



Penrith Town Council

Date: Tuesday 19 December 2023

Contact: cs@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor of Penrith's Christmas Message

The festive period is upon us once again and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy, and prosperous New Year to all Penrith residents and their families.

Our town has a uniquely special community, and at Christmas it is a great opportunity for this to shine through in our consideration and support for one another. Enjoy spending time with your friends and family, donate to food banks and other local charities if you are able, think, shop and buy local and check in with your neighbours to make sure they are okay! The festive period is a time of celebration for many, but for people struggling with life, feelings of loneliness and mental health stresses can intensify.

I recently visited the Growing Well site at Tebay Services, who run a bus from Penrith with the support of a Council grant- they're a dedicated mental health provider, and I was struck by the positive impact just talking and interacting with one another can have on mental health. Penrith also has a thriving Talkin' Tables programme.

For other tips on how to cope, and ways to support someone else with their mental health, please visit the Mind website:

[Useful contacts - Christmas and mental health - Mind](#)

Personally, it has been an enormous privilege to have been Mayor for what is now the third time. Since the elections in May, I have seen firsthand the people and organisations in Penrith who have brought such care, compassion, pride and joy to the community.

I am especially proud of all the important work Penrith Town Council has done over the course of the year. When you look around Penrith town centre you will see the fantastic Christmas Light display delivered by the Penrith Business Improvement District (BID) with support from the Council. The Council tendered the works in collaboration with the BID and committed to undertake essential infrastructure safety checks to make sure we can have beautiful light displays, and be confident that the lighting structure is safe and secure.

The Council has awarded grants to several organisations in the town, enabling important projects for our residents.

The Penrith Neighbourhood Plan is due to go to public referendum in 2024, a document based on huge amounts of engagement reflecting what Penrith people tell us they want. It is my hope that this will be positively received, so we can begin to realise Penrith's potential.



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I also anticipate progress in 2024, for taking ownership of assets in Penrith that are currently owned by Westmorland and Furness Council. I look forward to working with them to achieve effective asset transfer and ultimately what's best for Penrith.

It is such an honour to be Mayor of this great town and Chair of Penrith Town Council. Penrith has a council it can rightly be proud of and no-one in Penrith should be in any doubt that their council is here and is acting for them.

Doug Lawson, Chair of Penrith Town Council & Mayor of Penrith.