Despite this, Town Council meetings are well attended by Councillors. Overall, Councillors attended over 72% of the meetings they were scheduled to attend. Councillors Brown and S Double attended 100% of the meetings which they were scheduled to attend. Councillors Collins and Heyward attended the most meetings (29 each).

Over the year our Mayor, Cllr John Keast, attended numerous events in St Austell. Here are a selection of pictures from just one of those.



*Thank you John for
all your hard work
over the year*

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

2011/12 £		2012/13 £
	INCOME	
8,446.10	Miscellaneous Income and Grants	17,226.16
4,865.14	Interest received	6,572.22
201,440.00	Precepts	221,960.00
6,031.69	Mayors Charities Income	3,570.77
220,782.93	Total Receipts	249,329.15
	EXPENDITURE	
	Employee Expenses	
93,337.50	Salaries and Wages (Inc. oncosts)	96,544.88
0.00	Recruitment costs	0.00
1,040.50	Training Expenses	1,065.29
271.40	Travel & Subsistence	177.45
355.56	Chairmans Allowance	333.90
150.35	Members' Allowances	41.17
95,155.31		98,162.69
	General Administration	
0.00	Room Hire	20.00
4,430.00	Office Accommodation	5,180.00
555.21	Office Supplies	592.00
194.85	Refreshments	201.73
6,129.60	Printing and binding	1,610.47
670.23	Postages	809.75
853.46	IT Support & software	353.69
1,119.00	General publicity	1,190.00
1,150.00	Noticeboards	0.00
1,591.46	Insurance	1,774.38
0.00	Bank Charges	0.86
2,315.82	Subscriptions	2,511.82
47.00	Books and Publications	0.00
19,056.63		14,244.70
	Miscellaneous Expenses	
4,685.50	Elections	5,000.00
14,003.00	Grants	37,105.00
38,963.06	Projects	44,114.46
27,689.49	CCTV	27,947.79
1,638.71	Civic Ceremonial	1,410.89
1,375.00	Audit fees	1,375.00
6,031.69	Mayors Charities	3,570.77
94,386.45		120,523.91
208,598.39	Total Expenses	232,931.30
12,184.54	Surplus for Year	16,397.85
175,441.10	General Fund Balance B/Fwd	100,303.64
12,184.54	Add Surplus for Year	16,397.85
27,678.00	Add Contributions from Reserves	6,000.00
115,000.00	Less Contribution to Reserves	0.00
100,303.64	General Fund Balance C/Fwd	122,701.49

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2013**

31.3.12 £		£	31.3.13 £	Notes
	Fixed Assets			
97,700.00	Ceremonial assets		98,025.00	1
2,521.00	Allotments and other premises		2,521.00	
1,150.00	Notice Board		1,150.00	
0.00	Street Furniture		19,022.00	
6,119.72	Office Equipment		6,456.39	
107,490.72			127,174.39	
	Current Assets			
2,488.92	Debtors	5,197.97		2
1,721.38	Prepayments	1,569.36		
250,645.02	Bank Balances	304,362.38		
5.82	Cash in Hand	57.95		
254,861.14		311,187.66		
	Current Liabilities			
13,557.50	Creditors and advance payments	53,486.17		3
241,303.64	Net Current Assets		257,701.49	
348,794.36	Net Assets		384,875.88	
	Represented By:			
100,221.00	Asset Revaluation Reserve		100,546.00	
7,269.72	Capital Financing Reserve		26,628.39	
100,303.64	General Revenue Balance		122,701.49	
141,000.00	Earmarked Reserves		135,000.00	4
348,794.36			384,875.88	

Notes

1. Ceremonial assets have been valued by independent valuers using an insurance methodology as at 31st March 2010. It is not considered necessary to revalue all assets annually. Other assets are shown at historic cost.

2. Primarily bank interest and VAT due at the year end.

3. Creditors at the year end include street signs, CCTV monitoring costs, administration expenses and monies collected for the Mayor's charities.

4. The following sums have been set aside as earmarked reserves:

	£
Elections	25,000.00
Devolution of Services	110,000.00
	135,000.00

Annual Accounts 2012/13

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. The Council's Accounts are audited annually by an independent internal auditor and forwarded to Grant Thornton, an external auditor, for final appraisal. A full copy is available for examination on request by contacting the Town Clerk.

Your St Austell Town Councillors

	<p>Boulton, Frank Bethel Ward 078046 67378 bvra@hotmail.co.uk</p>		<p>Keast, John Mount Charles Ward 01726 61444 john@keast.myzen.co.uk</p>
	<p>Bradford, Valerie Bay Ward 01726 813540 val.ann.bradford@gmail.com</p>		<p>King, Gary Mount Charles Ward 01726 77944 garyking4mountcharles@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Brown, Malcolm Bethel Ward 01726 63696 mabrown77@btinternet.com</p>		<p>Lake, Monica Gover Ward 01726 63949 mlake@monicalake.plus.com</p>
	<p>Bull, Jacqui Poltair Ward 01726 74619 jbull@cornwall.gov.uk</p>		<p>Leonard, Robin Mount Charles Ward 01726 70719 me.robin@rocketmail.com</p>
	<p>Collins, Derek Poltair Ward 07508 423735 soundtec@aol.com</p>		<p>Murtagh, Peter Bay Ward 07780 333420 petermurtagh81@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Davidson, Bob Bethel Ward 07966 249386 bobtheagent@btconnect.com</p>		<p>Palmer, Brian Poltair Ward 01726 65379 brianpalmer379@btinternet.com</p>
	<p>Double, Anne Mount Charles Ward 07974 808854 anne@annedouble.com</p>		<p>Pears, Richard Bethel Ward 07793 113150 pearsnet@me.com</p>
	<p>Double, Steve Poltair Ward 07977 121529 steve@stevedouble.org.uk</p>		<p>Pollard, Janet Mount Charles Ward 01726 77038 janetizzy42@yahoo.co.uk</p>
	<p>French, Tom Gover Ward 01726 73735 tgf@tomfrench.co.uk</p>		<p>Stewart, Jenny Gover Ward 07765 186268 jennypstewart@me.com</p>
	<p>Heyward, Sandra Gover Ward 01726 65045 seheyward@yahoo.com</p>		<p>Walker, Graham Bethel Ward 01726 63707 gew04@hotmail.com</p>

Future Meeting Dates of St Austell Town Council

- Full Council
- Community Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Planning Committee
- Bank holiday

Members of the public are welcome to all Meetings

JUNE 2013

Mon		3	10	17	24
Tues		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thur		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30

JULY 2013

Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tues		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	31
Thur		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat		6	13	20	27	
Sun		7	14	21	28	

AUGUST 2013

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tues		3	10	17	24	
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

OCTOBER 2013

Mon		7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thur	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

NOVEMBER 2013

Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	

DECEMBER 2013

Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tues	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thur	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29

JANUARY 2014

Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tues		7	14	21	28	
Wed		1	8	15	22	29
Thur	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

FEBRUARY 2014

Mon		3	10	17	24
Tues		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thur		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat	1	8	15	22	
Sun	2	9	16	23	

MARCH 2014

Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30

APRIL 2014

Mon		7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thur	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

MAY 2014

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

Please check website for any changes to dates above - www.StAustellTownCouncil.com

Useful Numbers

St Austell Town Council	01726 223374	Cornwall Council	0300 1234100
Traveline	0871 2002233	Railway enquiries	08457 484950
Tourist Information	01726 879500	Library	0300 1234111
Polkyth Leisure	01726 223696	Eden Project	01726 811911
Wheal Martyn Museum	01726 850362	Pine Lodge Gardens	01726 73500
Mobility Centre	01726 624060	NHS Cornwall	01726 627967
NHS Direct	0845 4647	St Austell Minor injuries	01726 291199
Police	101	Dental helpline	01872 354375
Kernow Urgent Care	08702 421242	Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Shop Mobility	01726 70706		

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the service you require.