

## **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 1 JUNE 2026**

At the time of writing I have been in office for less than a week and so do not have a meaningful report to provide, but set out below is a report from the former Mayor, Councillor Stephen Reynolds.

Councillor Andy Law

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*'Please note that this report covers the period from the previous Penzance Council meeting on 16th March 2026 until the end of my term of office on 18th May 2026.*

*Verbal updates will be provided at the 1st June meeting by the Mayor, Cllr Andy Law, where relevant.*

### **1. Mounts Bay Coastal Resilience Strategy**

*Following the public webinar held on 23rd March and the presentation made at the Annual Town Meeting by reps from Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency, Penzance Council's response to the strategy consultation was discussed and decided on at the Planning Committee meeting held on 29th April. The Committee agreed (in summary) to<sup>1</sup>:*

- *support the strategy in principle;*
- *welcome the opportunity to engage in the process;*
- *request that options be explored for future partnership working between all interested parties;*
- *seek clarification on the proposed sandscaping solution; and*
- *support the principle of a proposed '360 degree' solution, incorporating inland and shoreside resilience within the strategy.*

*Further to this decision, the Cornwall Council representative has offered to meet with members to answer questions about the proposed sandscaping solution, specifically in relation to amenity, environmental and ecological impact; details of this meeting will be shared.*

*In addition, I will liaise with the Town Clerk and current Mayor to explore what role Penzance Council might play as the strategy develops, including involvement in any partnership working arrangements, with a view to bringing a recommendation to a future meeting of Penzance Council.*

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<sup>1</sup> The full decision is provided in the minutes:

<https://www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Planning-Mins-29.04.26.pdf>

## **2. Penzance Community Flood Plan / Community Emergency Plan**

*There was a significant attendance by councillors at the meeting of the Penwith Community Area Partnership Wednesday 1st April; many thanks to those who attended.*

*There were two key presentations of particular relevance to the Penzance parish:*

- Reps from the Cornwall Community Flood Forum and the Environment Agency led a workshop on developing Community Flood Plans, focusing mainly on community resilience for vulnerable households and neighbourhoods, and on community response in the event of flooding incidents.*
- The CC Emergency Management Manager provided an overview of Community Emergency Planning, an issue that has shot up the agenda following last winters' storms (especially Goretta).*

*These two sessions will help inform how we progress emergency planning within the Penzance parish, alongside relevant outcomes from Penzance Council's ongoing strategy workshops. Efforts are likely to be concentrated largely at community/ward level, reflecting specific risks and existing resources within each geographical community.*

## **3. Smartphone Free Schools**

*Following on from the decision of Council last September to explore the possibility of a smartphone free policy in local schools, our Communications Officer organised two meetings (on 10th March and 14th May) attended by school leaders and representatives from Smartphone Free Cornwall, alongside myself and the Town Clerk (plus the incoming Mayor at the second meeting).*

*The consensus that emerged after the 14th May meeting was to move towards an initial goal of agreeing a voluntary Smartphone Free policy (under which pupils would not bring a smartphone to school) across all primary schools within the Parish (plus Madron Daniel and Trythall schools) for the start of the new school year in September.*

*The proposed direction of travel reflects the greater complexity of securing an agreed policy across the different secondary schools, but also growing concerns among primary school leaders about the use of smartphones by pupils even in the younger cohorts.*

## **4. Planning Committee**

*There remain two active planning applications on which Penzance Council has made objections and which are expected to go to Cornwall Council committees for a decision in the near future. In both cases, the Penzance Council Planning Committee has appointed either myself or Cllr Jan Power (as Chair of the Planning Committee) to represent Penzance Council and present our position at the meeting. The two applications are:*

*PA25/04955 (Penzance Heliport): application to vary conditions on existing consent, mainly to increase permitted noise levels.*

Cllr Power and I attended a Technical Briefing on this application organised by Cornwall Council on 7th May, at which we were informed that the application is due to be determined by the Cornwall Council Strategic Planning Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday 16th July at Lys Kernow in Truro.

PA25/03633 (Old Lidl site, Wherry Town): Redevelopment for retirement living accommodation for older people comprising 56 retirement apartments and six retirement cottages including communal facilities, access, car parking and landscaping

No date has yet been set for when this application will go to Committee; at the time of writing, the Environment Agency are maintaining their objection.

### **5. Penzance Regeneration Company (PZRC)**

Work is ongoing at all three regeneration projects: Market House, the old Poundstretcher building at 94 Market Jew Street, and the old Lou's Shoes at 38-30 Market Place.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made for members of Penzance Council to visit the three sites to see progress achieved to date, and to find out more detail about the projects.

### **6. Penzance Town Deal Board**

All Town Deal projects are now either complete, or well into the delivery phase.

With the Town Deal Board coming to an end, attention has turned to future governance arrangements for regeneration in the Penzance area, and specifically to the potential for establishing a successor body to promote partnership working – on broadly similar lines to the Penzance Regeneration Partnership that pre-dated the Town Deal Board.

The Town Deal Board has set up a working group (whose members include myself and the Town Clerk) to develop proposals for the new body, which will be put to the forthcoming Town Deal Board meeting on 4th June.

The working group (which has also had input from Cllr Law as the incoming Mayor) is broadly agreed that the new partnership body should have a wider remit than the old "Regen Partnership", embracing not only buildings and infrastructure, but also issues that are critical to the everyday lives of local people – especially around physical and mental health and well-being. The intention is that the membership of the new body should include some of the key individuals working in these fields, so that they are formally brought into the conversation about the future of the Penzance area.

After the Town Deal Board meeting on 4th June, a recommendation will be brought to a future meeting of Penzance Council to determine the role played by the Council in the new body, and to appoint representatives.

### **7. Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association**

Main highlights:

- *Successful visit by students aged 12-14 from Concarneau in April. The students stayed at the YHA and enjoyed a town centre quiz, a visit to the Fire Station, trips to St Michaels Mount and Geevor mine, visits to the Morrab Library and Gardeners House, and a day at Mounts Bay Academy that was particularly appreciated by the visiting students. The Association is now considering how a reciprocal visit of Penzance students to Concarneau might be organised, although there are significant challenges around travel costs.*
- *A delegation from Concarneau is due to visit for Golowan. Magali Morvan and Yolande Capitaine from the Concarneau association will both be joining us for the Civic Parade and Mayor's Lunch on Mazey Day, and the incoming Mayor will be extending the traditional formal invitation to the new Mayor of Concarneau, Quentin Le Gaillard*
- *A party of adults from Penzance will visit Concarneau 29th September-5th October.*

### **8. Penzance/Cuxhaven Twinning Association**

*A historic lightship from Cuxhaven is due to pay a friendship visit to Penzance Harbour in July 2027, and I have been liaising with Chris Jones (Harbours Manager) to facilitate this.*

### **9. Penzance BID**

*I attended the Annual General Meeting of Penzance BID on 21st April, which was also attended by a number of levy payers who contributed to a lively but constructive discussion around town centre issues such as parking, roadworks and ASB.*

*Sarah Shaw (BID Manager) explained the work she and the Town Clerk had been doing to mitigate the impact of the ongoing roadworks, and to lobby for fairer parking charges and a greater police presence. The meeting was useful in helping the levy payers understand where responsibility lies for various issues affecting the business community.*

*The BID Manager has also played a crucial role in ensuring that the start of the gas replacement work in St Clare was deferred until the Ross Bridge had reopened.*

*Ongoing BID-supported projects include:*

- *The new Bike Hub being installed in the Harbour Car Park, managed by Ride-On.*
- *Migration of the current DISC crime reporting system to a new system that will be fully integrated with police systems.*
- *Potential launch of a regular Park Run and a PZ half marathon.*
- *Inaugural PZ Comedy Festival in October.*
- *Town-wide Wayfinding Strategy*

*Regular meetings continue at an operational level between the Town Clerk and BID Manager to deal with issues as and when they arise.*

### **10. Royal Visit to YMCA Penzance**

*One of my final engagements as Mayor was to welcome HRH Prince Richard of Gloucester to Penzance YMCA, where he visited the new accommodation units that have been financed by a massive fund-raising effort (including grant funding from Penzance Council).*

*I would like to thank the YMCA's Head of Operations in particular for all her work in facilitating the visit, and raising the profile of the invaluable efforts made by the YMCA to support young people from our community with housing and other needs. Thanks also the many inspiring young people I met during the visit.*

### **11. National Fishing Remembrance Day**

*It was an honour to be invited to lay a wreath at the Fisherman Statue in Newlyn on Sunday 10th May, on a breezy but sunny Sunday. Many thanks to all those who made it happen and who attended, and special thanks to the Cadgwith Inn Singers for their evocative and stirring singing, both at the statue and afterwards in St Peter's Church. A magical if poignant event, that I hope will become a regular fixture in our civic calendar.*

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***This is my final report to Council following the election of Cllr Andy Law as Mayor, and I would like to take this opportunity to formally record my thanks to all my fellow Councillors, past and present, for all the support they have given me over the last three years. Huge thanks to all of the Council staff, who work so hard to make our community an even better place. I would also like to wish every success to our new Mayor and Deputy Mayor as they take up their duties.***

*Note: all reports valid as of the date of writing (21st May).*

*Cllr Stephen Reynolds, former Penzance Town Mayor*

*21st May 2026'*