



**Penrith Town Council**



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

# Welcome

**Councillor Charlie Shepherd  
Mayor**



**Councillor Hilary Snell  
Deputy Mayor**



# Mayor's Annual Report

As Chair of the Town Council my plans are for the Town Council to continue the excellent work done in the last years by the councillors and staff, especially under the tricky conditions due to Covid. The last couple of years have been incredibly challenging for us all. I would like to thank the local community for their compassion, support and resilience. I would like to thank my fellow councillors, Council Officers and our amazing volunteers in Penrith for the huge contribution they have made to our Town. A lot of effort had to be moved from longer term projects to supporting the community through the Covid 19 Pandemic. Now that things seem to be returning to at least a new normal we need to concentrate on our priority projects including:

- Pushing onwards with our Climate Change Strategy following the declaration of a climate and ecological emergency declared by Council in May 2019.
- Following our public survey we are resolved to continue to work with partners and stakeholders to increase/improve the arts and culture offering for the people of Penrith and Eden.
- We are continuing to work with Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council on the recommendations of our joint Parking and Movement Study to ensure that the findings of the major exercise are realised as soon as possible.
- The management of Thacka Beck Field (between Pategill and Tynefield). The land is owned by the Town Council and we are looking to local Residents to shape how this area can be improved for the benefit of the Penrith residents.

Finally I want to try to ensure that our partnership with Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council, the two Business Improvement Districts and the Chamber of Commerce goes from strength to strength, as we work together to support the Penrith Place Plan to ensure a successful outcome to the Borderlands application for Penrith, whilst we progress through Local Government Reorganisation in Penrith.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to have been Penrith Mayor for the last year.

Councillor Charlie Shepherd, Chair of Penrith Town Council and Penrith Mayor

# Deputy Mayor's Annual Report

The Covid pandemic has made 2021-2022 a very challenging year for most of us with the various limitations and restrictions inhibiting our activities.

In my role as Deputy Mayor, wherever possible I attended outdoor events such as the celebration of the 175 years of the Lancaster to Carlisle Railway, planting bulbs in Castle Park with the Community Gardeners and joining the march for Armistice Day.

I continue to sit on the Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum whose current priorities are to tackle poverty, youth unemployment, mental health, loneliness, obesity, social prescribing, unhealthy eating and falls in the elderly.

I have been very involved in the Community Forum for Health Watch, a charity representing the public voice in health care. During the course of this year this group have been focused on, for example, issues related to the impact of the pandemic, a triaging pilot, managing the pressures on local GP's, mental health and integrated care system proposals.

I am also part of Penrith and Eden Refugee network (PERN) which supports refugees wishing to settle in Penrith, a role that has become even more crucial.

I have joined the steering group of a project which supports local people with autism. A key role is to work with employers to identify suitable job opportunities.

Overall Covid has made this a very frustrating period though I look forward optimistically to an active and productive role on the Penrith Town Council in the coming year when I hope to have more of a focus on young people.

## Buildings and Monuments



Cornmarket & Bandstand



Musgrave Monument



**Penrith Town Council**

One Corporate Body

Six Electoral Wards

Assets £125,000



54 Benches



8 Bus Shelters



156 Allotments



14 Acres of green open space  
and play areas



**15 Councillors**



Annual Budget  
£450,069



Members of Staff  
2 Full Time  
5 Part Time



Key Service Areas  
Planning  
Community  
Land & Property  
Local Government



Public Meetings  
43



## In 21/22, Penrith Town Council has:

- Promoted and represented the community's views and aspirations at local, county, and national level.
- Provided high standard, cost-effective services, and amenities to help meet the needs and wishes of residents.
- Ensured that the Council can support the community and accept growth because of Local Government Reorganisation.
- Worked to retain the General Power of Competence and maintain the standards required within the Local Council Award Scheme.
- Worked in partnership, to ensure and improving standard of services and facilities to meet the needs and expectations of the community.
- Influenced service delivery and development in the town to ensure that the best interests of Penrith are considered.
- Sought a fair share of investment in the town by local and regional authorities.
- Accepted and asked for further devolution of services to the Town Council.
- Enhanced and promoted the historic and cultural heritage of Penrith and safeguard its unique identity and its natural and built environment.



## As well as:

- Supported local voluntary groups and clubs that seek to assist residents and encourage visitors through advice, guidance, and the provision of grants.
- Improved services to the public by encouraging members and staff to develop their skills, by undertaking appropriate training and ensure councillors were offered the opportunity to keep abreast of new opportunities and policies.
- Continuously promoted public participation in all Town Council meetings and initiatives.
- Dealt with enquiries, complaints, and fault reports from members of the public effectively and efficiently.
- Continued to review policies and procedures to ensure that the Council operated and delivered services in an open, transparent, legal, and business-like manner.
- Encouraged and promoted the social, economic, environmental, and commercial vitality of the town to support its future prosperity, sustainability and enhance the cultural wellbeing of its residents and local businesses.



# Your Councillors

## North Ward



Paul Donald



Scott Jackson



Ron Kenyon



Mike Shepherd

### Contact Details:

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Scott Jackson:  
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Ron Kenyon:  
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Mike Shepherd:  
[cllr.mikeshepherd@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mikeshepherd@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk)



# Your Councillors

## South Ward



Roger Burgin

**Contact details:**

Roger Burgin  
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Margaret Clark

**Contact details:**

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# Your Councillors East Ward



James Fallows



Nicola Hawkins



Charlie Shepherd

## **Contact Details:**

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Nicola Hawkins:  
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Charlie Shepherd:  
[cllr.Shepherd@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Shepherd@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk)

# Your Councillors

## West Ward



Jonathan Davies



Dave Knaggs



Hilary Snell

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Dave Knaggs:  
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Hilary Snell:  
[cllr.Snell@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Snell@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk)

# Your Councillors

## Carleton Ward



Stephen Clarke



Doug Lawson

### **Contact Details:**

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Doug Lawson:  
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# Pategill Ward

## Your newest Town Councillor



### **New Councillor for Penrith Town Council**

Following the by-election held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, Penrith Town Council welcomed Val Bowen as the newly elected Councillor for Pategill.

Val was born and bred in Derbyshire and has lived in Penrith for 18 years. She and her husband have two grown up children and four grandchildren. Before moving to Cumbria, she worked for Hertfordshire County Council, developing library services for children and young people, and their parents and carers. Her interests include current affairs, circle dancing, gardening, reading, family history and walking. She usually has a knitting project in progress, but admits to varying degrees of success.

Since moving to Penrith, she and her husband have completed several long distance walks and have climbed all the Wainwrights. CV19 restrictions and advice have confined their recent walking to local lanes, but they look forward to getting out on the fells again before too long.

Val lives close to the Pategill estate and wants to work with residents to improve the local environment. Conversations during her election campaign have shown local concerns to include parking problems, the local playground, dog poo and litter.



# Finance Committee Report



Councillor Roger Burgin  
Chair Finance Committee

The Council's budget is called the Precept and is the amount the Town Council asks from Eden District Council as a proportion of the Council Tax paid by householders of Penrith. The Council utilises the precept, to provide services and to deliver the Council Plan. The Town Council's portion of Council Tax bill depends on which band a property is in. Properties are put into one of eight bands, A being the lowest, and H the highest, with Band D being the average. The Town Council approved a budget for the year commencing on 1 April 2021 which required a precept (or levy) of £450,069 to pay for Council services and represents an annual Council Tax of £83.09 for a Band D property, which is unchanged from the previous year 2020/21.

One of the responsibilities of the Finance Committee is to overview of the Councils financial systems and internal controls. This is an important role that manages the risks that are inherent when managing public money. From 2015 to date all our internal and external audits have been unqualified which demonstrates that the Council has been diligent in respect of managing the budget, corporate governance, financial management and managing risk. The Council received a positive external audit. The external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP signed off the accounts ending 31 March 2021 with no qualifications.



The Council has received a positive internal audit report for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021 which confirmed that the Council has correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Account and Audit Regulations.

The Council has continued to invest its money effectively in the short term in the CCLA Public Deposit Fund and longer in both the Cumberland and Penrith Building Society.

A very satisfactory outcome in all corporate areas. As Chair of the Council's Finance Committee would like to show my appreciation and acknowledge the work of the Responsible Finance Officer, the Services and Contracts Manager and the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee is responsible for managing and maintaining the Council's assets, land and property. We are looking forward to accepting more assets from the Westmorland and Furness Council when the existing district and county councils are dissolved.

# Land & Property Report

Ian Parker  
Services &  
Contracts  
Manager

2021-22 continued to be another year where the Council has been able to continue to maintain and improve its property and assets.

The Cornmarket and Bandstand has continued to be made available for public use. A series of live acts were facilitated during the summer of 2021. The Council has granted consent to local charity and community groups to host stalls, raffle sales and promotion events. The Council granted consent for the Board and Elbow pub to use the area for outdoor hospitality which supported the towns recovery from Covid 19

The Council has installed new drains at the Brackenber allotments in response to concerns raised by the Penrith Allotment Association of standing water which left some plots unmanageable.

A new bus shelter is scheduled to be installed at Scotland Road following the previous shelter being damaged beyond repair during Storm Dudley. The two bus shelters on Bridge Lane have both had new glass panes installed following instances of vandalism.



The Community Caretaker contract continued to operate effectively ensuring that assets were maintained in good order for the public's use.

New seats have been installed across Penrith. Some of these seats are Memorial Seats donated by local residents and others have been purchased as part of the Council's renewal scheme.

Three seats in Little Dockray have been renovated in 2022 including new laths fitted and the seats painted.

A new Council and Community Noticeboard has been installed in Angel Lane following damage to the previous board.

St Andrews War Memorial was cleaned in 2021 in advance of the Armistice Day Service. With the support of the Diocese of Carlisle and work undertaken by local contractor Askins and Little the Memorial was water and steam cleaned removing moss, algae and debris to renovate the Memorial.

The Council continued to work positively with the Fairhill Community Group which agreed to dissolve at its AGM in November 2021. In recognition of the Groups work the Council is installing a new seat in Fairhill Play Area following a donation received from the group which is being 'topped up' by the Council. The Council has recently removed self-seeded trees and epicormics growth from the tree bases at Fairhill. A new grounds maintenance contractor commenced duties in 2021. This has seen the continued upkeep of Fairhill Playing Field and Thacka Beck Field.



The Council has received an ecological and separate tree survey for Thacka Beck Field. Boundary improvement works have been commenced. The Council aims to be in a position to consult with the community in 2022 on future aspirations for the field.

The Council has granted consent for trees to be planted on areas at Thacka Beck Field and Fairhill. The planting is scheduled for Autumn 2022 and is being developed in partnership with Penrith Rotary Club, 4Eden and Eden Young Carers, to align with the Council's Climate Change Strategy for the creation of wooded areas in Penrith and to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.





# Income Overview Jack Jones Responsible Finance Officer

## Income

£

Precept	450,069
CTRS Grant	7,551
Investment Income	642
Grants	12,102
Bring Site	1,400
Allotments	450
Donation	2,523
Miscellaneous	500

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**475,237**

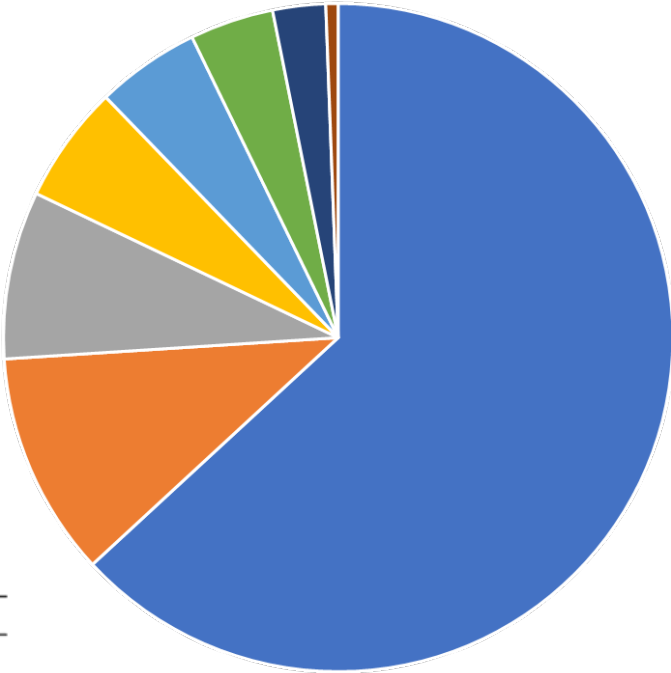
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# Expenditure Overview Jack Jones Responsible Finance Officer

**Provisional Outturn 2021-22  
Gross Expenditure**

Staff Costs
Transferred Assets
Administration
Town Projects & Greening
Planning & Community Engagement
IT
Grants
Arts

	£
Staff Costs	234,861
Transferred Assets	40,410
Administration	30,203
Town Projects & Greening	21,169
Planning & Community Engagement	18,675
IT	15,059
Grants	9,500
Arts	2,201
	<u><b>372,078</b></u>



# Open Government

Penrith Town Council makes the following information available:

## **Records of decision taken pursuant to delegated powers**

From time to time there is a requirement to commit expenditure where no budget exists. All such payments are published on the Council's website in accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and is reported to members. In 21-22 one decision was made to replace the storm damaged bus shelter on Scotland Road at a cost of £2,967.

## **Expenditure exceeding £500**

Local authorities must publish details of each individual item of expenditure that exceeds £500. Penrith Town Council chooses to publish all expenditure. Our payment documents can be found under the Supplier Payments page under Council Finance: <https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/council-finance/supplier-payments/>

## **Asset Register and Managing Risks**

Local authorities must maintain an asset register to ensure assets are appropriately safeguarded. The Register is adopted by the Council at the end of each fiscal year but is a working document over the fiscal year, during which Council Officers will update and amend details as necessary.

## **Procurement Information**

Local authorities must publish details of every invitation to tender for contracts to provide goods and/or services with a value that exceeds £5,000.

This must be published quarterly and can be viewed under Tenders and Contracts on our website:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Contracts-Register-31-March-2021.pdf>

## **Local Authority Land**

Local authorities must publish details of all land and building assets. This must be published annually. The details of our land and building assets can be found on can be found under the Services and Assets heading located on the Council Business page of our website and are included in the approved asset register.

## **Grants to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations**

Local authorities must publish details of all grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

The Grants Register can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220208-2021-22-Grants-register.pdf>

## **Senior Salaries**

The Town Council is required to publish details of any senior employees (including job descriptions, responsibilities, budgets, and number of staff) earning over £58,200 per annum. This must be published annually. The Town Council does not employ staff earning over £58,200 per annum.

# Planning Committee Report



Councillor Scott Jackson  
Chair Planning Committee

2021-22 was a busy year for the Planning Committee. Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 we considered **184** applications as well as progressing the Town Council's Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan towards referendum.

We are a consultee in the planning process. Responses to planning applications have been submitted to Eden District Council on a wide variety of applications such as new developments, changes of use, shop fronts, tree works and listed building consents as well as other matters such as street naming, highways consultations and concerns and matters relating to footpaths. The Planning Committee consider all applications diligently from legislative, community and environmental perspectives.

Most applications are successful. We sometimes request that the Local Planning Authority (Eden District Council) add specific conditions to planning applications and, where we object, we give a detailed reason why. We can only make comments or base objections on material planning concerns. Material Planning Considerations can include highways issues (including traffic generation), footpaths, noise and disturbance, overshadowing, landscaping etc. The Town Council is working with Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council to tackle these issues as it is always our focus to make Penrith a great place to live, work and visit. This has never been more important than now when we are looking to improve the Town's vitality and rebuild our local economy and services in the wake of the pandemic.

In response to community concerns we have purchased Speed Indicator Devices which will be put up at three sites in Penrith and which we hope will make the town safer for pedestrians.





# Report

## Ros Richardson

### Deputy Town Clerk

A Neighbourhood Development Plan, once accepted at referendum by residents, becomes a legal document to be taken into consideration when the Local Planning Authority considers planning applications. After a number of public consultations to find out what residents wanted, the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was drawn up to contain policies on:

- Sustainable development
- Environmentally sustainable design
- Energy use and reducing carbon emissions
- Accessibility and social inclusion
- Conservation areas
- High quality new homes
- Housing type and mix
- Local green spaces
- Sport
- Leisure and recreation facilities
- Health and community facilities
- Walking and cycling
- Traffic management
- Town centre improvements
- Shop front design



Within the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan we identified supporting actions that the Council included because they could not be considered as part of planning policy. The draft plan was submitted to Eden District Council in December 2019 to allow them to consult further. Unfortunately Covid delayed the process and the plan was not passed to an Independent Planning Examiner until 2021 who held a public hearing in February 2021. Following the hearing the Examiner asked the Town Council to work with the landowners to develop a specific policy in relation to Beacon Hill. This did not prove possible so the Examiner wrote his own policy which Eden District Council consulted upon.

Over 600 responses were received, the majority opposing the Inspectors proposed policy. The final report has been published by the Examiner which omits any policy relating to Beacon Hill. We are grateful for the assistance of our planning consultant and specialist officers at Eden District Council and look forward to meeting with them soon to find out the next steps and to take the plan forward to referendum.

# Community, Culture & Economic Growth Committee



Councillor Johnathan Davies  
Chair CCEG Committee

The committee's work is very much in the public view and it was an exceptionally challenging year which very much impacted on the Council's ability to deliver some of its projects, events and initiatives. Community groups had come together to plan a celebration for VE Day. Sadly we had to cancel this and other planned events but are now looking forward to the summer of 2022 to celebrate the Queens 70 Jubilee.

We launched a new Grants Scheme which now includes funds for projects that support biodiversity, nature and sustainability. For applications under a £1000, we have simplified the application process to help the smallest community projects. Applications will be considered by Council officers as they are submitted, and funds will be released by officers if applicants meet the criteria. It is hoped that by managing these smaller grants in this way the Town Council can be more responsive to the needs of the community. The Town Council also provides a Large Grant Scheme for projects up to £5,000. As local groups and organisations were unable to meet to progress their projects there has been less of demand for grants but hopefully this is short lived. We are resilient and this pandemic has provided us with new opportunities: we have established an arts and culture stakeholder group who will deliver the Councils priorities for heritage, recreation, tourism and events.



We have worked closely with our stakeholder colleagues from the Town Working Group to re-open the high street safely during the pandemic often requiring quick decisions and amendments to operations to maintain a safe town centre environment. As we move towards normality, we have looked at marketing and branding to raise the profile of Penrith to boost economic growth.

In a year that was unlike any other, staying local and supporting local businesses was incredibly important. Even though we have experienced the devastating effects of the pandemic on our local economy and high street, Penrith, blessed as we are with many independent shops, is thriving. We will continue to work with our partners to attract funding from the Borderlands Project and other investment to boost the Towns vitality, improve infrastructure and local services and encourage new opportunities for business and employment in the Penrith. Our high street will change and not all shops will re-open which may trigger retail space being used for other purposes. This is an opportunity for Penrith.

Cumbria and Britain in Bloom were able to go ahead but in a revised format and we send our appreciation and thanks to all our volunteers and Penrith Community Gardeners for making Penrith Blooming marvellous. I would like to take this opportunity to thank local organisations and volunteers who help Penrith prosper and thrive throughout the year.

# Community Engagement

Town Clerk  
Viv Tunnadine

Over the past two years we have been very aware of our responsibility in responding to the health, economic, social and environmental needs of the community and the importance of collaborative working to deliver services to those most in need. Anyone who lives, works, attend schools is important and we recognise the contribution everyone makes to our community, none more so than over the last two years!

As the first tier of local government, Penrith Town Council is closest to the public and wants community engagement to be central to all our activities.

This is most important now as we enter a new phase of local government in Cumbria with the abolition of the district and county council. We will be seeking your views on which assets and services are important to you and how you would like them to be managed.

It is also important that we provide opportunities for meaningful engagement, to encourage and facilitate public participation in local democracy, to shape effective decision making.



# Council Meetings



'Community Engagement' is the cornerstone of good local governance, and an integral component in how we conduct our affairs and how we reflect the expressed needs of people living in Penrith.

Our overall goal is to ensure we engage with you in the right way. We want to encourage more people to participate in what the Town Council does or hopes to do. We want you to have a role in decision-making and planning that affects your life, the lives of your family and other people in the local community. By providing a variety of opportunities for you to participate and feed in your views, our decisions will become increasingly more sensitive and responsive to your needs and concerns.

Throughout the Municipal Year, agenda, listing the matters for discussion are advertised on our website and on our noticeboards.

The agenda and all the minutes are published on our website and are available in hard copy from Penrith Library or by email from the Council Office.

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/>

If you view our agenda, you will realise that we consider a wide variety of different subjects that we consider on behalf of the electorate along with routine corporate business matters.

# Public Participation



At each Council and committee meeting we provide an opportunity for members of the public to make a representation to the Council. is called Public Participation and appears at the beginning of the meeting.

Penrith Town Council Officers and Councillors work as a team to deliver high quality services to the Penrith Community. We hope to get it right most of the time and would love to hear from you when we do. If we do sometimes get things wrong, or you feel our services are generally not up to scratch, then let us know about that to, and we will do all we can to resolve problems as quickly as possible.

Our resolve is to **'make a difference'**.

We would love to hear from you so that we can learn from the things you feel we get wrong as well as the things you think we get right. Please feel able to call in to the Town Council Office during office opening hours, phone for a chat or to arrange an appointment, and email us if you need help or information or want to tell us about something. We can also put you in touch with your ward Councillor for any of the tiers of local government if you wish to discuss an issue or concern, or if you have an idea to improve the town.

During Covid when were unable to meet face to face use of our social media platforms and website were invaluable.



# Providing Information



Providing up to date information and being transparent about our work builds trust. Full details of the information and documents which are published by the Town Council are included in our Model Publication Scheme:

- Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8j96zx>

The Town Council's website is the focal point of our activities and where local people can access a range of information about the range of projects and services we offer.

- Link: <https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/>

Another source of information is our Facebook page where we post and share community news, road closures, Council updates and events. Our followers grow weekly and we nearly have 2.5k followers.

Penrith Town Council are starting to plan for 2022 and beyond and we have published a refreshed Council Business Plan.

In 2019, the Council agreed an in-depth business plan. The plan contained 92 activities which have been reviewed to ensure Council operations remain relevant and responsive to important local matters.

Consequently, the 2019-2023 Council Business has been refreshed to address significant key issues for 2022 and onwards:

- Implement the Local Government Review in Cumbria.
- Tackling climate change.
- Support Penrith's recovery from the effects of Covid-19 and enhancing the vitality of the Town.

## The Council - The Year Ahead

## LOCAL GOVERNEMENT CHANGE

The most significant issue for 2022-2023 is that of the local changes to the government structures in Cumbria. The new changes to local government in Cumbria are dynamic. From 1 April 2023, the current six district councils and Cumbria County Council will be replaced by two new unitary authorities. The two new unitary councils will provide all the services currently provided by district councils and the county council. This will have a direct impact on the governance, resources, growth, and operations of the Town Council.

Our new unitary council will provide services to those in the current areas of Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland, the council's name will be “Westmorland and Furness Council”. Over the last six years, Penrith Town Council has been consistently ambitious to accept devolution and now there is a real possibility that some of the services and assets will come to the Town Council.



## Penrith Town Council 2022 Business Plan Survey

In preparation for Local Government Reorganisation, we asked you in a recent survey which of the following services or assets would you like the Town Council to provide if they were transferred to the Town Council?

Option	Percent
Town Hall	42.86%
Tourist Information Centre	71.43%
Voreda House	0.00%
Museum	71.43%
Leisure Centre	57.14%
Sports facilities and pitches	71.43%
Public parks, playgrounds and open spaces including churchyards and flower beds	85.71%
Car Parks	57.14%
New Squares	28.57%
Town centre events and development	57.14%
Market	42.86%
Public toilets	100.00%
Other?	0.00%
Not Answered	0.00%



## CLIMATE CHANGE

The climate and ecological crisis remains a significant, long-term challenge. Penrith Town Council has committed to playing its part to tackle this global challenge. The details of this work are included in our Climate Strategy, and we are looking to our residents and businesses to help us find solutions to cut the town's carbon footprint. In our recent survey for the Penrith Town Council 2022 Business Plan Survey we asked residents if they agree that tackling climate change is important? 86% of respondents agreed that it should be a priority and 14% said no.

We will reduce the carbon emissions of the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030 and aim to achieve the same for the Town by 2030. We will work with partners and contractors, businesses, visitors, and community groups to support them in reducing their carbon footprint and to help find new ways of doing things to reduce, manage and mitigate the impact of climate change.

In recent times, we have seen the value of green and open space for recreation, health, and wellbeing. We place the highest emphasis on the natural capital of our stunning environment – the Lakes, mountains, and countryside – and the value and importance of biodiversity within it. As custodians for future generations, preserving and enhancing our natural environment is key. We want to provide a healthier, more beautiful natural environment that inspires, educates, and involves residents and visitors. We will implement and support re-wilding, nature recovery and conservancy schemes to enhance our precious environment, where appropriate.



# Town Centre Recovery

## Carol Grey Economic Development Officer

### TOWN VITALITY

We want to ensure the town is vibrant and offers the right mix of facilities, services, businesses, and events that supports the towns recovery from the Covid 19 Pandemic whilst raising the towns profile locally and nationally as a destination for arts, culture, heritage, recreation, business and tourism. In our recent Business Plan Survey we asked residents if they supported the Town Councils approach to improve/enhance the vitality and economy of Penrith: 57% support our approach and 43% do not. We are working with stakeholders in the town, businesses and service providers to develop a marketing programme which will encourage visitors and drive economic growth and to agree town priorities, source funding and deliver projects that will deliver town centre enhancements:

- The Parking and Movement Study is a joint initiative with Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council, a community project which has reviewed parking, traffic management, pedestrian flow and signage.
- The Borderlands Project is another joint authority and stakeholder project, developing a “Place Plan” for Penrith, that will help Penrith’s ability to attract funding to develop projects to attract investors, visitors and those who may wish to relocate.



- Led by Cumbria County Council, the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is an on-going process to define and prioritise walking and cycling infrastructure needs. It involves engagement with community and delivery partners to identify potential walking and cycling networks, and opportunities to deliver these.
- Delivery of community projects that support arts, culture, heritage, tourism, and recreation to support Penrith's vitality, which are essential to economic growth and enjoying a good quality of life and well-being delivered. We are working in partnership with stakeholders in Penrith with specialist skills in arts and culture. This successful collaboration is delivering two summer events and workshops and activities for all the community.



## 1940's Weekend

A three day event focussed at Brougham Hall with a town centre event being held on 7 May 2022, transporting Penrith into the 1940's with military vehicles, vintage cars, tractors/farm equipment and themed entertainment. An event that was rescheduled from our cancelled VE day celebrations. Local businesses have been invited to join in by decorating their shops and offering 1940's style goods and menus. The town centre will be dressed with bunting would be placed and with flags of the Commonwealth. 1940's themed entertainment will be held throughout the town centre including vintage fairground stalls, George Formby impersonator, 1940's music. Actors from Penrith Players will be dressed in costume "acting" as 1940's characters. The Army, Police and Fire cadets and the Royal British Legion are taking Part along with the Scouts.

All activities are free and open to all members of the public.

# 2022

## In the community



Her Majesty the Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, 70 years of service, on 6 February 2022. The focal point to mark this historic occasion will be an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

Programme for the Jubilee weekend includes:

**Burying a time capsule** - Each Junior school in Penrith is asking children to describe in a letter to the future who they are, what is special about Penrith, what they would like Penrith to look like in the future or what they think people of the future would like to know about them. Schools have been asked to scan these onto a portable pen drive which will be placed in the time capsule which will then be buried for 70 years in Coronation Gardens.

**2 June: Lighting the beacons** - The Council will participate in the nationwide lighting of Jubilee Beacons. Three gas portable Beacons will be placed throughout Penrith to provide all residents with an opportunity to view the beacons. At St Andrews, the lighting will be preceded by a piper and bugler playing the music provided by the Pageant Master. The lighting of the Beacon on St Andrew's will be accompanied by Penrith Singers singing "Song for the Commonwealth".





**4 June: Town Centre Community event** - The theme of the celebrations is "Community and Commonwealth". A full programme of music and entertainment throughout the day.

**Pictures in Penrith:** Four artists in Penrith, creating an image within the day. Close to each artist will be pads and drawing material for members of the public to drop in and have a go.

**Poetry and spoken word pharmacy:** A small stage with local poet Juliet Fossey, leading a Poetry Pharmacy, with other spoken word participants, including work by June Swift in local dialect.

**Music Trail:** A trail of QR codes in shop windows, each of which when clicked plays a song inspired by the jubilee or from a decade within the reign of the Queen, written or covered by a local artist. The trail will include ten songs and a trail map.

**Fun Fair:** Penrith Lions will be holding a fun fair in Sandgate Car Park pending permission from Eden District Council.





Penrith Town Council have planned workshops in the lead up to the event which include:

**Six Musical workshops:** Held in local schools musicians will work with the children to create a piece of a music which will then be performed on 4 June.

**Artists workshops:** Held the week before the event when families will work with artists to create their own ceramic, fired memento of the Jubilee.

Businesses, traders, Penrith Library, community are all getting involved.

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

### **Equality**

Everyone is of equal value and will be respected according to individual needs and abilities in accordance with Council policy.

### **Reasonableness**

To be fair, reasonable, and just in all Council activities.

### **Accessibility**

Provide equal access for all in employment and service delivery.

### **Empowerment**

Assist individuals to take on responsibility so that they can influence and participate in the decision-making process.

### **Quality**

Obtain the highest standards in service delivery.

A person's mental health or disability is only one aspect of who the person is. Our actions and the words we choose and the meanings we attach to them, influences attitudes. Our language choices have a powerful effect on how mental health and people living with mental health conditions and other disabilities are viewed. The Town Council will act respectfully, using language which emphasises the person, not the condition or disability and will encourage partners and stakeholders to do the same.

# Contact Us



If you wish to raise any matters concerning Penrith this can be done by contacting the Town Council at:

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