



BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



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BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Bodmin Town Council is responsible for the preparation of this Annual Report and for the information and assessments set out in it and the assumptions and estimates on which it is based.

The Council is also responsible for setting in place appropriate performance management and internal control systems from which the information and assessments in the Annual Report have been derived.

Members of Bodmin Town Council are satisfied that the information and assessments included in this Report are in all material aspects accurate and complete and that the Targets and Key Objectives, set out in the Report, are realistic and achievable.

P Martin, Town Clerk
Bodmin Town Council
Shire Hall
Mount Folly Square
Bodmin
PL31 2DQ

Tel: 01208 76616

www.bodmin.gov.uk

BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL

Bodmin Town Council comprises 16 elected Councillors (7 representing St Marys & St Leonard Ward, 7 representing St. Petroc's Ward and 2 representing St Lawrence Ward) who each serve for a term of 4 years. Electoral Wards have been re-configured to align with Cornwall Council. The last full elections were held on 6 May 2021 and a list of the current Councillors is included in Annex 1 of this Report.

Bodmin Town Council forms the first tier of Local Government subservient to Cornwall Council. It is a corporate body that works within a democratic framework and is committed to serving its local community through

transparent process. The overarching priority for Bodmin Town Council is to deliver sustainable long-term growth which is essential to delivering and maintaining a healthy, vibrant community and it aspires to improve the quality of life in Bodmin for all.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision for Bodmin is a place where people want to live, work and enjoy with centres of excellence, open to business and providing an integrated, safe, healthy community built on a foundation of managed development. A guiding principle of delivering our vision is the strong desire to create a sustainable community, enjoyed by present and future generations, that balances environmental, social, cultural, and economic needs. The next stage of the plan is to review the themes developed from the Neighbourhood plan, the Charrette and other consultation work and decide on how best they meet local needs and how to implement them. The following prioritised themes promote dynamic innovation and structure to focus the Councils aims and objectives.

Our Vision and four-year plan for Bodmin has been compiled in partnership with several volunteer and business organisations. It seeks to build on the current strengths of the town and present a distinctive image of the sort of place we want Bodmin to become in the next 10 to 20 years. We see Bodmin in the future as a place that offers: -

- Business development:

The vision group and the Chamber of Commerce are working in partnership with Bodmin Town Council to create opportunities that will provide a foundation for good employment and job creation for local people.

- Opportunities to thrive:

To encourage and allow successful provision of desirable, accessible opportunities to achieve personal fulfilment.

- Cultural Bodmin:

Promote cultural excellence, heritage, charm, and innovation to attract creative industries, jobs, and leisure for visitors.

- Sustainable Bodmin:

Deliver the Neighbourhood Plan to help address concerns around affordable housing, social housing, planning and development, encourage improvements in transport links, be more focused on biodiversity in Bodmin, policy measures that tackle unwanted behaviour and enabling programmes that provide help and support towards reducing the impact of problems but also provide support mechanisms that create safer environments.

A guiding principle of delivering our vision is the strong desire to create a sustainable community, enjoyed by present and future generations, which balances environmental, social, cultural, and economic needs.

- With a **STRONG, CONFIDENT IDENTITY** based on its rich history and heritage and its 21st century ambitions; and where this identity is used to support the growth of business, employment, and tourism.
- Where **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY ACTION IS SUPPORTED** to resolve problems and make things happen; and where everyone feels part of the town.
- Which is a **MAJOR DESTINATION** based on its heritage attractions, cultural events and recreational opportunities; and which attracts year-round visitors from Cornwall and beyond.
- With an **ATTRACTIVE, THRIVING TOWN CENTRE** which has evolved into a community hub offering a variety of daytime and evening meeting places and experiences as well as retail opportunities.
- Which is a **SELF SUPPORTING, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY** where jobs, transport provision, services and facilities have all kept pace with and are closely linked to population growth.
- Which is the **CENTRE FOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES SERVING EAST CORNWALL** and, in some cases, the whole of Cornwall, taking full advantage of its location and accessibility.
- Which has many businesses providing **HIGH QUALITY, HIGHLY PAID JOBS** and is recognised as the focal point for the food and drink industry in Cornwall.
- Which values **THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ITS RESIDENTS** with opportunities for all age groups to lead active lives and to benefit from the best practice in health promotion and disease prevention.

The journey towards this Vision will see the town building economic resilience and offering an increasing diversity of experiences to residents and visitors; and see the local community progressively taking more ownership and control of its future.

Each year the Council elects one of their number to be the mayor who acts as a Civic Leader and chairs Council Meetings.

The Council meets on a bi-monthly basis. Meetings are held in either Court 2 of Shire Hall or in the Shire House Suite and there is a 15-minute public representation session at the start of each meeting. This enables members of the public to ask questions of the Council and raise awareness on various matters of interest.

The Council has four Standing Committees which include:

- Community Services
- Estates Committee
- Planning Committee
- Policy and Resources

A calendar of Council Meetings for the year can be found on the Council's website www.bodmin.gov.uk

Welcome from the Chief Executive/Town Clerk

I am extremely proud of the staff that I lead, they continue to adapt to change as the Council progresses into new innovative, cost-effective ways of working. The new Strategic Plan and resulting aims and objectives will bring opportunities for reducing burdensome costs through shared ideas, diversity of knowledge and skills that enable innovative S.M.A.R.T solutions aimed at reducing pressures on the public purse. The key aims are:

- To deliver Equality and Social Justice in all aspects of the Council services
- Deliver collective power through more effective community empowerment.
- Working and learning together, using all available partners for this purpose.
- Reduce disparity by maximising opportunities to achieve equitable outcomes.
- Promote ecological, socio-cultural, and economic sustainability!

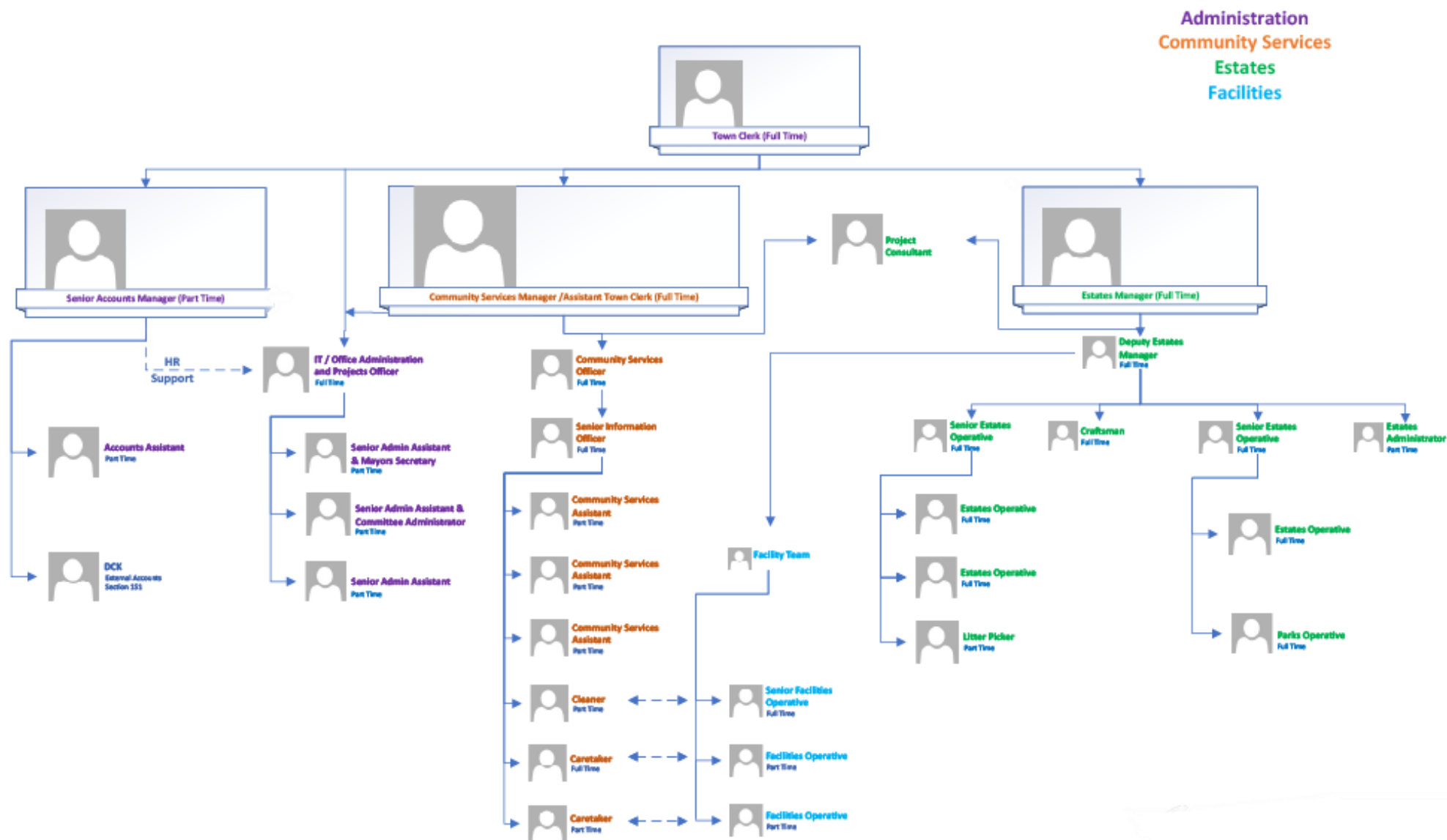
The main themes for delivering the plan include:

- Adding value through smart procurement
- Developing local talent
- Exploiting digital technology
- Enabling innovation

Embedding change in the Council on a regular basis to facilitate and initiate interventions that best support local needs.

Over the last year the council has adopted and initiated strategic policy for building strong foundations to meet its plans. Strategic Policy development is a fundamental part of this process which is ongoing, it remains dependant on the needs and priorities set by the community of Bodmin.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2022/2023

The strategic aims of Bodmin Town Council fall under four main categories:

RESOURCES: To sustain a financially viable Town Council which is considered an employer of choice within the town.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: To effectively communicate and work with the community to support the development of the town as a place to visit, live and work.

ECONOMY: To support the development of the local economy.

LAND, PROPERTIES, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACES: To secure and develop access to parks, open spaces and cemeteries for use by residents of, and visitors to, Bodmin and to reduce losses associated with BTC land and buildings whilst increasing community usage.

More specifically, Bodmin Town Council has identified the following key goals which they aim to deliver during their current term:

Estates / Council Buildings and Parks

Council buildings must be safe and fit for purpose.

- Refurbishment of Shire Hall and Shire House
- Refurbishment of public conveniences
- Parks team facilities
- Carpark resurfacing
- Re-purposing the old skate park
- Moor view parking

Communities

- Establish and maintain a community outreach programme
- Develop and support partnership working to deliver community events
- To establish a market on Mt Folly, or at least to have held a few trial events during 2022/23
- Establish a programme of councillor surgeries and engagement events
- Establish a programme of outdoor events
- A programme of events including Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- Work in partnership with Bodmin Town Museum
- To implement the agreed community framework development plan



THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR PHILIP COOPER

I am pleased to present this Annual report on behalf of the Town Council, which prides itself on the services and facilities it provides for the local community.

In May each year the Council elects one of their number to be the Mayor who acts as a Civic Leader and chairs Council Meetings. As a Bodmin 'Boy' it is a great honour and privilege to be elected Mayor and what a year to be elected. The Queens Jubilee Celebrations in June 22, tempered by Her Majesty's sad passing in September, The Proclamation in September and The Coronation of the King in May 2023. A truly historical Mayoral year the likes of which will in all probability never be repeated.

Whilst COVID has and to some extent still is having a huge impact on individuals suffering from long covid - others still grieving for loved ones - delays in accessing services due to increased waiting lists etc - other factors including the invasion of Ukraine - the resulting fuel crisis - inflation at some 10% - increased food prices and shortages are also having a massive impact throughout the Country. The Council is very aware that we have some areas of high deprivation and that the cumulative effects of all these factors can impact even harder amongst sections of our community. Bodmin Town Council have recognised this need and opened up Court Room 2 in Shire Hall as a warm space starting in October for 6 days a week. This was instrumental in us being able to draw down external funding to share amongst partner groups/community organisations wanting to engage in the warm space offer. This supported by great work from our community groups has ensured many individuals, couples and families have greatly benefitted.

To enable us to offer further assistance, our Community Service Assistants and Senior Officers are now trained to offer front line referrals to Community energy plus, should they identify people without heating, lighting or in an otherwise emergency situation.

Despite the restrictions this has been a very productive year for the "Team" we are building at Bodmin Town Council. We have seen a few changes in the team, individuals have retired or moved on to further their careers away from the Town Council. Whilst we have tested the employment market and had successful candidates it has been particularly pleasing to see staff grow and

develop benefitting from training, mentoring and upskilling putting themselves forward for consideration for extra responsibilities with a good degree of success against the external market.

We have also experienced a few changes amongst Councillors. Again it has been very pleasing to see high quality individuals put themselves forward to join the Council and give freely of their time and energies to the benefit of our community. As you would expect they come with different skill sets and interests but are quickly establishing themselves as valuable members of the team. This is at a time when so many councils are struggling to fill vacancies. We like to think this is a direct result of our positive engagement at so many levels within our community and our improved communication.

At last year's Annual Town Meeting we received some constructive criticism re communication, and we have not always been the best at blowing our own trumpets and sharing success. Whilst we recognise there is always room for further improvement, we have taken steps to address the issues in a number of ways, these include:

1. I, or in my absence the Deputy Mayor, write a weekly column for the Bodmin Voice newspaper keeping everyone updated with what we have been doing and providing a look forward to upcoming events.
2. We have reintroduced Councillor engagement sessions that coincide with the new monthly Market where 2 Councillors are available throughout the morning.
3. Our staff produce a regular Bodmin Town Council Newsletter which is readily available both in printed and online formats.
4. We have improved the website and online presence and continue to seek opportunities for increased and wider engagement.

I would like to thank everyone for taking their time to engage with the Council and for all the great feedback and positive comments we are receiving.

Building on the hugely successful Tour of Britain weekend, Bodmin is acquiring quite a reputation for delivering events. This is perfectly exemplified by the Queens Jubilee celebrations held in Bodmin. The community engagement and participation were phenomenal and the envy of the County. The number, variety, and quality of the events throughout the weekend was amazing. Our fantastic community groups whilst supported and or enabled by BTC, took the lead in many of these and is a great example of the selfless and generous individuals we have in our Town and the wider area who all give so freely of

their energies and time. Other elements of the weekend were entirely delivered as a result of our great Team at B.T.C.

Numerous other events have been held throughout the year to date and or re-established post Covid Lockdown. Some are delivered by the Council; in others we act as an enabler or partner. Others we have helped with support, promotion, or use of assets, whilst others are delivered by sectors of our community, for our community. This joint approach helps provide great variety and best value The list which is by no means exhaustive includes –

- Regular junior park runs.
- Regular Bodmin Tidy it Team Litter picks.
- Weekly Age Concern meetings
- Bodmin Hospital League of Friends Fete.
- Fire Station Open Day
- Bodmin Pride
- Monthly Markets
- Events throughout the summer in Priory and on Mount Folly.
- Launch of new exhibits at Bodmin Keep Military Museum.
- Queens Jubilee Medal Awards
- Alstock
- Launch of a monthly market
- Bodmin Rotary duck race
- Prayor Book Rebellion Service
- Halloween Parade
- Remembrance services-at sea from Padstow, Falklands service at Priory Memorial,
- Bonfire and Fireworks
- South West England Boxing Tournament
- Remembrance services poppies to Paddington at Bodmin Parkway, on Mount Folly Finn Memorial at the White Clock, at the Keep and at Priory Memorial.
- Christmas Lights Switch On.
- Lions Christmas Fayre.
- St Petrocs Church Christmas tree festival
- Bodmin Band Christmas Concert
- Bodmin Wassailers 399th anniversary.
- Bodmin Branch British Legion Poppy presentations.
- Fireworks joint committee presentation evening.
- St Piran's Parade.
- Numerous events hosted by into Bodmin throughout the year.
- Numerous events at St Petrocs Church throughout the year.
- Numerous events at the Shire House suite throughout the year.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been able to attend many of these events and so many others the length and breadth of our wonderful county and especially so when individuals from Bodmin have received recognition for their dedication and selfless work.

I wish to thank all those individuals and groups involved in any capacity in any of these and of course, any other events I haven't listed. You have and are making a huge difference to the benefit of our community. Many of you have also helped raise Thousands and Thousands of pounds that have been distributed to local charities, good causes and community groups which in turn assists and enables them to further help and benefit our community.

At the time of writing We are also eagerly looking forward to

- Passmore Edwards Celebration and tree planting
- Hosting guests with the French Twinning Association
- King Charles III Coronation Celebrations.

We are also keen to see other events that have previously been delivered reintroduced to the event calendar and are exploring options for new events.

The Council has announced several exciting and ambitious plans, these include:

- A partnership with Bodmin College and Falmouth University to deliver Degree level courses from Shire House.
- A new toilet facility in Fair Park,
- Create a new play park at Moor View.
- Provide additional or new replacement play equipment in some of our other park areas.
- A phased refurbishment of the Shire House and Shire Hall to enhance public facilities and encourage public and commercial use to maximise benefit to the community and increase revenue.
- Improved accommodation and storage facilities for our Parks team
- We are also progressing with obtaining planning permission for new cemetery provision.
- Completion of the Neighbourhood plan
- Completion of a Green Space Strategy
- New lighting has been installed to the skate park and we are working with partners to supply additional CCTV to this area.

Again, I would like to thank all of you that have taken the time to engage with us and participate in anyway, your views and thoughts are important to us and have helped shape our plans.

The Council's aims and objectives are aligned with the local vision, other strategic documents, and community input, based on a common objective and shared vision aimed at reducing the impact of deprivation, this remains to be a priority. The Strategic Plan provides a way for this Council to progress its work without over burdening the public purse, this does not mean a zero precept, but a strategically designed one to ensure Council can build on strong foundations and continue to improve value for money to local taxpayers through lower future increases on council tax.

The strategic plan works as an enabler for cross sector collaboration and provides a foundation for developing innovation. It offers opportunities for broadening the local vision, strengthen resilience through creative thinking. This approach aligns with the levelling up, local economic growth / recovery strategy, improving the Council's framework for long, short- and medium-term goals. The Council has adopted a community development approach, a model which involves greater engagement with the local community to develop local objectives currently designed around recent data collected during the Charrette and other consultation processes.

The Council's financial plan over the next four years will assist in proactively managing its priorities, risks, and challenges. Overall, the strategic plan will help to ensure a link between the Council's strategic aims and targets and the priorities of the local community. It will guide the Council's financial planning over the next four years and has provided the principles and framework for the setting of the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital Budget.

As with every household and business the council has been impacted on by the rising costs. We have managed to mitigate some of these by having the foresight to lock into five-year deals for our Gas and Electricity. The financial year will also see a national adjustment to local council sector pay. This National Joint Council [NJC] pay award is outside of the Town Council's control and relates to local government pay being adjusted following consultation and agreement between the representative bodies.

The Council's staffing and committee structures were adjusted in 2020 to better meet the needs of our community. We managed to attract and retain staff of high quality and continue to invest in training and development. It has been particularly pleasing to see staff put themselves forward and apply for roles with extra responsibilities as they became available due to individuals' retirement or personal advancement outside of the council, putting themselves against stiff competition from external candidates. Every time a vacancy arises, we internally review the job description, check relevance and need. We have just completed a further review and are awaiting the results.

The Council agreed on a 3.73% increase on precept for the 2023-24 financial year which equates to 22.67 pence per week on Band D property. This increase will contribute to finalising the Neighbourhood Plan and match funding opportunities for grant applications, helping local groups support local services and deliver projects that promote and enable greater community action. It should be noted that Bodmin has fewer Band D properties in comparison to other larger precepting towns. The charging structure for the Community infrastructure levy imposed by Cornwall Council on new build properties also has a massive negative impact on funding available to Bodmin as compared to many others.

The Council has healthy balances which will be depleted by future renovation works to public realm. However, long term, this will provide opportunities for increased income through better, more efficient use of public assets.

The Plan has been set on the following key principles:

1. To maintain existing services and ensuring a balanced Revenue budget
2. To ensure the continued delivery of the Asset Management Plan via Capital Programme Budget
3. Safeguard a level of balances and reserves to keep future council tax as low as possible.
4. To implement locally based community development and cross sector collaboration to maintain and improve efficiencies and effective service delivery.

Bodmin Town Council has growing plans for meeting the local needs. It believes in collaborative ways of working. Adopting principles that affect priorities and influence what it does, open to ideas and challenge from the community it serves. It has clear stewardship and management of its assets. The continued aim is to deliver quality public services, empower the community, individuals, groups, and local partnerships to transform priorities into active programmes that support sustainability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Our Town Clerk, Pete Martin, our dedicated staff and my fellow councillors for all their hard work and energy that has been put into producing and adopting the 4-year plan and budget. I would also like to thank them for all the support they have given to our community in so many ways.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Annual Report. We value your views and comments and look forward to hearing from you. You can contact the Council, or your local Councillor, through the contact numbers listed at the

end of this report. Residents are also welcome to attend the Council and Standing Committee Meetings. You can find the dates of those meetings and much more about the Council on the website www.bodmin.gov.uk or by visiting our community services reception team at Shire Hall on Mount Folly.

FINANCIAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22 & BUDGET FOR 2022/23

The Pie Charts show receipts and payments for 2021/22 and the projected budget for 2022/23.

Corporate Governance – this covers general administration of Bodmin Town Council, including servicing committees, as well as Mayoral and Civic duties, plus any election expenses, Audit fees and rental income for leased properties & land.

Estates - includes the upkeep of the parks, play areas and other open spaces, maintenance of the town's public toilets, clocks, and the cemeteries.

Community Services – incorporates the Shire House and Shire Hall including the Community Service Reception. Plus hiring of Facilities, Car Parks, Museum, Community and Civic events and Community Safety including CCTV.

The precept for 2022/23 was £1,530,689.00 which represents an increase in the precept of 15.88% on 2021/22. This represents an average Council Tax of £313.18 being the amount applicable to each of the equivalent number of dwellings listed in valuation Band D. In real terms this represents an increase of 82.31 pence per week for a Band D equivalent property.

It needs to be borne in mind that, unlike principal councils, this tier of local government gets no funding from Central Government. Essentially, all income comes from sale of services, room hire, cemeteries, car parks or the Council Tax.

The only other ways of supplementing this income is via grants, and the Council has a good track record of bid writing and securing grants.

The Council will continue to seek to increase the number of Service Level Agreements with the principal authority (Cornwall Council) where practicable and where best value for the people of the town can be demonstrated.

In setting its Budget and Precept for the financial year 2021/22, Bodmin Town Council acknowledged the difficult financial and economic position faced by residents and taxpayers and took the difficult decision to cut several significant sums from its Budget by delaying non-essential expenditure. By this means we were able to reduce the Precept charged to householders by 17.52% compared with 2020/21.

With the improved economic situation, and recognising that such expenditure cannot be delayed further, these items have been re-instated in the 2022-23 Budget.

Although this year's Precept increase appears significant at first sight, it nevertheless represents merely a return to 2020/21 levels plus the impact of ongoing inflation in the two years since then. This increase has been limited to 3% per annum (below actual inflation for the period) and significantly below the anticipated inflation level of 4.5% - 5.5% forecast for 2022-23.

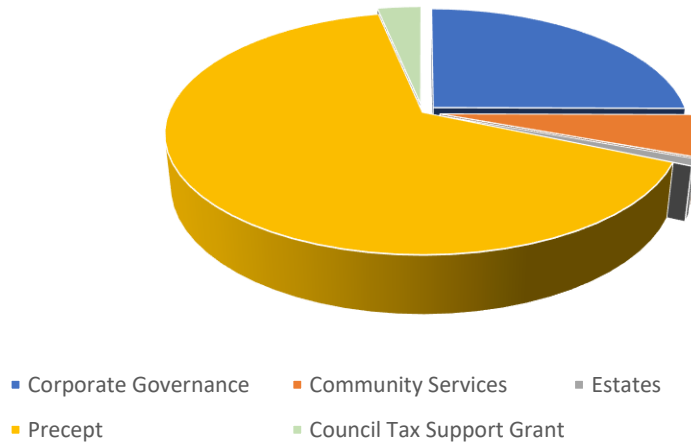
The 2022-23 Budget also allows additional sums for investment in income producing initiatives aimed at limiting future increases by maximising income from the councils current range of services and resources.

A copy of the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 including the Annual Governance Report is available on the Council's website www.bodmin.gov.uk or from the Council's Reception in the Bodmin Information Centre at Shire Hall.

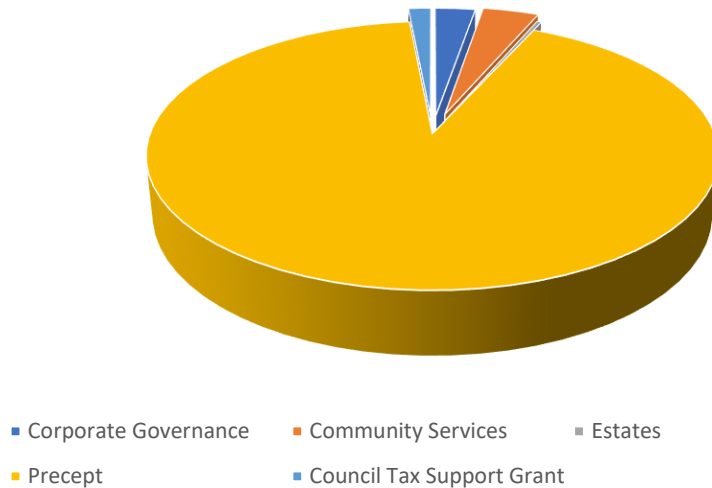
For further information on the Council's financial matters, please contact Claire Aldridge, Senior Accounts Officer on 01208 455732 or e-mail claire.aldridge@bodmin.gov.uk

Receipts	2021/22 (Actual) £	2022/2023 (Budget) £
Corporate Governance	476,640	44,962
Community Services	103,982	62,890
Estates	17,434	5,055
Precept	1,239,224	1,530,689
Council Tax Support Grant	61,885	25,015
Total	1,899,165	1,668,611

RECEIPTS 2021-2022 (ACTUAL)

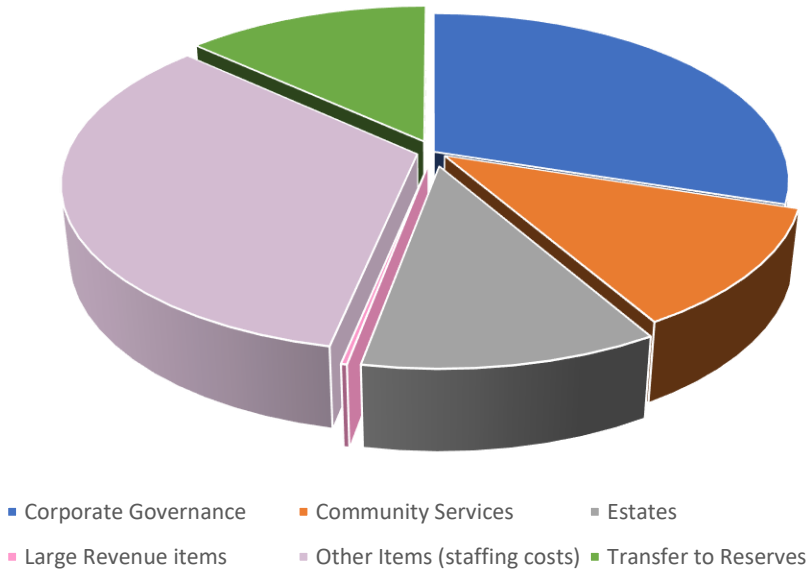


RECEIPTS 2022-2023 (BUDGET)

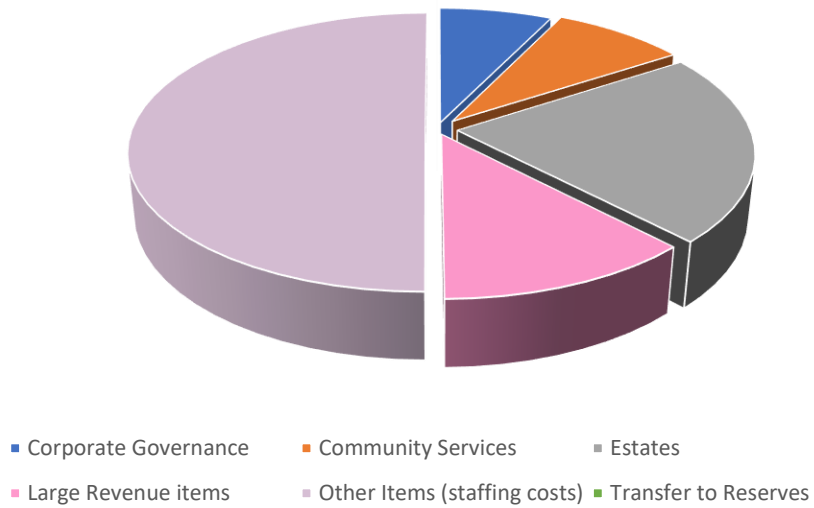


Payments	2021/22 (Actual) £	2022/2023 (Budget) £
Corporate Governance	569,415	120,618
Community Services	221,024	143,019
Estates	215,488	368,139
Large Revenue items	4,294	200,923
Other Items (staffing costs)	638,069	835,912
Transfer to Reserves	250,875	-
Total	1,899,165	1,668,611

PAYMENTS 2021-2022 (ACTUAL)



PAYMENTS 2022 -2023 (BUDGET)



BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Councillor B Crowle

Chair of Policy & Resources 2022-2023 (at the time this was written)

The role and responsibilities of the Policy and Resources Committee is to provide oversight and responsibility for all of the Council's finances, its processes, protocols and systems. It provides strategic lead in all areas of admin and governance. It has a lead role in Human Resources, recruitment, and retention of staff.

This year has seen the cementing of the Committee Structure and further enhanced the devolved budgeting arrangements. This has improved overall control and the decision-making process.

Because of this it has been possible to introduce a Four-Year Strategic Development Plan giving real direction and guidance. A key "strap line" being "Chase the vision not the money, the money will end up following you." The significance of the four-year term is that it spans the end of this Council's Term of Office and gives the new Town Council a foundation and continuity to move forward should they so wish.

There has been some turnover of staff due to people moving on or through retirement. This includes long serving member Ronnie May from the Estates Department and we should record our thanks to him and the other staff that have left our employment. This has meant new staff to induct into the Council and made it possible to fill vacant posts further strengthening our position.

Behind the scenes considerable work goes unseen in the development of various projects. Most of this work is unsung because we take the view we would rather under report than under achieve. Over the coming months some of this work will become visible, there will be investment in our stock of historic buildings bringing them and their fabric up to a 21st Century standard. It will also make them more easily marketed as Community Resources and add income to our finances.

The Council continues its work in and with our community's voluntary organisations. One notable such organisation is the Bodmin Town Team. They work tirelessly to try to bring funding into Bodmin to allow the regeneration of

the Town Centre. This also ties in with the work of the Neighbourhood Planning Group who are about to produce a legally enforceable structure to the development of the Town as a whole.

Finally, Bodmin Town Council is made up of an extremely focussed, well managed group of officers and staff supported by the 16 voluntary elected Councillors. Together we can and will make a difference.

ESTATES COMMITTEE

Councillor Karen Phillips Chair of Estates 2022-2023

The Estates team worked well last year, setting groundwork which will enable Council to move forward with several projects, including refurbishment of our historic buildings.

The parks team ensured that our parks and outdoor public spaces were well maintained, looked clean and tidy, and that our flower beds and hanging baskets provided long lasting colourful displays throughout the year. Priory Pond Island was cleared of some of the invasive and overgrown plants to enable new growth and this year an appropriate planting scheme will be introduced to encourage wildlife and improve biodiversity. The team continues to work with the Environment Agency to improve water quality in priory pond and enquiries are being made regarding the removal of silt build up. Lighting around the pond is now complete which makes an attractive addition to the area.

Lighting has also been installed around our hugely popular Skate Park, extending use of the area on dark winter evenings.

Councillors agreed to spend funds earmarked for new and replacement play equipment, and the work has been tendered to upgrade our existing playparks this year. The upgrade will include some disabled play equipment and following engagement with residents in the area, an exciting new adventure play park will be located at Moorview.

New 'Welcome to Bodmin' signs have been approved; these will be located at five entrances to the town. These new bespoke signs reflect the unique heritage of the town and with the addition of floral displays, will make an attractive and truly welcoming entrance to Bodmin. The new signs will be erected shortly.

Plans have been submitted to Cornwall Councils planning department for our new Cemetery, once the planning process is complete delivery of this project will begin.

Councillors have approved the replacement of the old public toilets at Fair Park, the existing block will be removed and replaced with a new up-to-date unit including disabled and baby changing facilities.

Resurfacing work to Priory car park took place last year and the area will be white lined as soon as weather permits. There will be a slightly modified layout making access to the Shire House Suite easier for people with limited mobility. The welcome addition of electrical charging points is also planned.

There have been several public engagement events to solicit ideas and opinions from residents regarding the refurbishment of our historic buildings and public assets. Having considered residents views, council is now ready to work with our Architects to embark on this project with work to Shire House commencing this year.

Following requests from residents, the town was enhanced this Christmas with the addition of a tree at Higher Bore Street. The team worked with the Christmas lights Committee to once again provided an excellent Christmas display on Mount Folly and the Clock tower.

The committee would like to thank the Estates Team for their work and diligence throughout the year.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Pete Skea Chair of Planning 2022-2023

During the year of 2022-23, Bodmin Town Council's planning Committee has continued to argue the need for more industrial/manufacturing and retail space to compliment the ever-growing level of housing in the area. The role of this Committee is to help stimulate economic growth by promoting the benefits of this kind of development, designed to bring higher skilled jobs, the expansion of cafes and restaurants and deliver other diverse opportunities.

Also, the Committee has supported the need for more affordable and social housing to meeting the demands of local people, aimed at reducing the impact on low earners through ensuring sufficient available mixed housing

schemes which provide achievable housing source for people with local connection. The Council recognises the importance of appropriate scale of affordable housing led schemes in sustainable locations such as Towns like Bodmin.

Other considerations are to ensure sustainable development, access to public open space, crucial to improving connectivity and avoidance of a segregated community, providing a healthy place to live and work. This includes strong focus on the effective provision of public transport. The Council continues to welcome new business with a view to high street regeneration. The Committee has maintained strong policies regarding reduced adverse impact on local culture and historic values.

The Council has for some time lobbied for improved infrastructure and community facilities, supporting development that brings growth of business, employment, and visitors, aimed at delivering a more equitable and place-based diversity.

A greenspace strategy is in the process of being commissioned, along with a mini change policy for sustainable practices, ecosystems, and conservation. The Strategy combined with the Neighbourhood development plan will provide a solid foundation for the future of Bodmin.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor Elizabeth Ahearn Chair of Community Services Committee 2022-2023

During my term as Chairman of Community Services I have enjoyed the many different challenges the Committee presents including development of a new community webpage and management of the Website alongside the administration team. This will enable better community engagement and opportunities for determining community needs and priorities.

Over the year the Community services team supported by Council have delivered a much respected and used warm space which was extended through the summer aimed at reducing isolation, providing shelter for people less fortunate than others. It offers signposting facilities which has worked well, directing people to the services they need and support to assist them with enquiries. We hope this service will continue to be provided through self-funding opportunities going forward.

The Museum service run by experienced and appreciated Volunteers aims to review and apply for re-accreditation, Community services is making efforts

to provide support in this respect. Unfortunately, the very sad and unexpected news of Phil Gales passing has left a big hole within the volunteer's group, he will be missed by all. His long and active service not only with the museum, but also with other groups in Bodmin, has left a substantial legacy, he will be remembered for the many good things he achieved for the Town.

The many events held by Bodmin Town Council have been successful due to the efforts of the Community Services team, supported by volunteer groups and other sections of the Council. Again, the long-term plan for delivering big events is to ensure they become self-funded or well supported by local groups to reduce costs on the community.

The aims and objectives set for this year were either completed or remain ongoing, such as website page. It is hoped the new policy will enable community services to develop strategies that support sustainable working and the delivery of services that meet the many needs of the local community.

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

THE ESTATES DEPARTMENT- Shire Hall Office

The Estates department operate as all one team though as a team we cover a wide range of duties and services that the council provide. In the office at Shire Hall, we have the Estates Manager, Deputy Estates Manager and the Estates Administration Assistant.

The Estates Manager has the strategic overview of the whole team coordinating larger projects, liaising with contractors and councillors to implement council decisions and policies as well as the day to day running of the department and maintenance of all council assets in accordance with the councils aims and objectives.

The Deputy Estates Manager assigns the daily tasks to the parks and open spaces team ensuring that all staff are working safely by providing risk assessments, appropriate PPE, and the correct tools to carry out a range of tasks. The Deputy Estates Manager also assists the Estates Manager with larger projects and coordinating contract workers in the ongoing maintenance of all council assets.

The Estates Administration Assistant looks after the cemetery records, administering burials in Town Council Cemeteries as well as other important

administration tasks required by the Estates Team, such as booking our vehicle MOTs, responding to enquiries, and organising health checks for staff.

THE ESTATES TEAM – Parks and Open Spaces

The Estates Team focus on the daily tasks of grounds maintenance, grass cutting, litter picking and bin emptying as well as specific projects within the park and across the wider portfolio. The team use Work Wallet, a paperless reporting and management system. Daily tasks are assigned to members of staff and the system also allows us to prioritise work, flag issues and provide risk assessments for each job.

A member of the team also works over the weekend to provide a presence in the park, to keep on top of watering and weeding of flowers and beds, clear leaves and to keep the park looking nice and tidy.

THE FACILITIES TEAM

The Estates team has expanded this year with the addition of the Facilities team. Bodmin Town Council have taken the public toilet cleaning inhouse as previously this was contracted out. The Facilities team also empty the Town Council bins, clean the works yard facilities and are on hand to help with events such as market days, when required.

SKATE PARK



The lighting for the skate park is now complete allowing skaters to skate during the dark evenings.

PRIORY PARK

The largest of Bodmin parks, this beautiful and diverse area of open spaces is the very heart of Bodmin. The entire site contains open parkland, veteran trees, wild meadows, sports pitches, and the town's Cannyke stream that flows into the pond and on into the Camel River.

After 2021 saw the necessary removal of more Ash trees from the park due to Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus*), further Ash tree removal maybe required if any remaining trees are considered a risk to public safety. We prefer not to remove our beautiful trees from our parks and open spaces but sometimes they can become a public health risk. Unfortunately, one of the mature Beech trees near the Play Park had to be reduced to pollard height due to excessive internal rot and a mature Oak tree near the football ground has been pollarded due to honey fungus. The pollarded remains of both trees should provide great habitat for a variety of insects and birds.

The Car Park is managed by Llawnroc and this year we have re lined and marked the car park following last year's resurfacing. The speed bumps have also been remarked as well as the top tier parking lines.

PRIORY POND

Priory Pond is a key feature in the park, offering a home to numerous species of waterfowl, insects, and other wildlife.

Last year the team were busy working on the island in Priory Pond, the island has had a good cut back with the removal of some of the invasive, non-native plant species and to assist with the reduction of leaf fall within the pond. There are still plans to plant the island with some more suitable shrubs to help with cover for the pond's residents.

Advice and a quote have been sourced for the removal of the silt; this would be a very costly project. To improve the overall quality of the water and habitat, silt removal would be an essential starting point and silt removal would also reduce the risk of flooding.

FAIR PARK

Fair Park has been the home of visiting fairs for over a hundred years and the site still regularly supports travelling fairs and circuses as well as being the current starting point of the Bodmin Town Carnival.

A new toilet block will be installed at Fair Park this year. The winning tender to supply the new toilets has been awarded to Healthmatic who have supplied and installed modern anti-vandal and multi-access toilets across the county and country. The old toilets are to be demolished in the spring and the new building should be completed by the end of the summer.

BTC PLAY AREAS

The Estates Team manage the BTC play areas, from carrying out regular inspections, repairs and maintenance. The team carry out weekly inspections of all play areas and working with independent advisors to undertake quarterly inspections and an annual Review. Inspections are crucial for public safety but also allow us to identify equipment that needs to be replaced before it gets to a point where it is no longer safe to use.

This year the tender for the replacement and improvement of our play areas was awarded to Sutcliffe Play South West for the following sites: -

- Priory Park
- Berryfields
- Lower Midway Road
- Northey Road
- Victoria Square

The works will see great improvements to updating our play parks to include greater accessibility, more equipment with a wider range of play activities as well as improved surfaces. Details and designs can be seen on our website, but the works should commence this spring.

MOORVIEW PLAY PARK



As resolved at the Estates meeting 1st December 2022, Minute reference EC.22.99, a new play park is to go ahead at Moorview, Grid reference: SX077658.

The project has been in the pipeline for some time as the original play park on the field at Moorview has long since gone. The winning tender was provided by Sutcliffe Play South West based on overall design and best value. The installation will centre around a Robinia Trim Agility Trail that Bodmin Town Council already own, ready for installation. As can be seen from the designs the park will also include swings, an inclusive dish roundabout, a multi-play challenge climb with a slide and an accessible inground trampoline. All will be installed on eco smart grass tiles and enclosed within a metal railed fence. A bin and bench will also be included.

CEMETERIES

Bodmin Town Council manages two cemeteries, the Old Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance at Cross Lane and the New Cemetery along Helland Road. Both these sites are managed with care and attention by the Town Council's Estates Department.

The office-based members of Estates team have received ICCM Exclusive Rights of Burial training and following this, policies and procedures have been further reviewed and refined in accordance with best up to date practices. The legalities surrounding burials are stringent and therefore the team ensure Exclusive Rights are present and correct and that memorials are signed off in accordance with the specifications outlined in our cemetery policy.

The Old Cemetery is now closed for burials, but this site does contain the Garden of Remembrance where ashes can be interred and the area is next to the impressive medieval Berry Tower, also maintained by BTC.

The remainder of the Old Cemetery is managed for wildlife, sections of the site are cut on rotation and winter clearance work to the older section has allowed for an abundance of native bluebells and wild garlic to flower this Spring, amongst some of the other plant species thriving on the site. These provide precious nectar and habitat for our pollinating insects. Further works to be carried out include the trimming of the Yew trees to their original intended heights along with further removal of Ash trees, due to Ash dieback. In February the team removed the old diseased hedge from around the garden of remembrance. This has been replaced with a hedge mix of Hawthorn and Holly, hardy native species, which will provide food and shelter for a variety of species.

Cemetery Mapping is a continuing process. The New Cemetery on Helland Road was mapped last year with the Old Cemetery still to be mapped. Burial and Exclusive Rights records from our books and the old database are still in the process of being transferred to our new mapping database. Due to the time-consuming nature of this work, requiring careful attention to detail and accuracy, BTC will be working with a specialist consultant to scan and transfer records to digital format and to upload onto the mapping database. We are also in the process of linking our cemetery maps to the website so that members of the public can find plots more easily.

NEW CEMETERY PROJECT

Bodmin Town Council are in the process of developing plans for a new cemetery on the outskirts of the town. Working with local landscape consultants the design proposals are near completion and a planning application has been submitted in January 2023.

TREE INSPECTIONS AND TREE WORKS

As part of Bodmin Town Council's ongoing management objective, in-depth independent tree reports are undertaken annually. This allows the team to identify any future issues for concern with trees across all BTC sites and carry out any recommended tree management work.

This ensures the health and safety of BTC open spaces for the public who enjoy these spaces.

BTC have commissioned tree surveys for St Petroc's churchyard, as this churchyard is now closed for burials this falls to the Town Council to ensure tree safety inspections are carried out.

Further Ash tree removals took place in the cemeteries due to Ash dieback and other Ash will continue to be monitored.

TOWN CLOCKS

The Town Council owns and maintains the St Lawrence's Memorial Clock and the Turret Clock (Grade II Listed) on the Mount Folly.

The Council carries out routine maintenance works to these clocks as and when required. Both clocks require routine winding to ensure that they 'keep time.'

The Estates team completed a project to perform repairs to the roof and the internal supporting structure of the St. Lawrence Memorial Clock. The Tower was also repainted as part of the project, restoring the white finish.

The Turret Clock tower will be included as part of the refurbishment project, along with the Shire Hall and Shire House.

By maintaining their portfolio of listed buildings, the Council is ensuring that the culture and heritage of the town is preserved for future generations.

SHIRE HALL AND SHIRE HOUSE PROJECT

A project to refurbish the Shire House and Shire House Suite, Shire Hall and Turret Clock Tower is in progress. Following an extensive tender and interview process the Council have appointed Architects and Urban Designers to lead the project team to develop the brief for the refurbishment and future use of these important listed buildings.

The aim is to create a modern economic community asset maximising all of the space for the purpose of rental, community projects, meetings and functions.

Creating viable and sustainable community and commercial uses for this group of historic assets; the project will repair and maintain the fabric for future generations; Ensuring these exceptional buildings are accessible to all and re-established at the heart of the historic town's life.

The appointed consultants Burrell – Foley – Fischer have extensive experience in similar projects and recently completed the works to the Hall for Cornwall.

The project will include opportunities for the wider community to be engaged in the process of developing the brief before signing off.

GREEN SPACES STRATEGY

Looking to the future, Management planning is an important element of the Councils' work.

2023 will see the development of a Green Spaces Strategy. This Strategy will also include the approach to Climate Change detailing our objectives and action plans informing the future management of our Built assets, Parks, and Open spaces. A consultant has been appointed to develop the Greenspace strategy on behalf of Bodmin Town Council.

PUMP TRACK

Bodmin Town Council have been rewarded match funding to create a pump track on the old skate park. After the success of the new Skate Park this will expand the recreational facilities in Priory Park for push bikes and accessible wheelchair sports.

THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM- Shire Hall Office

Over the last year the Administration (Admin) Team at Bodmin Town Council (BTC) have been very busy organising over thirty job vacancies and adverts for the recruitment of staff. Some were new roles as per the staffing review, along with retirements, internal movements and promotions. This included a step up the ladder for Scott in the Admin Team who has now become BTCs Estates Manager. Anne replaced Scott at the end of 2022 and is now gaining experience with the administration of Council meetings with the opportunity to introduce new ideas for improving our work for the Town.

Once the Kickstart Scheme ended we are delighted to say that this person moved on to become an Administration Assistant for the last year and enjoyed using their IT skills to help make efficiencies.

We have continued to speed up the availability of Council meeting documents by implementing the use of iBABS which is explained in more detail later in this report.

CIVIC EVENTS



Throughout the year the Admin Team have completed many tasks for Civic Events such as Remembrance Parade, Mayor Choosing and Wassail.

THE NEW BTC WEB SITE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility Statement

Bodmin Town Council is committed to providing a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology or ability.

We developed this new website in 2021 and will continue to work to increase the accessibility and usability of our website as revised guidelines are introduced over time to improve standards further, and with developments in available technology.

Web Accessibility Initiative

This website endeavours to conform to Level AA of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.

These guidelines explain how to make web content more accessible for people with disabilities. Conformance with these guidelines will help make the web more user friendly for all people.

W3C standards

This site has been built using code compliant with W3C standards for HTML and CSS. The site displays correctly in current browsers and using standards compliant HTML/CSS code means any future browsers should also display it correctly.

Accessibility targets

All web pages will be assessed by the guidelines published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) from the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), available at www.w3.org/TR/WCAG/

Bodmin Town Council requires that:

- All new web pages should be written to at least AA standard.
- All existing pages should meet at least A standard. Pages will be brought up to AA standard as they are periodically revised.
- Any third party who is engaged to design and build web pages for the council, hosted within the *.bodmin.gov.uk domain, will be required to comply with these guidelines. Sites will be checked periodically.
- New content will be either written or edited in such a way to ensure it is written as clearly as possible. Legacy content will be re-edited where

After moving our web site hosting to Aubergine who specialise in accessible web sites compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 we have begun to amend existing documents on our web site to an accessible format.

CEMETERIES ADMINISTRATION AND DIGITAL MAPPING



The Admin Team have continued to enhance cemeteries administration through the use of a digital mapping system where records have been checked methodically. Since the end of 2022 this work is now carried out by BTCs Estates Team with assistance from the Admin Team when needed. A formal application is now in place for another cemetery along Crabtree Lane in Bodmin.

WORK WALLET



More BTC staff have been added to our Work Wallet system to further improve how well we can monitor and control BTCs assets, H & S including risk assessments, plant, vehicles, PPE, museum and IT items.

The Work Wallet system will generate a QR code to attach to our assets. We will be able to scan the QR code using the app and instantly see everything we need to know about that asset.

IBABS



Halfway through 2022 the Admin Team explored the use of an electronic systems for creating agendas, minutes and the storing of meeting documents called iBABS, which originates from The Netherlands. In a short period of time the Admin Team implemented the use of iBABS along with the necessary training for BTCS Councillors and Officers.

Due to our proactive reaction with this software BTC have now become a development partner with iBABS. This will allow BTC to enhance the features and options available to us as we require within the constraints of their programmers' options.

PRIVACY SCREENS

All PC users now have a privacy screen available for their PCs monitor which makes the image on their screens either difficult or impossible to see unless you are directly in front of it. This further improves our compliance with GDPR and increases confidentiality at all time.

WINDOWS 11

We will continue the roll-out of Windows 11 amongst Officers using equipment capable of installing the upgrade.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

Leased Line Internet

A leased line is a private internet connection that does not rely upon what is available to the public. A leased line circuit will provide a premium service that could be shared with prospective tenants whilst maintaining network segregation.

Windows Server Operating Systems Upgrade

An upgrade allows us to easily migrate from the on premises infrastructure to the cloud

Server Backup

Replace the current backup device with a newer one allowing us to synchronise this backup data offsite into the cloud with the proposed device.

Increasing Security

As security becomes ever more important year on year, we are trying to move towards a "zero trust" strategy for security. To do so there are some principal rules we want to follow, as best as possible without hindering user productivity:

- Verification – Access is always verified for users and devices
- Users have the least privileges – Users operate with just enough access to complete their role
- Breach protection – Segment access to data to reduce the threat of breaches, as well as use encryption and analytics to detect and reduce threats.

Cyber Essentials Certification

Part of the requirements to be achieved so Bodmin Town Council can achieve a gold award for Councils.

The Admin Team will continue to strive to meet further challenges in the year to follow and take advantage of opportunities to help BTCs Councillors and Officers in our journey to earn a gold standard. We will continue to help make Bodmin a better place to live, work and visit.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Department form are a team of 8 officers and staff and you will find us based at Shire Hall reception. The team cover a diverse range of Council responsibilities from delivering fantastic events in the town, booking and hiring our venues, maintaining our Shire House and Shire Hall properties, communication via newsletter, social media and our website, to giving frontline support and information to the community, collating feedback, surveys and data, and working closely with our partners and community groups.

The team have worked fantastically to deliver its objectives for this year and are looking forward to working towards the development and growth of the team.

BODMIN TOWN MARKET



We are pleased to have been able to reintroduce a market back onto Mount Folly. This year saw us dedicating time and resources to build upon the success of our first few markets, with a view to become a destination market town whilst supporting our local community.

Bodmin Town Council recognises the value that markets can bring to a town centre and have been working hard with organisations and other market towns to initiate an offer which brings variety, value and enrichment to the high street, encouraging a more useable and enjoyable environment, an increase in footfall and dwell time and which helps to build links with community networks

and improve social cohesion.

Bodmin Market currently runs on the last Saturday of every month, with a view to monitor progress, collate feedback and adapt to the needs of the community as the markets develop, which could include an increase in the frequency, type and size of the markets, if it was felt that there may be a need and that it would be of additional benefit to Bodmin.

Re-establishing Bodmin as a Market Town not only gives a closer connection to its heritage and history but allows Bodmin to use its central and historic location to attract visitors to the town. With all of the fantastic work going on in Bodmin, including the Bodmin Vision, the Neighbourhood plan, the Town Team progress and the recent Charrette engagement event; a market in the heart of the town will build on some of the needs identified by its community and will strengthen Bodmin's offer as a town which recognises its opportunities as an attractive location for growth and investment.

One of Bodmin's unique strengths is its community focus and is extremely fortunate to have a wealth of organisations and community groups who work incredibly hard to enhance Bodmin and the lives of its community. The Town Council will always welcome these groups and organisations to have a presence at the markets, free of charge, to build and strengthen the town's community with their offer of support, aid, education and awareness.

Bodmin Town Council are really excited to see how the market progresses and have an incredible team of councillors and staff who are ready to receive feedback, adapt and respond. You will also find the Town Councillors present on market days, conducting engagement surgeries and working alongside other community organisations, giving residents and visitors a great opportunity to come and meet members and hear more about how they work and to have a chat or discuss any ideas or suggestions.

WARM SPACES

Bodmin Town Council recognises the unprecedented pressures people are being faced with. The Council aims to support our community by providing people with a network of warm and welcoming spaces. Shire Hall, Court Room 2 is one of the spaces to be utilised as a space for anyone, to spend time with a hot drink, refreshments, charging points as well as access to current and relevant support and information.

We are working with organisations throughout the town to provide a network and directory of support and information.

Look out for our 'warm spaces project' window sticker for venues who are taking part in the project.

Our intention is to create a directory of all the places in Bodmin available where anyone can go to stay warm, pick up a hot drink or food, enjoy

company and ask for advice. If we cannot directly help someone in need, we will do our best to signpost them to an organisation or health provider that will be best placed to help.

As part of this project, Bodmin Town Council are supporting groups who wish to take part in the project with a promotional pack, a window decal to display on their premises as well as access to the warm spaces directory and a dedicated email group for news and sharing of information. We also offer small grants to groups who may be able to either enhance an existing or create a provision for the Warm Space Project.

Bodmin Town Council will be looking to pilot the project from 1st October 2022 until 31st March 2023. We will monitor to see if there is a need to extend or evolve the scheme to fit the needs of those seeking support, throughout the year.





QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Bodmin celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with 3 full days of events for the town. This event was a great success with support and contribution from the local community to ensure that there was something available for everyone and that Bodmin would be remembered and celebrated for the great town that it is. This included a whole weekend of performances on Mount Folly, a community village, as well as street performers, circus workshops, games and shows.





Southern Camera Club
photo by Paul Keneally



Southern Camera Club
photo by Leonard Reid

SUMMER ON THE FOLLY

Bodmin Town Council worked with Into Bodmin to provide a series of free events and entertainment on Mount Folly throughout every weekend in August. Activities included, children entertainment from Harry Kazaam, Science and play workshops from Discovering 42, music and much more.

Bodmin Town Council is looking to continue and expand its collaboration with IntoBodmin and other community groups to provide free activities and entertainment throughout the summer holiday period.

NEWSLETTER



Our newsletter was created to share information and updates to the community about the role the council has to play in the town and projects and developments it is involved with, as well as sharing helpful information about events and the important work of other groups and organisations in the town.

We look to continue to improve and expand our newsletter content and distribution with a focus on digital optimisation.

WASSAIL

The Mayor was pleased to welcome Bodmin's Wassailers on Friday 6th January for their 399th Wassail. This traditional custom starts with calling on the Mayor and then visiting houses and establishments in Bodmin to sing and wish people a year of good health.

This year's chosen charity is Ourgate, who provide friendly support to families with food and household items. £565 was raised which the Wassailers were pleased to present to Revd Elaine at Ourgate.

ARMISTICE DAY

Armistice day took place on Thursday 10th November to commemorate the signing of the armistice.



REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday is a day for the whole nation to remember and honour those who sacrificed their lives to secure and protect our freedom.

On Sunday 13th November, Bodmin commemorated the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts such as the Falklands War, the Gulf War, and other conflicts such as those in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bodmin marked Remembrance Sunday in several ways. Following a brief but poignant service at the World War I memorial at The Keep, with a parade and ceremony at the Town War Memorial in Priory Park. Prayers were followed by the sounding of the Last Post, a two-minute silence and the Reveille. A wreath laying service also took place as part of the ceremony, where civic dignitaries, ex-servicemen and women, members of local armed forces (regular and reserve units) as well as community groups and local organisations were invited to lay their wreaths in memory of the fallen.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT



This year's spectacular Christmas Light Switch on Event saw prominent areas of the town illuminated. The delivery of the event is led by the Christmas Lights committee, a small group of dedicated volunteers and is supported by community organisations and the Town Council. Without this successful

partnership, the lights could not continue to go up, be maintained and improved each year.

The fantastic night of celebrations took place on the 25th November and included Christmas crafts from IntoBodmin at the Old Library with face painting, a pop up Nativity photo booth at Light & Life Church, Millpool Choir in the Arcade, Bodmin Lions Santa's sleigh, a Christmas market on Mount Folly as well as singing from Bodmin Way Community Choir and music from Bodmin Town Band. There was also festive entertainment by Martin & Budge Menswear, dancing from KBSK Dance and Future Youth and also street theatre and stilt walkers.

Thank you also to the high street shops and businesses for staying open late to support the event and Neil Caddy from Pirate FM for joining and supporting the event and performing the switch on with Caroline Crabb from Fleurtations.

ST PIRAN'S



The St. Piran's Day celebration in Bodmin on Friday 5th March 2022 had an excellent turn out to celebrate the Saints Day of Cornwall's Patron Saint. Children from the town and surrounding parish schools took part in the annual parade and showed off their dancing skills (and Oggy Oggy chanting skills!) to the assembled crowd, which included the town's Councillors, the town's Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Town Crier and Mace Bearers.

PLASTIC FREE BODMIN

We are pleased to introduce our Plastic Free plan as part of our work with Plastic Free Bodmin. As part of the 5 objectives to achieve Plastic Free status, Bodmin Town Council has adopted the phasing out of plastic in the council

including within its operations, supporting plastic free initiatives and adopting a plastic free communities motion.

Bodmin has joined a network of communities across the UK who are leading the way to tackle throw away plastic at source. The town has been awarded Plastic Free Community status by marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), in recognition of the work it has done to start reducing the impact of single-use plastic on the environment.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Bodmin Town council have been steadily progressing with our neighbourhood plan and have reached completion of our stage 2 progress, which included analysing and identifying themes from the findings of a large neighbourhood plan survey. We recognised 7 areas of importance from the results and created a series of community led workshop to discuss and progress elements on the following areas:

- Town Centre and Tourism
- Housing
- Movement and Accessibility
- Open Space, Greening and Biodiversity
- Regeneration and Employment
- Design and Heritage
- Community Infrastructure and Education

We are now in the early phases of Stage 3, which will look to evolve the findings of the workshops into guiding principles and a vision along with some initial policies and to begin to draft a town wide plan with the help of our steering group and workshop members.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Council recognises that without the tireless efforts of community champions, many organisations could not continue to exist or thrive. It is therefore extremely important to congratulate and thank our volunteers for their dedication and commitment. Community Volunteer Awards aim to recognise and celebrate volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to Bodmin and its residents.



Sarah Horne receiving her "Outstanding Volunteer" award for all the work she does for the community of Bodmin



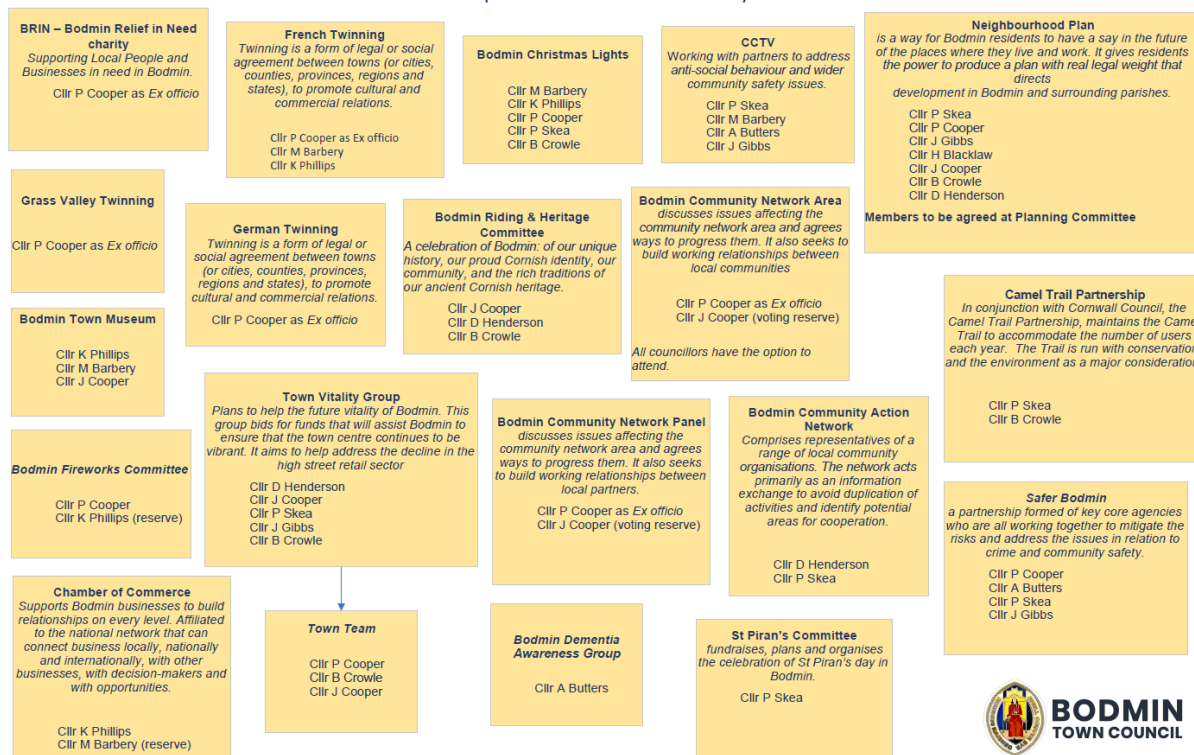
Rachel Sharman receiving her "Outstanding Volunteer" Award for her work with Bodmin Boxing Club



Mrs Susie Gore receiving the "Team Spirit" Award on behalf of Bodmin Hospital League of Friends

OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Council Representatives to Outside Bodies 2022/23



BODMIN
TOWN COUNCIL

ANNEX 1 – BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL 2022/23

Mayor – COUNCILLOR P COOPER

Deputy Mayor – COUNCILLOR M BARBERY

ST MARYS & ST LEONARD WARD

E M Ahearn	5 Kestle Court Midway Road Bodmin PL31 2RZ	cllreahearn@bodmin.gov.uk	
T Mike Barbery (Deputy Mayor)	109 St Mary's Road Bodmin PL31 1NH	cllrmbarbery@bodmin.gov.uk	
Alex Butters	22 Green Lane Bodmin, PL31 1BY	cllrabutters@bodmin.gov.uk	07745 346844
Andy J Coppin	20 Jubilee Terrace Bodmin PL31 2QE	cllracoppin@bodmin.gov.uk	
Rajesh Joshi		cllrjoshi@bodmin.gov.uk	07716 183045
James Whatton		cllrjwhatton@bodmin.gov.uk	
Hilda Blacklaw	12 Westheath Road Bodmin PL31 1QQ	cllrhblacklaw@bodmin.gov.uk	

ST LAWRENCE WARD

J P Cooper	2 Scarletts Well Park Bodmin PL31 2RF	cllrjcooper@bodmin.gov.uk	01208 77145
Vacant			

ST. PETROC'S WARD

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