



Penrith Town Council

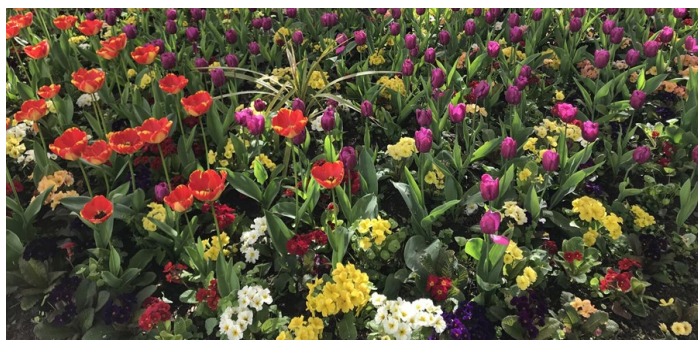
NEWSLETTER

SPRING

2020

and

2019-20 Annual Report



PENRITH FLOWERBED
SPRING 2019

INDEX

Page 2 Message from the Mayor

Page 3 Message from the Deputy Mayor

Page 4 Making a Difference during Covid-19

Page 5 Let's Get Our Community Covered

Page 6 Cumbria Community Foundation

Page 7 Focus on 2019-20

Page 8 Highlights

Page 10 Penrith Town Council Awards

Page 11 VE Day

Page 12 WW2 Memories

Page 13 Engaging with Dialogue

Page 14 Penrith Youth Advisory Panel

Page 15 Penrith A carbon Neutral Town

Page 17 Your Councillors

Page 19 Keep in Touch



Message from the Mayor



Councillor Doug Lawson
Mayor of Penrith

Welcome to our spring 2020 newsletter

This is the first of four newsletters that we publish throughout the year along with our regular editorials and press releases in the local press. Newsletters are available to download from our website and it lets you know what we are doing.

Penrith Town Council strives to make a difference and we work hard to provide services and facilities for everyone and are continually improving Penrith for the benefit of all our residents, visitors and businesses. However, at the time of the publication of this newsletter the world is struggling with Covid-19, which has affected everyone. Unfortunately, this has meant that we have had to suspend all public meetings and events so the annual meeting of the Town and all our Council meetings did not take place.

Sadly, we had to cancel our weekend of celebrations for VE 75. We are devastated that this has happened as so many community groups and volunteers had been working with the Council over over twelve months to create a weekend of celebration and memories. Which included a procession of over 100 military vehicles and appearances from George Formby and Winston Churchill!

Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom have rightly cancelled their competitions this year and Penrith was to be entered into both having done we well over the last few years.

We would like to thank our Penrith in Bloom volunteers and contractors who work with us throughout the year to green Penrith and make the town an attractive place to live, work and visit throughout any season.

The Council's Annual Report 19-20 will be published in the Eden Local magazine and posted to each household when the pandemic is over.

Whilst our officers are working from home, you can still contact us (details on back page) and we are always happy to listen to any concerns, help with any queries and to receive new ideas. We are about to launch our new interactive dialogue platform which will mean you can send your ideas directly to the Council online and start a community conversation about your idea. There is more about this opportunity in this edition.

On behalf of all Members and officers of Penrith Town Council, I wish you all well at this difficult time.

Message from the Deputy Mayor



Councillor Scott Jackson

Deputy Mayor of Penrith

During these unprecedented times, it is essential that we follow the government advice to help reduce the risk of the Covid-19 virus. As a community it is important that we work together to minimise the effect of the virus, to save lives and to assist people who are elderly, vulnerable and shielding.



Please stay at home and only go out if it is necessary. When it is essential, and you go out, please keep your distance. It is important that we all act responsibly and comply with all measures at this time.

It has been amazing to see so many people volunteer to help.

COVID-19 SUPPORT AND HELP FOR PENRITH RESIDENTS

There is currently a lot of work going on to coordinate local volunteers to help support vulnerable people with basic needs such as shopping and prescription collections. Thank you everyone who has been helping. In these uncertain times, there is much we have to bear but we do not have to do so alone. I hope everyone knows that if they need support they can find it at the town council. We are encouraging people to seek a support network in the first instance with neighbours, friends and relatives. Making contact with somebody nearby is your best source of support.

We are also able to offer those without a support network some services and we have linked with volunteers, agencies and organisations throughout the community who want to help during this time of national crisis. We are working with Fell Runner, with our local churches, local businesses, Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council to provide support.

We have donated £3,000 to Penrith Foodbank and are in contact with other groups in Penrith and Eden who are working in partnership to keep vital services running where they are needed most.



With support from a grant from The Cumbria Community Action Fund, Cumbria County Council, and Barnardos we are purchasing 400 craft boxes for primary school children who do not have access to stationery at home whilst they are home schooling.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

From Monday 20 April, if you are over 70, vulnerable or shielding and your need is **NOT URGENT** but it is important and you need some assistance and you do not have any support locally, Penrith Town Council volunteers are able to help you.

Do you need help with a pre-paid food or prescription collection or just a chat?



01768 899773

Monday to Sunday between 10am and 2pm and we will ask one of our volunteers to contact you.

If you are over 70, vulnerable shielding and you do not have family, friends or neighbours to help you and you **need help urgently** please call Helpline number:

NEW EMERGENCY SUPPORT HELPLINE

Only for people at high risk of becoming seriously ill, as a result of COVID-19, and who do not have support available from friends, family or neighbours.

☎ 0800 783 1966
COVID19support@cumbria.gov.uk

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation progresses, there are many questions and concerns about how the necessary government measures will affect us all and there is more and more advice.

We update our website regularly.

There you can find details of how to volunteer, how to find help and advice. We publish weekly, a list of businesses that are still open, delivering food and drink locally, those offering takeaways for collection and delivery as well as which local retailers are operating online, telephone shopping and click and collect service.

This list is provided by the Chamber of Trade and is available on Penrith Chamber of Trade website and the weekly Cumbria Council Covid-19 Directory.

Just go to:

www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk

and go to the Media and Communication section, News-Covid-19 page. We try to keep this page as up to date as possible. We regularly post information on the Town Council Facebook page.

LET'S GET OUR COMMUNITY COVERED

Community is essential over the next few weeks as we reach the peak of the Covid-19 crisis, so if you haven't done so already, we're asking all residents to make contact with your nearest five neighbours.

The idea is simple – check in with your five nearest neighbours. Give them your number, make sure you have theirs and know that they can call you if you are needed.

If you are isolated at home, there are ways that you can continue to support your neighbours, your family, your community - keep spirits up and most of all talk to each other.

How can I help others?



Sign up to be part of a bank of volunteers at Support Cumbria:

<https://supportcumbria.org.uk/>

Support Cumbria is an official collaboration of partners across Cumbria who are working together to provide community support to residents who are struggling to access basic or essential services during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This site provides a central point to help coordinate volunteering efforts to support Cumbria residents who may need help.

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL HEREOS



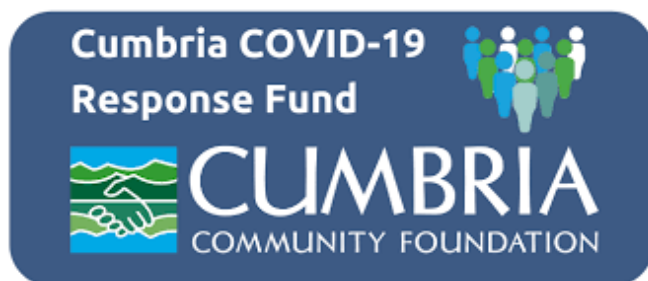
Penrith postman, Simon Richardson, has brought a smile to people's faces, during his rounds in Penrith and has made the national news dressing up as a post box while delivering his letters

"It's just nice to see people laugh and smile."

Simon has also made an appearance as Jess, Postman Pat's famous black and white feline friend. Like all postal workers and postwomen, Simon is observing social distancing and hygiene guidance amid the coronavirus crisis.

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:00PM AND CLAP FOR OUR KEY WORKERS





Grants for groups providing charitable activities in response to the impact of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic in Cumbria

Objective

To assist groups and organisations providing services and support to individuals and families, whether singly or collectively, affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

What you can apply for:

- Running costs, including staff costs, volunteer expenses and transport costs
- Small capital costs are also eligible, providing the capital items are directly linked to supporting the above groups

To provide support for the following: (this is not an exhaustive list)

- Activities that help vulnerable people who are self-isolating
- Community response coordination volunteer costs
- Additional costs of working remotely and adapting services delivered in the wider community
- Foodbanks and organisations working to combat child hunger
- Counter the loss of contract income and
- Fundraising for organisations providing support for vulnerable groups

Priority will be given to groups that support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people to ensure that their health and wellbeing is maintained.

What the Fund cannot support:

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Salary costs for Parish Clerks

The Government is making provision for support for individuals and businesses.

How much can you apply for?

There will be no maximum or minimum award amount. The Foundation hopes to offer smaller grants (circa £250) to community-based groups mutual aid and self-help groups, and larger grants (over £1,000) to organisations offering district or county level support.

Grants will only be made to groups and organisations that can show that they are working safely and adhering to government guidance regarding the virus.

The Fund is dedicated to Cumbria.

If you would like to know more about this fund please contact:

Grants Team on 01900 825760

or email grants@cumbriafoundation.org

Please read the [Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund Guidance to Applicants](#) before applying.

To apply for a grant, click [here](#)

FOCUS ON

2019-2020

Following the May 2019 elections and co-option, Penrith has an almost all new Town Council with eight of the fifteen Councillors being new or very recently new to the Council.

The new Council team has, after consultation, refreshed the Council's Business Plan and reviewed its priorities up to 2023.

Members of the Council believe it is important to review the priorities as the local government operating environment is constantly changing and the Council itself is growing and developing all the time.

Members of the Council considered the fundamentals of why the Council exists and ultimately what the Council can achieve, and in September 2019 Council members adopted an updated, refreshed Business Plan that sets out key objectives until 2023.

To find out more click on the following link:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/council-business/council-plan/>

The refreshed business plan has informed the Council's precept and budget review process for 2020/21.

To find out more click on the following link:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/council-finance/council-precept/>

The work of the Town Council is growing in importance every year. We want to let our community know what we have achieved over the past civic year, and share some of our plans for the coming year.

Our aim is always to provide the best service that we can, using the resources that are available to us.

Your Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Town Mayor for the year 2019/20 has been Councillor Doug Lawson and the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Scott Jackson. This arrangement will continue until May 2021. Writing before the current crisis:

"Penrith has the Town Council it has always deserved! An amazing staff with years of experience and a group of councillors who care passionately about our town.

It has been such a privilege over the last year, to chair meetings where hearts and minds were challenged by new ideas, important resolutions were made, and people's lives were improved.

We have started to figure out how we can tackle the climate emergency locally, we have developed a neighbourhood plan that will protect our green spaces and help Penrith to go from strength to strength, we've helped plan, finance and deliver events that draw people in from all around and allow others to share our close-knit community. In everything, the Council has sought to make Penrith a great place to live, work, and play.

The elections last year marked an important point in the life of Penrith Town Council. I'm excited by the plans we've drawn up in the last year and look forward to being involved as our hopes and dreams become a reality.

Cllr. Doug Lawson, Mayor and Chair of Penrith Town Council

A term and a year have now passed in the life of the council, marking an excellent point to review how things are going. New councillors are thoroughly settled in and making important contributions and new projects lie on the horizon. Penrith Town Council is fast becoming a trusted and reliable authority with a strong record of excellence in its endeavours.

I am particularly proud of the work the council has done coordinating the town's efforts in Cumbria and Britain in Bloom and the numerous honours are just reward. There's no better feeling than seeing countless hours of community effort recognised nationally!

I'm also excited by the Youth Advisory Panel and the possibilities for ensuring younger people have a voice and a stake in this town and can have the opportunity to help shape it.

I'd have liked to have seen the devolution of the town's assets from district to town control be further along. The excellent relationship the town council has created with the community at Fairhill playing field is the goal for all of the town's public property. Namely, that assets are managed with the closest possible partnership with residents. We have also been proud to support town centre events including Winter Droving, Tea in the Park, Penrith Arts Festival and the Christmas Lights Switch on event. Details of how we have invested funds and supported the work of our local organisations are shared at our Annual Town Meeting.

That's the theme I've seen developing. People ask What is Penrith? Is it still a market town? If not then what? I see it as the 'Community Town' and can be precisely what you make it if you get involved.

Cllr. Scott Jackson, Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of Penrith Town Council

HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING HERITAGE, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL CULTURE

It has been a busy year for the Communities' Culture and Economic Growth Committee and we have been delighted to continue our work with community groups and organisations throughout Penrith.

We have funded Askham and Hackthorpe area First Responders, to provide Defibrillators for Penny Hill Park and Carlton Meadows, supported Cumbria Youth Alliance to provide Dreamscheme projects, contributed towards the cost of improving access to the 4 Eden building and contributed towards the replacement of the artificial playing surface at Penrith Cricket Club.

If your group or organisation are not-for-profit and are constituted with a bank account, find out more about our grants scheme for events and projects:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/community-support-grants/>



Looking to the future we are developing an Arts and Cultural strategy for Penrith which will map out future Arts and Cultural provision for the town



GREAT GROWERS: Community gardeners were recognised for growing fruit and veg throughout the town.

Penrith harvests a gold at Bloom awards

PENRITH picked up a gold award at the Britain in Bloom finals at the Royal Horticultural Society competition on Friday night.

The award came in the large town category and the judges were particularly impressed with the planting at the railway station and the efforts of the town's community gardeners.

Of particular note was the community fruit and vegetable growing, where produce is grown in public spaces throughout the town for passers by to help themselves and to supply fresh produce to the food bank run by the Salvation Army.

The initiative also earned Penrith a discretionary award for supporting and growing communities.

The judges were delighted with the warm welcome they received on judging day, indicating that "for quite a new entry, great things have been achieved, which in turn has changed the face of Penrith."

They remarked on how the BID had helped bring more people to visit and to enjoy shopping and the atmosphere created. The approach to recycling was commended, and the judges were also impressed by the overall quality of horticulture, including the wide variety of plants used and the variety of fruit and veg enjoyed by a wide range of people. The judges also felt Thacka Beck Nature Reserve was a "gem and a delight to visit." The beekeepers story was of high interest too.

Community gardeners who worked hard at Penrith railway station were congratulated and changes in Great Dockray were commended, driven by Louise Armstrong, who they felt "had

a skill to make things happen and bring people on board." Other members of the community also impressed the judges, including Laura Fossil and the work in her own garden, St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, with the help of Dave and Maggie Neale, and the polytunnel programme, managed by Malcolm Carruthers.

Darren Share, chairman of the RHS Britain in Bloom judging panel, said: "Congratulations to all of this year's UK finalists. It's incredibly humbling to hear about the huge efforts they've invested in making our villages, towns and cities greener places to live, work and visit."

"This makes a tremendous difference locally but has a wider impact too. Gardeners are increasingly having to respond to the changing climate, declining pollinator numbers and plastic waste and more communities are galvanising people around these issues to bring about positive change."

Finalists are judged not only on their floral displays but environmental and community efforts. Each was visited by a pair of RHS judges over a fortnight from the end of July. The Cumbrians collected their awards from Baroness Floella Benjamin, RHS vice president, at a ceremony held at the RHS Lindley Hall, London.



GREEN FINGERS: Community gardener Louise Armstrong and Penrith Town Council deputy mayor Scott Jackson at the Britain in Bloom Finals, receiving Penrith's Gold Award from Floella Benjamin, RHS ambassador for communities and young people.

The highlight of the year was working with Penrith Community Gardeners, Penrith Business Improvement District, community groups and residents in the 2019 Cumbria and Britain in Bloom competition. Penrith won numerous accolades at Cumbria in Bloom. At the Britain in Bloom award ceremony Penrith received two of the top awards: a Gold Award in the Large Town Category, and the Growing your Community Award, which described Penrith as a stand out entry for its community engagement and innovative projects.

To find out more to get a real feel for all the activities we have been leading and facilitating visit:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/penrith-in-bloom/>

PLANNING AND THE DRAFT PENRITH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The main responsibility of the Planning Committee is to comment on planning consultations to the planning authority, Eden District Council. As Penrith Town Council is a statutory consultee they considered any applications in the parish area. From May 2019 to February 2020, the Town Council responded to 111 planning applications, 15 tree works applications, 6 traffic Regulation Orders and 2 traffic issues. We have also lobbied Cumbria County Council on behalf of residents about other traffic concerns and provided views on street naming for new developments. The committee has also considered and provided a response to consultations on the local Housing SPD, the Government's 'Future Homes Standards' and the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Consultation.

The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing and, following comments from the public throughout all our consultations, the Town Council became a partner in the Parking and Movement Study along with the County Council and Eden District Council. The study has been jointly funded to identify options to improve parking in Penrith.

Following our last Neighbourhood Plan consultation in 2019, a number of changes were agreed and has been passed to Eden District Council who must carry out a public Regulation 16 consultation on our behalf before it goes to independent examination. If it meets basic conditions a referendum will be held and, if it meets approval, the policies will be enacted.

For more information:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

IMPROVING LOCAL SERVICES

The Finance Committee continued to have oversight of the management of assets, services and contracts. The Committee is responsible for managing the Council's finances and is pleased that all audit reports received have been favourable. During the year, improved budgetary control processes have been introduced which provide more accurate information on a more regular basis. Controls on payments have been implemented and investments have been reviewed to minimise risk and secure better returns. The Committee has overseen a process that has set next year's budget, which incorporates £35,000 of new developments of benefit to the local community, with a 1.7% increase in Council Tax, in line with inflation.

We are delighted that the contract for the playground and access improvements to Fairhill Play Area has been approved and we hope that the work will start in May 2020 and shall be completed by the summer 2020. The Finance Committee also agreed that Amey will continue with the Community Caretaker Contract and Lowther Forestry to be retained for the 2020 grass cutting season at Fairhill.

For more information on how manage Council Finance please use the following links:

- Finance Committee meetings
<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/meetings/finance/>
- 19-20 Financial statement
<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/h-Detailed-Financial-Accounts-2019-20.pdf>



PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL AWARDS

Awards are given out to recognise volunteering and citizenship in the community.

The Ullswater Community College Award

Every year the Town Council sponsors two prizes at the Ullswater Community College Prize day, one for a student in the lower school and one for a student in the upper school who have made an outstanding contribution to the community of Penrith.

Outgoing Mayor Award

Each year the outgoing Mayor will receive a medal from the Town Council in gratitude of the dedication and service to the Council and community of Penrith. A councillor may only receive one medal.

The Citizen Award

This award is given to people who have made a positive difference to the lives and well-being of people and quality of life in Penrith, who have supported charitable or voluntary work in the town, who have volunteered for the Town Council, or who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship. The awards are decided by the people of Penrith and is awarded based upon the number of nominations received and the reasons for the nominations.



Although we can no longer hold celebration events in Penrith on Friday 8th May or the Church Service on Sunday 10th May, we have adapted and instead we will mark the occasion virtually and will include elements of the VE Day 75th Anniversary as set out by the Queen's Pageant Master.



In partnership with Penrith Town Band, buglers playing the Last Post and Reveille from gardens and windows across Penrith will be live streamed:

2.55pm on 8th May on our Facebook page.

Followed by at **3.00pm** film clip of a piper playing 'Battles O'er' and VE 75.

At **6.55pm** we will post on our Facebook page a film montage of 'A Cry for Peace Around the World' followed by a 'The Nations Toast to the Heroes'.

The Pageant Master has welcomed the idea and has promoted this nationally.

Penrith Town Band has started sharing this wonderful act of remembrance with their contacts across the country and press releases have been sent to BBC Breakfast, and BBC North East and Cumbria amongst others.

The VE Day 75 Website has been amended so that anyone wanting to taking part can register.

Go to the **LAST POST** page of the VE Day 75 website:

www.veday75.org

and click the register button to register your involvement.

Those taking part should also ensure they name their Band in the section that says - NAME OF ORGANISATION

Please remember that this should be done in compliance with the current social distancing rules from the safety of your front doorstep, garden, balcony etc.



THE WW2 SOCIAL MEMORIES PROJECT

Preparations for WW2, including surveys of accommodation were made at Penrith Town Hall and Mansion House from the summer of 1938, so that billeting officers in the town could plan how to house evacuees with local families in the event war was declared. The evacuation, which began on Friday September 1st, 1939, was called 'Operation Pied Piper' and saw the mass departure of the Newcastle Royal Grammar School (RGS) from Newcastle to Penrith. The masters, their wives and families along with the RGS boys who attended the school were billeted with local families and in local buildings, many staying in Penrith for 4-5 years.

As a rural area, Penrith was largely unaffected by bombing or the many other horrors of war. Nevertheless, the town experienced social and cultural changes in the war years. Not only were evacuees housed locally, many buildings were used for a variety of different purposes. In addition, Lowther Castle was requisitioned by the War Office for use as a training area for tank crews and to secretly test the 'Canal Defence Light.'

The Town Council's Town WW2 Community Memories project pulls together the experiences of RGS evacuees to Penrith in video interviews, and we have also recorded stories of some of those who lived in or close to the town during the War Years. Informal 'conversations' have been video recorded with three former RGS pupils, all now in their 90s, who arrived in Penrith as child evacuees. Another informal interview

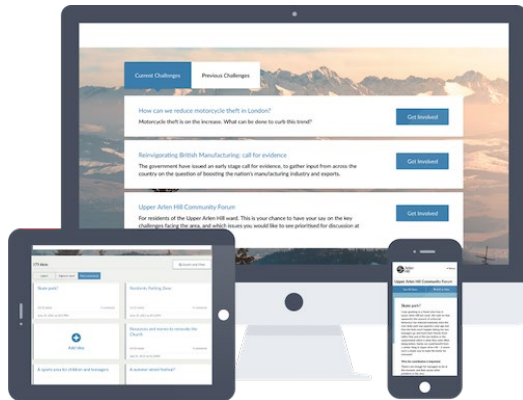
has been video recorded with a former 'Land Army Girl,' who now lives close to Penrith, and two interviews have been video recorded with local people who described their various adventures as youngsters, painting a picture of what their life in Penrith was like during the war years.

Photos and historical information have also been collated and a variety of newspaper cuttings, originally gathered during the War years, have been shared by a local family. Additional information, drawn from '*Under the Beacon: A few Penrith and District Memories of the Years 1939-1945*' authored by I. G. Sim in 1945, looks at groups and organisations existing in Penrith during the War Years, such as The Red Cross, local Churches, the YMCA, the Salvation Army, the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS), the Fire Service, Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Penrith Detachment of the Air Training Corps (ATC) (which had its beginnings on January 10th 1941), the Boy Scouts, the Girls Training Corp and the Army Cadet Force (ACF).

These precious community memories are being gathered as Coronavirus delays many of the events around the 75th anniversary of VE Day, 2020. Our aim is to post the aforementioned information on our website so that the local community can celebrate the heritage of Penrith during WW2. We also hope that local people will share old half-forgotten memories with us, including stories, letters and photos relating to people who lived in Penrith during the war years. We will be very pleased and happy to add your memories to the Penrith WW2 Memories collection. It will help to give back life to many of those who are no longer with us.

Engaging with 'Dialogue'

The Town Council is currently setting up a new on-line system called 'Dialogue,' which as the name indicates, is designed to engage local people, invite ideas and support two-way discussion.



The aim is to make this interactive channel accessible to everyone and encourage people in the local community to share challenges or ideas; then together with the Town Council reach understanding of the things people in Penrith feel are important to them, their families and the town.

Once a user has registered by providing a username, an email address and password (all kept safely according to GDPR rules), it will be possible for them to add new ideas, comment on and rate existing ideas.

The Council's Community Engagement Officer indicates that:

"You don't have to comment on everything, but it will be possible to look through existing ideas and chat

about the things that matter to you. You can add your own idea if you feel something is missing. Topics might range from (but are not limited to) budget and spending, transport, parking, arts and culture and climate change. Vigorous discussion and frank exchange of views will help the Council gauge local opinion."

All comments will be moderated using the Council's 'Moderation Policy' and 'discussion rules,' which users need to be aware of and abide by. Comments can then be used to help the Council learn about everyone's experiences and thoughts on a variety of topics including completely new ideas, as well as proposed developments and policies being looked at by the Council.

The online system can be used synchronously with other forms of engagement and consultation, including different face-to-face interaction, hard copy surveys/questionnaires and on-line consultations. Using a variety of methods in combination with wide-ranging publicity and close partnership presents the best way to engage more people in the town, listen and understand their views.

You can follow Penrith Town Council on:



PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

Following on from their first meeting in November 2019, the Penrith Town Council Youth Advisory Panel held a Kahoots evening on Valentines' evening 14th February 2020. The event was aimed at young people in the town aged between 14-25. During the evening, the Panel also launched a survey, available on and offline, to gather young people's views on Penrith and what's available for them in the town.

The young people hosted the 'Kahoots' event, where different panel members linked via a lap-top and screen to quizzes they had set up using Kahoot's online platform.

Using smart phones, young people took part in the quizzes, earning points on a leader board. Some questions in the quizzes related to fun topics while others related to serious issues facing young people in the town.



After the quizzes were finalised, two of the Town Councillors who are supporting the panel, Cllr. Hilary Snell and Cllr. Jonathan Davis invited young people to discuss the serious issues included in the quizzes and consider how to take them forward.

The panel had collaborated with the Town Council, Penrith Leisure Centre and Cumbria County Council before collating 24 questions for their survey of youth views. Therefore, they suggested the results of the survey could provide information useful in supporting future collaborative action. Another idea was to work with the Eco groups in both QEGS and UCC, so bringing the schools together to work towards common goals.

The young people on the Panel indicated they would meet after the survey closed and was analysed by Council staff, to consider findings and then proceed further with Town Councillors, the Leisure Centre and other organisations in the town who might be interested in collaborating. Finally, young people felt that issues related to Climate Change and Mental Health could be discussed and explored further.

The survey, which has now closed, was completed by 66 young people who provided feedback on what is available for young people in the town.

Ben Perris, the newly elected Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Carlisle & Eden, is also passionate about what is available to young people in the local area. In his Manifesto, Ben, who is 15 years old and lives in Penrith, pledged to improve local transport, tackle climate change, decrease rural isolation and improve mental health services.

These are topics that have also been highlighted by the Town Council's Youth Advisory Panel. Therefore, Ben has agreed to join the Panel and will be working together with his peers to tackle these priorities.

PENRITH A CARBON NEUTRAL TOWN

PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL, WHO BELIEVE IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY CHOOSING A CARBON NEUTRAL FUTURE

In May 2019, the Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency.

This requires change in every aspect of the way we live – how we build, how we travel, how we eat, how we produce food and goods, how we produce and consume energy, how much waste we create and how we manage it.

Legislation and action by governments and international institutions are obviously vital, but equally, to achieve the necessary transformation, so is local action by every individual and community. Penrith is no exception

Recognition of the crises and the need for local action motivated Penrith Town Council to declare a climate emergency.

We are already urgently considering what we can do and have our own action plan in relation to things over which we have direct control. The Council has also developed a draft Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP). The policies that have defined the plan promote sustainability. The PNDP once approved would have statutory weight in law. Appended to this document is a summary of the relevant policies and actions the Town Council can take which aligns with the climate change values and priorities of the Council.

We know we can only achieve our ambition to make Penrith carbon neutral by 2030 if we work in partnership with other levels of government, local business and, crucially, the people and organisations of our community.

THE 2020 PENRITH CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our strategy provides an overview of the 2020 priorities that we believe would help Penrith on its journey to carbon neutrality and sets out our ambition to engage and work with the people of Penrith.

We know there are many individuals and organisations that are already taking action. We want to work with and draw on this expertise and energy in the community and bring about the kind of transformation that the crises demand.

It is not a plan for the community but a framework that we hope may assist the development of an overall community plan - one that we can all embrace and together, progress with enthusiastic commitment. This framework is a first step to making a difference. It is not the final word on responding to climate change or biodiversity, but a first step in a long journey.

Penrith needs a community action plan that would help it on its journey to carbon neutrality. We hope that a Penrith Climate Action Group would be established that would co-ordinate some projects and work with many partner organisations to implement others. The combined efforts of the whole Penrith community are needed to make a difference. The more the community joins in with these efforts, the greater our chance of success.



In March 2020, we resolved our priorities:

We have commissioned an independent initial baseline audit assessing energy usage, heating, lighting, transport, policies and procedures and use of information technology and use of paper.

We would serve as an exemplar to other organisations and businesses in Penrith.

Members and officers will attend Carbon literacy training to provide awareness about the causes of and solutions to the climate crisis as this is a critical first step to empower our community to play a role in tackling climate change.

We would implement community projects over the next two years that demonstrate the Council's commitment to addressing climate change, building on the amazing and successful, voluntary community initiatives led by Penrith Action for Community Transition, the Community Gardeners, The Repair Café, Penrith Food Bank to name but a few.

We would also consider and deliver longer-term, fully resourced projects that we hope would be supported by our community as we go out to consultation.

We would measure our impact to ensure that what we are doing is truly reducing carbon emissions and promoting nature restoration, while leaving no one in our community behind.

We would challenge people's behaviour, and use of energy.

We would inspire others to undertake similar green initiatives and we would collaborate with like-minded people and groups.



To encourage community engagement and to demonstrate the Town Council's commitment we would commence a series of projects and activities in 2020. Penrith town council will provide funding and support for:

- A dedicated officer
- Climate Action Group
- Action Planning
- Budget allocation and fundraising
- A high street community hub
- The BIG (Business Is Green) STEP
- Penrith Grow Nature Fund
- Penrith Woods
- World Café Community engagement
- Training & awareness
- Educational programmes for children and young people to learn about waste issues and how to make zero waste.
- Forum for Eden Parish Councils and community groups

To help keep you informed we will be updating our website to have a dedicated page on climate change.

The Council has joined the membership of the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership includes a wide range of organisations with a key role to play in decarbonising the county.

Representatives from our Youth advisory Panel joined the 2020 Cumbria Climate Youth Summit in April which was inspiring an informative: <https://www.transform-our-world.org/national-youth-climate-summit-2020>

The Town Council is made up of 15 Councillors. They represent the six wards of Penrith Councillors are elected for four years and will be in place until 2023. Being a town councillor is a voluntary unpaid role. Penrith Town Councillors are listed below. Their full contact details are available on the town council website: www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk



Councillor Doug Lawson
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Council Chair
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Councillor Margaret Clark
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Councillor Scott Jackson
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Council Vice Chair
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Councillor Ron Kenyon
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Councillor Hilary Snell
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Councillor Dave Knaggs
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01768 899773
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During the Covid-19 Pandemic, public meetings of the Council are suspended to meet social distancing guidelines as set out by the government.

Officers of the Council have delegated authority to manage the Council business operations and services, which means that the Council is operating as usual.

We may hold meetings remotely using video conferencing and any such meeting will be advertised on the Council's website. Whilst the office is closed we still want to keep in touch. Follow us on Facebook where we post regular updates and contact us if you need to:

NAME	DIRECT LINE	EMAIL
General Enquiries	01768 899773	office@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk
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Paul Foote Solicitor	01768 899773	legal@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk
Carol Grey Economic Development Officer	01768 425853	economicdevelopmentofficer@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk
Jack Jones Responsible Finance Officer	01768 425852	rfo@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk
Ian Parker Services & Contracts Officer	01768 425998	scmanager@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk
Dr Anna Malina Community Engagement Officer	01768 425997	ceofficer@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk

We write monthly editorials about Penrith Town Council in our local free magazine which is posted throughout Eden each household.

To find out more and look at past editions please click below:

<http://www.cumbrianlocal.co.uk/previous-issues>



Hope
A Message from Eden^{107.5} fm

Penrith Town Council

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Butterworths
Solicitors

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District Council

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