



Penrith Town Council

Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR
Tel: 01768 899 773 Email: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

DATE: 24 June 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING FOR

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr. Bowen, Cllr. Donald, Cllr. Jackson, Cllr. B. Jayson, Cllr. Kenyon,
Cllr. Lawson

You are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting:

Meeting: Communities Committee

Date: Monday 29 June 2026 at 17:15 to 19:15pm

**Place: Board Room, Unit 1, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria,
CA11 7XR**

Please inform the Clerk to the meeting if you are unable to attend.

Mrs V. Tunnadine, Town Clerk

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Details about how to attend the meeting remotely, and how to comment on an agenda item are available on the Town Council Website.

Please note that this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the internet or social media. the Town Council does not record or live stream meetings. Penrith Town Council fully supports the principle of openness and transparency and has no objection to filming and reporting at its Full Council, and Committee meetings that are open to the public. Filming will only commence at the beginning of a meeting when the Chair opens the meeting with apologies and will finish when the meeting is closed or when the public may be excluded from an exempt item. The Chair has the power to control public recording and/or reporting to ensure it does not disrupt the meeting. Recording must be visible to anyone at the meeting and must not be edited and published in such a way as to impact upon the accuracy of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. You are asked to act reasonably, for example not to disrupt the meeting by using intrusive lighting and using flash photography. Please be mindful that members of the public may attend the meeting and may not consent to being recorded.

AGENDA

ORDINARY MEETING OF COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MONDAY 29 JUNE 2026

1. Apologies

Receive Apologies for absence.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

To appoint a Vice Chair of the Communities Committee for the remainder of the 2026-27 municipal year.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

4. Minutes

Approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on Monday 1 June 2026.

5. Public Participation

Receive questions or representations from members of the public. A period of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments.

6. Excluded Item: Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

Determine whether any items should be considered in detail, without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, as publicity relating to that (any of those) matter/s may be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for the other special reasons noted in relation to that matter on the agenda.

7. Proposed Changes to Secondary School Academy Trust Arrangements in Penrith

Consider the written report and recommendations contained within.

8. Resolutions Report

Note the written report.

9. Communications Report

Note the written report.

10. Communities Committee Workplan Report

Note the report.

11. Penrith May Day 2026 Review

Note the written report.

12. Castle Park Leaflet

Consider the written report and the recommendations contained within.

13. Penrith Stars of Business Awards

Consider the written report and the recommendations contained within.

14. Next Meeting

Note the next meeting of the Communities Committee is scheduled for 21 September 2026 at 5.15pm at the Board Room, Unit 1, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR.

General Power of Competence

The Town Council resolved from 15 May 2023, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** **& FOR INFORMATION FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Access to Information

Copies of the agenda are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Agenda and Part I reports are available on the Town Council website:

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

Background Papers

Requests for the background papers to the Part I reports, excluding those papers that contain exempt information, can be made via:

office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk



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Tel: 01768 899 773 Email: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: Communities Committee

Date: Monday 1 June 2026 at 18:30

Place: Board Room, Unit 1, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR

Present: Chair: Cllr. B. Jayson, Vice Chair: Cllr. Jackson, Cllr. Bowen, Cllr. Donald, Cllr. Kenyon

Officers: Community Services Manager, Events Manager

Public: 0

Meeting opened at:

CC26/01 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Lawson

CC26/02 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of interest were received.

CC26/03 Public Participation

There were no representations from the public.

CC26/04 Excluded Item: Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

Members were asked to determine whether item 6 should be considered in detail, without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, as publicity relating to that (any of those) matter/s may be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for the other special reasons noted in relation to that matter on the agenda.

CC26/04 Excluded Item: Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Continued

RESOLVED THAT:

Matter 6: Be considered in Part 2 private session as the matter included commercially sensitive information and was provided in confidence by a third party.

CC26/05 Next Meeting

Members noted the next meeting of the Communities Committee was scheduled for 29 June at 5.15pm at the Board Room, Unit 1, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR.

PART II PRIVATE SECTION

The following matter was considered exempt information as it included commercially sensitive information and was provided in confidence by a third party.

CC26/06 Events Development 2027/28

Members considered the report and recommendations contained within.

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations contained within the report be approved.

CHAIR SIGN:

DATE:

General Power of Competence

The Town Council resolved from 15 May 2023, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE & FOR INFORMATION FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

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MEETING: Communities Committee

DATE: 29 June 2026

REPORT: Proposed Changes to Secondary School Academy Trust Arrangements in Penrith

AUTHOR: Community Services Manager

ITEM NUMBER: 7

Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential?

☐

Yes

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No

PUBLIC REPORT

1. Recommendations/Decision Required:

Members are asked to note the information received through public participation at Full Council on Monday 8 June 2026 and decide whether Penrith Town Council should write to the Department for Education.

2. Council Plan priorities

People – The Council will communicate and engage effectively with residents and encourage them to bring forward comments and ideas to strengthen democracy and involvement in local decision making.

3. Report Details

Purpose of the Report

At the Full Council meeting held on Monday 8 June 2026, a member of the public addressed the Council regarding proposed academy trust changes affecting secondary schools in Penrith.

Minute PTC26/13 Public Participation recorded the question: "Would the Council consider writing to the Department for Education about the proposed changes to academy trust status at the two secondary schools in Penrith, and the potential effects should both trusts be in the same academy trust, highlighting the risk to choice and diversity for secondary education in Penrith." The response provided at the meeting was that the member of the public was asked to provide further information on the matter, which could then be considered at the next meeting of the Communities Committee.

The member of the public subsequently provided written information to the Council, which is summarised below.

Background

Changing Lives Learning Trust has informed parents and carers that it has begun the process of transferring its academies to other local trusts, working with the Department for Education.

The information provided states that Queen Elizabeth Grammar School is proposed to transfer to Cumbria Education Trust, subject to a final decision by the Department for Education Regional Director.

Information provided to parents and carers by Ullswater Community College states that its Board of Governors resolved on 25 March 2026 to work in collaboration with Cumbria Education Trust with a view to joining that trust, subject to consultation and further due diligence.

The public participation raised concern that, if both Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Ullswater Community College were to come under the same multi-academy trust, this could affect parental and pupil choice in Penrith.

The correspondence also raised concerns about sixth form provision, school identity, enrichment opportunities and the range of choices available to young people in the town.

Members are advised to note that Penrith Town Council has so far not received any direct contact on this subject matter by either secondary school, the education authority (Westmorland & Furness Council) or the Department for Education.

Decision for Members

Members are asked to decide whether the Council should resolve to write to the Department for Education. If Members agree, the Council should determine the content of the letter and authorise the appropriate officer to send it on behalf of the Council.

Implications

3. Legal

The Council may consider whether to make representations on matters affecting the town and its residents.

Penrith Town Council is not responsible for education service provision.

No specific legal implications have been identified arising from this report.

4. Resources

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Equality and Diversity

The matter raised relates to access to secondary education provision and choice within Penrith. No equality and diversity issues have been assessed as part of this report.

6. Biodiversity & Climate Change

No biodiversity or climate change implications have been identified.

7. Risks and other Considerations

No specific risks have been identified. If Members agree to submit a corporate response, the response should be factual and agreed by Council before submission.

8. Background Information/Documents

Minute PTC26/13 Public Participation, Full Council meeting held on Monday 8 June 2026; response provided at the meeting; written information provided following the meeting.

9. Appendices

None.

Communities Committee: 29 June 2026

Item 8

Resolutions Report

This report shows the progress made against resolutions from the Council's Communities Committee this municipal year.

STATUS KEY:

- On hold - Not commenced
- Completed
- In progress - Started and ongoing

Reference	Activity	Status	Notes
Brought Forward from 2024/25 Municipal Year			
CC24/69	Events Lighting		Scheme progressing. An official order is in place with Westmorland & Furness Council. They have received the parts and are currently scheduling an installation date.
Brought forward from 2025/26 Municipal Year			
CC25/10	Fairhill Viewing Plaque		Scheme progressing. Artwork complete and brass plaque ordered. A suitable location on Fairhill Playing Field has been identified for installation of the plaque and stone surround.
CC25/43	Penrith Mail Click Plaque		Scheme progressing.
CC25/44	Bench Request		Bench installed at Thacka Beck Field.
CC25/57	Fairhill Tree Planting Request		Penrith Action for Community Transition have been notified that they have been given permission to plant the fruit trees at Fairhill. Currently awaiting confirmation of a planting date.

CC25/58	Penrith Arts & Culture Events 2026/27		EM working with relevant stakeholders and delivery partners to deliver Sounds Around Town and three Penrith Wild Play Days.
CC25/59	Policy Task & Finish Group		CSM to schedule meetings of the group to develop a Media Policy.
CC25/69	Communications Report		Penrith Town Council renewed its contract with Granicus for the GovDelivery service for the period April 2026 to April 2027.
CC25/73	Penrith Town Centre Greening 2026		Contribution approved.
CC25/74 / CC25/81	Town of Culture		Penrith's Town of Culture bid submitted.
CC25/75	Policy Review		Policy approved.
CC25/77	Penrith Goes Orange		Penrith Goes Orange delivered by Penrith Business Improvement District and Penrith Chamber of Trade with support from Penrith Town Council.
CC25/78	Armed Forces Events / Activities		Penrith flag raising event for Armed Forces week delivered on Monday 22 June 2026.
2026/27 Municipal Year			
CC26/06	Events Development 2027/28		EM progressing.

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: 29 June 2026

Public Report

Matter: Communications Report

Item no: 09

Author: Community Services Manager

Supporting Member: Cllr Jayson, Chair

Purpose of Report:

To inform and update members of the Communities Committee of the Council's recent communication activities.

Background

This report provides an update on the Council's communication activities since the last meeting of the Communities Committee on Monday 23 March 2026.

Platform	Followers
Facebook	1551 (+171)
Instagram	957 (+42)
X (Formerly Twitter)	277 (+0)
govDelivery	3129 (+75)
YouTube	4 (+1)
BlueSky	10 (+0)
LinkedIn	7 (+0)
Summary	5,935 (+289)

Newsletters:

All editions of Penrith Town Council News can be found on the Penrith Town Council website:

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

Each edition is also read aloud through an arrangement with the Eden District Talking Newspaper Association.

Press Releases:

All Penrith Town Council press releases can be found on the “News” section of the Penrith Town Council website:

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

Website

Penrith Town Council has delivered a refresh of its website to make it clearer, more accessible and easier for residents, visitors and community organisations to use. The refreshed site has improved navigation, a more consistent structure and clearer presentation of information, helping users to find key content such as Council services, meeting information, community events, newsletters, consultations and contact details more easily.

The work supports the Council’s wider commitment to improving communication, transparency and inclusive engagement. The website is often the first point of contact for residents seeking information or support, and the refresh has focused on making online information work better for people with different needs, devices and levels of digital confidence.

Penrith May Day 2026

Penrith May Day 2026 was successfully delivered on Monday 4 May as one of the Council’s major community events. The event formed part of the wider 2026 community events programme and followed the “In the Garden” theme, bringing together rides, music, food, family activities, community stalls, performance areas and opportunities for local groups to take part.

The event was well attended, with strong public awareness supported through the Council’s communications activity in the months leading up to the day. Promotion included social media updates, website content, govDelivery newsletter items, press releases, posters and printed leaflets. The use of printed publicity helped support access to event information for residents who may not regularly use digital channels, while online

communications helped maintain regular reminders and programme updates.

Overall, Penrith May Day 2026 provided a positive opportunity for residents, families, visitors, community organisations and local businesses to come together in the town centre. The communications activity contributed to the visibility and success of the event and helped demonstrate the value of using a mix of digital and printed channels when promoting large community events.

Annual Report and Annual Town Meeting Presentation

Penrith Town Council published its Annual Report for 2025/26, providing residents with a summary of the Council's work over the past year. The report highlighted a range of achievements, including the award of over £40,000 in grants to local groups and charities, continued delivery of the £90,000 Play Area Development Fund across Penrith, delivery of major community events including Penrith May Day 2026, securing £196,116 for the Penrith Wayfinding and Interpretation project, and the Council's commitment of £50,000 towards the development of a new pump track for the town.

The Annual Report was also presented at the Penrith Annual Town Meeting, where the Mayor provided further information about the work of the Council during 2025/26. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the Council's delivery against its priorities, share key achievements with residents and local organisations, and support wider public understanding of the Council's work.

The Annual Town Meeting also included presentations from Eden Local Focus Hub and Town Council grant recipients, helping to demonstrate the wider impact of partnership working and community grant funding in Penrith. Publicity for the Annual Report and presentation helped make this information available beyond those attending the meeting, supporting the Council's commitment to transparency, accessibility and public engagement.

Appendices

None.

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: 29 June 2026

Public Report

Matter: Communities Committee Workplan Report

Item no: 10

Author: Community Services Manager & Events Manager

Supporting Member: Cllr B. Jayson, Chair

Purpose of Report: To inform and update members on the progress of the Communities Committee Work Plan.

Background:

This report provides an update on the progress of various areas of work associated with the Communities Committee.

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028			Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26				
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
Place	The Council will support the improvement of health and wellbeing, supporting local and national initiatives by liaising with local organisations and health providers.	CSM	Community	Liaise with the Police and other agencies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across the town.	CSM	Communities Committee resolved to appoint Cllr B Jayson as representatives on behalf of the Council to attend Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing liaison sessions through CALC.	Delivering
	The Council will invest and manage our own assets whilst supporting key partners and community groups to invest in their own.	BSM	Assets	Deliver a scheme to install a viewing plaque at Fairhill Playing Field	CSM BSM	Scheme progressing. Currently in liaison with Cumbria Stone.	In Progress
				Deliver a lighting scheme around the Musgrave Monument	CSM BSM	Scheme progressing. An official order is in place with Westmorland & Furness Council. Parts have been received and an installation date is being scheduled for late June / early July.	In Progress
	Work with Westmorland and Furness Council and stakeholders to have a safe, healthy, clean, green, and tidy town.	EM	Economic Development	Work in partnership to improve the street scene via town dressing projects.	EM CSM BSM	Town centre bunting and banners installed for the start of Summer.	Delivered
				Work in partnership to improve the street scene via greening projects.	CSM	Contribution approved for Penrith Town Centre Greening 2026.	Delivered
	The Council will promote and encourage an environmentally friendly town.	CSM	Climate	Deliver the Council's Climate & Environment Strategy	CSM, BSM	Strategy to be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting of Communities Committee in September.	In Progress

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028				Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26			
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
Protection	The Council will collaborate with and support stakeholder groups and community organisations that provide a community benefit.	TC	Community	Encourage community groups to share their purpose, progress, and aspirations with the Council.	CSM, EM, TC	Officers actively working with community organisations via grants scheme, events delivery and other schemes of work. Monthly meeting created with Penrith BID to share news, opportunities, and updates.	Delivering
Partnership	The Council will collaborate with and support stakeholder groups and community organisations that provide a community benefit. The Council will collaborate with and support stakeholder groups and community organisations that provide a community benefit.	TC EM	Community Community	Where services are provided by other organisations, the Council will endeavour to ensure that they are delivered effectively, and in accordance with the wishes of the community. Establish a database of key local contact groups to aid communication of opportunities and events.	CSM, BSM	CSM & BSM attend Penrith Place Action Group. Created and being updated.	Delivering
		EM	Economic Development	Event Engagement training for business organisations.	EM	Concept agreed by Penrith BID and The Chamber of Trade. Event will be delivered if identified need from businesses.	Planned

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028				Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26			
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
Partnership	The Council will support the provision of excellent quality, managed events, and festivals in the town, with their own financial support focused on community celebrations/events.	EM	Events	Deliver Penrith May Day 2026	EM CSM BSM TC	Penrith May Day 2026 was successfully delivered on Monday 4 May 2026, bringing thousands of people into the town centre for a free, inclusive and family-friendly event.	Delivered
Prosperity	The Council will support the provision of excellent quality, managed events, and festivals in the town, with their own financial support focused on community celebrations/events.	EM	Events	Increase the number of events/activities/responses/initiatives by two over the term of the Council.	EM	Community Awards delivered in February 2026. Penrith May Day 2026 delivered in May 2026. EM working with relevant stakeholders and delivery partners to deliver Sounds Around Town, the Great Penrith Picnic and three Penrith Wild Play Days during summer 2026.	Delivering
	The Council will support the provision of excellent quality, managed events, and festivals in the town, with their own financial support focused on community celebrations/events.	EM	Arts & Culture	Promote existing and new events to encourage more visitors to the Town.	EM, CSM	Events are promoted through PTC social media channels, the Council website, govDelivery, press releases, posters and printed leaflets. Penrith May Day 2026 and the wider 2026 community events programme have been actively promoted through digital and printed channels.	Delivering
				Work with the established Penrith Arts & Culture Group on initiatives and events within the town.	CSM EM	The Council, working with the Penrith Arts & Culture Group, is progressing Sounds Around Town and three Penrith Wild Play Days. Town of Culture bid for Penrith submitted through collaboration with the group.	Delivering

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028			Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26				
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
Prosperity	The Council will support the provision of excellent quality, managed events, and festivals in the town, with their own financial support focused on community celebrations/events.	EO	Arts & Culture	Provide a website platform to the Penrith Arts & Culture group to promote their activities and events	CSM EM	The Penrith Arts & Culture website is live and was used to promote Penrith May Day and the 2026 community events programme. Officers continue to update the site and explore how it can be expanded to support wider arts, culture and event listings.	Delivering
Prosperity	The Council will promote the economic and commercial vitality of businesses in the town and support the tourist economy.	EDO	Economic Development	Promote the brand identity for Penrith within Cumbria and the North-West of England.	EDO, CSM, EM	The Penrith brand identity continues to be used across Council communications, event publicity, press releases, social media graphics and printed materials, including the 2026 community events programme.	Delivering
Prosperity	Penrith Town Council will help to facilitate projects, events, and the development of local resources by providing grants to constituted organisations and working with local voluntary groups.	CSM	Grants	Community Grants Scheme	CSM, RFO, BSM, TC, EM	Grants awarded during 2025/26 total £30,091.67. Community Grant scheme refreshed for 2026/27 with eight applications received to date.	Delivered

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028					Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26		
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
Projects	Penrith Town Council will help to facilitate projects, events, and the development of local resources by providing grants to constituted organisations and working with local voluntary groups.	CSM	Grants	Signature Grants Scheme	CSM, EDO, RFO, BSM, TC, EM	£10,000 budget is allocated for 2025/26.	Delivered
People	The Council will communicate and engage effectively with residents and encourage them to bring forward comments and ideas to strengthen democracy and involvement in local decision making.		Communications	Produce monthly editions of Penrith Town Council News	CSM	Monthly editions of Penrith Town Council News continue to be produced and distributed through govDelivery. The Council has renewed its Granicus contract for the period April 2026 to April 2027.	Delivering

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028			Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26				
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
People	The Council will communicate and engage effectively with residents and encourage them to bring forward comments and ideas to strengthen democracy and involvement in local decision making.	CSM	Communications	Manage the Council's Social Media channels	CSM	CSM continues to manage the Council's social media channels, supporting regular updates on Council business, community events, consultations, press releases and public information.	Delivering
				Reinforce the Penrith Town Council Brand Identity	CSM	CSM and EM continue to use the Penrith Town Council style across graphics, videos, event publicity, newsletters and press releases to support a consistent Council identity.	Delivering
				Produce the 2025/26 Annual Report	CSM	2025/26 Annual Report completed.	Delivered
				Produce Press Releases	CSM	Press releases continue to be produced on an ad hoc basis and published through the News section of the Council website, covering Council events, awards, reports and key community updates.	Delivering
				Produce Consultations	CSM	The Council has undertaken recent surveys in relation to the Penrith Community Awards and Penrith May Day 2026, supporting feedback and continuous improvement.	Delivering
				Distribute a Council Satisfaction survey every four years	CSM	Planned work.	Planned
				Distribute a Councillors Internal Newsletter	CSM	Planned Work.	Planned

Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028			Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26				
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress	Status
				Provide quarterly updates in local media outlets	CSM	PTC News Spring update included in CW Herald.	Delivering
				Work in Partnership with the Eden District Talking Newspaper to distribute readings of Penrith Town Council News	CSM	Penrith Town Council News continues to be read aloud through the Eden District Talking Newspaper Association, with audio recordings made available through the Council website.	Delivering
People	Create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, culture, gender, income, race, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. Create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, culture, gender, income, race, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.	TC	Communications	Keep the Council website updated with Communities Committee Agenda & Minutes	CSM	Communities Committee agendas and minutes continue to be prepared, circulated and published on the Council website within legal timeframes.	Delivering
				Explore community engagement training for councillors	EM	Create an opportunity to discuss how to develop engagement in each ward including specific aims.	Delivering
				Support services and activities for young people aged 10-21 years old (or up to 25 years if they have physical or learning difficulties) supporting youth clubs, provision of youth workers, in partnership with voluntary, and statutory groups.	EM	Three Penrith Wild Play Days are being progressed with Stomping Ground CIC at Thacka Beck Field, Fairhill Playing Field and Castletown Recreation Ground, with dates confirmed for 31 July, 7 August and 14 August 2026.	Delivering
				Deliver the Penrith Town Council Civic Awards Scheme	EM, CSM	The 2026 Penrith Community Awards were delivered, with winners announced and presented in March 2026 following the nomination and selection process.	Delivered

Communities Committee Workplan 2025/26						
Penrith Town Council Business Plan 2025-2028						
Priority	Action	Lead	Service Area	Action	Officer	Progress
				Support the Penrith Stars of Business Awards	CSM	The Council sponsored the Volunteer of the Year Award for the 2025 Penrith Stars of Business Awards and is considering continued sponsorship for the 2026 awards.
				Deliver the Penrith Town Council website update	CSM, TC	The refreshed Penrith Town Council website has been delivered, improving accessibility, usability, navigation and the presentation of Council information.
Performance	Provide consistent, quality services and strive for continuous improvement for all activities, processes, operations, policies, and decisions that support the Council's Business Plan.	TC	Administration	Produce Communities Committee Agenda & Minutes	CSM	Communities Committee agendas and minutes continue to be produced, circulated and published within legal timeframes.
						Delivered

MEETING: Communities Committee

DATE: 29 June 2026

REPORT: Penrith May Day 2026 Review

AUTHOR: Events Manager

ITEM NUMBER: 11

Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential?

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Yes

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No

PUBLIC REPORT

1. Recommendations/Decision Required:

Members are asked to note the review of Penrith May Day 2026.

2. Council Plan priorities

Prosperity – The Council will support the provision of excellent quality, managed events, and festivals in the town, with their own financial support focused on community celebrations/events.

3. Report Details

At its meeting on Monday 14 July 2025, Penrith Town Council resolved to remain the lead body for the Penrith May Day Event (Min PTC25/30). The resolution also confirmed that a working group would be appointed to review operational recommendations for May Day 2026, that the Communities Committee would have oversight and responsibility for events including May Day, and that funding would be allocated to support the delivery of the 2026 event.

Penrith May Day 2026 took place in Penrith town centre on Monday 4 May 2026 and built on the success of the previous year. It was delivered as a free, inclusive and family-friendly town centre celebration, with the theme “In the Garden” reflecting growth, nature and creativity while maintaining the community spirit that has long underpinned Penrith’s May Day tradition.

The programme brought together live music, street entertainment, arts and crafts, table-top and classic carnival games, mini golf, bungees, land train rides, food vendors, community stalls and Taylors Funfair at Sandgate Bus Station. A children’s fairground was also provided on King Street. The Green Man parade, created and delivered by Upfront Arts and supported by local community groups and schools, was a key feature of

the day and included the Green Man, Guardians and costumed characters, alongside classic cars, BJAMBA, Eden Dance and Penrith Town Band.

A number of changes were introduced in response to feedback from 2025 and to strengthen the overall event offer. These included increasing the number and variety of local food vendors, creating a food court area, providing a free town centre shuttle bus through Fellrunner, positioning additional large public waste bins around the town centre, extending the parade with additional creative elements, and introducing a photography competition in partnership with Penrith and Eden Camera Club on the theme "Community through a Lens".

The event was well attended, with estimated attendance of over 8,000 visitors. It attracted residents, families and visitors from Penrith and beyond, including people who had travelled from outside Cumbria specifically to attend. Feedback received on the day, through stewards, local media and social media channels was very positive, with images and comments widely shared online. The scale of attendance and the level of positive feedback indicate that the Council successfully delivered a popular and well-received community event which brought significant footfall into the town centre.

A small number of issues were raised during or after the event. One local resident was affected by the location of a ride, which was addressed on the day by moving the item, and one retailer raised concerns about another retailer being positioned nearby. These matters will be considered as part of future planning and site layout review.

The event costs to date are within the approved budget. The Council received external funding from Westmorland and Furness Council and Penrith Business Improvement District to support delivery of the event.

Looking ahead to 2027, officers will review the layout, event infrastructure, funding arrangements and feedback from residents, businesses, visitors, contractors and partners. The proposed theme for town events in 2027 is "Kings and Queens", linked to the celebration and recognition of Eamont 927. Consideration will also be given to the positioning of children's rides, including whether Devonshire may be a more suitable location than King Street.

The success of Penrith May Day 2026 was due to the commitment and teamwork of Council officers, contractors, local organisations, charities, suppliers, volunteers and the public. The Council acknowledges the support of Westmorland and Furness Council, Penrith Business Improvement District, Penrith Lions, Penrith Rotary, St Andrew's Church, members of the Penrith Arts & Culture group, local residents, businesses,

families and visitors. Their support, patience and participation helped the Council to deliver a safe, successful and well-attended town centre event.

4. Legal

The Council has the authority to deliver community events under its adopted General Power of Competence. The event was planned and delivered in line with the necessary event management requirements, permissions, licences and safety arrangements. No additional legal implications have been identified from this report.

5. Resources

The event was delivered within the approved Penrith May Day budget. Any future changes to event delivery or additional costs will be considered as part of the Council's normal budget-setting and event planning processes.

6. Equality and Diversity

The event was designed to be inclusive and accessible, with a wide range of free activities and entertainment to support participation by families, residents and visitors. The provision of a free town centre shuttle bus helped improve access around the town on the day. Equality and accessibility considerations will continue to be reviewed as part of future event planning.

7. Biodiversity & Climate Change

The 2026 theme, "In the Garden", encouraged creative engagement with nature and growth. Additional waste bins were provided to help manage litter and reduce the impact of the event on the town centre environment. Future planning will continue to consider opportunities to reduce waste, encourage responsible event management and minimise environmental impact.

8. Risks and other Considerations

Large public events carry operational, financial, reputational and safety risks. These were managed through event planning, liaison with relevant partners, stewarding arrangements, risk assessments and on-the-day monitoring. Issues raised during the event, including ride positioning and retailer location, will be reviewed to inform future layouts and reduce the likelihood of similar concerns arising.

9. Background Information/Documents

None.

10. Appendices

None.

MEETING: Communities Committee

DATE: 29 June 2026

REPORT: Castle Park Leaflet

AUTHOR: Community Services Manager

ITEM NUMBER: 12

Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential?

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Yes

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No

PUBLIC REPORT

1. Recommendations/Decision Required:

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Approve a contribution of up to £300 from the Castle Park Development Fund towards the design, production and printing of a Castle Park leaflet developed in partnership with Westmorland and Furness Council.

2. Council Plan priorities

Place - The Council will invest and manage our own assets whilst supporting key partners and community groups to invest in their own.

Pursue - Working in partnership, to ensure and improving standard of services and facilities to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Partnership - The Council will collaborate with and support stakeholder groups and community organisations that provide a community benefit.

3. Report Details

Background

Castle Park is an important public green space in Penrith, providing heritage, recreation, events space and access to the town's historic environment. The park is also located close to Penrith Railway Station, the town centre and public transport links, making it well placed to welcome both residents and visitors.

The Council included £10,000 in the 2026/27 budget to support small scale "quick win" improvements at Castle Park. This budget was proposed to support practical improvements while wider plans for the park are progressed by Westmorland and Furness Council.

A proposal for a Castle Park leaflet has been put forward by Councillor Ron Kenyon. The proposal seeks a contribution of up to £300 towards the production and printing of a leaflet, with the maximum figure based on printing quotes obtained. Councillor Kenyon has also prepared draft content for the leaflet and has liaised with Westmorland and Furness Council and Penrith Museum as part of the work to develop the proposal.

The draft leaflet is intended to provide clear public information about Castle Park, including its history, facilities, access, public transport links, distance from the town centre, nearby parking and points of interest within the park. It is also intended to help promote the park to visitors arriving by train and to residents who may not be aware of the park's features and heritage.

Previous discussions with Westmorland and Furness Council indicated that their design team may be able to assist with bringing the leaflet together, including the possible inclusion of a map. Westmorland and Furness Council have also indicated that use of its logo would require communications approval and an accessibility check before publication.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Committee approves funding of up to £300 from the Castle Park Development Fund to support the production of a Castle Park leaflet.

The leaflet could include:

- a short introduction to Castle Park and its significance to Penrith;
- a simple map or orientation plan, subject to design availability;
- information on access from the town centre, railway station and bus stops;
- information on nearby parking and public transport;
- details of park facilities, including the pavilion and café/kiosk position where appropriate;
- key points of historic and environmental interest;
- reference to partner organisations where relevant;
- Penrith Town Council and Westmorland and Furness Council branding, subject to approval; and
- clear signposting to further visitor information where appropriate.

The leaflet would be made available at appropriate locations, which may include Penrith Railway Station, local visitor information points, community venues, the Town Council office, the park itself and relevant events. Digital use should also be considered, including making the leaflet available through the Council's website in an accessible format.

The proposed leaflet would complement, rather than replace, wider investment and engagement work relating to Castle Park. It would provide an immediate and low-cost improvement while larger capital and design proposals are being developed.

Implications

4. Legal

The Council has adopted the General Power of Competence, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

By adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

5. Resources

The maximum contribution requested is £300 and would be met from the Castle Park Development Fund.

6. Equality and Diversity

The leaflet should be produced in an accessible format and written in plain English. Consideration should be given to font size, colour contrast, readability and the availability of a digital accessible version.

The proposal has the potential to support wider access to information about Castle Park by making practical visitor information easier to find and understand.

7. Biodiversity & Climate Change

No negative biodiversity or climate change implications have been identified arising directly from this report.

The leaflet could include appropriate messages encouraging responsible use of the park, use of public transport and walking from the town centre and railway station. Print quantities should be proportionate to expected use to minimise waste.

8. Risks and other Considerations

There is a risk that printed information may become out of date if facilities, access arrangements or partner information change. This can be mitigated by keeping the leaflet concise, avoiding unnecessary detail where information may change, and ensuring a digital version can be updated more easily.

There is a risk of reputational impact if the leaflet contains inaccurate historical or practical information. This can be mitigated through officer review, liaison with relevant partners and final proofing before print.

9. Background Information/Documents

None.

10. Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Castle Park leaflet content.

PENRITH CASTLE PARK

The Penrith Castle Park takes its name from Penrith Castle, which is a prominent feature of the Park and that area of the town. The Castle Park is located adjacent to Ullswater Road and near the Penrith Railway Station.

Over the centuries the ownership of the Castle and the ground around it has changed. In 1787 it passed to the Duke of Devonshire from whom, in 1844, the Lancaster and Castle Railway bought part of the site to build their railway station. In the following year it acquired "the ruins of Penrith Castle, the farm house and about five acres of land" - known at that time as Castle Garth.



The grounds were acquired by the Council in 1913 and used as allotments during WW1. The official opening of the Castle Park was on Empire Day – 24 May 1923 featuring several events and was established after WW1 as a memorial to those who lost their lives in that war

This walk, through the Castle Park, starts at the Memorial Gateway and gives an interesting and hopefully pleasant hour or so amble highlighting aspects and history of the Castle Park.

1 War Memorial Gateway

The War Memorial Gateway is the main entrance to the Castle Park and is opposite the

Penrith Railway Station. This was unveiled and dedicated on 18th March 1923. Towns folk who died in WW1 and WW2 are commemorated here and on Remembrance Sunday their lives and others are remembered at the Service of Remembrance held here at 11.00am

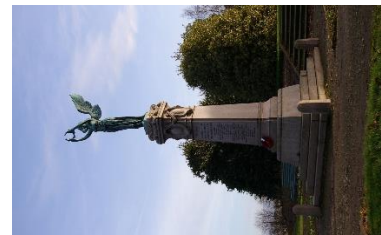
Just inside the War Memorial is the following memorial to Robert Bentham.

2 Bentham VC memorial

This memorial was unveiled at a special ceremony on 9 August 2018. This was 100 years to the day since Glassonby born, First World War soldier, Private Robert Beatham, was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) aged just 24, for his heroic action in silencing four heavy machines guns that were holding up Australian troops at the Battle of Amiens.

Beyond the War Memorial is a lovely avenue of trees which leads gradually upwards to The Bandstand with The Black Angel finely positioned looking down the avenue.

3 The Black Angel - South African War Memorial



The Black Angel memorial is dedicated to the men of the town and district who fell in the Boer War – 1899-1902. It was moved to the Castle Park from Corney Square, Penrith, in 1964 due to concerns that it was being damaged by traffic pollution.

4 The Bandstand

This is located at the highest point of Penrith excluding the Beacon and gives a fine viewpoint with the Lakeland and Pennine fells in the distance. The Bandstand was built here in 1928 as a memorial to the local chemists Thomas Edmondson, who was Council Chairman and led the campaign to purchase the Park for the public benefit. It also served as a solarium with leaded lights of "Vita Glass" installed to be health-giving as well as restful.

There is some debate as to whether or not there was originally a moat around the Castle and it is thought that the moat was created and the soil from there was placed to create the mound where The Bandstand now stands.

It is now a good central meeting and activity point in the Castle Park.

On the town side of The Bandstand is the Obstacle Golf Course,

5 Obstacle Golf Course

This is an 18-hole course with a collection of obstacles to navigate. It was built in the 1950's and many of the obstacles were created by the father of the local photographer Fred Wilson.

Many of the obstacles reflect that time -

- Queen Elizabeth - Cunard Line Ocean liner launched in 1938

- BlueStreak Rockets - Part of Britain's ballistic missile programme from the 1950 tested at Spadadam, in North Cumbria,
- Atom Bomb
- Skelton Short Wave Radio Station
- ??

Next to the tennis courts is the Kiosk and next to and overshadowing it is the Verdun Oak.

6 The Oaks

The Verdun Oak was planted at the opening of the Castle Park on Empire Day, 24th May, 1923 and is reportedly linked to symbolic acorns brought to England from the First World War battlefield in France.

There is believed to be the Festive Oak, which marked the 1951 Festival of Britain for which the Penrith Castle and Castle Park provided a venue and suitable background from 15th to 22nd July 1951.

In 2014 a sapling Quercus Robur English oak was be planted by Ann Risman, founder of Penrith Remembers, and then dedicated by Canon David Sargent – this Armistice Oak was positioned between the two other mature memorial trees.

Continue along are the tennis courts and bowling green

7 Tennis Courts

At the opening of the Castle Park in 1923 fifty-six players entered a tournament to mark the opening of the grass courts. In 1947 new courts were laid out on the site using "grassphalite" for the court surface. The Penrith Tennis Club was based here for many years before moving to the

Penrith Rugby Club some years ago, Recently the courts underwent major improvements and the Penrith Tennis Club has returned here to form an important location for the Penrith tennis scene.

8 Bowling Green, Club and The Pavillion.

Described as forty yards square and of Silloth turf Councillor McVitte played the first bowl on the opening of the Castle Park. On the north side of the bowling green is the Pavillion. It is recorded as having been erected in 1923, presumably for the bowling club, at a cost of 134 pounds and 10 shilling (£134.50). Unfortunately, this was burned down in 2012 and was replaced by the current building.

Go along to the left, on the north side of the hedge, from the Pavillion towards the Memorial Gate to the Varty Memorial.

9 Lucy Varty Memorial

This is a memorial fountain in memory of Lucy Waring Varty who died in 1890. She was the wife of Thomas Varty who served on the committee responsible for installing the town's regular water supply Varty. The fountain was once used by horses, cattle and sheep on their way to the auction.

Continue along the path descending slightly, then follow the pathway across the Castle Moat and up onto the area near the Castle to look out to the Lake District fells and the Railway Station.

10 Penrith Railway Station

The station was built by the [Lancaster and Carlisle Railway](#) and was opened on 17 December 1846. Land had been purchased and

used for the railway as well as the Castle and surrounding grounds. The railway became part of the London and North West Railway between London Euston and Glasgow and the station is now known as Penrith North Lakes and is on the West Coast Main Line.

As a final and fitting element of this walk go rightwards along between the Castle on the Moat to enter the Castle near the bridge.

11 Penrith Castle

In 1297 Penrith came under attack from Scottish raiders up to 1345 when King David II of Scotland laid waste to the country as far south as Penrith destroying its mills, houses, a bake-house and the prison. In 1346 the town was given the right to build a stone wall which allowed tolls to be exacted on merchandise. In 1380 the town was sacked and again "burnt" in 1415. In 1397 William Strickland was granted a licence to "crenellate" (raise battlements) at Penrith to counter these continuing threats. Building work continued over a 70-year period, initially by Richard Neville, including the addition of the original Pele tower ("Bishop's Tower" or "White Tower"). In 1471 the Castle was granted to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester and used as a base until he succeeded to the throne as Richard III in 1483. The ownership of the Castle and the grounds has past to various people and organisations over the years with it currently owned by Westmorland and Furness Council and the Castle in the care of English Heritage.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk around the Castle Park and learned something about it and the related history of this area.

MEETING: Communities Committee

DATE: 29 June 2026

REPORT: Penrith Stars of Business 2026

AUTHOR: Community Services Manager

ITEM NUMBER: 13

Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential?

☐

Yes

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No

PUBLIC REPORT

1. Recommendations/Decision Required:

The Committee is asked to approve sponsorship of the “Volunteer of the Year” award as part of Penrith Chamber of Trade and Commerce’s Stars of Business Awards 2026 at a cost of £500, and to agree that the Penrith Mayor and a guest attend the awards ceremony on Friday 9 October 2026.

2. Council Plan priorities

The proposal supports the Council’s commitment to community engagement, recognising voluntary contribution, supporting local organisations and promoting civic pride in Penrith.

3. Report Details

Background

Penrith Chamber of Trade and Commerce will hold the Stars of Business Awards 2026 on Friday 9 October 2026 at The Roundthorn Country House Hotel.

The awards recognise and celebrate individual, community and business achievement in and around Penrith.

There are nine award categories available to sponsor in 2026: Penrithian of the Year, Penrith’s Best New Business, Penrith’s Best Hospitality Business of the Year, Penrith’s Best Club or Society, Penrith’s Best Beauty Salon/Hairdressers, Penrith’s Best Business, Penrith’s Best Tradesperson, Penrith’s Favourite Independent Shop and Penrith’s Volunteer of the Year.

The Council has previously sponsored the “Unsung Hero” and “Volunteer of the Year” awards as part of the Stars of Business Awards in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Proposal

It is proposed that Penrith Town Council sponsor the “Volunteer of the Year” award for 2026.

The sponsorship cost is £500 per award.

The sponsorship package provides an opportunity for a Council representative, such as the Chair or Mayor, to present the award and briefly speak about the work of the Council before the award is presented.

The Council’s sponsorship would be acknowledged in media coverage, on nomination and voting forms, in the awards brochure and through the Chamber’s social media promotion.

Implications

4. Legal

The Council has adopted the General Power of Competence, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

By adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

5. Resources

The cost of sponsorship is £500.

6. Equality and Diversity

No equality and diversity implications have been identified arising directly from this report.

7. Biodiversity & Climate Change

No biodiversity or climate change implications have been identified arising directly from this report.

8. Risks and other Considerations

If the Council does not sponsor an award, it may miss an opportunity to recognise local volunteering, support a community-focused event and promote the work of the Council. This risk is mitigated by approving sponsorship of the “Volunteer of the Year” award.

9. Background Information/Documents

Penrith Chamber of Trade and Commerce Stars of Business Awards 2026 Sponsorship Packages.

Appendices

None.