



Annual Report 2022/2023

Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting of Penrith

Find out the key projects we are currently working on including our revamped grant scheme, climate change initiatives and more in this leaflet!

If you would like to find out more about the organisations presenting at this meeting, please get in touch with us at: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk or by calling: 01768 899 773

The past year since the last Annual Town Meeting has seen a gradual return to normality for the Town Council given the disruption caused by the pandemic.

We have continued to lobby on behalf of Penrith, responded to planning application consultations and responded to issues such as speeding, graffiti, potholes and fly tipping to name just a few.

We are working with partner organisations to deliver future projects for Penrith through the Parking and Movement Study, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Project and the Borderlands Growth Deal. The Town Council has also been working closely with arts, culture, tourism and heritage partners to support the development of a wide range of arts and culture projects which is exciting.

Following retirements we welcome a new Responsible Finance Officer and Community Services Officer allowing us to deliver important projects for the town.

With elections coming up in a couple of weeks, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation toward our outgoing councillors for all their hard work over the past four years championing the voices of the people of Penrith. We look forward to working with our new set of councillors from next month onward!

Revamped Grant Scheme!

Did you know that YOUR ORGANISATION could get a grant of up to £5,000 to deliver projects based or delivered in Penrith?

Grants are available for projects which aim to:

- * Improve resources, opportunities, places, and spaces.
- * Start, rejuvenate or enhance projects that matter to local communities.
- * Support people, communities and organisations that are facing increased demands and challenges.

Your organisation is eligible for funding if it meets one of the following criteria:

- * Voluntary and community organisation
- * Constituted group or club.
- * Registered charity
- * Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- * Not-for-profit company
- * Community interest company (CIC)
- * Community benefit society
- * School (Whilst we can support applications that involve schools, it will be by exception and only if there is wider community benefit)

If you have any queries or require assistance with this form, please contact us before you submit the form. We want your application to be successful and we are happy to help you: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk or call: 01768 899 773



May Day Carnival

Grants
of up to
£5,000!

Quick
decision
process!

Online
applica-
tion



SCAN ME!



Changes to Local government in Cumbria

Local government reorganisation in Cumbria is here, which means the previous six district councils and Cumbria County Council have been replaced by two new unitary authorities. Penrith's new upper tier authority will now be Westmorland & Furness Council.

Formerly EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL responsibility	Formerly CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL responsibility
WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL	
Building control	Blue/car badges
Car parking and on and off-street parking enforcement	Children's services
Council Tax and Benefits	Concessionary travel
Electoral services	Education and schools
Environmental services e.g. noise, pest control	Emergency planning
Housing services	Health and social care
Planning	Highways, including potholes, signage and gritting
Licensing and street trading	Libraries and archives
Markets	Public rights of way
Recycling and refuse collection	Public transport services
Sport and Leisure centres	Registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships
Street cleaning and dealing with fly tipping	Strategic planning and some planning applications
Town centre management	Trading Standards
	Transport
	Waste Recycling Centres

With this change, we are hopeful that more assets will be devolved to Penrith Town Council. The residents of Penrith have told us they would like the Town Council to be responsible for:

- * Buildings such as the Town Hall, Tourist Information Centre, Museum, and toilets.
 - * Facilities such as sports grounds, the leisure centre and pitches, public parks, Castle Park, playgrounds and open spaces including churchyards and flower beds.
 - * Town centre assets such as car parks, New Squares, events and development
- The Town Council has raised this with Westmorland and Furness Council and looks forward to working with them for effective asset transfer.

Penrith Town Council in numbers

The Town Council are responsible for a lot more than you might think!

Take a look at the numbers behind Penrith Town Council:



One Corporate Body
Six Electoral Wards
Assets £125,000



57 Benches



Annual Budget
£455,209



8 Bus Shelters



Members of Staff
3 Full Time
5 Part Time



181 Allotments
38 Hen Runs



Key Service Areas:
Planning
Community
Land & Property
Local Government



14 Acres of green
open space and
play areas

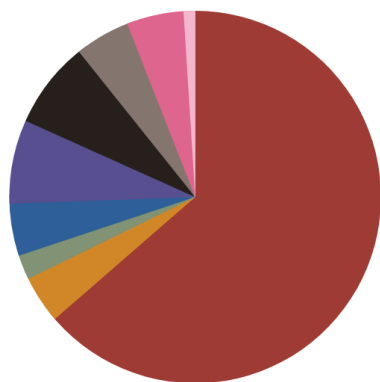


Public Meetings
43



15 Councillors

Provisional Outturn 2022 - 2023 Gross Expenditure



Staffing - £265,345

Administration - £17,240

Planning and Community Engagement - £19,000

Grants - £19,000

Other - £30,317

Transferred Assets - £31,380

Town Projects and Greening - £4,200

IT - £20,000

Arts - £20,700

Climate Change

The climate and ecological crisis remains a significant, long-term challenge. Penrith Town Council remains committed to playing its part to tackle this global challenge.

Solar Made Easy in Penrith

The Town Council have been working closely with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS) and Penrith Action for Community Transition (PACT) to bring the Solar Made Easy project to Penrith.

The Solar Made Easy in Penrith project is an initiative to give local residents an opportunity to install solar panels, by providing independent advice and improving access to good installers.

PACT and the Town Council are hosting a meeting about the project on Monday 22nd May 2023, 7-9pm, in Beaconside School, Hutton Hill, CA11 8EN. There you can meet CAFS, who will explain how the project works, hear from local residents who already have solar panels, and fire your solar questions at the installers. Book your spot by scanning the QR code.



SCAN ME!

Tree planting

Penrith Town Council, working with the Rotary Club of Penrith and 4 Eden, planted 420 native trees at Thacka Beck Field and Fairhill Playing Field as part of the Queens Green Canopy project.



Take a look at the tree planting schemes undertaken in Penrith (and nationally) as part of this scheme at <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

Penrith Neighbourhood Plan



Penrith Town Council are pleased to say that the Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is finally nearing completion.

It has taken longer than we would have liked due to an 18 month delay due to Covid and an additional 9 month delay due to the Planning Inspector considering a potential policy for Beacon Hill, which he wrote and then discarded. However, we are now on the final stretch with the NDP.

In January 2023 we ran a consultation gathering additional evidence regarding the important green spaces identified by residents after the Planning Inspector's decision to remove policies 8 + 9 relating to green spaces and leisure facilities from the Neighbourhood Plan. We did not need to consult about policy 9 as the principal authority agreed that it met the criteria to be kept in. We want to thank everyone for responding to our consultation.

We have collated all the information and will be submitting it to Westmorland and Furness Authority, pressing them to accept the Neighbourhood Development Plan including the policies on green spaces and sports, leisure and recreation facilities and to let it go to referendum.

Why is an NDP important?

An NDP sets out policies suggested by residents to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development, within the bounds of upper level planning policies.

If Westmorland and Furness adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) policy like South Lakeland District Council did prior, it can also bring in one off payments of additional money from developers that the Town Council can use to support development by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.