

Town Mayor Report to Penzance Council

Penzance Council Meeting 21 September 2026

Work Streams

Climate Action Fund

Nothing major to report on this work stream. I continue to work as part of the Partnership, bringing in collaborators in the wider food system as the Core Partnership works towards submitting an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery.

Youth Services Provider Forum

I have now met with all the potential key partners that might be involved in a Provider Forum. All agencies/individuals have now committed, in principle, to joining the Forum and are very positive about the prospect. The next step which I will be taking (in collaboration with Councillors Peter Lapin and Duncan Paul), is to consider how schools might be involved and then I will meet with James Hardy to see how we might progress this work stream.

Love our Streets

As with the Climate Action Fund, there is nothing major to report on this work stream. I have continued to meet with potential partners and scope out the possible shape of the pilots. I am due to hear the views of the Community Health and Wellbeing Workers shortly and I have a meeting fixed with the Cormac “Making Space for Nature” Team towards the end of September. I would then hope to be able to be clearer as to how and when we might plan to implement the pilots.

Increasing Councillor involvement in Council decisions

I have now sent an email out to all Councillors, setting out my proposals for Increasing Councillor involvement in Council decisions and building an even more engaged, motivated and energised Council. I will shortly be sending out a proposed date for our first all-Councillor meeting.

Business meetings

I am now fully established on the many Boards and Forums on which I represent the Council and that allow me to work collaboratively with others to positively influence the lives of local people and communities. There are many of these forums (too many to list here!), but they include Penzance Regeneration Company Board; Safer Penzance; Penwith Community Area Partnership and the Transport and Connectivity Working Group; Penwith Interagency Forum; Penzance BID and the Neighbourhood Priority Statements Steering Group.

Individual networking meetings

I continue to regularly meet and collaborate with individuals and agencies embedded within the community and working hard to improve the lives of their local communities. Some of these individuals and agencies are well-known to the Council and indeed, may be directly supported by the Council, such as Sustainable PZ and Penzance and Newlyn Youth, but in many instances, I am directly contacted by individuals who wish to promote and publicise the invaluable work they are doing in their communities and are seeking support and affirmation from the Council.

I always really appreciate members of the public approaching me to tell me what they are doing to create positive and supportive communities and seeing if there is any way we can help and support.

Events

As usual, I have received several invitations to come along to community events, sometimes to open them, sometimes to speak and sometimes just to be there and support the local community. These events are the highlights of my role. It's a privilege and an honour to be asked to support community events and meet local people where they are, listening to their stories and supporting the incredible community cohesion work that is going on all over the Parish where we live and work. Some of the events I have been to since my last Mayor's Report include: Community gardening at Penrose Gardens and Foster Bolitho Gardens; Yurt-painting for Growing Links; Newlyn Family Fun Day; The Cornish Sardine Festival and The Newlyn Raft Race.

Cornish Language (Kernewek)

I regard myself as "leading the charge" to use and promote the use of Kernewek. As well as having given my Declaration of Office in Kernewek, I top and tail all Council Meetings in Kernewek and for the September Meeting, I will be attempting to read the Principles of Public Life and the Future Generations Pledge in Kernewek. In all this endeavour, I am extremely lucky to be supported by my Cornish-speaking Deputy Mayor, Councillor Penny Osborne and my Cornish-speaking wife and Consort (who was recently welcomed into the College of Bards of Gorsedh Kernow). I am very proud that we will be debating our Polici an Yeth Kernewek (Cornish Language Policy) at our September meeting and many, many thanks to our Sodhoges Keskomunyans (Communications Officer) for her sterling work on this.

Conclusion

It has been a very busy 2 months, but I am beginning to feel that I am gradually getting a grip of this complex role, forming collaborative relationships across the Parish and beyond, in order to improve the lives of the people this Council represents and serves.

Splann! (Fantastic)

Councillor Andy Law