



PENZANCE
COUNCIL

Annual Report 2025/26



Foreword

Welcome to the Penzance Council Annual Report for 2025/26.

This report outlines the work of the Council over the past year and highlights its support for local community groups and initiatives.

As part of our Strategic Plan, over the past year Penzance Council has been working towards making the Parish community a better place to live, work and grow, as well as delivering quality services for local people.

This report provides an overview of the Council's work and accomplishments, including progress on key projects, grant funding to local groups, and a directory of its services and civic and ceremonial events. It also provides information about how the precept has been spent over the last year and the Council's agreed budget and plans for the upcoming financial year 2026/27.

We value the feedback of our residents and community groups so encourage you to read this report and provide us with any thoughts or suggestions for how we can better serve all the communities of our Parish, which encompasses Penzance, Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval and Eastern Green.

Our Vision

To maintain and enhance our community for the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations.

Our Mission

To make the community (of Penzance Council) a better place to live, work and grow.



Montol Festival in Penzance - December 2025

How your Council works

Penzance Council operates at the most local level of government across Penzance, Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval & Eastern Green

Councillors

We have twenty unpaid Councillors. They represent the four wards in the Penzance Parish:

- Penzance East
- Penzance Promenade
- Newlyn & Mousehole
- Heamoor & Gulval

Councillors are elected to represent your views, address your concerns, and make decisions on the future of your town and village communities. Together, these twenty Councillors form Penzance Council.

They also represent you on outside committees and community groups including, but not limited to: GOFA, Plastic Free Penzance, Town Twinning Associations, Penzance & District Tourism Assoc, Penzance Neighbourhood Plan, The Centre Newlyn, and the Solomon Browne Memorial Hall.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is the Council's senior official known as the 'Proper Officer'. Their main role is to advise the Council, ensure decisions are lawful and implement those decisions. They also work closely with community partners and stakeholders on projects within the Parish.

Town Mayor

The Town Mayor, assisted by the Deputy Town Mayor and two Civic Deputies, represents Penzance Council at a variety of functions both in the Parish and further afield.

At the 45th Annual Mayor Choosing Ceremony of Penzance Council in May 2025, Cllr Stephen Reynolds took office for the third consecutive year – the first Mayor of Penzance to do so in 60 years.



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds - May 2025

The Council

All councillors meet together at least six times a year to take major decisions and oversee the activities of Penzance Council.

The Council will also consider recommendations from its four standing Committees:

- Arts & Culture
- Finance & General Purposes
- Leisure & Amenities
- Planning

There is also a Personnel Committee.

Meetings

Agendas are published online and on noticeboards at least three clear working days before a meeting is due to take place.

The press and public are welcome to attend all Committee and Council meetings, and they have the opportunity to ask questions or comment on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting.

The minutes for Committee and Council meetings are published once they have been approved and can be viewed on our website.

The Calendar of Meetings for the year is also available to view on the Council's website and on the main noticeboard opposite St John's Hall.

Partnerships

Penzance Council continues to play a key role in a number of Partnerships, all working across Penzance to not only face immediate challenges but to also look forward and deliver positive change for the Parish and its communities.



Penzance Council works very closely with the Penzance Business Improvement District (BID) and is also represented on the Penzance Town Deal Board, Penzance Regeneration Company Board, and Safer Penzance.

Your Councillors

Listed here are the 20 members of Penzance Council in place at the end of the financial year 2025/26.

Penzance East Ward



Councillor Jane Pugh
Email: jane.pugh@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Andy Law
Email: andrew.law@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jonathan How
Email: jonathan.how@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Mark Wilson
Email: mark.wilson@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jan Power
Email: jan.power@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Simon Reed
Email: simon.reed@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Heamoor & Gulval Ward



Councillor Bonnie Jackson
Email: bonnie.jackson@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Stephen Reynolds (Mayor)
Email: stephen.reynolds@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor David Smart Knight
Email: david.smartknight@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Penzance Promenade Ward



Councillor Nicole Broadhurst
Email: nicole.broadhurst@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Duncan Paul
Email: duncan.paul@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Peter Lapin
Email: peter.lapin@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jim McKenna
Email: jim.mckenna@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Penny Young
Email: penny.young@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Karen Baker
Email: karen.baker@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Newlyn & Mousehole Ward



Councillor Penny Osborne
Email: penny.osborne@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Paul Trevail
Email: paul.trevail@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Thalia Marrington
Email: thalia.marrington@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Marc Hadley
Email: marc.hadley@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Phillip Jameson
Email: phillip.jameson@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Committees

Finance & General Purposes

The Finance & General Purposes Committee has responsibility for overseeing the financial affairs of Penzance Council and all aspects of Corporate Governance.

The Committee also considers grant applications from local community groups and charities, and strategic funding for key community partners. In the financial year 2025/26 a total of £256,983 of funding was approved by Penzance Council for 24 local organisations.

Due to an unprecedented demand on grant applications in 2024, the total grant funding budget was allocated before the end of the financial year. To address this, the grant funding budget was increased for 2025/2026, making more grants available for community organisations.

At the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 15 December 2025, the proposed budget for 2026/27 was recommended for approval by Penzance Council.

At the Penzance Council meeting on Monday 19 January 2026, councillors unanimously agreed a budget and earmarked reserves for 2026/27 and set out plans to spend almost £3 million (of which £2,528,957 will come from the precept) in the parish from 1 April 2026 for the benefit of local residents, whilst keeping the precept rise historically low for a second year running.

The annual increase for 2026/27, in real terms, was two pence a week for a Band D property – an annual increase of only 0.3% for every household.

As Band D falls in the middle of the eight Council Tax Bands, it is the standard measure used by local councils to announce their precept. However, 80% of households in the Penzance Parish are Council Tax Bands A-C, which means the vast majority of households saw a real-terms increase of less than £1 per year.



St Piran in Penwith received grant funding from Penzance Council for the St Piran's Day Parade - March 2026

Arts & Culture

The Arts & Culture Committee brings together all the arts and cultural projects that Penzance Council delivers, either directly or through a third party. This includes:

- Penlee House Gallery & Museum
- Penlee Open Air Theatre
- Summer Town Banners & Promenade Flags
- Local festivals, including Golowan

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Having opened as the District Museum in 1949, Penlee House is a first-class gallery and museum in the heart of Penzance, located in Penlee Park. Some of the key achievements at the gallery over the last year include:

- In November 2025 Penlee House Gallery & Museum was awarded Silver in the 'Small Visitor Attraction' category at Cornwall Tourism Awards. This achievement reflects the hard work undertaken by the staff and volunteer team, to ensure that everyone who visits Penlee House or engages online has a fantastic experience.



- Penlee House received funding as part of Going Places, a programme funded by Art Fund/National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will support the delivery of two touring exhibitions with partners Worcester Museum & Art Gallery and OnFife. The first, 'Making Her Mark: A Celebration of Women in Art' will be exhibited at Penlee House from 30 April 2026 – 27 September 2026. The second exhibition - on the theme of childhood - will take place in 2028. The funding has also enabled recruitment of two new part-time members of staff - a Curatorial Assistant who began in December 2025, and an Audience Engagement Assistant who starts in May 2026.
- Penlee House curated four major exhibitions in 2025/26: 'Birds – The Art of Cornwall's Birdlife', 'Lamorna Birch: A Painter Laureate', 'Biddy Picard: Timeless Penwith' and 'Penhaul: Life Through a Lens' / 'Face to Face: Portraits from Penlee's collection'.

A highlight of the work at Penlee House this year has been continuing to develop programmes working with and supporting the local community. This has included:

- Delivery of a fully-booked schools programme. The learning team of staff and volunteers has delivered a wide range of well-received workshops, whether onsite, at The Gardeners' House or in schools.
- Working with local families from Treneere, through Trelya, to produce artworks inspired by the Penlee House collection, culminating in a public exhibition at Trelya of works by the group alongside prints of works from the Penlee House collection.
- Arts & Health sessions have been redeveloped to work with local community groups, such as Wild Young Parents and We Are With You in delivering art workshops for their participants.
- Continuation of Under-5s and Baby Sensory sessions in the gallery, as well as additional visits from local nurseries and corresponding outreach visits.

Penzance Parish residents can gain free entry to Penlee House all year round by providing proof of address.

Golowan Festival 2025

Following a tendering process in 2024, the contract to deliver Golowan Festival from 2025 - 2027 was awarded to Golowan Festival CIC. Celebrating the 35th year of its revival, the theme of the 2025 festival was "On the Crest of a Wave", honouring the power of the Cornish coast and seas, unique sea life and love of the ocean in Penzance.

Mazey Day is the highlight of Golowan, the town's 10-day festival of arts, with performances and parades attracting tens of thousands of people to Penzance.

Penzance Council supported Golowan Festival 2025 with £43,800 of funding, which included funding for youth provision at Golowan and Mazey Eve fireworks.



Leisure & Amenities

The Leisure & Amenities Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of Penzance Council assets, as well as delivering a number of key services across the whole Parish via a combination of the small in-house team and management of locally contracted services.

The Committee is also responsible for the delivery of projects and improvement works across the open spaces and facilities owned and managed by Penzance Council.

A full list of our services is available on our website.

Major projects this year:

- Promenade and town banner projects
- Town-wide seasonal watering programme
- Parish-wide weed management programme
- Penlee Park events - PZ Food Festival, Golowan Festival, Park Yoga
- Storm Gorette response
- Alexandra Play Park tennis courts refurbishment

Whilst the initial delivery of these important projects often receives the most attention, the Leisure and Amenities Committee and the small team of staff take pride in the high standards of maintenance and upkeep continued at Council sites after projects have been completed. This means that they remain in better condition for longer, for the benefit of parish residents and visitors to the area.

Princess May Recreation Ground

Princess May Recreation Ground transferred from Cornwall Council to Penzance Council in 2024. The transfer of this site concluded the current phase of devolution items from Cornwall Council to Penzance Council. The large site is a well-used open green space in the heart of Penzance, offering open spaces, a skate bowl, multi-use sports courts, and a children's play area

Initial consultation with residents and users of the recreation ground took place in 2025 and Penzance Council will look to include this feedback into the future planning for the site.



A new accessible roundabout installed at the Rec - October 2025

Improvement work has already begun in terms of day-to-day site management, with enhanced contracts now in place for grass cutting, cleaning and maintenance work.

Initial safety improvements have been made to existing play equipment including the replacement and installation of a new accessible roundabout, upgraded fencing and gates, and repairs to the multi-use sports courts.

Storm Gorette Response

Following the unprecedented, significant damage witnessed locally following Storm Gorette in early 2026, the Leisure and Amenities Team and other areas of the Council paused current workloads to prioritise storm response work. The Leisure and Amenities Team were ably assisted by the Corporate Services Team in the recording, reporting, prioritisation and rectification of storm damage across sites owned and managed by Penzance Council. In addition to the sites that the Council was directly responsible for, Penzance Council's Corporate Services Team also responded and assisted in the reporting of additional damage and issues reported to Penzance Council from across the Parish.



Assistant gardener Sean helps to clear a fallen tree at Heamoor Old School Field - January 2026

The Leisure and Amenities Team were grateful for the support from a number of its key contractors including Lafrowda Trees, GreenMan Treeworks and DA Giles, ensuring that they were able to respond swiftly and effectively to the broad range of damage that they were faced with.

Penzance Council regularly undertakes tree surveys and carries out the recommended works across its sites. This regular maintenance programme helped to limit the amount of damage to trees that the Council is responsible for. However, despite this, in the region of 25 - 30 full or partial tree failures were identified across Penzance Council sites.

With so many incidents of storm damage on Penzance Council sites across the parish, the response was co-ordinated by priority and also by whether the work could be completed by the in-house team or needed the support of a specialist contractor.

Planning

Statutory Consultee

Penzance Council is a statutory consultee for all Penzance Parish planning applications.

This means that Cornwall Council, who make the final decisions on all applications, are legally required to consult Penzance Council before a decision is made on applications within the Parish.

The Planning Committee makes comments on applications based on submitted plans, public comments on proposals, and reports provided by other departments and outside bodies where appropriate - for example: the Strategic Historic Environment Service, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

Penzance Council does **not** make the final decision on planning applications – these are made by Cornwall Council.

The Meetings

The Planning Committee meets on Wednesdays every three weeks. It meets to discuss planning applications submitted within the Penzance Parish.

Meeting agendas, and a list of planning applications to be considered, are published three clear working days in advance. They are posted on public noticeboards, as well as the Council website and social media channels.

All members of the public are welcome to attend, and have the opportunity to comment on specific planning applications at the start of the meeting.

In the municipal year 2025/26, Penzance Council's Planning Committee considered around 200 planning applications at 17 meetings, including unanimously objecting to a planning application for retirement apartments at the former Lidl site at Wherrytown.



Work begins on the transformation of 28-30 Market Place - February 2026

Penzance Neighbourhood Plan

The Penzance Neighbourhood Plan Referendum took place on Thursday 31 July 2025, when local residents were asked to vote on the question: “Do you want Cornwall Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Penzance Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

From an electorate of 15,848, there were 3,197 Ballot Papers issued: a turnout of 20.17%. Of those 3,197, the number of ‘Yes’ votes was 2,928, and the number of ‘No’ votes was 268. This amounted to 91.6% of votes in favour of the Penzance Neighbourhood Plan.

At more than 200 pages long, the Penzance Neighbourhood Plan was largely produced by local volunteers, including representatives from all the individual communities within the Penzance Parish. This “Community Link Group” organised extensive surveys, questionnaires and drop-ins, and used the feedback to develop policies to reflect what local people want.

One of these policies identifies over 80 green spaces in the Parish to be protected from development. Most of these are designated as “Local Green Spaces”, the highest degree of protection under national planning policy.

The Plan also includes a ‘Principal Residence’ policy, similar to one introduced in St Ives, which means that new-build homes in certain areas will be legally restricted to occupancy as a principal residence only. This will apply to second home “hot spots” in the area, including Mousehole, Paul, Tredavoe, parts of Newlyn centre, and areas around Penzance prom and harbour.

The approved Penzance Neighbourhood Plan will be used by Cornwall Council when making planning decisions within Penzance Parish alongside the Local Plan, other Cornwall Council planning policies and guidance, and national planning policy.

How money was spent in 2025/26

Culture & Events

Including, but not limited to:

- Penlee House Gallery & Museum
- Golowan Festival
- Penlee Coach House
- Christmas Lights
- Town Flags & Promenade Banners
- Cultural Strategy
- Civic & Community Events

£1,022,257
estimated

Grants

Including, but not limited to:

- General Grants
- Jubilee Pool
- PZ & Newlyn Youth CIC
- Pengarth Day Centre
- Sustainable Penzance

£134,200

Parks, Play & Open Spaces

Including, but not limited to:

- Princess May Recreation Ground
- Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts
- Penlee Park
- Heamoor Old School Field
- Foxes Lane Park, Mousehole
- Wherrytown Skatepark
- 190 Allotment plots (approx)

£634,625
estimated

Community

Including, but not limited to:

- ASB Caseworker
- Street Marshals
- Improved CCTV monitoring
- 7 Public Toilets
- 12 Community Toilets
- Education & Family Workshops
(at Penlee House)

£376,481
estimated

Grant funding

£70,000 of grant funding awarded

We are committed to helping community organisations who work to help local people in the Parish of Penzance - to achieve this, we provide grant funding.

Priority is given to Penzance-based organisations. However, the Council will consider grants to organisations not based in Penzance where they can show they are directly working with, or on behalf of, Penzance Parish residents.



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds helps grant recipients Friends of Mousehole Rock Pool - March 2026

Due to an unprecedented demand on grant applications in 2024, the total grant funding budget was allocated before the end of the financial year. To address this, the grant funding budget was increased for 2025/2026, making more grants available for community organisations.

To ensure that grant funding is available throughout the financial year, defined grant windows were introduced for 2025/2026.

Organisations can only apply for grants within one of the defined grant windows.

There are four grant windows during the financial year, each of which is open for one month and closes six weeks before the scheduled Finance & General Purposes Meeting where applications will be considered.

More information on how to apply for a grant can be found on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/grants



Grant funded by
PENZANCE COUNCIL

2025/26 Grant Recipients	Amount
Friends of Penzance Burial Ground (Heamoor) CIC	£2,327.24
Citizens Advice Cornwall	£1,826.01
West Cornwall Women's Aid	£3,775.95
YMCA Cornwall	£4,363.58
Redwing Contemporary Art CIC	£2,909.05
Nance Provisions CIC	£2,298.15
Montol Festival CIC	£7,500.00
Penzance Community Flora Group	£3,168.00
Solomon Browne Memorial Hall Association	£4,990.73
St Piran in Penwith	£1,860.00
The Hypatia Trust	£3,418.00
Newlyn Harbour Lights	£6,000.00
Mounts Bay Lugger Association	£4,128.93
Friends of Mousehole Rockpool CIO	£4,887.47
Newlyn Art Gallery and the Exchange	£4,870.85
Penzance Literary Festival	£4,887.47
Bewnans Kernow	£1,901.10
Growing Links	£4,887.47
Total:	£70,000

Community Partners

Last year Penzance Council approved a total of £186,983 in strategic funding for six organisations based in Penzance who provide essential services, health, and cultural events for our residents

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer - £39,183

In February 2019, Penzance Council agreed to jointly fund a dedicated ASB Officer based in Penzance. The role was initially a 12 month pilot, however, due to its success, Penzance Council extended the agreement and in November 2024 resolved to contribute **£39,183** to fund the role of a dedicated ASB Officer for 2025/26.

In the last 12 months, the ASB Officer has continued to balance building rapport and relationships with some very complex, vulnerable and, at times, chaotic street drinkers and street homeless. They have supported them to access or signposted them to appropriate services and have enforced the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) by removing their alcohol, issuing warnings and building case files for court proceedings where necessary.

They have also actively engaged with businesses across the town, as well as members of the public, providing advice, reassurance and encouraging people to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.

ASB incidents should be reported directly to Devon and Cornwall Police by calling 101 or online: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/

Sustainable Penzance - £20,000

Sustainable Penzance is an extension of the work started by Plastic Free Penzance, to connect the town to a bigger vision of what a sustainable community can look like.

As well as working collaboratively with businesses and community groups, the organisation also runs a Schools Symposium empowering local children and young people to contribute to shaping their own futures in the community,

In 2025/26, Penzance Council provided £20,000 of strategic funding for Sustainable Penzance to deliver activity identified within a service level agreement. This funding enabled Sustainable Penzance to further develop community, business, youth and school engagement activity through both enhanced digital and face to face services, targeting hard to reach communities of place and interest across the Parish.

The work of Sustainable Penzance is closely aligned to the Council's Strategic Plan and contributes to the delivery of our Climate Emergency Action Plan.



Golowan Festival - £43,800

Golowan is the town's midsummer festival and the feast of our Patron Saint - St John the Baptist. The Cornish word 'Golowan' translates as 'Feast of John'. The festival traces its roots back to the vibrant traditions and customs observed in the town during the 19th century.

The modern-day festival was revived in 1991 by Alverton School, members of Kneehigh Theatre, Penwith Peninsula Project and Penzance Council.

Mazey Day is the highlight of Golowan, the town's 10-day festival of arts, performances, culture and parades, attracting tens of thousands of people to Penzance.

In November 2024, following a tendering process, Penzance Council awarded the contract to deliver Golowan Festival from 2025 – 2027 to the Golowan Festival Community Interest Company, in line with a detailed service level agreement.

Celebrating the 35th year of its revival, the theme of the 2025 festival was "On the Crest of a Wave", honouring the power of our Cornish coast and seas, unique sea life and love of the ocean in Penzance.

Penzance Council supported Golowan Festival 2025 with £43,800 of funding, which included funding for youth provision at Golowan and Mazey Eve fireworks.

Jubilee Pool - £40,000

Jubilee Pool celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2025. Penzance Council has financially supported the pool since its refurbishment in 2017 following the 2014 storms.

In the last financial year we have provided a total of **£40,000** funding. The breakdown of this funding was:

- **£10,000** for a Free Under 16s swim scheme
- **£30,000** towards winter maintenance and storm damage

Our funding also ensures a 20% discounted entry for all residents who live the Penzance Parish area (proof of address required).



Free Under 16s Swim Scheme

Jubilee Pool is an amazing and unique asset and we are committed to ensuring that young people from the Penzance Parish should have the chance to appreciate and enjoy it, just as generations have done before them.

In these hard economic times, we know that the price of taking children to the pool is a real barrier for many families: 27% of children in the Penzance area live in low-income households. Our Councillors felt it would be unjust if local children are denied the chance to connect with our local area and access such an iconic amenity simply because it is too expensive. The scheme was launched in summer 2023 as a pilot and has been very successful since then.

Pengarth Day Centre - £24,000

Originally opened in 1968, it has come to be a much loved resource and important daily care facility for the senior community of Penzance and wider West Cornwall.

Pengarth operates as a drop-in centre that anyone is welcome to use at any time during the day. In addition, it offers a range of additional services such as home cooked meals and personal care that people can enjoy and utilise as required.

Over the last three years, funding from Penzance Council has contributed to support for 325 different individuals. 88% of attendance at the Centre is by residents from within Penzance Parish. In addition, 567 individuals have been supported with meals on wheels deliveries, (43,680 meals delivered) of which 73% were within the Parish. 67 individuals have been supported through the hospital discharge process, meaning that potentially people have been discharged earlier because of Pengarth intervention. The new 'Community Buddy' has enabled 250 individuals in isolation to attend Community Hubs and better their physical and mental wellbeing.

PZN Youth CIC - £20,000

Penzance and Newlyn Youth Project has established an open-door facility providing meaningful, enriching activities for young people.

The volume of young people regularly attending reinforces the need for continuation and positive feedback from parents state that the provision is making a real difference to the lives of young people.

Penzance Council has a detailed service level agreement with PZN Youth CIC, with funding in place for 2025 and 2026.

In December 2025, thanks to public donations and Cornwall Council's Town Regeneration and Investment Programme (TRIP), PZN Youth CIC successfully completed the purchase of their building on Alverton Street in Penzance, marking a major milestone in its mission to provide a permanent safe, accessible space for young people.



Our Services

We provide a wide range of services to the local community and the large number of tourists who visit the parish every year

Allotments

We currently manage approximately 190 allotment plots across eight sites in the Parish.

Plots are available to anyone who lives in the Parish of Penzance (proof of residency required). Due to their popularity, there is a waiting list. In recent years, some available plots have been split in two to help reduce the waiting times.

Our teams work hard to maintain standards and make improvements across all of our sites, which include:

- Alverton
- Crankan
- Gulval
- Lescudjack
- Leskinnick
- Love Lane
- Mennaye
- Trannack

The current annual cost is between £20 – £32 depending on the size of the plot.

An analysis of our allotment pricing was undertaken in 2025 and it was established that after many years of the allotment pricing remaining unchanged, price increases would need to be brought in for the 2026 renewal to retain the financial stability of Penzance Council's allotment provision. This also brings us in line with comparable allotment pricing of neighbouring councils.



Penzance Council manages approximately 190 allotment plots across eight sites in the parish



The new West Cornwall CCTV Partnership was officially launched in January 2025 by St Ives Town Council, Penzance Council and Hayle Town Council.

Community Safety

CCTV

Penzance Council owns and maintains 19 CCTV cameras throughout the town.

In 2025 Penzance Council entered into a partnership with St Ives and Hayle Town Councils to launch a CCTV monitoring service at a single control centre in St Ives.

The new system offers an improved monitoring service and closer working with the local police sector.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer

Penzance Council took decisive action to secure the future of the town's ASB Officer after Cornwall Council reported it was unable to continue to provide the same level of funding for the post in 2019 – the Council now covers 80% of the costs for the post.

Hot Spot Street Marshals

Working closely with Penzance BID, Penzance Council contributed funding to maintain delivery of the 'Hot Spot Street Marshal Patrols for 2025/26.

Probation Service Graffiti Removal

Penzance Council approved funding of £3,000 to support a continuation of the Probation Service delivered graffiti clean-ups across the parish in 2025/26.

Safer Penzance

Under the umbrella of Safer Cornwall, Penzance Council works in partnership with Safer Penzance to tackle the impacts of crime, alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour in our community.



The 2025 Christmas Light Switch On in front of the Christmas Tree on Market Jew Street.

Christmas Lights

After many years of delivery from a small team at Penzance Council, for Christmas 2025, the responsibility for the hire, installation, and maintenance of the suspended Christmas lights throughout the town centre, as well as the sourcing and lighting of the Christmas tree in front of Market House transferred to Penzance BID.

Penzance Council supported Penzance BID with funding to contribute to the cost of delivering the Christmas lights, as well as support from the Leisure and Amenities Team and Corporate Services Team.

This year the Christmas lights were switched on by 9-year-old Karson Hearley - winner of the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition.

Over the years, Penzance Council has also awarded grant funding to community groups delivering Christmas light displays and events across the parish, including Newlyn Harbour Lights for Christmas 2025.

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Penlee House Gallery & Museum is a unique cultural venue, open to the whole community, with an important collection of paintings by the internationally-renowned Newlyn School and Lamorna artists, as well as a large collection of artefacts celebrating the archaeological and social history of West Cornwall.

Admission is free for everyone who lives within the Parish of Penzance. Please bring along proof of address to receive your pass.



A private view at Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Penlee Park

Our Leisure and Amenities Team are based in Penlee Park – a popular public garden in the heart of the town.

The park offers a range of open spaces and wooded areas to explore, with the addition of an accessible play park, sensory garden and a Memorial Garden for quiet contemplation. The park is also home to Penlee House Gallery & Museum, The Coach House Cafe, Penlee Open Air Theatre and Penzance Tennis Club.

Building on the success of the inaugural Penzance Food Festival in 2024, Penzance Council approved the use of the space again in 2025. Whilst the weather for the event was disappointing, it was hugely encouraging to see the festival so well attended yet again with great feedback received across the weekend.

Penlee Park also hosted the new Community and Family Area during Golowan Festival 2025, offering engaging activities and entertainment for all ages. The addition of this space to the Golowan programme was an overwhelming success with the area well attended across the weekend and positive feedback received from a number of different user groups.



Penzance Food Festival 2025 held in Penlee Park.

Wellfields Car Park

Penzance Council owns and manages Wellfields Car Park (next to Penlee Park). It provides good value all-day parking for people working in and visiting Penzance. The current price for a day ticket is £2.50 (subject to annual review). The car park has 162 spaces, including four spaces for Blue Badge Holders.

It is now possible to purchase an electronic ticket for Wellfields Car Park via the Buzzpay online payment system. No app is needed for payment, people can scan the QR code from the signage at payment machines, or navigate directly to m.buzzpay.co.uk. The cost of an electronic ticket is £2.75, which includes a 25p admin fee to cover the costs of implementing the electronic payment system costs.

Toilets

Public Toilets

We operate seven public toilets in and around Penzance town centre and at Newlyn harbour. We continue to receive regular positive feedback regarding the cleanliness and condition of the facilities that we provide.

This year we've continued to make further improvements to the facilities by undertaking a rolling redecoration programme and also completing a refurbishment project of the South Pier facilities.

Our delivery of the public toilets is supported by our appointed public toilet cleaning contractors, Crystal Clear Cleaning.

A full tender process was undertaken in 2025 and we were pleased to be able to appoint Crystal Clear Cleaning on a multi-year contract to support our ongoing commitment to providing essential facilities to residents and visitors to the parish.

You can find out more about the public toilets, where they are and their opening times on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/public-toilets

Community Toilet Scheme

We were one of the first local councils to introduce a 'Community Toilet Scheme' to boost our existing public toilet services. The scheme provides funding to local businesses to enable them to open their toilet facilities to the public to use free of charge.

12 businesses across Penzance, Newlyn and Heamoor are currently part of our scheme. All the businesses taking part receive funding from Penzance Council to offer this service, so you don't need to spend a penny!

Find out more about the community toilets online: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/community-toilet-scheme/

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Railway Station
- Post Office
- Car Park
- Bus Station
- Tourist Information
- Public Toilet

PENZANCE COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME
FREE PUBLIC FACILITIES IN THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Penzance Council's community toilet scheme has been developed to provide clean, publicly accessible facilities with extensive opening hours at various locations.

FREE COMMUNITY TOILETS HERE
LOOK OUT FOR THIS SIGN IN SHOPS

Please check our website for any changes to scheme participants.

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

- 1 THE LONGBOAT INN
Market Jew Street
- 2 POPPIES
Belgravia Street
- 3 EXCHANGE GALLERY
Princes Street
- 4 SUBWAY
Causewayhead
- 5 WAVES CAFE BAR
Causewayhead
- 6 PENLEE HOUSE
Morrah Road
- 7 THE DOLPHIN TAVERN
Quay Street
- 8 THE LUGGER
The Promenade
- 9 NEWLYN GALLERY
New Road, Newlyn
- 10 DUKE STREET CAFE
6 Duke Street, Newlyn
- 11 THE SWORDFISH INN
The Strand, Newlyn
- 12 SPORTSMANS ARMS
Bolting Road, Heamoor

LEGEND:

- ♿ Gender Toilet
- ♿ Changing Places Facilities
- ♿ Ladies' Toilet
- ♿ Disabled Access Toilet
- ♿ Unisex Toilet
- ♿ Baby-change Facilities

Information correct at the time of printing - February 2025

PENZANCE COUNCIL
www.penzance-tc.gov.uk



Alex 'Pin' Osborn and Dom Woolcott pressure wash the Skate Plaza

Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza

Working closely with key members of the skate community, we manage and maintain the Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza. The Plaza is open to all abilities of bikers, skaters and scooters all year round.

The cleanliness and upkeep of the facility is a credit to the local skate community who promote ownership and responsibility amongst users to ensure the Plaza remains in good condition.

An earmarked reserve for Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza was established in 2020 to help fund future maintenance of the site.

Foxes Lane Play Park, Mousehole

Foxes Lane Play Park in Mousehole was devolved from Cornwall Council to Penzance Council in 2021 and we have since carried out a refurbishment project to improve the facilities for families in the village.

In the past year, our teams have continued with a rolling maintenance and cleaning programme to keep the space clean, safe and welcoming for children and families.

Heamoor Old School Field

Penzance Council owns and manages Heamoor Old School Field (next to the former primary school on Madron Road).

Over the last few years we have carried out lots of improvement works to make the field an accessible community space for all residents to enjoy. We have installed a community noticeboard, benches, swings, bins and a new hard surface path linking two areas of the village.

The field has been well used by various community groups in Heamoor to host fetes and community days and we hope to continue to work collaboratively with local groups to ensure the best continued use of the space.



Happy visitors at Hea Day 2025, held in Heamoor Old School Field



Maintenance Officer Andy installs new nets as part of the Alexandra Tennis Courts Refurbishment

Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts

Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts were devolved from Cornwall Council to Penzance Council in the summer of 2021 and we have since carried out a full refurbishment of both the play area and the tennis courts.

We continue to build on the site improvements to keep both areas well maintained, including the recent refurbishment of the tennis courts and the planned replacement of a number of pieces of play equipment in 2026. Both of the facilities are free for everyone to use all year round.

Princess May Recreation Ground

Located in the heart of Penzance, Princess May Recreation Ground is a well-used open green space offering open spaces, a skate bowl, multi-use sports courts, as well as a children's play area.

Penzance Jewish Cemetery

Penzance Council looks after the Grade II listed Penzance Jewish Cemetery, located between Leskinnick Terrace and Mount Street.

It was established in 1740 and is one of the best-preserved eighteenth century Jewish cemeteries in the UK, outside of London.

The cemetery is Grade II listed, meaning that the site has been recognised by Historic England as having special architectural and historic interest. The listing also brings the cemetery under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.

We supervise maintenance works to ensure that the heritage of the site is protected.

Access to the Jewish Cemetery is strictly by appointment only - please contact the Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery.



Memorial maintenance

Penzance Council cleans and maintains six memorials and monuments across the parish, including:

- Eileen McGrigor Memorial, Newlyn
- Fisherman Memorial, Newlyn Green
- Humphry Davy Statue, Market Jew Street
- Mousehole War Memorial
- Newlyn War Memorial
- Penzance War Memorial, Battery Rocks

A number of these are listed and strict guidance applies as to how they should be cleaned and maintained.

The wrong types of cleaning products can damage memorials, and in some cases, even scrubbing with water may inadvertently cause damage to surfaces or inscriptions. As such, for 2026 Penzance Council will be adopting the current recommended method of statue and memorial cleaning utilising hot steam at low pressure. This methodology provides the most effective, but least aggressive form of cleaning.

Current guidance recommends undertaking cleaning as little as possible to minimise the chances of damage being caused. For this reason, it is important to ensure that the most effective form of cleaning is being used.



Pavement Weeding Management Programme

Our Leisure & Amenities Team carry out weeding on over 75 miles of pavements across the whole Parish.

As part of our Climate Emergency Action Plan, Penzance Council resolved to undertake a chemical-free weed management program. This has meant no spraying of chemicals on parish pavements or sites owned or managed by Penzance Council.

Instead, Penzance Council staff have been using battery-powered tools to cut the weeds off as close to ground level as possible.

Whilst this method has meant a greater number of weeds are visible across the parish, the majority of feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive in favour of the efforts by Penzance Council to find and implement a non-chemical-based management programme.

Events

Our Corporate Service Team organise a wide range of civic and ceremonial events within the community each year

May 2025 - Mayor Choosing & Community Awards



Town Clerk James Hardy takes out the Sword of Justice during the Mayor Choosing Ceremony.



From left to right: Petty Officer Juliet Scanlon, Mayor's Cadet Thomas Kirk, Town Clerk James Hardy, Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds, Citizen of the Year Vernon Durrant, Humphry Davy Prize winner Isla Mulholland, Young Citizen of the Year Jack James.

June 2025 - Feast of St John Parade



Penzance Town Crier Phil Northcott leads the civic procession for the Feast of St John Parade.



Pupils from St Mary's C of E School join the parade as the head of St John is carried.

August 2025 - VJ Day



Veteran Robert Bolitho lays a wreath at the service in Penlee Park Memorial Garden.



Standard bearer Brian Venn.

November 2025 - Remembrance Sunday



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds lays a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday Service - November 2025



December 2025 - Mayor's Christmas Card Contest



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds chooses a winner from the 2025 Christmas Card Contest entries.



The Penzance Christmas lights were switched on by 9-year-old Karson Hearley - winner of the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition.

Looking forward

The 2026/27 budget

At the Penzance Council meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026, Councillors agreed a budget for 2026/27 and set out plans to spend almost £3 million in the parish from 1 April 2026.

Penzance Council voted to increase the precept, in real terms, by £1.04 a year for a Band D property. This represents an annual increase of 0.3% for every household in the parish.

Cornwall Council charge an additional 100% Council Tax premium on second homes. There are approximately 444 households classed as second homes across the wards of Penzance Council for the 26/27 financial year that will be paying a 100% additional premium on their Council Tax bill. This, along with new housing development in the area, increases the tax base for the parish, and means that the precept only increases by 0.3%.



Penzance Council's element of residents' Council Tax Bill from 1 April 2026 is:

Council Tax Bands	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Annual Total	£218.71	£255.17	£291.62	£328.07	£400.97	£473.88	£545.78	£656.14
Monthly Total	£18.23	£21.26	£24.30	£27.34	£33.41	£39.49	£45.57	£54.68

(80% of households in the parish are Council Tax Band A-C)

Over the coming year, we hope to build on our success and continue to improve our parish for all of our residents

Promenade Flags and Town Banners

Penzance Council has historically delivered both the town flag and promenade banner projects across Penzance. Typically, these installations lasted for a single season of use due to their exposure to varying weather conditions in the locations where they are installed. A key target of the Council had been to explore options that would extend the lifespan of the project, and we are targeting 2026 with being the first year where we see if we can make many of the banners last for a second season.

The project is closely managed each year, and the Council is supported by key contractors with the manufacture, rigging and repair work that is undertaken across the course of a season.

The flags and banners produced last year were made by local contractors, whose manufacturing process utilises a number of recycled materials, with the manufacturer also achieving carbon neutral status.

The Leisure and Amenities Team are proud to be able to deliver and oversee projects which make a visible difference to parish, and the banner project is one of the ones that receives the most positive feedback in terms of brightening up the promenade and Penzance town centre.

Leisure & Amenities Team

Following resolutions by both the Leisure and Amenities Committee and the Council, Penzance Council will be expanding its operational team in 2026.

The reasons behind the expansion are varied. However, as Penzance Council is being asked to take on more responsibility from Cornwall Council within the parish on a year-on-year basis, efforts are being made to try and ensure that Penzance Council remains in the best position to take on these responsibilities and to deliver the improvements that are being requested of us.



The daily watering programme carried out by the Leisure and Amenities Team

The expansion of the team will serve to position the Council in the best way to not only press ahead with devolution aspirations, but also to bolster the existing small team of staff that deliver our operational responsibilities across the Parish. It has long been acknowledged that the team were operating at the upper limits of their capacity and the additional resource has already been earmarked to assist in a number of existing service delivery areas in addition to new workloads generated by further devolution.



Promenade Flags are raised - May 2025

Footpath Cutting Contract

Penzance Council entered into an enhanced footpath cutting contract for the 2025 season. Historically the grassed footpaths that link areas of the Parish together have been managed under a cutting contract by Cornwall Council. However, many of the paths were becoming overgrown and even impassible in some areas.

Penzance Council now engages with a contractor directly, enabling an increased cutting programme to be put in place.

Cornwall Council, as the Highways Authority, still remains responsible for the physical condition of the footpaths, ensuring that they are safe to use and passable for users, including the repair and maintenance of gates and stiles. However Penzance Council now supports this function with a better, more encompassing schedule of cutting across the year.

Following increased cutting during 2025, 2026 will be the first full season of the enhanced cutting programme. The work began late in March with the first cut of the year and we will look to supplement this with further cuts undertaken throughout the main growing season.

Penzance Council recognises that many of these grassed paths and walkways are integral to people moving around the Parish, and it is anticipated that this enhanced programme will result in a meaningful difference to residents and visitors to the area.



Councillors tour the Coach House Cafe ahead of its opening - March 2026

Redevelopment of the Coach House

The Coach House Café opens in May 2026 after a full redevelopment project partly funded by the Government in partnership with Cornwall Council and Penzance Town Deal. The Orangery Café operator, Cath Harvey, is undertaking the new operation following a competitive tender process.

The new café provides significantly increased covers compared to The Orangery Café, as well as increased opening hours, which will cater for people using the park early in the day and those visiting the Open Air Theatre in the evening. The redevelopment of the space has also visually enhanced this area of Penlee Park, including a dedicated café terrace providing external space.

The Orangery Café is remaining as a coffee and cake provision, with the space also being used to increase retail capacity within Penlee House Gallery & Museum.

Community Events

Penzance Council is committed to promoting and supporting the distinct cultural heritage and identity of the Parish now and into the future.

Over the coming year we will continue to organise our own community events and financially support the many community groups and organisations who put on events for residents to enjoy.

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

At Penlee House Gallery & Museum, a Co-Director model has been implemented. This additional capacity enables the delivery of key projects such as the recent launch of the Coach House Café.

A new part-time role of Audience Engagement Assistant, funded by the Going Places project has been recruited and they will begin working at Penlee House in May 2026. This role will be based in our Learning Team, primarily working with under-5s with a view to this work feeding into a childhood-themed exhibition in 2028.

Other upcoming exhibitions at Penlee House include:

Making Her Mark: A Celebration of Women in Art
30 April 2026 - 27 September 2026

The Art of the Newlyn School: Paintings from the Bowerman Collection
7 October 2026 – 9 January 2027

The Geoffrey and Carol Holland Trust – selected works / 100 Years of the St Ives Society of Artists
1 February 2027 – 10 April 2027

Community Emergency Planning

The South West was bombarded by a number of severe weather incidents at the beginning of 2026, including Storm Ingrid, Storm Chandra and Storm Goretti. Whilst plans were already in place by Penzance Council to develop Community Emergency Plans throughout the parish, the impact of these storms highlighted the urgent need for such plans to be in place.

Over the course of 2026, Penzance Council will be working with communities across the parish to formalise Community Emergency Plans for each area, which reflect specific risks and existing community resources.

These Emergency Plans will be developed alongside Community Flood Plans and the Mounts Bay Coastal Resilience Strategy, harnessing community resources to provide a better, faster and more appropriate response.

Town Helpdesk

Throughout 2025/26 Penzance Council has been developing a 'Town Helpdesk' to assist members of the public who are struggling to report issues to Cornwall Council, or who cannot find the information they are looking for from public service websites. This popular face-to-face service will develop further over the coming year as demand for it increases.

Penzance Town of Culture

Inspired by the success of the UK City of Culture, the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) launched the new UK Town of Culture competition at the beginning of 2026, aiming to shine a spotlight on the unique contributions towns make to the national story.

Towns across the United Kingdom had until 31 March 2026 to submit an Expression of Interest for the competition, after which a small number of shortlisted entries will be invited to develop a more detailed bid.

The winning town will be awarded £3 million to deliver a cultural programme in 2028, whilst category finalists will receive £250,000 each to deliver elements of their bid.

Led by the Town Clerk, Penzance submitted an Expression of Interest, championing the town's culturally-rich offering. If Penzance is shortlisted for the next stage of the UK Town of Culture competition, it will present an opportunity for the town to showcase its unique culture, creativity and communities.

However, regardless of whether Penzance is shortlisted or not, the process has already initiated valuable conversations about how to develop and celebrate the cultural offering of our unique town.



Storm Ingrid batters Penzance seafront - January 2026



Penzance Council

Penlee Centre

Penlee Park

Penzance

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